

# ELINOR POOLE-DAYAN

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## EDUCATION

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### Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Sept. 2026

*Incoming Ph.D. student in Computer Science*

*Cambridge, MA, USA*

- Co-advised by [Jacob Andreas](#), [Mitchell Gordon](#), and [Michiel Bakker](#) in MIT CSAIL.
- Supported by the Jae S. and Kyuho Lim Graduate Fellowship.

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Sept. 2023 – May 2025

*Master's of Science*

*Cambridge, MA, USA*

- Advised by [Deb Roy](#) in the [MIT Center for Constructive Communication](#). GPA 5.0/5.0
- Thesis: *From Dialogue to Decision: An LLM-Powered Framework for Analyzing Collective Idea Evolution and Voting Dynamics in Deliberative Assemblies* (Grade: A+)

### McGill University

Sept. 2019 – May 2023

*Bachelor's in Honours Computer Science and Mathematics*

*Montréal, QC, Canada*

- First Class Honours with Distinction. GPA 3.9/4.0

## RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### Predoctoral Researcher

July 2025 – Aug. 2026

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)*

*Cambridge, MA, USA*

- Research on pluralistic alignment in LLMs [[C.1](#), [W.1](#)] and evaluating the fairness of AI's societal impacts; supervised by [Michiel Bakker](#).

### Graduate Research Assistant

Sept. 2023 – June 2025

*Center for Constructive Communication, MIT Media Lab*

*Cambridge, MA, USA*

- Conducted research related to fairness and bias in LLMs [[C.2](#), [C.4](#)] and computational social science [[W.3](#), [C.3](#)].
- Played a key role in the design and execution of the [MIT Student Deliberative Assembly on Sustainability](#) [[R.1](#)].
- Supported engineering and design efforts for tech-enhanced deliberative assembly pilots in Ireland and Oregon.
- Led lab efforts to organize and write documentation and developed custom API wrappers for Fora data handling.

### Data Science Intern

May 2022 – Aug. 2022

*Unity Technologies*

*Montréal, QC, Canada*

- Optimized deep learning algorithms to throttle bid requests in Unity's Ad Exchange using Tensorflow.
- Decreased model training time by 25% and reduced model size and number of parameters by 50%.
- Created a text data preprocessing pipeline on Google Cloud Platform Dataflow using Apache beam.

### NLP Research Intern

Jan. 2022 – May 2022

*McGill University*

*Montréal, QC, Canada*

- Identified the geo-indicativeness of text using BERT applied to geosocial datasets to build a safety tool for social media. Supervised by [Grant McKenzie](#).

### NLP Research Intern

June 2021 – Aug. 2021

*Shamoon College of Engineering*

*Be'er Sheva, Israel*

- Classified author gender of books to perform a case study on female authors who wrote under male pseudonyms.
- Preprocessed data using CoreNLP and scikit-learn. Designed and implemented baseline experiments using SVMs.
- Supervised by [Irina Rabaev](#) and [Marina Litvak](#).

### NLP Research Intern

Jan. 2021 – May 2021

*Mila - Quebec AI Institute*

*Montréal, QC, Canada*

- Investigated the effect of gender debiasing on fine-tuned language models such as BERT using PyTorch.
- Explored debiasing methods and reformulated bias metrics for racial and religious biases.
- Published paper in ACL with Nick Meade [[C.6](#)] and supervised by [Siva Reddy](#).

**Academic Conference Publications**

- C.1 **Benchmarking Overton Pluralism in LLMs**  
Elinor Poole-Dayán, Jiayi Wu, Taylor Sorensen, Jiaxin Pei, and Michiel A. Bakker  
*ICLR 2026*.
- C.2 **LLM Targeted Underperformance Disproportionately Impacts Vulnerable Users**  
Elinor Poole-Dayán, Deb Roy, and Jad Kabbara  
*AAAI 2026*.
- C.3 **Computational Analysis of Conversation Dynamics through Participant Responsivity**  
Margaret Hughes, Brandon Roy, Elinor Poole-Dayán, Deb Roy, and Jad Kabbara  
*EMNLP 2025 (Oral Presentation)*.
- C.4 **On the Relationship between Truth and Political Bias in Language Models**  
Suyash Fulay, William Brannon, Shrestha Mohanty, Cassandra Overney, Elinor Poole-Dayán, Deb Roy, and Jad Kabbara  
*EMNLP 2024*.
- C.5 **Are Diffusion Models Vision-And-Language Reasoners?**  
Benno Krojer, Elinor Poole-Dayán, Vikram Voleti, Chris Pal, and Siva Reddy  
*NeurIPS 2023*.
- C.6 **An Empirical Survey of the Effectiveness of Debiasing Techniques for Pre-trained Language Models**  
Nicholas Meade, Elinor Poole-Dayán, and Siva Reddy  
*ACL 2022*.

