

EDUCATION	<div><div>Columbia University<div>2024 – Present</div></div><div>M.A. in Media Studies & Sociology Research Advisors: Diane Vaughan, James Chu GPA 3.97/4.00 Thesis: <i>Social Vulnerabilities of Large Language Models</i></div></div> <div><div>Brigham Young University–Hawaii<div>2022 – 2024</div></div><div>B.A. in Communication; Minor in Political Science Research Advisor: Mason Allred GPA 3.81/4.00</div></div>
AREAS OF INTEREST	Social Impacts of AI; Social Media; Well-Being; Trust & Deception; Human-AI Collaboration
BOOK	<div>[1] Outstanding Stories from Kiribati. Emilio Barkett <i>Barnes and Noble Press</i>, 2022.</div>
PUBLICATIONS	<div>[1] Reasoning Isn’t Enough: Examining Truth-Bias and Sycophancy in LLMs. Emilio Barkett, Olivia Long, Madhavendra Thakur <i>NeurIPS</i>, 2025. [under review] [arXiv preprint].</div>
WORKS IN PROGRESS	<div>[4] Imagining the Future: Sociotechnical Imaginaries in AGI Development at OpenAI. Emilio Barkett <i>OSF Preprint</i>, 2025.</div> <div>[3] Evaluating AI Persuasion Across Socioeconomic Status. Emilio Barkett, Robin Hart <i>Working Paper</i>.</div> <div>[2] Collaborative Dynamics Between Humans and LLMs in Problem-Solving and Conversation. Emilio Barkett, Anna Thieser, Paul Kröger <i>Working Paper</i>.</div> <div>[1] Risk, Rationality, and Drift: Institutional Factors in the Normalization of Deviance in AGI Systems. Emilio Barkett <i>Working Paper</i>.</div>
RESEARCH EXPERIENCE	<div><div>Columbia Business School<div>New York, NY</div></div><div><i>Research Intern</i><div>June 2025 – Present</div></div><div>Research Advisor: Alan Zhang<ul style="list-style-type: none">Independently formalized a research agenda, conducted literature review, led writing.</div></div> <div><div>Columbia AI Alignment Club<div>New York, NY</div></div><div><i>Principal Investigator</i><div>March 2025 – Present</div></div><div>Research Advisors: Yau-Meng Wong, Paul Kröger<ul style="list-style-type: none">Formed research agenda; created experimental design; led writing; technical implementation of Python/API calls; mentored four undergraduate collaborators; managed publication timeline.</div></div> <div><div>Columbia University<div>New York, NY</div></div><div><i>Research Assistant</i><div>Jan 2025 – Present</div></div><div>Research Advisor: James Chu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Regression analysis in R; data cleaning; synthesized literature review; prepared survey data; contributed to manuscript structure; asymmetrical collaboration.</div></div> <div><div>Columbia University<div>New York, NY</div></div><div><i>Independent Graduate Researcher</i><div>Aug 2024 – Present</div></div><div>Research Advisors: Diane Vaughan, Gil Eyal, James Chu</div></div>

- Formed research agendas for several projects; developed semi-structured interviews; regression analysis in R; API calls for evaluating LLMs in Python.

Brigham Young University–Hawaii

UX Research Associate

Oahu, HI

June 2023 – June 2024

Research Advisors: Curtis Lefrandt, Scott Stiles

- Ethnographic fieldwork to identify user pain points; synthesized insights into journey maps; presented policy recommendations to the University President’s Council.

Brigham Young University–Hawaii

Data Scientist

Oahu, HI

April 2022 – June 2023

- University surveys through Qualtrics; analyzed data in R; presented to executive leadership.

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

AI Policy Fellowship, Columbia AI Alignment Club.

Jan 2025 – Present

Service Scholarship, Brigham Young University–Hawaii, \$1,500.

2022

Dean’s List Scholarship, Brigham Young University–Hawaii, \$500.

2022

PRESENTATIONS

Conferences

- NeurIPS 2025, San Diego, CA, December 2025. *Reasoning Isn’t Enough: Examining Truth-Bias and Sycophancy in LLMs* [Submitted]
- Beyond Our Screens: Reimagining Critical Media Literacy Symposium, University of Notre Dame, August 2025. *Sociotechnical Imaginaries in AGI Development*
- ICML 2025 Workshop, Vancouver, Canada, July 2025. *Reasoning Isn’t Enough: Examining Truth-Bias and Sycophancy in LLMs*
- Cultural Studies Association 2025 Conference, California Institute of the Arts, May 2025. *Sociotechnical Imaginaries in AGI Development*
- Data Science Day, Columbia University, April 2025. *Sociotechnical Imaginaries in AGI Development*
- AI Summit, Columbia University, March 2025. *Sociotechnical Imaginaries in AGI Development*
- Artifacts of Control, Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts, Dec 2024. *Surveillance on University Campuses*
- Undergraduate Research Conference, Brigham Young University–Hawaii, Dec 2024. *Media and War: A Genealogy of the Alternate Narrative*

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer

- ICML (2025) Models of Human Feedback for AI Alignment Workshop
- COLM (2025) Socially Responsible Language Modelling Research Workshop

Academic Groups

- Sociology of Expertise Working Group, International Sociological Association. June 2025 – Present
- Media in the Digital Age Interest Group, Allan Turing Institute. Oct 2024 – Present
- Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Columbia University. Aug 2024 – Present

RESEARCH METHODS

Quantitative Research:

Survey design, regression analysis, text analysis, web prototyping, computational social science, machine learning, natural language processing

Qualitative Research:

Ethnographic field research, interviews, focus groups, content analysis, speculative methods, think-aloud protocol, usability testing

COMPUTER & CODE

Python (pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib), R, SPSS, Qualtrics, L^AT_EX

LANGUAGES

English (native), Gilbertese (advanced), American Sign Language (basic)