Rashid Mushkani ^(he/him)

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Université de Montréal & Mila – Québec AI Institute | Montréal, QC, Canada

RESEARCH AREAS: Public AI for cultural institutions (GLAM) and cities—participatory datasets; pluralistic alignment; governance grounded in data rights, data sovereignty, and accessibility; multilingual publics; urban informatics; and community-engaged methods.

Academic Appointments

2025—Now	**Lecturer**, Université de Montréal, Faculty of Environmental Design, School of Urban Planning & Landscape Architecture. Course Lead: URB 6850 *International Urbanism* (Fall 2025, 3 credits; **Master's level**).
2017—2021	**Assistant Professor**, Department of Architecture, Kabul University (Kabul, Afghanistan). Led student mentoring, curriculum renewal, and experiential learning studios; faculty teaching awards (2018, 2019).

Education

2022—2025	**Interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Planning**, Université de Montréal & Mila – Québec AI Institute. Specialization: community-centered AI for public space, AI governance, and AI for urban services. Guy-Desbarats Excellence Award 2024; Mila Speed Science Prize 2025; FAVE Perseverance Award 2023; Student Engagement Prize 2024. (Expected defense: December 2025). *Dissertation: "Plural Publics, Plural Cultural AIs"*
2019—2021	**Master of Engineering in Architecture & Civil Engineering**, Toyohashi University of Technology, Japan. Focus on public space, participation, and design justice. Young Researcher Award 2021.
2012—2016	**B.Sc. in Architecture**, Kabul University, Afghanistan. Best Student Award (2016); First Class Honors.

Research Experience

2023—Now   **Researcher**, AI4Humanity, Mila – Québec AI Institute.
Lead, *AI Alignment for Inclusion (AIAI)*: coordinated a 9-person team; co-created *MID-Space*; convened 9 co-creation workshops with 30+ partners (community organizations, cultural institutions, firms, universities).

2022–Now   **Researcher**, UNESCO Chair in Urban Landscape, Université de Montréal
Led community outreach and participatory workshops; curated and evaluated datasets for inclusive public-space projects; co-designed cultural programs for the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC); coordinated within the UNESCO Chairs network on inclusive cities; co-led EVADIA+, developing AI tools with cultural and civic partners.

2020–2022   **Moderator & Contributor**, Architectural Institute of Japan (AIJ)
Research Committee on Urban Planning & Design
African urban planning methods; heritage preservation in Ghana (Asante Traditional Buildings, Fort Christiansborg).

Teaching Experience

2025   Université de Montréal — URB 6850 International Urbanism (Course Lead, 3 cr, Fall; **Master's level**).

2023—2025   AI4Humanity at Mila – Québec AI Institute & Université de Montréal — **Community Co-creation Lab Workshops** (Lead Instructor). 21 workshops (3–3.5 h) with 25–45 participants (teams of 4–5). Developed curriculum, ethics framework, technical stack, and logistics; trained facilitators; led assessment and reporting. Partners: **30+ community organizations, 7 architecture/planning firms, and city departments**.

2023   Université de Montréal — DIN 1043 Structural Elements (Course Lead, 3 cr, Winter; responsible: V. Tessier; **Undergraduate level**).

2021—2022   Toyohashi University of Technology — **Architectural Design I–II** (Studio Instructor, 3 cr, Winter/Spring; **Undergraduate level**).

2017—2019	Kabul University — **AR406 Public Buildings & Adaptive Reuse** (6 cr; Fall 2017/2018; **Undergraduate level**); **AR421 Heritage Conservation** (3 cr; Fall 2017/2018; **Undergraduate level**); **AR422 Environmental Design & Society** (3 cr; Spring 2018/2019; **Undergraduate level**); **AR315 History & Theory of Architecture** (3 cr; Spring 2018/2019; **Undergraduate level**).

Professional Practice

2015—2019	**Architect**, Aga Khan Trust for Culture (AKDN), Kabul. Public-space planning and heritage conservation; conceptual/technical drawings for Chihilsitoon Garden and Kabul Riverfront Transformation.

Grants — CAD (PI unless noted)

[1] **$30,000** — Mitacs Accelerate (2024—2025). Host: Mila—Québec AI Institute. *Applied research on inclusive AI for public spaces.*

[2] **$21,491** — TUT-DC grant (2021—2022), Toyohashi University of Technology. More info.

[3] **$140,402** — Royal Norwegian Embassy (2018—2019). *Architectural Modeling Workshop, Kabul University* (equipment & setup funding; co-led with Faculty of Engineering).

Fellowships & Scholarships — CAD

[1] **$83,334** — FRQ–Société et culture Doctoral Scholarship (2024—2027).

