

BECCA COHEN
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she/her

My research interests currently lie in how power structures shape systems of modeling and interpreting the cultural reception of various forms of media. This includes processes such as data cleaning, visualization and algorithmic processes, as well as their downstream effects in LLMs such as content moderation and censorship of, or stereotypes and overgeneralizations of marginalized communities. My scholarship uses an intersectional feminist, gender studies and de-colonial lens, close reading and technical skills to achieve a unique digital humanities approach to these issues.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. – Information Sciences, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Expected 2028)

B.S. – Biology and English with Highest Honors, Emory University (2023)

PUBLICATIONS

Griebel, S., Cohen, B., Li, L., Park, J., Liu, J., Perkins, J., & Underwood, T. (2024). Locating the Leading Edge of Cultural Change. *CEUR Workshop Proceedings*, 3834, 232-245.

Dileonardi, Sean & Cohen, Becca & Sinykin, Dan. (2024). Brand Management: International Bestsellers and the Death of the Author, Again. *Studies in the Novel*. 56. 451-459. 10.1353/sdn.2024.a948008.

DiLeonardi, S, Cohen, B, and Sinykin, D. The International Bestsellers Dataset. Post 45 Collective. (Forthcoming)

Cohen, B. Abusive Love: A Tongue to Speak But No Ear to Listen; Computational Linguistics to Assess Female Agency in the Taming of the Shrew and Tamer Tamed. May, 2023.

Papers, Panels, & Presentations

DiLeonardi, S, Cohen, B, and Sinykin, D. (2023, January) Emory English Works in Progress. Atlanta, GA.

Cohen, B. and Griebel, S. (2024, January). Digital Culture Lab's Works in Progress: Novelty and Perplexity of Fiction and Academic Journals.

Griebel, S., Cohen, B and Underwood, T. (2024, December.) Locating the Leading Edge of Cultural Change. Computational Humanities Research (CHR), Aarhus, Denmark.

Projects in Progress

Gender Word Embeddings Project

- **Exploring ways to reduce binary biases in representations of gender in computational linguistic, NLP, ML and AI applications**

AWARDS & HONORS

2023 Fox Center Honors Fellowship, Emory University Fox Center

Highest Honors in English, Emory University, 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois (2024-present)

Teaching Assistant for IS 205 & 305, Programming for Info Problems

- **Teach introductory Python concepts in office hours, grading and detailed feedback of student's programs**

Emory University (2018 – 2020)

Emory Tibetan Science Initiative

- **Mentored and tutored Dalai Llama selected Buddhist scholars at Emory in subjects of Biology, Mathematics and English Literature**

SERVICE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

GEO (Graduate Employee Organization) Communications Committee Assistant

School of Information Sciences
Founding Co-Director of the Digital Cultures Lab

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

IS 517, Machine Learning
IS 507, Data Stat
IS 567, Text Mining
IS 597, Program and Quality Analytics
IS 597, Large Language Models
IS 597, Data Structures and Algorithms Through Puzzles and Games
IS, Independent Study: Gender and Word Embeddings
IS 593, Archiving the Web
IS 519, Research Design
IS 509, History and Foundations of Information Sciences

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Historical AI Lab (formerly Language Literary Lab)
Research Assistant (August 2023- December 2024)

- **Helped formulate and design research questions**
- **Built machine learning models to facilitate and automate data cleaning processes**
- **Standardized, tested and debugged Python code written by myself and others on the team**

American Shakespeare Center
Educational Intern (July 2021 - June 2021)

- **Performed dramaturgy research to incorporate BIPOC royalty gestures into ASC's production of Henry VI**
- **Wrote critical essays on race, gender and sexuality related to the content and production choices of ASC and other production companies**
- **Taught a hands-on "stage blood" workshop which helped Elementary and Middle schoolers follow the plot of MacBeth and learn about the animality of Early Modern stage props: (our stage blood was not created with animal blood but rather common kitchen products!)**

SKILLS

Python & PyCharm IDE
Machine Learning
Large Language Models (LLMs)
Artificial Intelligence (AI)
R & R Studio
DNA Subway