

Roxana Akhmetova

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EDUCATION

University of Oxford | DPhil Migration Studies (Anthropology Dept) | 2020 – Dec 2025 (expected)

The Invisible Border Wall: The Use of AI in Canada's Immigration and Border Control

- **Thesis:** Examined accountability, transparency, and fairness of AI in public sector decision-making, how AI systems shape human judgment, the politics of AI, and AI procurement and governance. Supervised by Dr Ruben Andersson (ODID) and Dr Helen Margetts (OII).
- **Methods:** Designed and conducted 35 semi-structured interviews; developed interview protocols; carried out fieldwork at 6 border-technology expos; applied institutional ethnography to analyse organisational decision-making; conducted document and policy analysis of procurement files, algorithmic assessment guidelines, and regulatory frameworks; and used policy analysis to examine government–vendor dynamics.
- **Impact:** Research cited in the U.K. Government's Ethics Framework for Automated Decision-Making (2024). Provided policy consultations to Canadian immigration officials and border agency staff on AI risk assessment and algorithmic bias mitigation strategies.

University of Oxford | MSc in Migration Studies | 2019 – 2020

- Desk research on use of AI in Canadian immigration and border control. Supervised by Dr Lena Rose.

University of Manitoba | MA in Political Studies | 2017 – 2019

- **Thesis:** Examined the role of recent newcomers to Canada in Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.
- **Methods:** Designed and facilitated focus groups; developed interview guides; conducted qualitative coding of focus group results; applied document and policy analysis to examine newcomer–Indigenous relations.

University of Winnipeg | BA (Honors) in Political Science | 2013 – 2017

- 15 awards, scholarships, and distinctions.

SELECT SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Ethnography Travel Awards | Oxford School of Anthropology & Museum Ethnography | 2022 and 2023

- Two £1,000 awards to support fieldwork at border security expos, and visits to 2 border sites.

The Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Scholarship | 2021

- \$180,000 in funding to support the advancement of outstanding, top 2.5% cutting-edge PhDs.

Doctoral Fellowship | Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) | 2021

- \$93,000 in funding for high-calibre students engaged in doctoral programs in the social sciences.

Sloane Robinson Graduate Scholarship | Keble College, University of Oxford | 2020

- £23,000 given to support graduate studies at Keble College.

Joseph Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship | SSHRC | 2018

- \$17,000 given for master's degree funding at the University of Manitoba for research on the role of Canadian newcomers in Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

Tri-Council Top-Up Award, University of Manitoba Faculty of Graduate Studies | 2018

- \$5,000 given by the University of Manitoba for master's degree funding for research on the role of Canadian newcomers in Reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples.

EXPERIENCE

AI Safety Policy Fellow (U.S. – remote) | AI Safety Initiative at Georgia Tech | Sep 2025 – Nov 2025

- Tracked congressional legislation and monitored regulatory proceedings across Commerce Department, Department of State, and NTIA on semiconductor export controls and CHIPS Act.
- Conducted policy research on AI compute security and dual-use technology governance.

Founder and Chair (U.K.) | Oxford AI Gala | Jun 2024 – Jun 2025

- Founded inaugural AI governance conference with 200+ senior stakeholders including government officials and C-suite executives.
- Built and managed relations with Anthropic as title sponsor and speakers from Anthropic, Sony AI, RAND Europe, Tony Blair Institute, and University of Oxford academic partners.
- Set thematic agenda on AI governance and moderated the AI governance panel.

President (U.K.) | Oxford Artificial Intelligence Society | Apr 2022 – May 2023

- Led Europe's largest AI student society, managing 7 cross-functional teams across technical research, AI safety, and operations and recognised as 2023 'U.K. Society of the Year'.
- Facilitated \$60,000 Amazon compute grant for AI bias research by building corporate partnerships.
- Developed and managed a mentorship programme connecting 87 students with 66 professionals from Microsoft, Google, Apple, and QuantumBlack.
- Planned, organised, and executed internal/external events by developing content, drafting materials, and engaging in social media.

