



# LEAH HOPE AJMANI

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## EDUCATION

**Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science**

**University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN**

September 2021 - August 2026 (*expected*)

*Advisor:* Stevie Chancellor

*Committee Chair:* Loren Terveen

*Committee:* Dan Keefe, Eric P.S. Baumer, Michael Ann Devito

*Funded by:* UMN CSE Fellowship, NSF EAGER #2332841, GAANN Fellowship

**Master of Engineering, Computer Science**

**Cornell University | Ithaca, NY**

May 2020, GPA 3.9

*Advisor:* Austin Benson

*Thesis Title:* A Cross-Lingual Analysis of Emergent Public Health Topics on Wikipedia

**Bachelor of Arts, Computer Science**

**Bachelor of Arts, Philosophy**

**Cornell University | Ithaca, NY**

May 2019. GPA = 3.5

## AWARDS

**Honorable Mention Best Paper Award.** CHI 2025 [p9]

**Reviewer Recognition.** CSCW 2024, CHI 2023

**Impact Recognition Award.** CSCW 2021 [p1]

**Teaching Assistant Excellence Award.** 2019, 2020

**Forbes 30 Under 30 Scholar.** 2019

## PUBLICATIONS

### Refereed Conference & Journal Articles

[p15] **Leah Hope Ajmani**, Arka Ghosh, Benjamin Kaveladze, Eugenia Kim, Keertana Namudari, Theresa Nguyen, Ebele Okoli, Jessica Schleider, Denae Ford, Jina Suh. [Seeking Late Night Life Lines: Experiences of Conversational AI Use in Mental Health Crisis](#) Accepted & Forthcoming in *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 26)* [[arxiv link \(extended version\)](#)]


[p14] **Leah Ajmani**, Moyan Zhou, Tanja Andic, Amber Berson, Isaac Johnson, Benjamin Mako Hill, Rebecca Maung, Sneha Narayan, Sarah Severson, Loren Terveen, Stevie Chancellor. [Sanctioned By Others: Remediating Knowledge Exclusion on Wikipedia Through Design](#) *Accepted & Forthcoming in the Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 26)* [pdf available upon request]

[p13] Qiao Jin, **Leah Ajmani**, Samantha Singh, Adhitya Balasubramanian, Svetlana Yarosh. [Child-Involved Group Prioritization: Effects of Group Composition on Experience, Participation Level, and Interaction](#) *Accepted & forthcoming in Proceedings of the Conference on Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2026)* [pdf available upon request]

[p12] Yiwei Wu, **Leah Ajmani**, Nathan TeBlunthuis, Hanlin Li. [AI Didn't Start The Fire: Examining the Stack Exchange Moderator and Contributor Strike](#) *Accepted & forthcoming in Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 2026)* [[arxiv link](#)]

[p11] Jasmine C Foriest, **Leah Ajmani**, Munmun De Choudhury. [\(Re\)mediators of Epistemic Injustice: Generative AI and Hermeneutic Resource Provision in Intimate Partner Violence](#) *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2026)* [[link](#)]

[p10] **Leah Ajmani**, Nuredin Ali Abdelkadir, Stevie Chancellor. [Secondary Stakeholders in AI: Fighting for, Brokering, and Navigating Agency](#) *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 2025)* [[link](#)]

[p9] ( **Best Paper HM | Top 5% of papers**) **Leah Hope 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 25)* [[link](#)]

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

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


[p6] **Leah Ajmani**, Logan Stapleton, Mo Houtti, Stevie Chancellor. [Data Agency Theory: A Precise Theory of Justice for AI Applications](#) *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 2024)* [[link](#)]

[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)* [[link](#)]

[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 Proceeding of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency* [[link](#)] (\*equal contribution)

[p3] Ashlee Milton, **Leah Ajmani**, Michael Ann Devito, 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* [[link](#)]

[p2] Brian McInnis, **Leah Ajmani**, Steven 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)* [[link](#)]

[p1] ( **Impact Recognition**) Brian McInnis, **Leah Ajmani**, Lu Sun, Yiwen Hou, Ziwen Zeng, Steven 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)* [[link](#)]

