

Jessie J. Smith

Generative AI • Responsible AI • ML Fairness • UX Research • HCI

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

PhD candidate at the University of Colorado, Boulder focused on scoping and **operationalizing fairness for machine learning systems**; creating resources to help machine learning (ML) practitioners identify and mitigate harms for Generative AI and Recommender Systems; and **improving ML products** for impacted stakeholders.

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

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

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

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

- Co-designing 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 and conducted qualitative interviews with ML practitioners to explore challenges and support structures for operationalizing ML fairness in industry.
- Created scoping framework to help ML practitioners scope their fairness context and constraints for recommendation and ranking systems.
- 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.

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EDUCATION

University of Colorado Boulder | Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

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

August 2019 - January 2025

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

Research areas include : 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

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

 **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

[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.