

# Thomas Jiralerspong

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Université de Montréal  
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## Education

### Université de Montréal

M.Sc., Computer Science

(Expected) 2025

Supervisors: [Yoshua Bengio](#) & [Doina Precup](#)

Fields: Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, Reinforcement Learning

### McGill University

B.Sc., Honours Computer Science

2023

GPA: 4.00/4.00

Supervisors: [Blake Richards](#) & [Doina Precup](#)

Fields: Reinforcement Learning, Neuro AI

Exchange semester at the National University of Singapore

## Refereed Conferences

Chen Sun, Wannan Yang, **Thomas Jiralerspong**, Dane Malenfant, Benjamin Alsbury-Nealy, Yoshua Bengio, Blake Richards. “Contrastive Retrospection: honing in on critical steps for rapid learning and generalization in RL.” In *Thirty-seventh Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. 2023.

Flemming Kondrup\*, **Thomas Jiralerspong**\*, Elaine Lau, Nathan de Lara, Jacob Shkrob, My Duc Tran, Doina Precup, Sumana Basu. “Towards Safe Mechanical Ventilation Treatment Using Deep Offline Reinforcement Learning.” In *Thirty-seventh AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*. 2023.

Marshall Wang, John Willes, **Thomas Jiralerspong**, Matin Moezzi. “A Comparison of Classical and Deep Reinforcement Learning Methods for HVAC Control.” In *20th IEEE International Conference on Ubiquitous Intelligence and Computing (UIC)*. 2023.

## Refereed Workshops

**Thomas Jiralerspong**\*, Flemming Kondrup\*, Doina Precup, Khimya Khetarpal. “Forecaster: Towards Temporally Abstract Tree-Search Planning from Pixels.” In *Seventh Workshop on Generalization in Planning at NeurIPS*. 2023.

Flemming Kondrup\*, **Thomas Jiralerspong**\*, Elaine Lau, Nathan de Lara, Jacob Shkrob, My Duc Tran, Doina Precup, Sumana Basu. “Deep Conservative Reinforcement Learning for Personalization of Mechanical Ventilation Treatment.” In *The Multi-disciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (RLDM)*. 2022.

## Under Review

**Thomas Jiralerspong**\*, Xiaoyin Chen\*, Yash More, Vedant Shah, Yoshua Bengio. “Efficient Causal Graph Discovery Using Large Language Models.” Under Review at *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*. 2024.

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\* Equal Contribution

Preprints	Yu Lu Liu*, <b>Thomas Jiralerspong*</b> . “Network Analysis of the iNaturalist Citizen Science Community.” arXiv preprint arXiv:2310.10693.	
Research Experience	<b>Waabi</b>	
	<i>Deep Learning Research Intern</i>	<i>Jun 2023 – Aug 2023</i>
	<i>Mentored by Kelvin Wong and Chris Zhang</i>	
	<b>Project:</b> Realistic and controllable traffic simulation using a transformer based variational autoencoder	
	<b>Reasoning and Learning Lab, Mila/McGill University</b>	
	<i>Research Intern</i>	<i>Jan 2022 – Aug 2023</i>
	<i>Supervised by Prof. Doina Precup</i>	
	<b>Project:</b> Model-based reinforcement learning with affordance aware tree-search planning directly from pixels	
	<b>Learning in Neural Circuits Lab, Mila/McGill University</b>	
	<i>Research Intern</i>	<i>Sep 2022 – Aug 2023</i>
	<i>Supervised by Prof. Blake Richards</i>	
	<b>Project:</b> Contrastive learning to discover critical states for reinforcement learning in sparse reward environments	
	<b>Vector Institute for A.I.</b>	
	<i>Machine Learning Research Intern</i>	<i>Sep 2022 – Dec 2022</i>
	<i>Mentored by John Willes and Marshall Wang</i>	
	<b>Project:</b> Model-based reinforcement learning for HVAC control	
	<b>Project X, Machine Learning Research Competition</b>	
	<i>Co-leader of McGill’s Team</i>	<i>Jun 2021 – Feb 2022</i>
	<i>Received the highest score out of 25 submitted papers</i>	
	<b>Project:</b> Deep offline conservative reinforcement learning for mechanical ventilation treatment	
Industry Experience	<b>Amazon Web Services (AWS) – S3 Team</b>	
	<i>Software Development Engineer Intern</i>	<i>May 2022 – Jul 2022</i>
	<b>Project:</b> JavaScript/Python tool to automate the Incremental Backup recovery system for AWS S3 (stores ~14 trillion objects)	
	<b>Square Enix</b>	
	<i>Software Development Intern</i>	<i>May 2021 – Aug 2021</i>
	<b>Project:</b> Localization system to allow a MOBA game to be translated into over 10 languages	
	<b>Expedia</b>	
	<i>Software Development Intern</i>	<i>May 2021 – Aug 2021</i>
	<b>Project:</b> React/TypeScript tool to identify which elements of a webpage are broken and conveniently display them to developers	