**Workshop Papers & Extended Abstracts**

- W.1 **Benchmarking Overton Pluralism in LLMs**  
Elinor Poole-Dayán, Jiayi Wu, Jiaxin Pei, and Michiel A. Bakker  
*NeurIPS 2025 LLM Evaluation Workshop (Poster Presentation)*.
- W.2 **Tracing Idea Evolution in Democratic Deliberation with LLMs**  
Elinor Poole-Dayán and Deb Roy  
*COLM 2025 NLP4Democracy Workshop (Oral Presentation)*.
- W.3 **LLMs for Public Narrative Understanding**  
Elinor Poole-Dayán, Daniel T. Kessler, Margaret Hughes, Emily S. Lin, Marshall Ganz, and Deb Roy  
*NAACL 2025 Workshop on Narrative Understanding (Poster Presentation)*.
- W.4 **LLM Targeted Underperformance Disproportionately Impacts Vulnerable Users**  
Elinor Poole-Dayán and Deb Roy  
*NeurIPS 2024 Safe Generative AI Workshop (Poster Presentation)*.
- W.5 **Sandbagging in LLMs: Systematic Underperformance for Uneducated and ESL Users**  
Elinor Poole-Dayán and Deb Roy  
*IC2S2 2024 (Poster Presentation)*.

**Pre-prints & Under Review**

- R.1 **An AI-Powered Framework for Analyzing Collective Idea Evolution in Deliberative Assemblies**  
Elinor Poole-Dayán, Deb Roy, and Jad Kabbara  
Aug. 2025.

## R.2 [Applying Large Language Models to Characterize Public Narratives](#)

**Elinor Poole-Dayana\***, Daniel T Kessler\*, Hannah Chiou, Margaret Hughes, Emily S. Lin, Marshall Ganz, and Deb Roy  
May 2025.

Note: \* denotes equal contribution.

## INVITED TALKS AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

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**Feb 2026** – Mila Quebec AI Institute [FATE & Society Reading Group](#). Invited talk: *Benchmarking Overton Pluralistic Alignment [C.1]*

**Oct 2025** – COLM NLP4Democracy Workshop. Oral presentation: *Analyzing Collective Idea Evolution in Democratic Deliberation with LLMs [W.2]*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Kaufman Teaching Certificate**

*MIT Teaching + Learning Lab*

Feb. 2025 – May 2025

*Cambridge, MA, USA*

- Developed teaching skills through eight practice-based workshops, evaluated through 2 microteaching sessions, received individual feedback from peers and teaching experts, and implemented evidence-based teaching techniques grounded in the scholarship of teaching and learning.
- Developed a syllabus for a course titled *Ethics, Fairness, and Bias in Generative Language Models*.

**Teaching Assistant: MAS.S90 Intro to Media Arts & Sciences**

*MIT Media Lab*

Fall 2024

*Cambridge, MA, USA*

**Teaching Assistant: COMP 252 Honours Algorithms & Data Structures**

*McGill University*

Spring 2022

*Montréal, QC, Canada*

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

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**2026** – Jae S. and Kyuho Lim Graduate Fellowship, MIT EECS

**2025** – [AAAI 2026 Student Scholarship & Volunteer Award](#) (\$2,100)

**2023** – [Mila Excellence Scholarship - EDI in Research](#) (\$5,000, declined)

**2023** – Canadian Graduate Scholarship - Master's (NSERC) (\$17,500, declined)

**2020** – Lev Bukhman Internship Award (\$1,070)

**2019–2021** – Dean's Honour List (top 10% of class by GPA)

**2019–2021** – J W McConnell Scholarship (\$9,000)

**2019** – NY Cardiac Center Scholarship (\$20,000)

**2019** – National AP Scholar

**2019** – National Merit Scholarship Award (\$2,500)

**2018** – Positive Coaching Alliance Triple-Impact Competitor Scholarship (\$1,000)

## SELECTED PRESS

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[AI chatbots provide less-accurate information to vulnerable users](#). *MIT News*, Feb 19, 2026.

[Identifying Political Bias in AI](#). *Communications of the ACM, AI and Machine Learning*, Dec 12 2024.

[Some language reward models exhibit political bias](#). *MIT News*, Dec 10, 2024.

## MENTORSHIP

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### **Undergraduate Students**

**Jiayi Wu**, Brown University, Summer–Fall 2025

**Hannah Chiou**, Wellesley College, Spring 2025 → MS Northeastern

### **High School Students**

**Abbey Hehman**, John Jay High School, Spring 2026–present

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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**Reviewer for ACL Rolling Review:** October 2025 (EACL); May 2025 (EMNLP); December 2024 (ACL); October 2024 (NAACL; Emergency Reviewer)

**Reviewer for AAAI:** Social Impact Track 2026

**Reviewer for ICLR:** 2026

**Reviewer for COLM:** 2026

**Reviewer for NeurIPS:** 2026

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

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**Programming Languages:** Python, Java, Javascript, C, Unix/Linux, OCaml, SQL

**Machine Learning & Data Science:** TensorFlow, PyTorch, Keras, scikit-learn, pandas, NumPy, matplotlib, seaborn, plotly

**Cloud Computing:** Google Cloud Platform, Amazon Web Services, Docker, slurm cluster