[2] **$64,116** — JICA Scholarship (2019—2021), Japan International Cooperation Agency.

[3] **$43,220** — TUT-DC Fellowship (2021—2022), Toyohashi University of Technology.

[4] **$10,000** — UdeM AI Scholarship (ESP, 2024—2025), Université de Montréal.

[5] **$5,000** — Guy-Desbarats Excellence Scholarship (2024), Université de Montréal.

[6] **$5,000** — Welcome Award (2022), Université de Montréal.

[7] **$2,000** — FAVE Perseverance Award (2023), Université de Montréal.

[8] UdeM Tuition Exemption Award (2022—2025), Université de Montréal.

[9] **$1,000** — Student Engagement Prize (2024), Université de Montréal.

Research Support & Presentation Awards — CAD

[1] **$3,500** — Bourse de rayonnement scientifique (2025), UNESCO Chair in Urban Landscape, Université de Montréal.

[2] **$2,000** — Bourse de rayonnement scientifique (2025), Faculté de l'aménagement, Université de Montréal.

[3] **$2,000** — Bourse de rayonnement scientifique (2025), Université de Montréal.

[4] **$3,000** — Bourses de rédaction de thèse doctorale (2025), Université de Montréal.

[5] **$2,000** — Bourse Examen de synthèse (2024), Faculté de l'aménagement, Université de Montréal.

Total grants & scholarships since September 2018 ($418,063).

Honors & Awards

- Speed Science contest, **3rd Prize**, Mila - Quebec AI Institute, 2025.
- **Guy-Desbarats Excellence Award**, Université de Montréal, 2024.
- Student Engagement Prize, Université de Montréal, 2024.
- FAVE Perseverance Award, Université de Montréal, 2023.
- **Young Researcher Award**, Toyohashi University of Technology (TUT), 2021.
- **Teaching Performance & Academic Excellence Award**, Kabul University, 2019.
- Faculty of Engineering **Best Professor Award**, Kabul University, 2018.
- Best Student Award, Kabul University, 2017.

Datasets & Benchmarks

- **MID-Space** — Community-co-created dataset & evaluation framework for inclusive public-space design. Hugging Face (~11k+ downloads, as of Aug 17, 2025).
- **Intersectoriality** — Dataset capturing cross-sector perspectives for inclusive AI design. Hugging Face (~3k+ downloads, as of Aug 17, 2025).

- **StreetReview (dataset)** — Participatory street review dataset. [Hugging Face](#) (~2.5k+ downloads, as of Aug 17, 2025).
- **LIVS** — Pluralistic alignment dataset for inclusive public spaces. [mid-space.one](#).

Software & AI Models

- **StreetReview (AI assessment of Montreal Streets)** — Participatory street-review framework (methods & tooling). [project page](#).
- **[WeDesign+](#)** — Human-AI collaborative design workflow (paper, **[demo](#)**).
- **AIAI Model** — Models aligned with the LIVS dataset for inclusive public-space evaluation. [project page](#).
- **[LayScience](#)** — Inspired by work with Afghan girls, this AI tool lowers barriers to scientific access: including access to [arXiv](#), it converts research PDFs and DOIs into clear, evidence-linked summaries for everyone. Available at [layscience.ai](#). Pilot: **1,600+** users; median **200 requests/day** (May–Aug 2025).
- **AI Pluralism Index** — methodology & prototype for measuring pluralism in AI systems (*in progress*).
- **[EVADIA+](#)** — AI tool for fair and transparent summarization to support public engagement (*in progress*).
- **Participatory AI Mapping** — tools for participatory mapping of AI harms/benefits in public space (*in progress*).

Books & Book Chapters

[1] **The Right to AI: Participatory Governance and AI as Societal Infrastructure**. Elsevier, under contract; anticipated mid-2026. (Author: **Rashid Mushkani**)

[2] Pluralistic alignment for public space planning: Participatory and generative AI methods for streetscape inclusivity. In *The Handbook of AI and Urban Planning* (Ed. T. W. Sanchez), Edward Elgar Publishing, in preparation (book chapter being written).

Selected Publications

- **[LIVS](#)**: A pluralistic alignment dataset for inclusive public spaces. *[ICML 2025](#)*.

