Mohamed Ahmed

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Research Experience

2024 – Present	◇	**Research Assistant,** UofT Department of Computer Science 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. Support and partake in interdisciplinary research at the intersection of technology and human rights.
2023	◇	**Intern,** Citizen Lab. 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

◇ "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.