

AFIFAH KASHIF

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🌐 Seattle, USA & Cambridge, UK

🔍 [Google Scholar](#)

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge

June 2026

MPhil in Human-Inspired Artificial Intelligence

Dissertation: Evaluating and Mitigating Bias in LLM-Powered Social Robots with Human-in-the-Loop Interventions (Supervisors: Dr. Jin Huang, Dr. Malak Sadek, Dr. Hatice Gunes)

Highlighted Courses: Responsible AI, Neuroscience & AI, Algorithms for Human-AI Collaboration, Ethics of AI

University of Washington (UW) – Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering

June 2025

B.S. Computer Science; GPA: 3.77/4.0, Dean's List

Minor: Law, Societies & Justice, Graduated 1 year early

Highlighted Courses: AI/Computer Ethics, Distributed Systems, Law in Society, Machine Learning, AI, Algorithms

Capstone Project: [Ointment Care Robot for Limited Mobility Users](#)

Study Abroad: Rome Italy, Jan - Mar 2024, Honors: The Global Refugee Crisis: From Devastation to Diaspora

Bellevue College

June 2022

A.A. Arts and Science, A.S. Engineering, Physics and Atmospheric Sciences; GPA: 3.98/4.0, Dean's List

Completed 2 associates degrees in tandem to high school for dual credit, allowing early undergraduate graduation

HONORS AND AWARDS

Marcy Midgal Fellowship + Fund for Educational Equity, *UW Center for Global Study*, \$1500

2025

Distinguished Leader Award, *Harvard WECODE*

2023

Citywide Outstanding Student Award, *Bellevue City*

2022

Received multiple merit-based scholarships totaling \$17500

RESEARCH

Governance as Methodology: Toward Anticipatory, Design-Embedded Governance for Human Robot Interaction

2nd Interactive AI for Human-Centered Robotics Workshop @ ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) 2026

Afifah Kashif, Malak Sadek

Governance at the Edge of Architecture: Regulating NeuroAI and Neuromorphic Systems

arXiv preprint arXiv:2602.01503

Afifah Kashif, Abdul Hameed, Asim Iqbal

Regulatory Considerations for Physically Assistive Robotics Researchers

Physical Caregiving Robots Workshop @ ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI) 2025

Afifah Kashif, Amal Nanavati, Maya Cakmak

Assessing GPT's Bias Towards Stigmatized Social Groups: An Intersectional Case Study on Nationality Prejudice and Psychophobia

Considering Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in AI Applications Workshop @ Association for Information Science & Technology (ASIS&T) 2024

Afifah Kashif*, Heer Patel*

Broadening Participation in Computing by Designing Hackathons that Engage Local Communities

CMD-IT/ACM Richard Tapia Conference 2024 (Workshop Host; first and only undergraduate level team)

Afifah Kashif, Andrew Tran, Salma Aly, Egi Rama, Chiku Okechukwu

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Odyssean Institute, *Civic, Open & Resilient Democracy Action Democracy Fellowship*

Apr 2026 – Present

- Coding expert responses, extracting causal variables, and building causal loop diagrams for AI governance horizon scan
- Applying Python-based analysis and LLM APIs to process input at scale for decision support tools in 2026 UK assembly

PluralityAI, Research Assistant (Dr. Zhenzhen Qi [UConn], Dr. Avijit Ghosh [Hugging Face]) Mar 2026 – Present

- Co-designing a controlled human subjects study evaluating whether an open-source, multi-persona LLM platform reduces political polarization and improves conceptual understanding among users
- Developing IRB protocol, measurement instruments, and qualitative analysis framework for a 30+ participant study

Various, Supervisor and Teaching Roles Sep 2023 – Mar 2026

- Led and held various supervisory and teaching initiatives across the **University of Cambridge, University of Washington, Stanford Code in Place** and in **Rome**, ranging in subjects from computer science, digital literacy, and language proficiency
- Launched digital literacy program for refugee women w/ **International Rescue Committee**, Kabul Community Services Seattle

HelloRobot, Robotics Software Engineering Intern (UX + Human Robot Interaction) May 2025 – Aug 2025

- Developed fail-safe and task-recovery mechanisms for assistive in-home robot, improving robustness and user trust under real-world uncertainty
- Designed and evaluated assistive robot behaviors through real-world user studies and healthcare data analysis, identifying failure modes in autonomous decision-making

Wordplay Project @ UW Information School, Research Assistant (Dr. Amy Ko) Sep 2024 – June 2025

- Led design and deployment of accessible, multilingual programming language learning platform in local schools
- Conducted literature reviews and usage analysis to create educational governance and ethical development structure

HowellCo, Code.org, Fiveable Internships April 2021 – Sep 2024

- Held backend software engineering, product-oriented software engineering, operations & product internships respectively
- Contributed to backend service development, designing products and devising testing strategy, utilized various Azure services and Python scripting to enhance backend infrastructure on mobile app
- Scaled internal operations and product workflows during transition into a consumer platform
- Developed and designed full-stack web-based coding games, improving educational access for marginalized students

LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cambridge AI Research Society, AI Research Events Lead Jan 2026 – Present
Coordinated with Google Deepmind, Microsoft Research, Mistral AI and other industry partners to coordinate speaker events

Institute of Technology and Humanity, Academic Representative Oct 2025 – Present
Ensured a fulfilling interdisciplinary experience for students in the University of Cambridge's Centre for the Study of Existential Risk, Leverhulme Centre for the Future of Intelligence and Centre for Human-inspired AI

Researcher, EvalEval Coalition Sep 2025 – Present
Participating in global coalition of interdisciplinary researchers in coalition on AI evaluations, see published [blog post](#)

Nordic Scholars Leadership Institute, Scholar June 2025 – Sep 2025
Selected for inaugural cohort of immersive program on Nordic best practices in sustainability, governance, and innovation through trust-based and collaborative leadership in Stockholm, connecting with academics, industry leaders and government

UW Pakistani Student Association, President Sep 2023 – June 2025
Served as leader in increasing cultural immersion, and hosting events that open diaspora conversations (i.e. addressing sexism)

UW Women in Law Society, Vice President and Co-Founder May 2023 – May 2025
Encouraged marginalized groups to participate in law, opening interdisciplinary conversations and attracting 100+ members

Paul G. Allen School Student Advisory Council, Executive Officer Nov 2022 – Sep 2024
Analyzed student data and hosted events to support initiatives for faculty-student connection, mental health, etc. at UW

Harvard WCode Women Engineers Code Conference, Technology Fellow Oct 2022 – Feb 2023
Publicized largest student-run women in technology conference globally, securing grants for UW students to attend for no cost

TechTogether Seattle MLH Hackathon, Programming and Outreach June 2022 – May 2023
Hosted Seattle's first women-only hackathon, nation's largest hackathon initiative addressing gender inequities in tech

Council of American-Islamic Relations, Youth Advisory Board Nov 2021 – April 2023
Collaborated with Washington State Governor Jay Inslee, non-profits, and community to ensure equitable experiences for Muslims, focus on supporting Afghan refugees and youth engagement

SKILLS AND INTERESTS

Programming Languages: Java, JavaScript, Python, HTML/CSS, Node.js, C/C++, Ruby, TypeScript, React, SQL
Frameworks & Tools: Rails, Bootstrap, Git, ROS, Bash, Linux/UNIX, LaTeX, Azure, AWS, TensorFlow, PyTorch
Research Methods: Qualitative Coding, Survey Design and Analysis, Literature Review, User Studies