- *Position:* **The Right to AI**. *ICML 2025.*

- **Intersecting perspectives:** A participatory street review framework for urban inclusivity. *Habitat International, 2025.*

- **Co-Producing AI:** Toward an Augmented, Participatory Lifecycle. *Eighth AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES 2025).*

Full Publications — Google Scholar, accessed Aug 25, 2025: 101 citations; *h*-index 6.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers / Journal Articles

Notations: mentees italicized

[1] The Right to AI
Rashid **Mushkani** H. Berard A. Cohen S. Koseki
Proceedings of the 42nd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) *2025*

[2] Co-producing AI: An augmented AI lifecycle
Rashid **Mushkani** Hugo Berard Toumadher Ammar Shin Koseki
Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES) *2025*

[3] Public perceptions of Montréal's streets: Implications for inclusive public space making and management
Rashid **Mushkani** Hugo Berard Toumadher Ammar Shin Koseki
Journal of Urban Management *2025*

[4] Intersecting perspectives: A participatory street review framework for urban inclusivity
Rashid **Mushkani** Shin Koseki
Habitat International *2025*

[5] LIVS: A pluralistic alignment dataset for inclusive public spaces
Rashid **Mushkani** S. *Nayak* H. Berard A. Cohen S. Koseki H. Bertrand
Proceedings of the 42nd International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML) *2025*
Dataset and participatory methods for inclusive public spaces.

[6] From efficiency to equity: Measuring fairness in preference learning
S. *Gowaikar* H. Berard Rashid **Mushkani** Shin Koseki
Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES) *2025*

[7] Évaluation algorithmique inclusive de la qualité des espaces publics
Shin Koseki Toumadher Ammar Rashid **Mushkani** Hugo Berard *Sarah Tannir*
SCAN24: International Conference on New Digital Tools for Construction and Urban Planning *2024*
Best Paper

[8] AI-EDI-SPACE: A co-designed dataset for evaluating the quality of public spaces

S. Gowaikar H. Berard Rashid **Mushkani** E. B. Marchand T. Ammar S. Koseki
CVPR 2024 Workshop on Responsible Data *2024*

[9] MID-Space: Aligning Diverse Communities' Needs to Inclusive Public Spaces
S. Nayak Rashid **Mushkani** H. Berard A. Cohen S. Koseki H. Bertrand
NeurIPS 2024 Workshop on Pluralistic Alignment *2024*
Oral presentation (0.5%)

[10] Flere Fronter (Several fronts: Architecture at war)
Rashid **Mushkani**
Arkitekten, Anneks *2022*

[11] Urban planning, political system, and public participation in a century of urbanization: Kabul, Afghanistan
Rashid **Mushkani** Haruka Ono
Cogent Social Sciences *2022*

[12] Spatial equity of public parks: A case study of Kabul City, Afghanistan
Rashid **Mushkani** Haruka Ono
Sustainability *2021*

[13] The role of land use and vitality in fostering gender equality in urban public parks: The case of Kabul city, Afghanistan
Rashid **Mushkani** Haruka Ono
Habitat International *2021*
TUT Young Researcher Award

[14] Public spaces of developing countries post COVID-19: A reflection on Kabul City, Afghanistan
Rashid **Mushkani** Haruka Ono
International Journal of Interdisciplinary Research and Innovations *2020*

Preprints, Submitted & Under Review

[15] Rashid **Mushkani**. Assessing VLM–community alignment using synthetic and real Montreal street imagery. *Submitted to CHI*. 2025

[16] Rashid **Mushkani**. Intersectoral Knowledge in AI and Urban Studies: A Framework for Transdisciplinary Research. *Under review at Nature Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*. 2025

[17] Rashid **Mushkani**. Mapping Participation: A Global Crowdsourced Atlas of Community-Driven AI Projects. *Submitted to CHI*. 2025

[18] Rashid **Mushkani**. Prompt Commons: Collective Prompting as Governance. *Submitted to NeurIPS Workshop on Algorithmic Collective Action*. 2025

[19] Rashid **Mushkani**. Urban AI Governance Must Embed Legal Reasonableness for Democratic and Sustainable Cities. *NeurIPS 2025 (Position Paper Track) - Received strong praise in the primary reviews.* 2025

[20] Rashid **Mushkani** Hugo Berard. Measuring What Matters: The AI Pluralism Index. *Submitted to CHI*. 2025

[21] Rashid **Mushkani** Hugo Berard Shin Koseki. Negotiative alignment: Embracing disagreement to achieve fairer outcomes – Insights from urban studies. *Submitted to CHI*. 2025

[22] Rashid **Mushkani** Hugo Berard Shin Koseki. WeDesign: Generative AI–Facilitated Community Consultations for Urban Public Space Design. *Submitted to Journal of Urban Technology*. 2025

[23] Rashid **Mushkani** Shin Koseki. Street review: A participatory AI-based framework for assessing streetscape inclusivity. *Revised version submitted to Cities*. 2025

Selected Invited Talks & Keynotes

- 2025: "The Right to AI" — AI & Cities track, Applied Machine Learning Days, AMLD (EPFL), Lausanne. details

- 2025: "The Right to AI: Rethinking Participatory Approaches in AI" — PAIRS Symposium, Sciences Po, Paris. details

- 2025: "Co-producing AI" — Institute for Advanced Architecture of Catalonia (IAAC), Barcelona. details

- 2025: "Augmented AI Lifecycle" — Faculté de l'aménagement, Université de Montréal.

