

Leah Hope Ajmani

Computer Science PhD Candidate, GroupLens at UMN

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EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. 2021 - present

PhD Candidate in Computer Science

Advisor: Stevie Chancellor, GroupLens Lab

Funded by: UMN CSE Fellowship (2021-24) and NSF (2024-25)

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. 2015 - 2020

MEng in Computer Science with a focus on social technologies. GPA = 3.9

Advisor: Austin Benson | Masters Project: Emergent Public Health Topics on Wikipedia

BA degrees in Computer Science and Philosophy. GPA = 3.5

AWARDS

Honorable Mention Best Paper Award. CHI 2025 [p9]

The University of Minnesota CSE Graduate Fellowship. 2021 - 2024

Three years fully-funded with competitive stipend

Reviewer Recognition. CSCW 2024, CHI 2023

Impact Recognition Award. CSCW 2021 [p1]

Cornell TA Excellence Award. 2019, 2020

Forbes 30 Under 30 Scholar. 2019

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Papers [acceptance rate included when available]

[p10] Leah Ajmani, Nuredin Ali Abdelkadir, Stevie Chancellor. [Secondary Stakeholders in AI: Fighting for, Brokering, and Navigating Agency](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, Transparency (FAccT 25)* [26%]

[p9] (🏆 Best Paper HM) Leah Ajmani, Talia Bhatt, Michael Ann Devito. [Moving Towards Epistemic Autonomy: A Paradigm Shift for Centering Participant Knowledge](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 23)* [top 5% of papers]

[p8] Yiwei Wu, Leah Ajmani, Shayne Longpre, Hanlin Li. [A Systematic Review of NeurIPS Dataset Management Practices](#) *NeurIPS Datasets & Benchmarks 2024*

[p7] Leah Ajmani, Jasmine Foriest, Jordan Taylor, Kyle Pittman, Sarah Gilbert, Michael Ann Devito. [Whose Knowledge is Valued? Epistemic Injustice in CSCW Applications](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 24)*

[p6] Leah Ajmani, Logan Stapleton, Mo Houtti, Stevie Chancellor. [Data Agency Theory: A Precise Theory of Justice for AI Applications](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, Transparency (FAccT 24)*


[p5] Leah Ajmani, Nicholas Vincent, Stevie Chancellor. [Peer Produced Friction: How Page Protection on Wikipedia Affects Editor Engagement and Concentration](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 23)* [26%]

[p4] Leah Ajmani*, Stevie Chancellor*, Bijal Mehta, Casey Fiesler, Michael Zimmer, Munmun De Choudhury. [A Systematic Review of Ethics Disclosures in Predictive Mental Health Research](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, Transparency (FAccT 23)* [25%]

*Both authors contributed equally to the paper

[p3] Ashlee Milton, Leah Ajmani, Michael Ann Devito, and Stevie Chancellor. ["I See Me Here": Mental Health Content, Community, and Algorithmic Curation on TikTok](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 23)* [27%]

[p2] Brian McInnis, Leah Ajmani, and Steven P. Dow. [Engagement or Knowledge Retention: Exploring Trade-offs in Promoting Discussion at News Websites](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 22)* [26%]

[p1] ( [Impact Recognition](#)) Brian McInnis, Leah Ajmani, Lu Sun, Yiwen Hou, Ziwen Zeng, and Steven P. Dow. [Reporting the Community Beat: Practices for Moderating Online Discussion at a News Website](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 21)* [26%]

Workshops & Posters

Peer Reviewed Workshop Proposals

[w4] Leah Ajmani, Mo Houtti, Jasmine Foriest, Nicholas Vincent, Michael Ann Devito, Isaac Johnson. [Epistemic injustice in online communities: Unpacking the values of knowledge creation and curation within CSCW applications](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 23)*

[w3] Hanlin Li, Leah Ajmani, Moyan Zhou, Nicholas Vincent, Sohyeon Hwang, Tiziano Piccardi,

Sneha Narayan, Sheraz Daniel, Veniamin Veselovsky. [Ethical Tensions, Norms, and Directions in the Extraction of Online Volunteer Work](#) *In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction* (CSCW 22)

Peer Reviewed Submissions

[w2] Leah Ajmani, Ava Bortolome, Loren Terveen, Stevie Chancellor. [Personal or Policy? How Policy is Wielded in Mental Health Discussions](#) (WikiWorkshop 24)

[w1] Leah Ajmani, Nicholas Vincent, Stevie Chancellor. [Peer-Produced Moderation: The Tradeoffs of Page Protection on Wikipedia](#) (WikiWorkshop 23)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Microsoft Research, PhD Intern. Summer 2025

Used testimonial survey and interview methods to propose responsible interventions for those who have turned to AI chatbots in a mental health crisis

Anduril Industries, Product Owner Intern. Summer 2019

Proposed and built a mobile notification system using React Native & GoLang integral to \$10M contract with a government client

Google, Software Engineering Intern. Summer 2018

AngularJS developer for Google Analytics

Voted by peers to organize technical talks for interns

New York Times, Software Engineering Intern. Summer 2017

ReactJS + Django developer for CMS team

Led reader analytics project for gender equity

Vertical Endeavors, Yoga Instructor. 2021 - present

500-hour Vinyasa Certified Instructor

Teach 2x a week at local climbing gyms

Paid Research Appointments

Protolab, University of California San Diego. 2020 - 2021

Advisors: Prof. Steven Dow, Dr. Brian McInnis

Projects: Moderation in online news settings [p1, p2]