## Refereed Extended Abstracts & Workshops

[ea6] **Leah Hope Ajmani**. [Power, Participation, and Knowledge Production: Technology Mediated Epistemic \(In\)Justice](#) *Doctoral Consortium at CSCW 25* [[link](#)]

[ea5] Qiao Jin, **Leah Ajmani**, Samantha Singh, Adhitya Balasubramanian, Svetlana Yarosh. [Stakeholder-Informed Prioritization \(SIP\): A Technique for Quickly Gauging Research and Design Priorities](#) *WIP at IDC 25* [[link](#)]

[ea4] **Leah Ajmani**, Ava Bartolome, Loren Terveen, Stevie Chancellor. [Personal or Policy? How Policy is Wielded in Mental Health Discussions](#) *WikiWorkshop 24* [[link](#)]

[ea3] **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](#) *Workshop Proposal at CSCW 23* [[link](#)]

[ea2] **Leah Ajmani**, Nicholas Vincent, Stevie Chancellor. [Peer-Produced Moderation: The Tradeoffs of Page Protection on Wikipedia](#) *WikiWorkshop 23* [[link](#)]

[ea1] Hanlin Li, **Leah Ajmani**, Moyan Zhou, Nicholas Vincent, Sohyeon Hwang, Tiziano Piccardi, Sneha Narayan, Sherae Daniel, Veniamin Veselovsky. [Ethical Tensions, Norms, and Direction in the Extraction of Online Volunteer Work](#) *Workshop Proposal at CSCW 22* [[link](#)]

## GRANTS, AWARDS & FUNDING

**Total funds generated as lead student: approx. \$260,000 USD (2021 - 2026)**

**GAANN Fellowship.** Fall 2025

Funded to progress dissertation research on technology-mediated epistemic injustice.

Total Award: One semester fully funded tuition with competitive stipend and benefits (approx. \$30,000)

**Society-Centered AI Google Academic Research Award. 2024**

Funded to study how Wikipedia operates as a high reliability organization, especially while undergoing a digital transformation spurred by modern LLMs. Sole student contributor on award application with PIs

Harmanpreet Kaur and Loren Terveen. Total Award: \$50,000

**University of Minnesota Computer Science & Engineering Department Fellowship. 2021 - 2024**

Funded to study how to translate theories of justice to online community governance as a tractable way of understanding community health. Awarded upon admittance to UMN PhD program.

Total Award: Three years fully funded tuition with competitive stipend and benefits (approx. \$180,000)

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Microsoft Research Future Experiences Team, PhD Intern. Spring 2025**

Used testimonial survey and interview methods to propose responsible interventions for those who have turned to AI chatbots in a mental health crisis leading to [p13]. *Intern Mentor:* Jina Suh

**Vertical Endeavors, Yoga Instructor. 2021 - present**

500-hour Registered Yoga Teacher (RYT) through Yoga Alliance. *Trained by:* Betsy Davis at Bhakti Barn Yoga

**Protolab at University California San Diego, Research Assistant. 2020 - 2021**

Studied how online news discussion is moderated using semi-structured interviews with New York Times comment section moderators [p1] and a large-scale system design experiment of commenting interfaces [p2].

*Advised by:* Brian McInnis, Steven Dow

**Anduril Industries, Product Management Intern. Summer 2019**

Proposed and led development of a mobile notification system using React Native & GoLang integral for \$10M contract with a government client.

**Google, Software Engineering Intern. Summer 2018**

AngularJS developer for Google Analytics team. Selected by peers to organize technical talks for interns.

**New York Times, Software Engineering Intern. Summer 2017**

ReactJS + Django developer for Content Management team. Led volunteer reader analytics project for gender equity resulting in 20% Project Award for Diversity and Inclusion.