- 2024: "Using AI to Design Inclusive Public Spaces" — Innovate for Cities 2024, Montréal. details

- 2023: "AI Lifecycle: Participation Landscape" — Sustainability Reading Group, Mila – Québec AI Institute, Montréal.

- 2023: Benchmarking Spatial Justice Symposium — TU Delft, Netherlands. details

- 2021: "A centurey of participatory planning and governance" — Asian Studies Online Consortium — Kyushu University (online).

- 2019: "Cultural heritage preservation practices in Kabul" — ICOMOS International Committee on Earthen Architecture, Yazd, Iran.

- 2019: "Heritage and Public Space in Kabul" — Aga Khan Development Network, India.

Conference & Workshop Presentations (Refereed Program)

- 2025 (upcoming): "Co-producing AI: An Augmented AI Lifecycle" — *AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES 2025).*

- 2025 (upcoming): "From Efficiency to Equity: Measuring Fairness in Preference Learning" — *AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES 2025)*.

- 2025: "Position: The Right to AI" — *ICML 2025*, Vancouver. presentation

- 2025: "LIVS: A Pluralistic Alignment Dataset for Inclusive Public Spaces" — *ICML 2025*, Vancouver. presentation

- 2024: "MID-Space" — Pluralistic Alignment Workshop, *NeurIPS 2024*. presentation

- 2024: "AI-EDI-SPACE: A Co-designed Dataset for Evaluating the Quality of Public Spaces" — CVPR 2024 Workshop on Responsible Data.

- 2024: "MID-Space dataset" — 7th Montréal AI Symposium (MAIS) — AI & governance session.

- 2020: Participation, 16th Conference of Asian and African City Planning (online).

- 2019: "Public Space and public participation" — 15th Conference of International Development and Urban Planning, Tokyo City University.

- 2019: "Public participation and planning institutions" — Faculty of Engineering, Kabul University, Afghanistan.

Courses Prepared To Teach

- Pluralistic Alignment: Theory & Methods

- Recommenders & Ranking for Cultural Data (design & audit)

- Cross-lingual Information Retrieval & Machine Translation

- Data Governance, Rights & Sovereignty

- AI Lifecycle & Co-production

- Community Co-curation, Storytelling & Annotation with AI

- Digital Heritage & Language Revitalization

- Dataset Curation & Documentation (Data/Model Cards)

- Human-AI Evaluation & Participatory Methods

- Explainability & Fairness for Responsible ML

- Decentralized / Federated / Edge Learning for Cultural Institutions

- Algorithmic Accountability: Auditing GLAM Platforms
- Cities and AI

Program Committee & Reviewing

Conferences & Workshops

- **AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES)** — Program Committee / Reviewer (2025).
- **International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), Main Conference Track** — Reviewer (2025).
- **NeurIPS Position Paper Track (Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems)** — Reviewer (2025).
- **NeurIPS Workshop on Pluralistic Alignment** — Reviewer (2024).

Journals

- **Habitat International** — Ad hoc reviewer.
- **Demography** — Ad hoc reviewer.

Service & Community Engagement

- UNIC: UNESCO Chairs on Social Inclusion in Cities — **moderator** and active member.
- **Volunteer**, AI4Good Lab 2025, Mila.
- [Member](#), International Observatory on the Societal Impacts of AI and Digital Technologies (since 2023).
- **Volunteer**, *Research for the Front Lines* (since 2024).
- **Collaboration with 30+** Montr'eal community organizations (e.g., R'EZO; SQDI; AGIR Montr'eal; ATQ; RLQ–QLN; ALAC; Association musulmane de Montr'eal-Nord; Maison d'Haiti; Afrique au F'eminin) on inclusive AI development.
- [EVADIA+](#) — co-created AI tools for participatory urban planning with ~10 partners including local CDCs; co-facilitated 12 co-creation workshops.

- **Daricha mentorship** — supported a cohort of 49 Afghan female students (architecture/urbanism focus) for higher-education pathways (scholarships, remote seminars).

- **Kabul University modeling workshop lead** — secured funding to build a physical modeling lab used across departments; seeded small-group critique formats in large studios.