# **Samsara Counts**

## **Curriculum Vitae**

November 2022

Seattle, WA

samsaranc.github.io

samsaranc@gmail.comsamsaranc

### **Education**

2015-2019 George Washington University B.S. in Computer Science and Math, minor in Creative Writing Overall GPA: 3.5/4.0 | Computer Science GPA: 3.6/4.0

## **Professional Experience**

#### Amazon | Data Scientist | July 2022-Present

- Prototype and productionalize Machine Learning (ML) models for abuse detection on the Amazon retail site
- Develop strategy for and lead implementation of team's responsible AI infrastructure and mechanisms
- Co-lead end-to-end fairness and bias audits of team's Machine Learning systems

### Amazon Web Services | Machine Learning Software Engineer | September 2021-July 2022

- Productionized state-of-the-art ML bias and explainability methods for Amazon Sagemaker Clarify
- Designed and prototyped responsible AI infrastructure in the SageMaker ecosystem
- Collaborated with Clarify scientists to improve Clarify service offerings

### Amazon | Software Engineer | September 2020-2021

- Developed and maintained an Alexa-wide service to detect private data in the Alexa Al Secure Al Foundations org
- Collaborated with science teams to deploy state-of-the-art NLP models detecting private data in text
- Implemented support for the Arabic language in service's ML model and production pipelines
- Participated in oncall rotations, triaging tickets, resolving availability issues, and improving operational excellence

## **Research Experience**

### Max Planck Institute for Software Systems | Research Intern | October 2019-August 2020

- Investigated mechanisms of incorporating fairness, diversity, and Responsible AI values in ML systems
- Compiled an extensive literature review on ethical interventions in ML research and projects
- Advised by Krishna Gummadi and funded by the CBYX for Young Professionals Fellowship

### George Washington University | Research Assistant | September 2017-May 2019

- Trained a ResNet neural network to detect pro-Eating Disorder (pro-ED) images in online communities
- Wrote Python scripts to gather 100K training images from Tumblr and Twitter using pro-ED keywords
- Developed a dynamic webapp for ED clinicians to assess the pro-ED content of websites with classifier
- Built a Google Chrome extension using the classifier to detect and filter pro-ED media during browser sessions
- Advised by Robert Pless

### Microsoft Research | Research Intern | Summer 2018

- Searched for finite groups amenable to embeddings for faster matrix multiplication algorithms
- Implemented the Triple and Quadruple Product Properties in GAP to identify optimal groups
- Designed and deployed parallel abstract-algebraic algorithms searching for groups on a multi-core server
- Advised by Henry Cohn at Microsoft Research New England

### University of Maryland College Park | Research Intern | Summer 2017

- Co-designed a multi-armed bandit algorithm modeling cohort selection optimizing a submodular objective function
- Ran experiments with our algorithm on real graduate admissions data to select a diverse cohort of students
- Analyzed past admissions data to investigate the possibility of bias in previous decisions
- Co-designed a system using deep Reinforcement Learning to choose matching policies for dynamic kidney exchange
- Advised by John P. Dickerson at the Combinatorics and Algorithms for Real Problems R.E.U. (10% acceptance rate)

### GW Learning Technologies Research Group | Research Assistant | May 2016-May 2017

- Fixed bugs in project webapp designed to help adults improve their literacy with NLG reading comprehension questions
- Wrote Python scripts to create and clean high-quality NLP training datasets from children's books with OCR
- Co-administered webapp usability studies and trainings with adult learners
- Advised by Rahul Simha, funded by the GW SEAS Summer Undergraduate Program in Engineering Research

### **Publications**

## Papers in refereed conference proceedings

1. Schumann, C., S. N. Counts, J. Foster, and J. P. Dickerson (2019). The Diverse Cohort Selection Problem. In: *International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems* (AAMAS). Montréal, Québec. http://www.ifaamas.org/Proceedings/aamas2019/pdfs/p601.pdf.

### Workshop papers

- 1. Counts, S. N., J.-L. Manning, and R. Pless (2018). Characterizing the Visual Social Media Environment of Eating Disorders. In: Applied Imagery Pattern Recognition Workshop (AIPR). Washington, DC.
- 2. Pless, R., R. Begtrup, L. Alkulaib, S. N. Counts, J. Harnett, J.-L. Manning, H. Xuan, and D. A. Broniatowski (2017). Recognizing Images of Eating Disorders in Social Media (Abstract). In: Social Media Mining for Health Applications Workshop at Conference of the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA). Washington, DC.

