

# Nicholas Vincent

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🌐 [www.nickmvincent.com](http://www.nickmvincent.com)

## Research Interests

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Responsible Artificial Intelligence, Human-computer Interaction, Human-centered Machine Learning, Social Computing

## Academic Appointments

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### Assistant Professor

*Simon Fraser University, School of Computing Science*

*Burnaby, BC, Canada*

*July 2023 – present*

### Postdoctoral Scholar

*University of California, Davis*

*Davis, CA, USA*

*Jan 2023 – July 2023*

- Co-advised by [Seth Frey](#) (UC Davis, Department of Communication) and [Amy X. Zhang](#) (University of Washington, School of Computer Science and Engineering)

## Education

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### Northwestern University

*PhD in Technology and Social Behavior (joint degree, Computer Science and Communication)*

*Sept 2017 – Dec 2022*

- Advisor: [Brent Hecht](#)
- [Dissertation](#) - Data Leverage: A Framework for Empowering the Public to Mitigate Harms of Artificial Intelligence. Received SIGCHI 2024 Outstanding Dissertation Award and Northwestern University Department of Communication Dissertation Award

### University of California, Los Angeles

*BS in Electrical Engineering*

*Sept 2012 – June 2016*

- Magna Cum Laude

## Archival Publications

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### Pika: Empowering Non-Programmers to Author Executable Governance Policies in Online Communities

2024

Leijie Wang, Nicholas Vincent, Julija Rukanskaitė, Amy X. Zhang  
ACM CHI 2024

### A Canary in the AI Coal Mine: American Jews May Be Disproportionately Harmed by Intellectual Property Dispossession in Large Language Model Training

2024

Heila Precel, Allison McDonald, Brent Hecht, Nicholas Vincent  
ACM CHI 2024

### Peer Produced Friction: How Page Protection on Wikipedia Affects Editor Engagement and Concentration

2023


Leah Ajmani, Nicholas Vincent, Stevie Chancellor  
[10.1145/3610198](#) (ACM CSCW 2023)

### The Dimensions of Data Labor: A Road Map for Researchers, Activists, and Policymakers to Empower Data Producers

2023

Hanlin Li, Nicholas Vincent, Stevie Chancellor, Brent Hecht  
[10.1145/3593013.3594070](#) (ACM FAccT 2023)

<b>Behavioral Use Licensing for Responsible AI</b>	2022
Danish Contractor, Daniel McDuff, Julia Katherine Haines, Jenny Lee, Christopher Hines, Brent Hecht, Nicholas Vincent, Hanlin Li <a href="#">10.1145/3531146.3533143</a>  (ACM FAccT 2022)	
<b>CEAM: The Effectiveness of Cyclic and Ephemeral Attention Models of User Behavior on Social Platforms</b>	2021
Farhan Asif Chowdhury, Yozen Liu, Koustuv Saha, Nicholas Vincent, Leonardo Neves, Neil Shah, Maarten W Bos <a href="#">10.1609/icwsm.v15i1.18046</a>  (AAAI ICWSM 2021)	
<b>Addressing "Documentation Debt" in Machine Learning Research: A Retrospective Datasheet for BookCorpus</b>	2021
Jack Bandy, Nicholas Vincent NeurIPS 2021 Datasets and Benchmarks Track	
<b>AdverTiming Matters: Examining User Ad Consumption for Effective Ad Allocations on Social Media</b>	2021
Koustuv Saha, Yozen Liu, Nicholas Vincent, Farhan Asif Chowdhury, Leonardo Neves, Neil Shah, Maarten W Bos <a href="#">10.1145/3411764.3445394</a>  (ACM CHI 2021)	
<b>A Deeper Investigation of the Importance of Wikipedia Links to Search Engine Results</b>	2021
Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht <a href="#">10.1145/3449078</a>  (ACM CSCW 2021)	
<b>Can "Conscious Data Contribution" Help Users to Exert "Data Leverage" Against Technology Companies?</b>	2021
Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht <a href="#">10.1145/3449177</a>  (ACM CSCW 2021)	
<b>Data Leverage: A Framework for Empowering the Public in its Relationship with Technology Companies</b>	2021
Nicholas Vincent, Hanlin Li, Nicole Tilly, Stevie Chancellor, Brent Hecht <a href="#">10.1145/3442188.3445885</a>  (ACM FAccT 2021)	
<b>How Do People Change Their Technology Use in Protest?: Understanding "Protest Users"</b>	2019
Hanlin Li, Nicholas Vincent, Janice Tsai, Jofish Kaye, Brent Hecht <a href="#">10.1145/3359189</a>  (ACM CSCW 2019)	
<b>Measuring the Importance of User-Generated Content to Search Engines</b>	2019
Nicholas Vincent, Isaac Johnson, Patrick Sheehan, Brent Hecht <a href="#">10.1609/icwsm.v13i01.3248</a>  (AAAI ICWSM 2019)	
<b>"Data Strikes": Evaluating the Effectiveness of a New Form of Collective Action Against Technology Companies</b>	2019
Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht, Shilad Sen <a href="#">10.1145/3308558.3313742</a>  (ACM The Web Conference 2019)	
<b>Women (still) ask for less: Gender differences in hourly rate in an online labor marketplace</b>	2018
Eureka Foong, Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht, Elizabeth M Gerber <a href="#">10.1145/3274322</a>  (ACM CSCW 2018)	
<b>Examining Wikipedia With a Broader Lens: Quantifying the Value of Wikipedia's Relationships with Other Large-Scale Online Communities</b>	2018