Social Dynamics Lab, Cornell University. 2020 - 2021

Advisors: Prof. Michael Macy, Alex Ruch

Project: Political Polarization on Amazon

Cornell University (undergraduate). 2018 - 2019

Advisor: Prof. Austin Benson

Project: Topologies and motifs in spatial-social networks

SPEAKER EXPERIENCE

Seminars & Invited Talks

University of Minnesota, [*Research Ethics in Practice*](#) CS Research Experience Seminar. July 2024

Carleton College, [*Ethics in High Stakes Predictive Systems*](#) CS Seminar. May 2024

Macalester College, [*Ethics in High Stakes Predictive Systems*](#) CS Seminar. Feb 2024

Press

[UMN CS&E](#). *CSpotlight: The Power Of Research*

[Star Tribune](#). *Minnesota researchers study TikTok benefits, harms on mental health*

[CBS News Minnesota](#). *UMN study reveals TikTok's negative impact on mental health*

[KARE 11 TV](#). *U of M researchers look into how TikTok is affecting our mental health*

Workshops

CSCW 2023, Lead Organizer and Panel Moderator at [w3]

CSCW 2022, Organizer and Activity Leader at [w1]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Minnesota, Graduate Teaching Assistant. Fall 2024

Instructor: Prof. Joe Konstan

Graduate TA for CSCI 5115: User-Centered Design. Facilitated weekly prototype development sessions for each project group, managed project group dynamics, and developed grading rubrics for milestones. Invited by professor to teach advanced topics, such as inclusive design. Approx. 120 students enrolled.

University of Minnesota, Grouplens Undergraduate Research Program Developer. Fall 2024

Instructor: Prof. Stevie Chancellor

Developed a new PhD-lead teaching program to train undergraduate researchers to complete

independent projects, such as honors theses. Topics included reading research papers, managing a research project, and applying to graduate school.

University of Minnesota, REU Summer Teaching Assistant. Summer 2021

Instructor: Prof. Evan Suma Rosenberg

TA for the NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program, given the unexpected shift to a completely virtual program. Ran multiple workshops on reading research papers, understanding research talks, and building resumes. Hosted daily team activities to foster a virtual sense of community among undergraduates. Approx. 20 students at REU site.

Cornell University, Co-Lecturer. Spring 2019, Fall 2019

Invited to teach recurring lectures on Discrete Structures & Mathematics (CS 2800). Developed and delivered 50-minute lectures with interactive components, including clicker questions and think-pair-share. Approx. 400 undergraduate students per lecture.

Cornell University, Curriculum Developer. Fall 2019

Instructor: Michael D. George

Developed lecture notes, worksheets, and quiz questions for a pilot of discussion-based supplementary sections. Lead to department adoption of discussion sections for CS 2800. Total of 14 sections across TAs, ~30 undergraduates each.

Cornell University, Head Teaching Assistant. 2016 - 2020

Instructor: Michael D. George

Selected by professor to create grading rubrics and organize weekly grading sessions for CS 2800 undergrad and graduate teaching assistants. Led staff of 45 teaching assistants, Taught recitation of 30 students.

Guest Lectures & Tutorials [invited by course or lab professors]

University of Minnesota, CSCI 8001: Intro to Research in Computer Science. Nov 2025

Carleton College, CS 344 Human-Computer Interaction. May 2024

University of Minnesota, CSCI 8002: Intro to Research in Computer Science, II. April 2024

Simon Fraser University, CMPT 419: Special Topics in Artificial Intelligence. March 2024

University of Texas Austin, INF 385T: Responsible Data Management. Feb 2024

University of Minnesota, GroupLens Tutorials: How to Make Qualitative Figures. Dec 2023

University of Minnesota, GroupLens Research: Using Thought Experiments in HCI. April 2023

SERVICE

Leadership

Student Coordinator for Human-Centered Computing Seminar. Fall 2024

Faculty Hiring Committee Student Rep for HCAI. Spring 2024

Local Recommendations Student Chair for CSCW. Fall 2023 [\[link to Local Guide of Minneapolis\]](#)

Meeting Coordinator for GroupLens Lab. Fall 2023

Student President for GroupLens Lab. 2022-2023

Responsible for coordinating lab culture, student-faculty collaboration, and internal faculty reviews

Mentorship

Yiwei Wu. MS Information Science. University of Texas, Austin

Anindita Rajamani. BS Computer Science. University of Minnesota

Neha Bhatia. BS Computer Science with Honors. University of Minnesota

Research

Oxford University Press Reviewer. 2025

CHI Reviewer. 2025, 2024, 2023 (🏆 Reviewer Recognition Award), 2022 LBW

CSCW Reviewer. 2024 (🏆 Reviewer Recognition Award), 2023

FAccT Reviewer. 2024, 2023

WikiWorkshop Reviewer. 2024

Student Volunteer. CHI 2022

Outreach

St. Paul Yoga in the Parks. 2024

Volunteer instructor for free outdoor yoga program for the St. Paul community

Hudson St Yoga Project. 2020

Organized and lead free outdoor yoga program for Hoboken, NJ residents during COVID-19

Offered kids yoga classes to relieve parents during the pandemic

Diversity Training for Teaching Assistants Advocacy Project. 2019

Girls Who Code, CS Teaching Asst. Summer 2016