

# Jessie J. Smith

Data Science • Responsible AI • ML Fairness • UX Research • HCI

[Portfolio](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [GitHub](#) | [Google Scholar](#) | [Twitter/X](#)

**Data scientist** at Spotify working on the Trust & Safety team to design, evaluate, and report on responsible AI efforts; received a PhD focused on algorithmic fairness, AI ethics, and operationalizing risk, bias, and harm into machine learning ecosystems.

## SKILLS

- Qualitative Research
- Quantitative Research
- Machine Learning
- Managing Projects
- User Studies
- Interviews
- Survey Design
- Focus Groups
- Statistical Inference
- Data Analysis
- Python
- Algorithmic Auditing

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Spotify | Data Scientist for Trust & Safety (2025 - Present)

- Designing, evaluating, and reporting on responsible AI efforts.

### Adobe | Generative AI Harm & Bias Evaluation Consultant (2024 - 2025)

- Developed qualitative and quantitative protocols to evaluate generative AI products.

### Allen Institute for AI | AI Ethics & Society Research Consultant (2023 - 2025)

- Co-designed an AI Ethics & Society Playbook to help AI and ML practitioners identify and mitigate harms that might arise from NLP, Generative AI, and Computer Vision models.

### Spotify | Algorithmic Impact Research Scientist Intern (Summer 2022)

- Led research study, conducted qualitative interviews with ML practitioners, and created a scoping framework to help ML practitioners scope their fairness context for Spotify.
- Published a [peer-reviewed paper](#) from our findings at the WWW 2023 Conference and met with leadership to incorporate findings into Spotify's algorithmic auditing protocols.

### Apple | Machine Learning Robustness Analysis PhD Intern (Spring 2022)

- Designed and led a mixed-methods, qualitative and quantitative research project focused on auditing and evaluating a legacy computer vision model and its training and test datasets.
- Generated an audit report summarizing results from ML evaluation tests and helped facilitate cross-functional conversations for next steps and interventions post-audit.

### Microsoft Research | AI Ethics (FATE) PhD Research Intern (Summer 2021)

- Designed and led a qualitative research study to create a tool that helps machine learning researchers appropriately identify and express the potential limitations of their work.
- Published a [peer-reviewed paper](#) from our findings at the FAccT 2022 conference.

# Jessie J. Smith

## EDUCATION

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### University of Colorado Boulder | Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

Information Science | Advisors: Dr. Casey Fiesler and Dr. Robin Burke

2019 - 2025

- Graduate Student Association (GSA) President in 2022 & GSA Board Member 2023 and 2024.
- Conducted qualitative research, user studies, interviews, surveys, focus groups, participatory design workshops, and iterative design research.
- Researcher for the [Internet Rules Lab](#) and [That Recommender Systems Lab](#)

**Research areas included** : AI ethics, algorithmic bias, value tradeoffs, sociotechnical systems, recommender systems, NLP, generative AI, computer vision, LLMs, fairness accountability & transparency in machine learning, HCI, ethics, philosophy, risk mitigation, and incorporating ethical speculation into the computer science classroom.

### California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly) | Bachelor of Science (BS)

Software Engineering

2014 - 2018

- Technical Officer for Women In Software and Hardware (WISH).
- Recipient of the Frost Scholarship Grant to fund research for ethical machine learning.
- Captain, Treasurer, and Vice President of the women's water polo team.
- Orientation Leader for the Week of Welcome.

## SELECTED HONORS AND AWARDS

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**Computer Science**

**PhD Fellowship**

Google Research

**Best Paper Award**

Fairness, Accountability,  
Transparency Conference

**Graduate Student**

**Outreach Award**

CU Boulder


**Engineering**

**Dean's List**

Cal Poly

## SELECTED PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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 **Best Paper Award:** **Jessie J. Smith**, Aishwarya Satwani, Robin Burke, and Casey Fiesler. 2024. Recommend Me? Designing Fairness Metrics with Providers. In FAccT '24: ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency, June 03–06, 2024, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 17 pages.

**Jessie J. Smith** and Anas Buhayh, Anushka Kathait, Pradeep Ragothaman, Nicholas Mattei, Robin Burke, and Amy Volda. 2023. The Many Faces of Fairness: Exploring the Institutional Logics of Multistakeholder Microlending Recommendation. In FAccT '23: ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability and Transparency, June 12–15, 2023, Chicago, IL. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 17 pages.

**Jessie J. Smith**, Lex Beattie, Henriette Cramer. 2023. Scoping Fairness Objectives and Identifying Fairness Metrics for Recommendation: The Practitioners' Perspective. The International World Wide Web Conference (WWW '23), April 30 – May 4, 2023, Austin, Texas, USA.

## PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP ON TECHNOLOGY ETHICS

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[The Radical AI Podcast](#) | Co-Host, Received hundreds of thousands of downloads in 54 countries.

[SciFi in Real Life](#) | Co-Host, Engaged with local community members and researchers.