

Tra My (Chiffon) Nguyen

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-AI systems that reflect and support diverse human experiences: **multilingual and multicultural AI**, **socio-technical AI alignment** (pluralistic alignment, cooperative AI, scalable oversight, evaluation, interpretability), **socially aware AI** (human-AI collaboration, human-AI interaction, social intelligence), and **AI ethics**.

EDUCATION

Minerva University, College of Computational Sciences

Sep 2021 — May 2025

B.Sc in Computational Sciences (Machine Learning and Statistics), GPA: 3.7/4.0

San Francisco, CA, USA

- Relevant Coursework: Machine Learning (A), AI Ethics, Bayesian Modeling (A), Statistical Modeling and Causal Inference (A), Optimization Methods (A), Probability and Statistics (A-), Software Engineering
- Global Rotation: Seoul (South Korea), Chinese Taipei, Hyderabad (India), Buenos Aires (Argentina), Berlin (Germany)
- Self-study: [Technical AI Alignment](#) (ARENA, 2025), [Introduction to AI Alignment](#) (Bluedot Impact, 2025)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

AI Research Mentee

Nov 2025 — Present

Cohere Labs Open Science Initiative (Advisor: [Ilia Badanin](#))

Remote

- Topic: Multilingual token optimization via cross-lingual embedding alignment

AI Safety Research Mentee

Sep 2025 — Present

Algoverse AI Research (Advisor: [Eyon Jang](#))

Remote

- Topic: Scaling behavior of chain-of-thought monitoring in white-box models

Machine Learning Research Assistant

Jun 2024 — Aug 2024

AI & Mixed Reality Lab, Landshut University of Applied Sciences

Landshut, Bavaria, Germany

- Advisors: [Prof. Sandra Eisenreich](#) and [Prof. Eduard Kromer](#)
- Topic: 3D object detection pipeline using PointPillars algorithm on standard and synthetic LiDAR point cloud datasets

Causal Inference Research Intern (Replication and Extension)

Nov 2023 — Dec 2023

Minerva University (Advisor: [Prof. Alexis Diamond](#))

Remote

- Replicated and extended [Chrisinger \(2021\)](#)'s analysis of Philadelphia's SNAP benefit redemption in R, analyzing policy impacts across 4 counties and 50+ months of longitudinal data
- Identified critical limitations in dataset reliability and magnitude discrepancies between original and replicated results
- Conducted new leave-one-out robustness analysis on synthetic control models, showing model instability

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

- **Curious Cardinals**, *Passion Project & Executive Functioning*, Middle and High School Mentor Nov 2025 - Present
- **Minerva University**, *PR51 Programming with Python*, Peer Tutor and Data Analyst Spring 2025
- **Minerva University**, *FA51 Algorithmic Thinking and Game Theory*, Lead Teaching Assistant Spring 2023, 2024
- **Minerva University**, *FA50 Formal Logic, Probability and Statistics*, Lead Teaching Assistant Fall 2022, 2023

OPEN-SOURCE

Open-source and Eval Dataset Contributor @ [HumaneBench](#)

Oct 2025 - Present

- Help build new human-friendly benchmark for AI using Pydantic and [Inspect](#) frameworks

Lead Design Engineer @ [SEACrowd](#)

Aug 2025 - Present

- Main designer, developer and maintainer of seacrowd.org website (Jekyll, Bootstrap)

Dataset Contributor @ [Humanity's Last Exam](#)

Feb 2025

SELECTED PROJECTS

More projects on mychiffonn.com/projects.

SportConnect: Connect Through Local Sport Events (github.com/mychiffonn/sport-connect)

Nov 2025

Scalable web application connecting users to local recreational sports events, featuring secure multi-provider OAuth authentication, comprehensive event management, easy event discovery and filtering, and real-time RSVP tracking. Two-person full-stack project with TypeScript, React, Express, PostgreSQL, TailwindCSS, DaisyUI, and BetterAuth.

Academic Portfolio Theme for Researchers (github.com/mychiffonn/website)

Aug 2025 — Oct 2025

High-performance academic theme, enabling fast, accessible, and multilingual publishing of publications and technical blogs while ensuring top-tier SEO (99) and Lighthouse (100) scores using Astro, TailwindCSS, and shadcn/ui

Mnemonic Generation for Vocabulary Learning (github.com/mychiffonn/mnemonic-gen)

Oct 2024 — Mar 2025

- Designed an AI chatbot that generated diverse and memorable mnemonic devices for learning and retaining vocabulary, synthesizing 50+ papers across linguistics, psycholinguistics, language education, and large language models
- Utilized chain-of-thought distillation from a teacher model (DeepSeekR1) to instill linguistic chain-of-thought reasoning to a student model (Gemma3-1b) through supervised fine-tuning
- Implemented a Direct Preference Optimization (DPO) pipeline for preference modeling on Gemma3-1b using 500 human and LLM-annotated preference pairs (on memorability, imageability, and retention rates)

CERTIFICATES

- **Advanced Web Development**, CodePath (codepath.org/courses/web-development) Dec 2025
- **Natural Language Specialization**, deeplearning.ai (coursera.org/verify/specialization/3FJ3W7QJX8GK) Nov 2023
- **Applied Data Science**, World Quant University (credly.com/badges/2e1e6902-aae4-47c4-97e2-0ad9265e5561) Aug 2023
- **Machine Learning Specialization**, deeplearning.ai (coursera.org/verify/specialization/G9898XKB9EAV) Jun 2022

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, TypeScript, SQL, R, Bash
- **Machine Learning:** PyTorch, Inspect, nnsight/nnterp, unsloth, trl, scikit-learn, LangGraph, LlamaIndex
- **Web Development:** Astro, React, FastAPI, Flask, Express.js, PostgreSQL, TailwindCSS, shadcn/ui
- **Tools & DevOps:** Git, Docker, Render, Netlify, LaTeX, Zotero, Typst