

# Parand Alizadeh Alamdari

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## EDUCATION

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- **University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada** 2020–Present  
Affiliated with [Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence](#)  
Ph.D. in Computer Science, advisor: [Prof. Sheila McIlraith](#)
- **Sharif University of Technology, Tehran, Iran** 2015–2020  
B.Sc. in Computer Engineering, *Summa Cum Laude* (top 2%) GPA: 19.33/20

## CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

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- **Parand A. Alamdari**, Soroush Ebadian, and Ariel Procaccia. [Policy Aggregation](#). In *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, 2024. Forthcoming.
- **Parand A. Alamdari**, Yanshuai Cao, and Kevin Wilson. [Jump Starting Bandits with LLM-Generated Prior Knowledge](#). In *Proceedings of the 2024 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, 2024. Forthcoming.
- **Parand A. Alamdari**, Toryn Klassen, Elliot Creager, and Sheila McIlraith. [Remembering to Be Fair: Non-Markovian Fairness in Sequential Decision Making](#). In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, 2024.
- Toryn Klassen, **Parand A. Alamdari**, and Sheila McIlraith. [Epistemic Side Effects: An AI Safety Problem](#). In *Proceedings of International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2023.
- **Parand A. Alamdari**, Toryn Q. Klassen, Rodrigo Toro Icarte, and Sheila McIlraith. [Be Considerate: Avoiding Negative Side Effects in Reinforcement Learning](#). In *Proceedings of the International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, 2022.
- **Parand A. Alamdari**, Guy Avni, Thomas A Henzinger, and Anna Lukina. [Formal Methods with a Touch of Magic](#). In *Proceedings of the Conference on Formal Methods in Computer-Aided Design (FMCAD)*, 2020.

## PEER-REVIEWED WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

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- **Parand A. Alamdari**, Toryn Klassen, Elliot Creager, and Sheila McIlraith. [Remembering to Be Fair: On Non-Markovian Fairness in Sequential Decision Making \(Priliminary Report\)](#). *NeurIPS Workshop on Algorithmic Fairness through the Lens of Time*, 2023.
- Toryn Klassen, **Parand A. Alamdari**, and Sheila McIlraith. [Epistemic Side Effects and Avoiding Them \(Sometimes\)](#). *NeurIPS Workshop on ML Safety*, 2022.
- **Parand A. Alamdari**, Toryn Klassen, Rodrigo Toro Icarte, and Sheila McIlraith. [Avoiding Negative Side Effects by Considering Others](#). *NeurIPS Workshop on Safe and Robust Control of Uncertain Systems*, 2021.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- **Research Intern at Borealis AI** Feb 2024–June 2024  
Supervisors: [Yanshuai Cao](#), [Kevin Wilson](#)  
Analyzed the capabilities of large language models (LLMs) to simulate human preferences. Developed an initialization algorithm for contextual multi-armed bandits using LLMs to simulate human behavior and reduce online learning regret.
- **Research Assistant at University of Toronto and Vector Institue** Sept 2020–Present  
Supervisor: [Sheila McIlraith](#)  
Developing techniques to characterize and build AI technologies that are properly aligned with human values.

- **Research Intern at IST Austria in Henzinger Group** July 2019–Sept 2019  
Supervisors: [Thomas Henzinger](#) and [Guy Avni](#)  
Designed and implemented a controller which is provably correct and efficient, with explainable decisions using an intermediate concise model to approximate the neural network.
- **Research Intern at EPFL in DIAS Lab** July 2018–Sept 2018  
Supervisors: [Anastasia Ailamaki](#) and [Eleni Tziritza Zacharitou](#)  
Designed a tree-based data structure and a packing algorithm for indexing spatial data with several categories.
- **Research Intern at EPFL in DATA Lab** July 2017–Sept 2017  
Supervisors: [Christoph Koch](#) and [Amir Shaikhha](#)  
Redesigned and optimized an SQL query compiler [DBToaster](#) by introducing a new materialization algorithm.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- Recipient of **Google DeepMind Fellowship** for PhD studies. 2021–2025
- Recipient of **General Motors Women in Science and Mathematics Award**. 2023
- Recipient of **Graduate Fellowship** from **Schwartz Reisman Institute** for Technology and Society, University of Toronto. 2022–2023
- Recipient of **AI Risk Analysis Award** in NeurIPS Workshop for ML Safety. 2022
- **Ranked 3<sup>rd</sup>** in cumulative GPA among all 150 students of Computer Engineering, 2015 beginners, Sharif University of Technology. 2020
- **Silver Medal** in the 24<sup>th</sup> Iranian National Olympiad in Informatics (INOI). 2014
- Recipient of **Research Scholarship** from the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education & Research (OeAD-GmbH). 2019
- **Ranked 150<sup>th</sup>** in Iran's university entrance exam among over 181,000 participants. 2015
- **4<sup>th</sup> Place** in the International RoboCup Competitions, Rescue Simulation League, as a member of Poseidon team, Eindhoven, Netherlands. 2013

## WORKING EXPERIENCE

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- **Machine Learning Engineer at Cafébazaar AI and Infra Services, Tehran, Iran** Feb 2020–Sep 2020
  - Led the development of the natural language processing part of text-to-speech and speech-to-text products for Persian language.
- **Software Engineer at Cafébazaar, Tehran, Iran** June 2016–March 2018
  - Released an application recommender system for Cafébazaar android app store with 37 million users.
  - Designed and developed Big Data analytics tools for internal usage.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- **Teaching Assistant**
  - **Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (CSC384)**, University of Toronto Fall & Winter 2021–2023
  - **Knowledge Representation and Reasoning (CSC486/2502)**, University of Toronto Fall 2021 & 2024
  - **Design of Algorithms (Head TA)**, Sharif University of Technology Fall 2019
  - **Data Mining (Graduate Course)**, Sharif University of Technology Fall 2018
  - **Discrete Mathematics (Head TA)**, Sharif University of Technology Winter 2017–2019

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- Reviewer for ICLR 2025, NeurIPS 2024, ACL 2024, AIES 2024, and AAMAS 2023.

## SKILLS

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- **Programming Languages:** Python, Java, Scala, C/C++, and R.
- **Machine Learning Frameworks:** PyTorch, Keras, Tensorflow, Scikit-learn, Pandas, and NumPy.
- **Miscellaneous:** Git, Bash, Scrum, Django framework, and L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.