Mohamed Ahmed

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Research Experience

2024 – Present ◇ **Research Assistant,** Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto.
Assist in research with Professor Ishtiaque Ahmed and his team, primarily on the *Compassionately* project where we are using NLP techniques to recognize and correct hate speech.

2023 – Present ◇ **Research Assistant,** Citizen Lab, University of Toronto.
Support and partake in interdisciplinary research at the intersection of technology and human rights.

2023 ◇ **Intern,** Citizen Lab, University of Toronto.
Supported the communications team by developing tools to streamline the publications process, as well as supported researchers across several domains.

Education

2021 – 2026 ◇ **University of Toronto**
Honours Bachelor of Science
Major: Cognitive Science
Minors: Political Science and STS

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Papers

◇ **M. Ahmed**, J. Knockel, and R. Greenstadt, "An Analysis of Censorship Bias in LLMs," *Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PoPETs)*, vol. 2025, (4) Jul. 2025, (Under Review)

◇ H. Sheta, **M. Ahmed**, and S. I. Ahmed, "Compassionately: Increasing Plurality Awareness Through Community-powered AI," in *Muslims in ML Workshop co-located with NeurIPS 2024*, Vancouver, Canada, Dec. 2024. 🔗 URL: www.openreview.net/pdf?id=zkPRYKrLhu

◇ **M. Ahmed** and J. Knockel, "Extended Abstract: The Impact of Online Censorship on LLMs," in *Proceedings of the 2024 Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI 2024)*, Bristol, UK, Jul. 2024. 🔗 URL: www.petsymposium.org/foci/2024/foci-2024-0006.pdf

Reports

◇ J. Knockel, J. Dalek, N. Aljizawi, **M. Ahmed**, L. Meletti, and J. Lau, "Banned Books: Analysis of Censorship on Amazon.com," Citizen Lab Report 179, 2024. 🔗 URL: www.citizenlab.ca/2024/11/analysis-of-censorship-on-amazon-com/

Presentations

Talks

◇ **An Analysis of Chinese Censorship Bias in LLMs.** *Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS 2025)*. Washington D.C., USA. July 2025.

◇ **Reframing AI Alignment in Terms of Censorship and Privacy.** *HotPETs 2025, co-located with PETS 2025.* Washington D.C., USA. July 2025.

◇ **Compassionately: Increasing Plurality Awareness Through Community-powered AI.** *Muslims in ML Workshop, co-located with NeurIPS 2024.* Vancouver, Canada. December 2024. 🔗 VIDEO: www.youtube.com/watch?v=jY5QCeyyXwY.

◇ **The Impact of Online Censorship on LLMs.** *Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI 2024), co-located with PETS 2024.* Bristol, UK. July 2024.

Posters

◇ **Compassionately: Increasing Plurality Awareness Through Community-powered AI.** *Muslims in ML Workshop, co-located with NeurIPS 2024.* Vancouver, Canada. December 2024.

Volunteering

2024 – Present	◇	**Steering Committee Member,** The Liberation Lab Organized events, workshops, and other club activities to bring together scientists and advocates to bridge the gap between science and activism
2022 – 2024	◇	**Director of Marketing,** EquaLearn Foundation. Developed marketing materials for our work to provide quality tutoring and education services to underprivileged communities in Calgary.
2021 – 2024	◇	**Chief Technology Officer,** The Debtless Students. Built and maintained the website for The Debtless Students, an organization that students gain financial aid through free mentorship and support from major scholarship recipients.
2020 – 2022	◇	**Senior MENA Columnist,** The Written Revolutions. Co-founded a youth-run journalism organization in which I wrote political articles that distilled complex geopolitical issues for a younger audience. I went on to develop the website and manage a team of columnists.

Skills

Languages	◇	Strong reading, writing and speaking competencies in English and Arabic.
Programming	◇	Python, C, Java, R, SQL, LaTeX.
Web Dev	◇	HTML, CSS, JavaScript, React, Angular, Django, Flask, Apache.
Misc.	◇	Academic research, writing, editing, and presenting academic papers.

Awards and Grants

2024   ◇   **Jane McAdams Perron Scholarship**, University College, University of Toronto

         ◇   **ASSU Travel Grant** (x2), Arts and Science Student Union, University of Toronto

2023   ◇   **Reset Scholarship in Social Media and Democracy**, Department of Political Science, University of Toronto

References

◇   **Ronald J. Deibert**, Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, and the Director of the Citizen Lab. Email: `ron@citizenlab.ca`.

◇   **Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed**, Professor in the Department of Computer Science, University of Toronto. Email: `ishtiaque@cs.toronto.edu`.

◇   **Jeffrey Knockel**, Senior Research Associate at the Citizen Lab. Email: `jeff@citizenlab.ca`.