## SPEAKER EXPERIENCE

**Invited Talks [decks & recordings available upon request]**

**Microsoft, Seeking Non-Human Help: Turning to AI in a Mental Health Crisis. Sept 2025**

Presented virtually as part of the AI & Society Talk Series

**University of Minnesota, Research Ethics in Practice. July 2024**

Presented in Minneapolis, MN as part of the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates

**Carleton College, Ethics in High Stakes Predictive Systems**, May 2024

Presented in Northfield, MN as part of the Computer Science Tea & Talk Series

**Macalester College, A Point of No Return? Centering Ethics in Machine Learning Practice**, Feb 2024

Presented in St. Paul, MN as part of the Computer Science Seminar Series

## Press

**University of Minnesota Computer Science & Engineering, CSpotlight: The Power Of Research** [[link](#)]

**Star Tribune, TikTok Can Be 'Runaway Train' of Distress for People with Mental Illness** [[link](#)]

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Teaching Assistant

**University of Minnesota, CSCI 5115: User-Centered Design**, Fall 2024

**University of Minnesota, NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU)**, Summer 2021

**Cornell University, CS 2800: Discrete Structures**, Head TA 2018- 2020, Undergrad TA 2017 - 2018  
Head TA responsibilities included leading rubric development and grading among 40 TAs and 400 students

### Curriculum Development

**University of Minnesota, GroupLens Undergraduate Researcher Training**, Fall 2024

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, Ethics in Computer Science**, 2022 [syllabus available upon request]

As part of a larger department effort to update ethics curriculum, developed prototype syllabus with Logan Stapleton for a senior undergraduate ethics in computer science course that alternates philosophy readings with relevant use cases in computing. Used as the basis for Stapleton's AI Ethics course at Vassar College.

**Cornell University, CS 2801: Recitation for Discrete Structures**, 2019 - 2020

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

### Recurring Lecturer

**Cornell University, CS 2800: Discrete Structures**, Spring 2019 - Fall 2020

Invited to teach Propositional Logic module (approx. 5 Lectures) for discrete mathematics curriculum. Developed and delivered 50-minute lectures with interactive components, including clicker questions and think-pair-share. Approx. 400 undergraduate students per lecture

### **Guest Lectures & Tutorials [decks available upon request]**

**University of Minnesota, CSCI 8001: Intro to Research in Computer Science.** Oct 2025  
**University of Minnesota, CSCI 8117: Methods in Human-Computer Interaction.** March 2025  
**University of Minnesota, CSCI 5115: User-Centered Design.** Oct 2024  
**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

## **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 lab reviews*

### **Mentorship**

**Yiwei Wu.** MS Information Science. University of Texas, Austin  
**Anindita Rajamani.** BS Computer Science with Honors. University of Minnesota  
**Neha Bhatia.** BS Computer Science with Honors. University of Minnesota

### **Research**

**Oxford University Press Reviewer.** 2026, 2025  
**CHI Reviewer.** 2025, 2024, 2023 (🏆 Reviewer Recognition Award), 2022 LBW  
**CSCW Reviewer.** 2026, 2025, 2024 (🏆 Reviewer Recognition Award), 2023  
**FAccT Reviewer.** 2026, 2025, 2024, 2023  
**WikiWorkshop Reviewer.** 2026, 2024  
**Student Volunteer.** CHI 2022

### **Outreach**

**Tech Safety Trainer.** 2026  
Hosted and led tech safety trainings at local businesses in Minneapolis during increased ICE activity  
**Volunteer for Vertical Endeavors Days of Community.** 2026

Volunteer yoga teacher and organizer for “days of community” at climbing gym to raise money and supplies during increased ICE activity

**Mayoral Campaign Volunteer.** Summer 2025

Volunteer for digital communications, canvassing and fund raising for local mayoral campaign in Hoboken, NJ. Raised \$200,000 from small donors

**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 led a free outdoor yoga program for Hoboken, NJ residents during COVID-19. Focused on kids yoga classes to relieve parents during the pandemic

**Diversity Training for Teaching Assistants Advocacy Project.** 2019

Led petition and letter writing campaign to increase diversity and sensitivity training for teaching assistants within the Computer and Information Sciences school at Cornell University