## Fellowships and academic awards

| 2022 | CSGrad4US Fellowship   | National Science Foundation                     |
|------|--|---|
| 2019 | Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals Fellow | US Congress and German Bundestag                |
| 2019 | Invitation to the Heidelberg Laureaute Forum (declined)          | Heidelberg Laureaute Forum Scientific Committee |
| 2019 | NCWIT Collegiate Award, Honorable Mention                        | Natl. Center for Women in Information Tech.     |
| 2019 | Marvin Green Prize   | GW Department of Mathematics                    |
| 2019 | Fulbright Open Research Award to Germany Semifinalist            | The Fulbright Commission                        |
| 2018 | Best Student Paper Presentation                                  | IEEE Applied Imagery & Pattern Recog. Workshop  |
| 2018 | TOMODACHI Kakehashi Inouye Scholar                               | TOMODACHI Initiative, US-Japan Council          |
| 2018 | NCWIT Collegiate Award, Honorable Mention                        | Natl. Center for Women in Information Tech.     |
| 2017 | Operating Systems Hall of Fame                                   | GW Fall 2017 Operating Systems course           |

## **Leadership awards**

## Baer Award for Individual Excellence in the GW Community, GW Center for Student Engagement, 2019

• Awarded to exceptional GW student(s) who have enhanced student life and the GW community

## Susan Shin Memorial Award, GW School of Engineering and Applied Science, 2018

• Awarded to a GW SEAS junior that exemplifies the dedication to service of the late Susan Shin

## **Scholarships**

| 2018      | Google Lime Scholarship                       | Google                       |
|-----------|---|------------------------------|
| 2018      | Quip Diversity in Tech Scholarship, Runner Up | Quip                         |
| 2017      | AnitaB.org Grace Hopper Conference Scholar    | AnitaB.org                   |
| 2015-2019 | Presidential Scholarship                      | George Washington University |

## **Poetry awards**

| 2018 | Lannan Foundation Poetry Fellow                      | Folger Shakespeare Library, GW English Department |
|------|--|---|
| 2018 | Academy of American Poets Contest, Honorable Mention | GW English Department                             |
| 2016 | 1 <sup>st</sup> Place, Citizen Day Poetry Contest    | GW English Department                             |

#### **Grants**

| 2018 | GW Undergraduate Research Award. "Multimodal Detection of Deviant Content Online".      | \$5000 |
|------|---|--------|
|      | Funding from the GW Office of the Vice President of Research.                           |        |
| 2018 | GW Data MASTER Fellowship. "Recognizing Images of Eating Disorders with Deep Learning". | \$3000 |
|      | Funding from the National Science Foundation.   |        |
| 2017 | HackHarassment Grant. "A Research-based Hackathon to Combat Online Harassment".         | \$2000 |
|      | Funding from Intel and the Born This Way Foundation.                                    |        |
| 2016 | GW Summer Undergraduate Program in Engineering Research Fellowship. GW School of        | \$2000 |
|      | Engineering and Applied Science.  |        |

## Selected talks and panels

- ➤ Practical Challenges to Achieving Algorithmic Fairness in Industry (And What to do About Them), Joint Statistical Meetings (JSM 2021), Virtual, August 2021.
- ➤ It's Nothing Personal: Investigting Bias in the ImageNet Person Synset, GW Bias in Artificial Intelligence course, Washington, May 2019.
- ➤ Characterizing the Visual Social Media Environment of Eating Disorders, Applied Imagery and Pattern Recognition Workshop, Washington, October 2018. Best Student Paper Presentation
- ➤ The Diverse Cohort Selection Problem, GW Chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery, Washington, February 2018.
- ➤ Recognizing Images of Eating Disorders with Deep Learning, GW Dean's Council of Women in Technology, Washington, January 2018.

## Poster presentations

- ➤ Deep Learning Tools for Eating Disorder Recovery
  - GW Research Days, Washington, April 2019
- ➤ Recognizing Images of Eating Disorders in Social Media
  - GW Research Days, Washington, April 2018. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place for Best Engineering Poster
  - GW SEAS R&D Showcase, Washington, February 2018. Finalist for Best Undergraduate Poster (Theoretical)
- ➤ The Diverse Cohort Selection Problem
  - GW SEAS R&D Showcase, Washington, February 2018. Finalist for Best Undergraduate Poster (Theoretical)
  - Aligned AI Workshop at NeurIPS-17, Long Beach, December 2017.
  - Women in Machine Learning (WiML) Workshop at NeurIPS-17, Long Beach, December 2017.

