



LEAH HOPE AJMANI

Research Excellence Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Toronto, Faculty of Information

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science

University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

September 2021 - August 2026

Dissertation Title: Technology Mediated Epistemic (In)Justice

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

DEI Recognition Award. CSCW 2026 [p15]

Honorable Mention Best Paper Award. CHI 2025 [p9]

Impact Recognition Award. CSCW 2021 [p1]

Teaching Assistant Excellence Award. 2019, 2020

Forbes 30 Under 30 Scholar. 2019

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Conference & Journal Articles

[p16] Ashlee Milton, **Leah Ajmani**, Amy Heger, Forough Poursabzi-Sangdeh, Mihaela Vorvoreanu, Jina Suh.

[“Always Want to Use it for Everything”: Understanding Young Adults’ Perceptions of AI Dependence](#)

Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES 26) [[link](#)]

- [p15] (🏆 **DEI Recognition**) **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](#) *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 26)* [[link](#)]
- [p14] **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](#) *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 26)* [[link](#)]
- [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](#) *Proceedings of the Conference on Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2026)* [[link](#)]
- [p12] Yiwei Wu, **Leah Ajmani**, Nathan TeBlunthuis, Hanlin Li. [AI Didn't Start The Fire: Examining the Stack Exchange Moderator and Contributor Strike](#) *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW 2026)* [[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, Sheraz Daniel, Veniamin Veselovsky. [Ethical Tensions, Norms, and Direction in the Extraction of Online Volunteer Work](#) *Workshop Proposal at CSCW 22* [[link](#)]

GRANTS, AWARDS & FUNDING

Research Excellence Postdoctoral Fellowship. 2026 - 2028

Funded to study how building shared moral ground can scaffold collective and effective AI resistance.

Total Award: Two years with competitive salary, benefits, and independent research spending fund (approx. CA\$104,600 per year)

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

University of Toronto Faculty of Information, Postdoctoral Fellow. (current)

Researching how individuals successfully form collectives around AI resistance. Main funding through the provost, department, and supervisor. *Postdoctoral Supervisor:* Eric Baumer

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, p16]. *Intern Mentor:* Jina Suh

Vertical Endeavors, Yoga Instructor. 2021 - 2026

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. Summers 2024 - 2026

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