

17 South Ave
Ithaca, NY 14850

OLAF WILLNER
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12 Redcliffe Square
SW10 9JZ
London, UK

Education

Cornell University, College of Arts and Sciences

B.A., Computer Science & Government, Double Major, 2020-2024 (*expected*)
Milstein Program in Technology and Humanity, 2024 Cohort (one of 20 selected from 8000+ applicants)
ACT: 34/36

Ithaca, NY, USA
2020-2024

Lycée Français Charles de Gaulle

French Baccalaureate, Scientific Stream, Très Bien (Highest Honors), 17.55/20
Student Council President

London, UK
2013-2020

Experience

Pacific Harbor Group

Equity Research Intern

- Reported to the CEO with financial and industry analysis on investments involving special situations, commodities, real estate, and financial institutions in developed and emerging markets
- Priced a corporate bond offering of USD\$350mm of 5-year senior secured notes by a major Canadian manufacturing company
- Provided valuation research and analysis for a luxury property complex in Thailand worth USD\$8mm

Hong Kong, SAR
April 2021 – August 2021

Cornell Tech Policy Lab

Research Fellow

- Currently working on a research paper characterizing privatization in the space industry with two PhD students
- Designed and developed the group's website from scratch (tpl.as.cornell.edu) and implemented a custom CMS to let authors publish articles autonomously
- Co-authored a research paper with Prof. Sarah Kreps on AI natural language models and political communication
- Partnered with co-authors at ETH Zürich to generate political tweets with the GPT-3 language model and Python; designed and ran public opinion surveys to test our hypotheses, and analyzed 2k+ responses

Ithaca, New York
September 2020 - Present

Microsoft Research

Research Intern

- Prepared computer and desk setups for researchers at Microsoft's flagship UK research center
- Programmed Windows computers and tablets to tailor to researchers' specific needs
- Collaborated with researchers on technological solutions to issues in healthcare, design, ML and AI

Cambridge, UK
June 2018

MIT Fabrication Lab

Lab Assistant

- Participated in a successful educational robotics Kickstarter campaign (\$64k funding)
- Worked directly with founder to provide feedback and beta test robots

London, UK
June 2016 - June 2017

Publications

- Sarah Kreps, **Olaf Willner**, Jakob Richi and Elliott Ash. (2021). Natural Language Models as Political Communicators. *Submitted to AIES Conference*
- Avishai Melamed, **Olaf Willner**, Adi Rao, Sarah Kreps. (2021). When and Why does the Government Privatize Industries? The Space Industry as a Case Study. *In Progress*

Projects

Extended Research Project: Balloon-Powered Internet

- Led a team in launching a weather balloon to test the idea of providing an internet connection to remote and/or areas affected by natural disasters
- Wrote a Python algorithm predicting the volume of helium needed and the flight path of the weather balloon with payload attached

Skills and Interests

Skills: Native proficiency in French, professional working proficiency in German, elementary proficiency in Mandarin Chinese; Proficient in Python, Java, HTML/CSS/JavaScript; Data analysis, modelling, market/equity research; Excel modelling

Interests: Technology, Business, Politics, Aviation, Space