Teaching	<b>Université de Montréal</b>	
	Teaching Assistant, Representation Learning	2023
	<b>McGill A.I. Society</b>	
	Organizer/Teaching Assistant, Accelerated Intro to ML	2021 – 2023
	<b>McGill University</b>	
	Teaching Assistant, Software Systems	2021 – 2022
Honors	Guest Lecturer, Theory of Machine Learning	2022
	Chosen to attend the 10th Heidelberg Laureate Forum	2023
	NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship (17500\$)	2023
	University of Montreal Master's Scholarship (5000\$)	2023
	McGill Mobility Bursary for Exchanges (6000\$)	2022
	Winner of UofT AI's Project X competition (25000\$)	2022
	J.W. McConnell Major Entrance Scholarship (9000\$)	2020 – 2022
	CIBPA Foundation Bursary (1000\$, 2500\$, 1000\$)	2021, 2022, 2023
	Marianopolis College Valedictorian	2020
Invited Talks	Governor General of Canada's Academic Medal	2020
	Canadian Undergraduate Conference on AI (CUCAI)	2022
	University of Toronto AI Conference	2022
Professional Activities	McGill AI Society Learnathon	2022
	<b>Mila</b>	
	Lab Representative	2023 – Present
	<b>McGill AI Society</b>	
	Senior Advisor	2023 – Present
	Technical Project Manager	2021 – 2023
	<b>Montreal AI &amp; Neuroscience Conference</b>	
	Organizer – Introduction to deep learning with PyTorch workshop	2022
	<b>McGill NeuroTech</b>	
	Machine Learning Developer	2021 – 2022
Languages	<b>McGill Robotics</b>	
	Software Developer	2020 – 2021
	<b>Native:</b> English, French	
	<b>Advanced:</b> Italian, Spanish	
	<b>Beginner:</b> Mandarin, Japanese	

Skills	<p><b>Programming Languages:</b> Python, Java, JavaScript, R, C, C++, C#, OCaml, SQL, HTML, CSS</p> <p><b>Machine Learning Libraries:</b> PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, Pandas, NumPy</p> <p><b>Other:</b> L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Slurm, Jupyter Notebooks, Perforce, GitHub, Jira, Unity</p>
Press	<p><b>SciLogs.</b> Nina Beier. Jan 24, 2024. <a href="#">What Do Food and Research Have in Common? More Than You Might Think.</a></p> <p><b>The McGill Tribune.</b> Mikaela Shadick. March 15, 2022. <a href="#">Six McGill undergrads win UofT international artificial intelligence competition.</a></p> <p><b>McGill Reporter.</b> Richard Deschamps. March 1, 2022. <a href="#">Undergrad team uses machine learning to create a better hospital ventilator.</a></p>
Advanced Coursework	<p><b>Université de Montréal</b></p> <p>Representation Learning</p> <p>Reinforcement Learning &amp; Optimal Control</p> <p>Scaling Laws</p> <p>Causal Inference &amp; Machine Learning</p> <p>Probabilistic Graphical Models</p> <p><b>McGill University</b></p> <p>Reinforcement Learning</p> <p>Brain Inspired Artificial Intelligence</p> <p>Honours Math for Machine Learning</p> <p>Probabilistic Programming</p> <p>Network Science</p> <p><b>National University of Singapore</b></p> <p>Quantum Computing</p> <p>Information Theory</p>