## **Teaching**

| Fall 2018   | Introduction to Software Development | Teaching Assistant | George Washington University |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Spring 2018 | Discrete Structures II               | Learning Assistant | George Washington University |
| Fall 2017   | Introduction to Computer Science     | Learning Assistant | George Washington University |
| Spring 2017 | Algorithms and Data Structures       | Learning Assistant | George Washington University |
| Fall 2016   | Introduction to Computer Science     | Learning Assistant | George Washington University |
| Summer 2015 | 8th Grade Chemistry                  | Teaching Fellow    | Breakthrough Collaborative   |
| Fall 2014   | 7th Grade Literature                 | Teaching Fellow    | Breakthrough Collaborative   |
| Summer 2014 | 8th Grade Chemistry                  | Teaching Assistant | Breakthrough Collaborative   |

### Languages and technology

Programming Languages: Python, Java, C, SQL, Bash, MATLAB, Scala, HTML, CSS, GAP

Software: Git, PyTorch, Spark, Mathematica, Django Spoken Languages: German (B1), Spanish (B1), English (native)

### Coursework

#### **Computer Science**

Machine Learning, Bias in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Vision, Theory of Computing, Discrete Structures I & II, Continuous Algorithms, Algorithms and Data Structures, Operating Systems, Database Systems, Software Engineering

#### Math

Graph Theory, Real Analysis I & II, Abstract Algebra I & II, Probability, Computational Complexity Theory, Linear Algebra

## Leadership

### **Leadership Positions**

| 2019-2020 | US Junior Ambassador in Germany    | United States Department of State        |
|-----------|------------------------------------|--|
| 2017-2019 | Academic Affairs Chair             | GW Association for Computing Machinery   |
| 2016-2019 | Mentor                             | GW SEAS Student Peer Advisory Network    |
| 2017-2018 | Founder and Chair                  | GW Dean's Council of Women in Technology |
| 2018      | TOMODACHI Kakehashi Inouye Scholar | U.SJapan Council                         |
| 2017      | Co-organizer                       | Hackital (Hackathon)                     |
| 2016-2017 | President                          | GW Association for Computing Machinery   |
| 2015-2016 | Freshman Representative            | GW Association of Queer Women and Allies |

### Large-scale community events organized

| 2019 | kc claffy: 10 Things You Need to Know About the Internet | Internet Distinguished Speaker Series, GW CS Dept. |
|------|--|--|
| 2019 | Vint Cerf: The Unfinished Internet                       | Internet Distinguished Speaker Series, GW CS Dept. |
| 2018 | Christine Darden: One of NASA's Hidden Figures           | GW Dean's Council of Women in Tech                 |
| 2017 | Hackital: a Hackathon in the Nation's Capital            | GW Association for Computing Machinery             |
|      |  |  |

### Community speaking engagements

- > Storytelling as Empowerment: ECA Exchange Program Alumni Instagram Live, U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, Virtual, August 2022.
- ➤ AiC Labs: Undergraduate Research from NCWIT's 2022 Collegiate Awardees Keynote speaker (representing Amazon), National Center for Women & Information Technology, Virtual, May 2022.
- ➤ TOMODACHI KAKEHASHI Inouye Scholars Virtual Dialogue and Mixer Alumni Panel, Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE), Virtual, March 2022.
- Never Too Early: Youth with Disabilities Abroad Webinar, Mobility International USA (MIUSA), Virtual, March 2021.
- ➤ 2018 Panel of Computing Students with Disabilities (with R.E. Ladner, R. Ayanzadah, K. Krishnaswami and K. Wolfe), SIGCSE Conference, Baltimore, February 2018.
- ➤ Creating Technological Solutions to Combat Online Harassment, Hackital, Washington, November 2017.

## Technical workshops authored & presented

| 2022             | Datasheets, Model Cards, and System Cards Workshop | Amazon Machine Learning University     |
|------------------|--|--|
|                  | (in development)                                   |  |
| 2017, 2018, 2019 | Git, Command Line, and Linux Workshop              | GW Association for Computing Machinery |
| 2018             | Have a Productive Programming Summer               | GW Association for Computing Machinery |

### Mentorship

| 2022         | Software Engineer Intern Mentor | Amazon   |
|--------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 2020-present | Alumni Mentor                   | GW Center for Women in Engineering                   |
| 2016-2019    | Mentor                          | GW SEAS Student Peer Advisory Network                |
| 2016-2019    | Mentor                          | GW Women in Computer Science                         |
| 2016         | Camp Counselor                  | <b>GW Cybersecurity Camp for Middle School Girls</b> |
|              |                                 |  |

### **Academic service**

| 2022 | Co-Organizer and Program Committee | Responsible AI Workshop of the Amazon Machine Learning Conference |  |
|------|------------------------------------|---|--|
|      | Member                             |   |  |

## Peer reviewing

| 2022       | Reviewer | Amazon Research Awards Call for Proposals                         |
|------------|----------|---|
| 2022       | Reviewer | Responsible AI Workshop of the Amazon Machine Learning Conference |
| 2022       | Reviewer | Amazon Machine Learning Conference                                |
| 2021, 2022 | Reviewer | Amazon Computer Vision Conference                                 |

## Research training schools attended

2020 HUMAINT Winter School on Fairness, Accountability, and European Commission Joint Research Centre Transparency in Al