Research Assistant (U.K.) | Oxford Department of International Development | Aug 2020 – Aug 2021

- Co-authored 2 policy briefs on content moderation, platform regulation, and misinformation.
- Co-facilitated a multi-stakeholder workshop with 20+ participants from U.K. government agencies, technology companies (including Facebook), and civil society organisations to build consensus on AI governance frameworks.
- Supported preparation for meetings and briefings with government and industry stakeholders.

WRITING OUTPUTS

Akhmetova, R. and Tao, W. (in preparation)

Akhmetova, R. (2025), "Challenging Mandated AI in the Public Sector" in *The State of AI Ethics Report* (Volume 7), Montreal AI Ethics Institute.

Akhmetova, R. and Harris, E. (2021), "Politics of Technology: The Use of Artificial Intelligence by US and Canadian Immigration Agencies and their Impacts on Human Rights" in *Digital Identity, Virtual Borders and Social Media*, E. Korkmaz (Ed.).

Korkmaz, E. et al. (2021), "Digital Citizenship in Turkey". Working Paper. *TMCD Working Paper Series No 83*.

Akhmetova, R. (2020), "On How Governments Use Artificial Intelligence in Immigration". *Oxford COMPAS Working Paper Series*.

Akhmetova, R. (2020), "How AI Is Being Used in Canada's Immigration Decision-Making". Blog. *University of Oxford's Centre on Migration, Policy, and Society*.

Al-ubeady, H. and Akhmetova, R. (2019), "Building Indigenous-Newcomer Relationships: Visit to Brokenhead Ojibway Nation". Report. *University of Winnipeg CERl Network*.

KEY RESEARCH SKILLS & INTERESTS

Theoretical & Analytical Approaches: Sociotechnical systems analysis; critical and interpretive methods; institutional analysis; organisational studies; governance and accountability of AI systems.

Research Methods: Qualitative interviewing; interview design; institutional and policy ethnography; document and policy analysis; qualitative coding; thematic analysis.

Research Interests: AI governance; sociotechnical systems; algorithmic accountability; public sector automation; organisational ethnography; AI law and policy; AI transparency; human-AI interaction.

Policy & Governance Analysis: Algorithmic impact evaluation; AI risk assessment; evaluation of public-sector automation; analysis of regulatory processes; technology governance; comparative policy analysis.

Stakeholder & Institutional Engagement: Multi-stakeholder convening; government and agency engagement; workshop facilitation; regulatory tracking; cross-sector interviews (government, private sector, civil society).

Communication & Knowledge Translation: Research writing; policy translation; executive briefings; public speaking; conference presentations.

Technical Skills: STATA; NVivo; R; Git/GitHub; Web development (HTML, CSS, JavaScript); Zotero/Mendeley.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

25th Annual Family Law Conference (ZA) | Apr 2023

- “Use of Artificial Intelligence in Legal Practice: Benefits and Drawbacks”.

International Bar Association Annual Conference (U.S.) | Nov 2022

- “Artificial Intelligence as the Decision Maker in Immigration Proceedings”.

Rising Up: A Graduate Student Conference on Indigenous Knowledge and Research (CAN) | Mar 2019

- “Refugee/Newcomer and Indigenous Relations”.

Peace and Conflict Studies International Graduate Students Conference (CAN) | Feb 2019

- “Social Impacts of Irregular Refugee Migration in Winnipeg”.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE & PUBLIC OUTREACH

Inclusive AI (Germany – remote) | Institute for Ethics in Technology Workshop | 2024

- Designed and delivered full-day workshop content on inclusive AI design and development for 50 AI professionals.

POLS-7300: Comparative Indigenous Politics Seminar (CAN) | University of Manitoba | 2018

- Led graduate-level seminar discussions for 7 students over 1 semester.