Nicholas Vincent, Isaac Johnson, Brent Hecht  
[10.1145/3173574.3174140](https://doi.org/10.1145/3173574.3174140)  (ACM CHI 2018)

## Workshop Publications

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- Designing an open-source LLM interface and social platforms for collectively driven LLM evaluation and auditing** 2024  
Timothy J. Baek, Nicholas Vincent, Lawrence Kim  
HEAL Workshop @ CHI 2024
- The Need for Flexible Interfaces for Text-to-Image Auditing: A Case Study of DALL · E 2 and DALL · E 3** 2024  
Clare Provenzano, Parsa Rajabi, Diana Cukierman, Nicholas Vincent  
GenAICHI Workshop @ CHI 2024
- An Alternative to Regulation: The Case for Public AI** 2023  
Nicholas Vincent, David Bau, Sarah Schwettmann, Joshua Tan  
RegML Workshop @ NeurIPS 2023
- Sharing the Winnings of AI with Data Dividends: Challenges with 'Meritocratic' Data Valuation** 2023  
Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht  
Poster track @ EAAMO 2023
- Collaborative Design of Contribution Tracking Systems for Decentralized Organizations** 2022  
Nicholas Vincent, Christine Vandevoorde  
CESC 2022 @ UC Berkeley
- Misleading Tweets and Helpful Notes: Investigating Data Labor by Twitter Birdwatch Users** 2022  
Isaiah Jones, Brent Hecht, Nicholas Vincent  
Poster track @ ACM CSCW 2022
- Deep learning of tissue fate features in acute ischemic stroke** 2015  
Noah Stier, Nicholas Vincent, David Liebeskind, Fabien Scalzo  
BIBM 2015 Workshop on Biomedical Visual Search and Deep Learning
- Detection of hyperperfusion on arterial spin labeling using deep learning** 2015  
Nicholas Vincent, Noah Stier, Songlin Yu, David S Liebeskind, Danny JJ Wang, Fabien Scalzo  
BIBM 2015 Workshop on Biomedical Visual Search and Deep Learning

## Other Publications

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- Push and Pull: A Framework for Measuring Attentional Agency** 2024  
Zachary Wojtowicz, Shrey Jain, Nicholas Vincent  
arXiv preprint
- Twitter Engagement with Retracted Articles: Who, When, and How?** 2022  
Rod Abhari, Nicholas Vincent, Henry K Dambanemuya, Herminio Bodon, Emőke-Ágnes Horvát  
arXiv preprint
- From My Data to Our Data: A Proposal to Equitably Distribute Wealth in a Digital Economy, in The Future of Building Wealth: Brief Essays on the Best Ideas to Build Wealth—for Everyone** 2021

Yakov Feygin, Nicholas Vincent, Hanlin Li, Chirag Lala, Luisa Scarcella

Book Chapter

### **A Data Dividend that Works: Steps Toward Building an Equitable Data Economy**

2021

Yakov Feygin, Hanlin Li, Chirag Lala, Brent Hecht, Nicholas Vincent, Luisa Scarcella, Matthew Prewitt

Berggruen Institute white paper

### **Mapping the Potential and Pitfalls of 'Data Dividends' as a Means of Sharing the Profits of Artificial Intelligence.**

