

## Ruth Elisabeth Appel

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Award-winning researcher combining deep technical expertise in AI with empirical social science to shape safe and responsible AI development.

### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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AI, trust and safety, bias, misinformation, persuasion, elections, causal inference, data science, wellbeing, ethics, privacy

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**09/2019 – present**

Stanford, US

#### Stanford University

Postdoctoral Scholar (08/2024 – present)

- Led research on generative AI content moderation preferences to inform AI alignment
- Core contributor to project on [third-party AI evaluation](#)
- Showed how social media regulation can inform [generative AI regulation](#)
- Led research on deceptive campaigns and election interference as part of a large-scale academic-industry collaboration with Meta analyzing data from 250 million users
- Core contributor to research with Meta on [testing misinformation interventions at scale](#)
- Worked with cross-functional stakeholders (e.g., research, engineering, legal)

SAP Graduate Fellow in Science and Engineering & PACS PhD Fellow (09/2019 – 06/2024)

- Led research uncovering [why partisans disagree about content moderation](#) in the US
- Led research on a scalable [intervention to counter vaccine misinformation](#)
- Led research on the [ethics](#) and [privacy](#) implications of new technologies
- Core contributor to research on an [intervention to improve youth wellbeing using an app](#)
- Communicated results with relevant stakeholders and the public via meetings with high-level decision-makers, conference presentations, [popular press articles](#), and [inputs to policy drafts](#)

Teaching Assistant (09/2021 – 12/2021, 01/2021 – 03/2021)

- Led research methods and R programming sections and developed technical course materials

**06/2020 – 09/2020**

San Francisco, US

#### Google LLC

Quantitative User Experience Research Intern

- Analyzed large-scale Google Cloud user log data to provide UX recommendations
- Added to Google's research infrastructure by importing machine learning software packages

**02/2019 – 06/2019**

Durham, US

#### Duke University, Center for Advanced Hindsight

Health Division Research Associate

- Designed large-scale experiments to improve health behaviors such as vaccine uptake
- Led a workshop on using big data for psychological research

**04/2017 – 06/2017**

Bonn, Germany

#### Telekom Deutschland GmbH

Strategy Department Intern

- Provided edtech market analysis and strategic recommendations for senior leadership

**09/2016 – 12/2016**

New York, US

#### Delegation of the European Union to the United Nations

Fifth Committee Section (Administration and Budget) Intern

- Prepared and participated in high-level meetings on budget issues and the 2030 Agenda

### EDUCATION

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**09/2019 – 06/2024**

Stanford, US

#### Ph.D. in Political Communication (*Nathan Maccoby Dissertation Award*)

Stanford University; Ph.D. Advisor: Jennifer Pan; GPA: 4.0

Dissertation: Countering Social Media Manipulation: Three Studies of Social Media Manipulation and Efforts to Counter It

Dissertation Committee: Jennifer Pan, Jeffrey Hancock, Susan Athey, Dan Jurafsky (Chair)

Course focus: Research methods, causal inference, science and interpersonal communication

Selected courses: ECON293 ML and Causal Inference, ECON281 Experiments for Impact, COMM324 Language and Technology

**09/2023 – 06/2024**

Stanford, US

#### M.S. in Computer Science

Stanford University, Department of Computer Science; Advisor: Dan Jurafsky; GPA: 4.0

Course focus: Artificial intelligence, natural language processing, data science

Selected courses: CS224N NLP with Deep Learning, CS399 Political Bias in LLMs, CS246 Mining Massive Data Sets, CS145 Data Systems, CS161 Algorithms, CS129 Applied ML

<b>09/2017 – 06/2019</b> Paris, France	<b>Master in Public Policy</b> ( <i>summa cum laude</i> ) Sciences Po, School of Public Affairs Course focus: Emerging technologies and public policy, policy analysis
<b>06/2018 – 08/2018</b> New York, US	<b>Visiting Researcher</b> Columbia University, Columbia Business School; Advisor: Sandra Matz
<b>08/2013 – 10/2016</b> Mannheim, Germany	<b>B.Sc. Economics</b> University of Mannheim, Department of Economics; Minor: Political Science
<b>09/2015 – 04/2016</b> Kingston, Canada	<b>Visiting Student in Economics and Political Studies</b> Queen's University at Kingston, Faculty of Arts and Science; GPA: 4.0

#### SELECTED ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER WORK

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<b>07/2020 – 06/2024</b> Stanford, US	<b>Communication for Diversity</b> Group Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advised PhD applicants from underrepresented groups</li> <li>• Organized information events about Stanford's Communication PhD program</li> </ul>
<b>05/2020 – 06/2024</b> Stanford, US	<b>Stanford German Student Association</b> Vice President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-led Transatlantic Summit on geopolitics and tech (200 participants, \$150,000 budget)</li> <li>• Met with international leaders from politics and business</li> </ul>
<b>09/2023 – 06/2024</b> <b>01/2020 – 05/2021</b> Stanford, US	<b>Wonks and Techies at Stanford University</b> Group Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-authored a white paper with input on the EU AI strategy</li> <li>• Participated in discussions and a talk series on ethics, technology and policy</li> </ul>
<b>10/2019 – 09/2022</b> Stanford, US	<b>Stanford Network of Wellbeing at Stanford University</b> Steering Committee Member <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Established a network of mental health stakeholders at Stanford and beyond</li> <li>• Promoted student and community wellbeing by organizing large-scale events</li> </ul>

#### SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

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<b>09/2024 – present</b>	Stanford Impact Labs Postdoctoral Fellowship
<b>09/2024 – 09/2025</b>	Stanford High Impact Technology Fund Award (\$38,000)
<b>04/2024 – 04/2025</b>	Stanford TomKat Center Innovation Transfer Grant (\$30,000)
<b>01/2024 – 06/2024</b>	Stanford Emergence Accelerator Program for Impact Entrepreneurs
<b>09/2019 – 06/2024</b>	SAP Stanford Graduate Fellow in Science and Engineering (\$52,920 p.a.)
<b>09/2022 – 07/2023</b>	Siegel Family Endowment Research Fellow
<b>09/2022 – 06/2023</b>	Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society PhD Research Fellow (\$79,650)
<b>06/2022 – 09/2022</b>	Stanford Impact Labs Summer Collaborative Research Fellow (\$4,000)
<b>02/2020 – 01/2021</b>	Stanford Center for American Democracy Fellow (\$2,000)
<b>01/2014 – 06/2019</b>	Student Fellow of the German Academic Scholarship Foundation (€27,665)

#### SELECTED PRIZES AND AWARDS

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<b>06/2024</b>	Stanford Communication Department Nathan Maccoby Dissertation Award (\$1,000)
<b>10/2023</b>	LLM Agents Hackathon at AGI House, 3 <sup>rd</sup> prize for personalized AI shopping agent

#### SKILLS

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<b>Computer Skills</b>	Python, R, C++, SQL, GitHub, Markdown, LaTeX, and Mendeley
<b>Language Skills</b>	German (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Spanish (basic)

#### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

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Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP)