

Talia Lily Ringer

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ACADEMIA

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Assistant Professor

2021 – Present

University of Washington

2015 – 2021

Ph.D. in Computer Science (advised by Dan Grossman).

Ph.D. Thesis: [Proof Repair](#). [Defense video](#).

University of Maryland, College Park

2008 – 2012

B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science. (advised by Larry Washington).

Honors Thesis: [An Elliptic Curve Threshold Key Establishment Scheme](#)

INDUSTRY

Industrial Research – 1 YOE

Visiting Researcher, Google (N2Formal)

Summer 2022 – Present

Research Scientist Intern, Amazon (Automated Reasoning Group)

Summer 2016

- Working on machine learning tools for proof assistants at Google.
- Developed a solver-aided language for automated test input generation at Amazon.

Software Engineering – 4 YOE

Software Development Engineer II, Amazon

2015

Software Development Engineer I, Amazon

2012 – 2014

Software Development Engineer Intern, Amazon

Summer 2011

Software Intern, Carr Astronautics

2010 – 2011

- Helped launch [Amazon Business](#).
- Wrote customer-facing code used company-wide at Amazon.
- Deleted more lines of code during my time as an engineer at Amazon than I added. :)

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS FOUNDED

I am the **founder and president** of the [Computing Connections Fellowship](#), which provides institution-independent transitional funding and research visits for computer science Ph.D. students seeking healthier environments. Our two year pilot is in programming languages.

I am also the **founder and chair** of [SIGPLAN-M](#), a cross-institutional long-term mentoring program for the programming languages research community. It currently reaches more than **200 mentors** and **300 mentees** across more than **41 countries**, and has been described by mentees as “**life changing**” and “**a career saver.**”

RESEARCH IMPACT

My work introduced [proof repair](#), which has since been implemented and adapted at [Amazon](#) and [NASA](#), and is the subject of a [DARPA AI Exploration](#), a grant for which I am primary PI.

RESEARCH VISION

How can we build a world in which programmers of **all skill levels** across **all domains** can prove the absence of costly or dangerous bugs in software systems---that is, **formally verify** them? I lead a group that builds **proof engineering** technologies to make that world a reality. My group loves to use the whole toolbox---everything from **dependent type theory** to **program transformations** to **neural proof synthesis**---all in service of **real humans**.

CURRENT ADVISING

Cosmo Viola (Ph.D., 2021 – Present)

Extending proof repair to handle relations more general than type equivalences.

[Chris Lam](#) (Ph.D., 2021 – Present)

Compiling proofs alongside programs.

[Hannah Leung](#) (Ph.D., coadvised with Christopher Fletcher, 2022 – Present)

Formally verifying security properties of Path ORAM.

Shizhuo Zhang (Ph.D., coadvised with Maxim Raginsky, 2022 – Present)

Developing neurosymbolic proof models to infer deep semantic relations between types.

Thomas Reichel (masters student, 2022 – Present)

Developing a neural proof repair model.

[Timothy Zhou](#) (undergraduate, 2021 – Present)

Improving neural tactic prediction models for proof synthesis and repair.

Max Fan (undergraduate, 2022 – Present)

Building practical proof repair tools for relations more general than type equivalences.

Arpan Agrawal (visiting research programmer, 2022 – Present)

Building machine learning models for proofs into practical user-facing tools.

STUDENTS ADVISED

Taylor Blau (undergraduate, coadvised with Dan Grossman, 2019 – 2020)

[Verifying Strong Eventual Consistency in \$\delta\$ -CRDTs](#) (senior thesis)

Jasper Hugunin (undergraduate, coadvised with Dan Grossman, 2018 – 2019)

[Constructing Inductive-Inductive Types in Cubical Type Theory](#) (FOSSACS 2019)

GRANTS AWARDED

PLATO: Enriched Tactic Prediction Models for Proof Synthesis & Repair. DARPA

[PEARLS](#) AI Exploration. PI: **Talia Ringer** (UIUC). Co-PIs: Yuriy Brun (UMass Amherst) and Alex Sanchez-Stern (UMass Amherst). Budget: \$1,000,000.

POLYMORPH: Promotion to Optimal Languages Yielding Modular Operator-driven Replacements and Programmatic Hooks. DARPA [V-SPILLS](#). Primary PIs: Galois. Co-PIs: Northeastern, UW, UIUC, Alabama, and Syracuse. Budget: \$11,342,650.

Neurosymbolic Proof Synthesis & Repair. [Amazon Research Awards](#) 2022. PI: Talia Ringer (UIUC). Budget: \$40,000.

INVITED TALKS

Concrete Problems in Proof Automation 2022
[AI for Theorem Proving](#) (AITP), [EuroProofNet Large Libraries of Proofs](#)

You and Your Environment 2022
Programming Languages Mentoring Workshop (PLMW) at POPL

Proof Engineering Tools for a New Era 2021
Caltech, UCLA, UMass Amherst, Aarhus, Vermont, Illinois, Virginia, Tufts

Proof Repair Across Type Equivalences 2020 – 2021
Cornell, CMU, NUS

[Proof Transformation](#) 2020
[Logic Supergroup](#) Seminar Series

Proof Engineering Tools for a New Era 2019
Rising Stars in CS Lecture Series at UMass Amherst

INVITED SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

NeurIPS Workshop on MATH-AI: Toward Human-Level Math Reasoning Winter 2022
Invited Panel

ICML Workshop on Human-Machine Collaboration and Teaming Summer 2022
Invited Panel: Human-Machine Teams for Mathematicians

Dagstuhl Seminar Canceled (COVID-19)
Static Methods for Correctness of Model and Program Transformations

Coq Users and Developers Workshop Summer 2018, 2019
An Event for Understanding, Improving, and Extending Coq

Rising Stars Fall 2019
An Academic Career Workshop for Women in EECS

REFEREED CONFERENCE & JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Talia Ringer, RanDair Porter, Nathaniel Yazdani, John Leo, Dan Grossman.
[Proof Repair Across Type Equivalences](#).
PLDI 2021. [Talk video](#), PUMPKIN Pi [tool repository](#).

Talia Ringer, Alex Sanchez-Stern, Dan Grossman, Sorin Lerner.
[REPLICA: REPL Instrumentation for Coq Analysis.](#)
CPP 2020. [Talk video](#).

Talia Ringer, Karl Palmskog, Ilya Sergey, Milos Gligoric, Zachary Tatlock.
[QED at Large: A Survey of Engineering of Formally Verified Software.](#)
Foundations and Trends® in Programming Languages: Vol. 5: No. 2-3, pp 102-281. 2019.
[Project website](#).

Talia Ringer, Nathaniel Yazdani, John Leo, Dan Grossman.
[Ornaments for Proof Reuse in Coq.](#)
ITP 2019. [Talk video](#), DEVOID [tool repository](#).

Talia Ringer, Nathaniel Yazdani, John Leo, Dan Grossman.
[Adapting Proof Automation to Adapt Proofs.](#)
CPP 2018. [Talk video](#), PUMPKIN PATCH [tool repository](#).

Talia Ringer, Dan Grossman, Daniel Schwartz-Narbonne, Serdar Tasiran.
[A Solver-Aided Language for Test Input Generation.](#)
OOPSLA 2017. [Talk video](#).

Talia Ringer, Dan Grossman, Franziska Roesner.
[AUDACIOUS: User-Driven Access Control with Unmodified Operating Systems.](#)
CCS 2016. [Talk video](#).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Emily Ruppel*, Sihang Liu*, Elba Garza, Sukyoung Ryu, Alexandra Silva, Talia Ringer.
[Long-Term Mentoring for Computer Science Researchers.](#)
Under Submission.

Alex Sanchez-Stern*, Emily First*, Timothy Zhou, Zhanna Kaufman, Yuriy Brun, Talia Ringer.
[Passport: Improving Automated Formal Verification Using Identifiers.](#)
Under Submission.

Seth Poulsen, Matthew West, Talia Ringer.
[Autogenerating Natural Language Proofs for Proof Education.](#)
The Coq Workshop 2022.

LEADERSHIP, DIVERSITY, & SERVICE

International Programs:

- [Computing Connections Fellowship](#), Founder & President 2022 – Present
- [SIGPLAN-M](#) (long-term mentoring), Founder & Chair 2021 – Present

Conferences & Workshops:

- Beyond Bayes Workshop Co-Chair 2022
- Coq Workshop Co-Chair 2022

- SPLASH Hybridization Committee ([first major hybrid conference in my field](#)) 2020
- ICFP Programming Languages Mentoring Workshop (PLMW) Co-Chair 2020
- ICFP Mentoring Chair 2020
- [POPLmark 15 Year Retrospective Panel](#) Lead Organizer 2020
- Shut Down PL Co-Organizer (anti-racist workshop) 2020
- DeepSpec Summer School Student Talks Organizer 2017

Departmental Service:

- Illinois DEI Committee 2021 – Present
- Illinois Mental Health Ambassador 2021 – Present
- Illinois [CS CARES](#) Committee 2021 – Present
- UW CSE Care Committee Founder & Organizer (support network) 2019 – 2021
- UW Graduate Admissions Committee 2018

Reviewing & Program Committees (PCs):

- **Conference PCs:** ICFP (2023), ITP (2022), PLDI (2022), CAV (2021).
- **Journal Reviewing:** [JAR](#) (2022), Mathematical Structures in Computer Science (2020).
- **Workshop PCs:** TYPES (2022), AIPLANS (2021), HATRA (2020), CoqPL (2019).
- **Artifact Evaluation Committees:** CAV (2019), POPL (2018, 2019).

Mentoring:

- Mentor for [SIGPLAN-M](#), the program that I founded and chair. 2021 – Present
- Mentor for undergraduate and graduate women in CS at UW. 2015 – 2020
- Mentor for LGBT students through the UW Queer Mentoring Program. 2016 – 2019
- Technical and career mentor for software engineers at Amazon. 2012 – 2015

Community:

- Packer and food delivery driver for food banks in Seattle (2020 – 2021).
- ESL tutor & friendly visitor for an elderly refugee with JFS (2017 – 2021).
- Author of a [blog interview series](#) about LGBT CS researchers (2016 – 2018).

TEACHING

CS 598 TLR: Proof Automation

Spring 2022, Fall 2022

A new graduate seminar on proof automation.

A lot of thought went into its design. Check it out!

HONORS & AWARDS

Amazon Research Awards Recipient, PEO Scholar, NSF GRFP Fellow

MEDIA

Proof Repair

Thesis Review podcast about my thesis work and how it has informed my work since.

Tenure, Sexism, and ADHD

Type Theory Forall podcast about my work and my experiences.

[How Will Proof Engineering Affect the Future of Software Development?](#)

A podcast interview about my work and future vision. From DevDiscuss Season 6, Episode 4.

[Proof Repair & Code Generation](#)

A Galois blog post by Valentin Robert about using my tools for industrial applications.

[Proof Engineering for the People](#)

A podcast interview about my work and future vision. From Building Better Systems.

[AMA on Mentoring](#)

Invited Ask Me Anything (AMA) session at ICFP 2021 about SIGPLAN-M.

[GAP Interview](#)

Interview about the academic job search.

JUST FOR FUN

I enjoy **distance running**. I used to compete for **Club Northwest**, a top distance running club in Seattle. I served on the board of Club Northwest from 2015 to 2016. I ran **NCAA Division I Cross-Country** in 2009. These days, though, I'm getting more into **judo**.

I also enjoy **solving logic and number puzzles**, **writing poetry**, **singing**, **studying languages**, **making bagels**, **playing Dance Dance Revolution**, **foraging edible mushrooms**, and **composing music for the piano**.