Ruth Elisabeth Appel

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

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

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

SELECTED ACTIVITIES AND VOLUNTEER WORK

07/2020 – 06/2024 Stanford, US	**Communication for Diversity** Group Member • Advised PhD applicants from underrepresented groups • Organized information events about Stanford's Communication PhD program
05/2020 – 06/2024 Stanford, US	**Stanford German Student Association** Vice President • Co-led Transatlantic Summit on geopolitics and tech (200 participants, $150,000 budget) • Met with international leaders from politics and business
09/2023 – 06/2024 **01/2020 – 05/2021** Stanford, US	**Wonks and Techies at Stanford University** Group Member • Co-authored a white paper with input on the EU AI strategy • Participated in discussions and a talk series on ethics, technology and policy
10/2019 – 09/2022 Stanford, US	**Stanford Network of Wellbeing at Stanford University** Steering Committee Member • Established a network of mental health stakeholders at Stanford and beyond • Promoted student and community wellbeing by organizing large-scale events

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

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

SELECTED PRIZES AND AWARDS

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

SKILLS

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

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

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