2019

Nicholas Vincent, Yichun Li, Renee Zha, Brent Hecht

arXiv preprint

## **News Coverage**

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- Richard Mylles. [Is data supply AI's Achilles' heel?](#) [↗](#). UBS, June 2024
- Kevin Shaul. [Is this AI? See if you can spot the technology in your everyday life.](#) [↗](#). The Washington Post, April 2024
- Tom McKay. [Nicholas Vincent explains why robots.txt is no longer enough to protect against web scraping](#) [↗](#). IT Brew, March 2024
- Asaf Elia-Shalev. [Jews have always been prolific writers. Has AI wound up with too much of their work?](#) [↗](#). Jewish Telegraphic Agency, March 2024
- Nitasha Tiku. [Newspapers want payment for articles used to power ChatGPT.](#) [↗](#). The Washington Post, October 2023
- Kali Hays and Alistair Barr. [AI is killing the grand bargain at the heart of the web. 'We're in a different world.'](#) [↗](#). Business Insider, January 2024
- Alistair Barr. ['Data leverage' and the Harry Potter test: How much is a single book worth to a giant AI model?](#) [↗](#). Business Insider, August 2023
- Jon Gernter. [Wikipedia's Moment of Truth.](#) [↗](#). New York Times Magazine, September 2023
- Melissa Heikkilä. [We are all AI's free data workers.](#) [↗](#). MIT Technology Review, June 2023
- Aurélien Defer. [Internet users are 'poisoning' their personal data in the fight against online surveillance.](#) [↗](#). Le Monde, April 2022
- Rebecca Heilweil. [Got the same name as a serial killer? Google might think you're the same person.](#) [↗](#). Vox, June 2021
- Peter Coy. [Facebook and Others Should Pay Us for Our Data. Here's One Way.](#) [↗](#). Bloomberg, May 2021
- Karen Hao. [How to poison the data that Big Tech use to surveil you.](#) [↗](#). MIT Technology Review, March 2021
- Jonathan Vanian and Jeremy Kahn. [Your data is a weapon that can help change corporate behavior.](#) [↗](#). Fortune, February 2021
- Nicolás Rivero. [Is it time for Netflix subscribers to go on strike?](#) [↗](#). Quartz, July 2020
- John Herrman. [YouTube May Add to the Burdens of Humble Wikipedia.](#) [↗](#). New York Times, March 2018

## **Grants**

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**NSERC Discovery Grant:** Empowering Data Creators to Advance Responsible Artificial Intelligence. Principal investigator. 2024-2029. 125,000 CAD.

**Breaking Barriers Interdisciplinary Incentive Grant:** Data Empowerment through Data Sharing in the Humanities. Co-investigator. 2024. With Michelle Levy, Sheelagh Carpendale, Denise Oleksijczuk. 60,000 CAD.

## **Professional Experience**

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**Research Intern (Office of the CTO)**  
Microsoft

*Redmond, WA, USA*  
*May 2021 – Aug 2021*

**Research Intern (Computational Social Science)***Snap Inc**Santa Monica, CA,**USA**Mar 2020 – June 2020***Cloud Programming Specialist***Cloudbakers**Chicago, IL, USA**Sept 2016 – June 2017***NREIP Naval Research Intern***Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (now NAVWAR)**San Diego, CA, USA**June 2016 – Aug 2016*

- Also interned in 2015

**Software Engineer Intern***Cisco Systems**San Jose, CA, USA**June 2014 – Sept 2014*

- Also interned in 2013 (Cross Functional Intern)

**Teaching Experience**

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**Primary Instructor***Simon Fraser University, School of Computing Science**Spring 2024*

- [CMPT 419](#), Special Topics in AI: Human and Data-centered AI

**Primary Instructor***Simon Fraser University, School of Computing Science**Sept 2023 – Dec 2023*

- [CMPT 120](#), Introduction to Computing Science and Programming

**Teaching Assistant***Northwestern University**Sept 2020 – Dec 2020*

- [MTS 525](#), Statistics and Statistical Programming

**Academic Reviewing**

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**Conference Meta-reviews:** AAAI ICWSM (2023), ACM EAAMO (2023)**Conferences:** ACM CHI; ACM CSCW; AAAI ICWSM; NeurIPS (2023, 2024); NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks Track (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024); ICML (2024); ACM The Web Conference (2022 PC and 2023 PC); WikiWorkshop (2023 PC); ACM FAccT (2022, 2023, and 2024 PC); ACM WSDM (2023 PC); IC2S2 (2023); ACM EAAMO**Journals:** Nature Machine Intelligence; PLOS One; Patterns; Information, Communication, and Society; ACM Journal on Responsible Computing**Funding:** Wikimedia Foundation Research Fund**Commendations:** Best Reviewer - ICWSM 2022, Outstanding Reviewer - NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks 2022, Best Reviewer - ICWSM 2021, Highly useful reviewer - CSCW 2022**Conference Service**

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**AI Palace Organizer***2023 - 2024*

- Organized the AI Palace conference in Bückeberg, Germany in 2023 and 2024.

**ICWSM 2024 Data Challenge Co-chair***2024*

- Organized the Data Challenge conference track at ICWSM 2024.

**InfoSocial Graduate Student Conference General Chair***2018*

- Served as one of two co-chairs for the [InfoSocial](#) student-run conference, which included paper sessions, panels, and networking opportunities.

## Workshops Organized

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- Hanlin Li, Nicholas Vincent, Yacine Jernite, Nick Merrill, Jesse Josua Benjamin, Alek Tarkowski. [Can Licensing Mitigate the Negative Implications of Commercial Web Scraping?](#) [🔗](#). Workshop at CSCW 2023, 2023
- Leah Ajmani, Mo Houtti, Jasmine C Foriest, Michael Ann Devito, Nicholas Vincent, Isaac Johnson. [Epistemic Injustice in Online Communities: Unpacking the Values of Knowledge Creation and Curation within CSCW Applications](#) [🔗](#). Workshop at CSCW 2023, 2023
- Hanlin Li, Leah Ajmani, Moyan Zhou, Nicholas Vincent, Sohyeon Hwang, Tiziano Piccardi, Sneha Narayan, Sherae Daniel, Veniamin Veselovsky. [Ethical Tensions, Norms, and Directions in the Extraction of Online Volunteer Work](#) [🔗](#). Workshop at CSCW 2022, 2022

## Other Service

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Simon Fraser University, Undergraduate Program Committee	2023-2024
California Data Dividends Working Group, Organizer	2019-2022
Northwestern University Artificial Intelligence Journal Club, Organizer	2019-2021
Northwestern University, Computer Science Ph.D. Advisory Council	2018

## Graduate Student Research Mentoring

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**MSc Students at Simon Fraser University:** Parsa Rajabi (Examiner), Mahdie Ghane (Committee Member)

## Undergraduate Student Research Mentoring

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**At Northwestern University (People, Space, and Algorithms Research Group):** Patrick Sheehan (co-wrote a conference paper), Ramish Zaidi, Alan Li (co-wrote a preprint), Renee Zha (co-wrote a preprint), Neil Vakharia, Isaiah Jones (first author of a workshop paper)

**At Simon Fraser University (People and Data Computing Group):** Clare Provezano (first author of a workshop paper), Patrick Zhao, Jashandeep Kaur, Laksh Agarwal

## Awards

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- ACM SIGCHI Outstanding Dissertation [Award](#) [🔗](#), 2024
- Northwestern University School of Communication Graduate Dissertation [Award](#) [🔗](#), 2023
- President Fellowship Finalist, Northwestern University, 2019
- NSF-GRFP Honorable Mention, 2018

## Selected Talks

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<b>Economic Concentration and Dispossession Data Use: Can HCI Solve Challenges from and to AI?</b>	May 2024
◦ Event: <a href="#">SIGCHI 2024 Outstanding Dissertation Award</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	
<b>A New Grand Data Bargain for Public Interest AI</b>	Feb 2024
◦ Event: <a href="#">Digital Democracies Institute Spring Speaker Series</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	
<b>Responsive LLM Development</b>	Jan 2024
◦ Event: <a href="#">University of Toronto Data Sciences Institute: Fairness - ChatGPT Workshop</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	
<b>Community Dialogue on Accountable Governance and Data</b>	Mar 2023
◦ Event: <a href="#">Community Data Science Collective Community Dialogues</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	
<b>Algorithmic Contestability</b>	Jan 2023
◦ Event: <a href="#">Center for Advancing Safety of Machine Intelligence, Toward a Safety Science of AI</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	
<b>Public interest technologies for the ML age</b>	May 2021
◦ Event: <a href="#">3rd Obfuscation Workshop</a> <a href="#">🔗</a>	

## **The Importance of Wikipedia to Search Engines and Other Systems**

*May 2021*

- Event: [Wikipedia Research Showcase](#) [🔗](#) (Video [🔗](#))

## **Data Agency: Individual or Shared?**

*Jan 2021*

- Event: RadicalxChange Panels (Video [🔗](#))

## **Data Driven Economy for All**

*July 2020*

- Event: [RadicalxChange 2020 Conference](#) [🔗](#) (Video [🔗](#))

## **The Critical Relationship of Volunteer-Created Wikipedia Content to Large-Scale Online Communities**

*Apr 2018*

- Event: [Wikipedia Research Showcase](#) [🔗](#) (Video [🔗](#))