

Briana Vecchione, Ph.D.

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Education

2018 – 2023	Ph.D., Information Science, Cornell University <i>Committee: Karen Levy, Solon Barocas, Jon Kleinberg</i>
2018 – 2022	M.S., Information Science, Cornell University
2012 – 2016	B.S., Computer Science, Pace University <i>Magna Cum Laude</i>

Additional Training

2021	Princeton University Computational Social Science Institute <i>Mentor: Matthew Salganik</i>
2014	Microsoft Research Data Science Summer School <i>Mentors: Jake Hofman, Sharad Goel, Justin Rao</i>

Work Experience

2023 – Present	Data & Society Research Institute—Technical Researcher Member of the AI on the Ground team to develop robust analyses of AI systems to assess their impact and inform future design, use, and governance. <i>Collaborators: Livia Garofalo, Tamara Kneese, Alice Marwick, Jake Metcalf, Ranjit Singh, Emnet Tafesse, Meg Young</i>
2021	Cornell Tech—Public Interest Tech Fellow Summer fellowship. Collaborated with Blue Ridge Labs at the Robin Hood Foundation to provide tech research insights to early-stage social impact ventures.
2019	Spotify—Research Scientist Summer internship. Evaluated fairness metrics for cold-start cross-domain podcast recommender systems. <i>Mentors: Henriette Cramer, Zahra Nazari</i>
2016 – 2017	Microsoft—Civic Technology Fellow Developed statistical dashboards for the Manhattan Borough President’s Office using 311 service request data. <i>Mentors: John Paul Farmer, Matt Stempeck</i>
2015	Federal Reserve Board of Governors—Data Scientist Summer internship. Developed and implemented a real-time operational dashboard for time series data releases.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Publications

V. Ojewale, R. Steed, **B. Vecchione**, A. Birhane, and D. Raji, “Towards ai accountability infrastructure: Gaps and opportunities in ai audit tooling,” in *Proceedings of CHI*, 2025.

B. Vecchione and R. Singh, “Artificial intelligence is mental: Evaluating the role of large-language models in supporting mental health and well-being,” *Big Data & Society*, vol. 12, no. 4, p. 20 539 517 251 383 884, 2025.

A. Birhane, R. Steed, V. Ojewale, **B. Vecchione**, and I. D. Raji, “Ai auditing: The broken bus on the road to ai accountability,” in *2024 IEEE Conference on Secure and Trustworthy Machine Learning (SaTML)*, IEEE, 2024, pp. 612–643.

L. Groves, J. Metcalf, A. Kennedy, **B. Vecchione**, and A. Strait, "Auditing work: Exploring the new york city algorithmic bias audit regime," in *Proceedings of FAccT*, Best Paper Award, 2024.

L. Wright, R. Muenster, **B. Vecchione**, *et al.*, "Null compliance: Nyc local law 144 and the challenges of algorithm accountability," in *Proceedings of FAccT*, 2024.

T. Gebru, J. Morgenstern, **B. Vecchione**, *et al.*, "Datasheets for datasets," *Communications of the ACM*, vol. 64, no. 12, pp. 86–92, 2021.

B. Vecchione, S. Barocas, and K. Levy, "Algorithmic auditing and social justice: Lessons from the history of audit studies," in *Proceedings of EAAMO*, 2021.

Z. Nazari, C. Charbuillet, J. Pages, *et al.*, "Recommending podcasts for cold-start users based on music listening and taste," in *Proceedings of SIGIR*, 2020.

Forthcoming

T. Kneese, J. Moro, and **B. Vecchione**, *Algorithms and the occult*, Special Issue, Forthcoming, 2025.

T. Kneese and **B. Vecchione**, "Spiritual chatbots in uncertain times," *ASAP/15*, *Special Issue*, 2025, Special Issue, Forthcoming.

T. Kneese, **B. Vecchione**, and A. Marwick, "A chatbot for the soul: Mental health care, privacy, and intimacy in ai-based conversational agents," *Nature Communications and Change*, 2025, Forthcoming.

T. Kneese, M. Young, R. Singh, **B. Vecchione**, E. Tafesse, and J. Metcalf, "The ai impact engagement report kit," in *Kits for Digital Methods: Doing Sociotechnical Research*, Forthcoming, New York: Routledge, 2025.

Reports & Public Writing

R. Singh, B. Blili-Hamelin, C. Anderson, *et al.*, "Red-teaming in the public interest," *Data & Society*, 2025.

R. Singh, L. Garofalo, **B. Vecchione**, and E. Tafesse, *Chatbots in disguise: How participants use genai to hack qualitative research*, Data & Society: Points, 2025.

B. Vecchione, *What happens when people turn to chatbots for therapy?* Data & Society: Points, 2025.

T. Kneese, **B. Vecchione**, R. Singh, E. Tafesse, M. Young, and J. Metcalf, *The algorithmic impact methods lab: Methods from the field*, Data & Society: Points, 2024.

B. Vecchione, *Defining public interest technology: Key questions to consider*, Cornell Tech Digital Life Initiative, Workshopped at CSCW, 2022.

B. Vecchione, *Addressing economic inequality in nyc through social impact tech research at blue ridge labs*, PiTech at Cornell Tech, 2021.

Policy

Consumer Federation of America *et al.*, *Coalition letter urging governor newsom to sign ab 489 and protect californians from dangerous ai medical advice*, Open letter signed by civil society organizations including Data & Society, Coalition Letter on AI Accountability in Health, 2025.

