

Diversity Statement

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While studying at Qatar University, I had the privilege of witnessing the transformative power of diversity firsthand. Qatar as a country and Qatar University as an institution, hosts people from different backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, and socio-economic statuses. I have seen how bringing together diversity among students, faculty, and staff can lead to innovative solutions and a richer learning environment. These early experiences instilled in me a deep commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in all aspects of my academic and professional life.

In my academic pursuits, I have actively sought out opportunities to engage with and learn from individuals with diverse backgrounds. Through collaborative research, I've jointly published papers, edited journal special issues, and chaired/organized international conferences. Thus by engaging with individuals from diverse backgrounds in such academic activities, I have consciously embraced a broad spectrum of perspectives. This enriches my work and allows me to contribute to the broader research community by bringing together ideas from different sources. For instance, during my postdoctoral work, I have mentored several students belonging to different regions, cultures, and religions including both male and female students. I have served as a mentor in the Graduate Assistance Initiative Network (GAIN) mentorship program (<https://gain.uos.de/>) which aims to increase the diversity and inclusion of underrepresented groups such as in higher education to promote human capital development and thus socio-economic growth. I have mentored a graduate student from Rwanda (Africa). I have also served as a Community Mentor on Coursera to voluntarily offer mentoring services to course participants from across the globe from diverse backgrounds, and cultures including those from underrepresented community groups in AI.

Furthermore, earlier as a graduate assistant, and later as a postdoc researcher fellow, I have strived to create an inclusive and welcoming environment for my peers and colleagues. I believe that diversity and inclusion are not just buzzwords but fundamental principles that drive innovation and excellence. I have mentored and supported students from underrepresented backgrounds, encouraging them to pursue their passions in technology and academia.

In my future role as a faculty member/scientist, I am committed to continuing this work by actively promoting diversity and inclusion in my lab, classroom, and research projects. I will make it a priority to create an environment where all voices are heard and valued, regardless of their background. I will seek out opportunities to collaborate with researchers from diverse backgrounds and incorporate diverse perspectives into my research. I plan to establish a structured mentorship program to support underrepresented students in AI and computational sciences, providing guidance on research, networking, and career opportunities. I will actively seek funding and partnerships to support research projects that address societal challenges, particularly those affecting underrepresented and marginalized communities.

Ultimately, my goal is to contribute to the advancement of science while fostering an inclusive community that reflects the rich tapestry of our society. I am excited about the prospect of working with colleagues who share this commitment and look forward to making a meaningful impact together.

In conclusion, diversity and inclusion are not just principles I espouse; they are integral to my identity as a researcher and educator. I am dedicated to championing these values throughout my academic career and am excited about the opportunities to create positive change in the fields I am passionate about.

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