I. D. Raji, A. Birhane, **B. Vecchione**, R. Steed, and V. Ojewale, *Comment on fr doc #2023-07776: Ai accountability policy*, Submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA x OAT Public Comment, 2023.

I. D. Raji, A. Birhane, **B. Vecchione**, R. Steed, and V. Ojewale, *Comment on fr doc #2023-28232: Nist ai risk management framework*, Submitted to the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Mozilla OAT Public Comment, 2023.

Dissertation

Select Funding & Awards

2025	National AI Research Institute for Agentic AI (ARIA), National Science Foundation—Brown University. Funded multi-year research initiative on AI and human-centered design.
2024	Best Paper Award-ACM FAccT. Awarded best paper for “Auditing Work” publication.
2022–2023	Notre Dame–IBM Tech Ethics Lab. Student funding for research project on AI Auditing.
2021–2023	Mozilla Foundation. Funding for the open-source audit tooling project research and report. <i>Collaborators: Deb Raji, Abeba Birhane, Ryan Steed, Victor Ojewale.</i>
2020–2022	Facebook Fellowship. Selective fellowship to support full tuition, stipend, and travel for 2 years.
2020	Ford Foundation Fellowship: Honorable Mention. Selective fellowship based on academic performance and impact.
2019	Google Women Techmakers. Selective scholarship based on academic performance, leadership, and impact.
2018–2019	Cornell University Dean’s Excellence Fellowship. Selective fellowship awarded to outstanding research degree students in support of diversity.
2018	City of New York Certificate of Recognition. Recognized for research and development in support of the Manhattan Borough President’s Office.

Select Talks & Engagements

Dec 2025	AI Companions. Digital Vulnerabilities in the Age of AI Summit (DIVAS), Digital Ethics Center, Yale University. Invited panelist. <i>Upcoming.</i> Talking to Machines: How LLMs Are Changing Mental Health Support in the Age of AI. Penn Artificial Intelligence and Technology Collaboratory for Healthy Aging Webinar Series, University of Pennsylvania. Invited Speaker. <i>Upcoming.</i>
Sep 2025	Mind, Machine, and Me: Mental Health Chatbots and Techno-selfhood. 4S 2025.
Jun 2025	Mind, Machine, and Me: Mental Health Chatbots and Techno-selfhood. STS Italia.
Mar 2025	Red-Teaming Generative AI Harm. Data & Society Databite No. 161.
Sep 2024	Algorithms and the Occult, or Chatbots are the New Psychic Friends Network. ASAP/15 Conference. New York, NY.
Mar 2024	Algorithmic Auditing: Challenges and Considerations. University of Pennsylvania, CIS7000 Algorithmic Justice. Invited Speaker. [Remote].
Jan 2024	Discrimination and Bias in Online Marketplaces. University of California Berkeley, MBA295T/EWMBA 295T. Invited Speaker. [Remote].
Jul 2023	An Introduction to AI Bias, Auditing, & Accountability. Columbia University, Computer Programming for Beginners: Coding in Python. Invited Speaker. New York, NY.
Jun 2023	Auditing AI Workshop. Notre Dame–IBM Technology Ethics Lab. Notre Dame, IN.
Nov 2022	Who Has an Interest in “Public Interest Technology”? Critical Questions for Working with Local Governments & Impacted Communities. CSCW 2022. [Remote].
Sep 2022	Navigating the Algorithm Audit Tooling Landscape. Mozilla All Hands, Trustworthy AI “Big Ideas”. Waikiki, HI.
Mar 2022	Breaking Down Barriers: How Women In AI Creates a More Equitable Technological Future. Arize Observe Summit. Invited Panelist. [Remote].

Select Talks & Engagements (continued)

Oct 2021	Algorithmic Auditing for Social Justice. 2021 ACM Conference on Equity and Access in Algorithms, Mechanisms, and Optimization (EAAMO). [Remote].
Oct 2019	Digital Lives: Perspectives on Ethics and AI. Cornell University Women's Network. Invited Speaker. New York, NY.
Apr 2020	FATES 2020: 2nd Workshop on Fairness, Accountability, Transparency, Ethics, and Society on the Web. [Remote].
Sep 2018	Datasheets for Datasets. Cornell University AI, Policy, and Practice Seminar. Ithaca, NY.
Sep 2017	Building Open Data Dashboards for Hyperlocal Government. Data for Good Exchange. Presented with Gale Brewer. New York, NY.
Aug 2014	DS3: Self Balancing CitiBikes. Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining at Bloomberg (KDD). New York, NY.
	DS3: Self Balancing CitiBikes. Microsoft Research. New York, NY.

Skills

Research Methods	Algorithmic auditing and impact assessment, Participatory design, qualitative coding (e.g., Atlas.ti, NVivo), survey design, mixed methods analysis, LLM red-teaming
Programming Languages	R, Python, SQL, HTML/CSS, Git
Data Science & Analytics	Pandas, NumPy, scikit-learn, Jupyter, BigQuery, Power BI, Tableau
Databases & Cloud Platforms	PostgreSQL, MySQL, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Microsoft Azure
Project & Grant Development	Grant writing, proposal design, budgeting, collaborative project scoping, IRB protocol writing
Ethics & Policy	AI accountability, policy impact analysis, policy memo writing, participatory governance, fairness in sociotechnical systems, AI safety, red teaming, participatory governance, risk and harm assessment
Communication	Public speaking, writing & editing, interdisciplinary collaboration