

# Allison Chen

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## EDUCATION

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### Princeton University

Ph.D. Candidate, Computer Science

Advisor: Dr. Olga Russakovsky

SEP 2022-Present

GPA: 4.0/4.0

### University of California, Los Angeles

Summa Cum Laude

B.S. in Computer Science | Minor in Cognitive Science

SEP 2018-JUN 2022

GPA: 3.993/4.0

## CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

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**Allison Chen**, Sunnie S. Y. Kim, Angel Franyutti, Amaya Dharmasiri, Kushin Mukherjee, Olga Russakovsky, Judith E. Fan. “*Presenting Large Language Models as Companions Affects What Mental Capacities People Attribute to Them*”. CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2026. [\[paper\]](#)

(early version) Extended Abstracts of CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems

(CHI ‘EA) 2025. [\[paper\]](#) [\[poster\]](#)

(early version) The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci) 2025. [\[paper\]](#) [\[OSF repo\]](#)

**Allison Chen**, & Isabella Pu. “*Learning How Large Language Models Work Through Games*”. CHI 2026 Workshop on Data Literacy. [\[paper\]](#)

**Allison Chen**, Iliia Sucholutsky, Olga Russakovsky, Thomas L. Griffiths. “*Analyzing the Roles of Language and Vision in Learning from Limited Data*”. The Annual Meeting of the Cognitive Science Society (CogSci) 2024. [\[paper\]](#) [\[poster\]](#)

Tian Yu Liu\*, Parth Agrawal\*, **Allison Chen**\*, Byung-Woo Hong, Alex Wong. “*Monitored Distillation for Positive Congruent Depth Completion*”. European Conference for Computer Vision (ECCV), pp. 35-53, 2022. \* = equal contribution [\[code\]](#) [\[paper\]](#)

Alex Wong\*, **Allison Chen**\*, Yangchao Wu, Safa Cicek, Alexandre Tiard, Byung-Woo Hong, and Stefano Soatto. “*Small Lesion Segmentation in Brain MRIs with Subpixel Embedding*”. MICCAI Brain Lesion Workshop, pp. 75-87, 2021. Oral Presentation. \* = equal contribution [\[code\]](#) [\[paper\]](#)

## TEACHING

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### Instructor

JAN 2026

**De-Mystifying AI: Beyond the Hype Workshop** | Princeton Institute for Computational Science & Engineering

- Led a 1-day introduction to Artificial Intelligence workshop for a non-technical audience

### Teaching Assistant

JAN 2024-MAY 2024

**Art and Robotics Independent Work** | Princeton University Computer Science Department

- Advised 10+ undergraduate students in independent projects combining art with programmable Arduinos.
- Developed Arduino tutorial materials organized public-facing exhibition attracting over 40 local students.

### Head Teaching Assistant

SEP 2023-DEC 2023

## Introduction to Machine Learning | Princeton University Computer Science Department

- Managed classroom, assignment, and exam logistics. Developed assignments and teaching materials.
- Led weekly discussion section for 30+ students and organized exam review sessions.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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### Graduate Researcher

AUG 2022-Present

Princeton University | *Visual AI Lab*

- Lead independent and collaborative projects with external collaborators in human-AI interaction and computer vision.

### Software Engineering Intern

JUN 2021-SEP 2021

Microsoft | *Azure Communication Services*

- Implemented device & network tests in **Typescript** to predict audio and video calling capabilities.

### Software Engineering Intern

JUN 2020-SEP 2020

Oracle Corporation | *Performance, Scalability, and Reliability Team*

- Developed **Node.js** framework in **Typescript** to aid internal teams with developing unified functional and performance tests on user interfaces.

### Machine Learning Application Intern

JUN 2019-AUG 2019

The Field Museum – Chicago, IL | *Botany Research Team w/ Dr. Matt von Konrat*

- Developed deep learning models in **TensorFlow** and **Keras** to classify botanical specimen image

## HONORS & AWARDS

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### Fellowships/Scholarships

- 2024- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2022-23 Intel Graduate Diversity Scholarship
- 2021-22 APLUS Scholarship
- 2021-22 Tau Beta Pi Forge No. 111 Scholarship
- 2021-22 Society of Women Engineers Los Angeles Scholarship
- 2020-21 Cornelius Leondes UCLA Undergraduate Scholarship
- 2020-21 National Society of Women Engineers Intel Undergraduate Scholarship
- 2020-21 Society of Women Engineers Los Angeles Scholarship
- 2020-21 Society of Women Engineers at UCLA Scholarship
- 2020-21 UCLA Faculty Women's Club Scholarship
- 2018-19 UCLA Women in Engineering Scholarship

### Society Involvement

- 2025 Natural and Artificial Minds Initiative, Graduate Fellow
- 2018-24 Society of Women Engineers
- 2021-22 Google Computer Science Research Mentorship Program
- 2020-22 Upsilon Pi Epsilon Computer Science Honors Society
- 2019-22 Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honors Society

### Achievements & Recognition

- 2022 UCLA Engineering Achievement Award in Student Welfare

- 2022 [Engineering For Humanity Research Symposium Director](#)
- 2018-22 UCLA Dean's Honors List
- 2018 1<sup>st</sup> Place at UCLA Idea Hacks Hardware Hackathon

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

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### **Systematic Evaluation of Vision-Language Hallucination Detection Methods** NOV 2025-Present

*Dr. Olga Russakovsky, Dr. Esin Tureci, Dr. Salma Abdel Magid* | **Princeton VisualAI Lab**

- Systematically evaluate hallucination detection methods for vision-language model image captioning to see if methods with access to internal model information consistently outperform those without.

### **Effect of Portraying Language Models on People's Trust Behaviors** JUN 2025-Present

*Dr. Olga Russakovsky* | **Princeton VisualAI Lab**

- Explore how portrayals of language models can influence how people trust their responses in difficult information seeking tasks.

### **Effect of Portraying Language Models on People's Beliefs and Attitudes** JUN 2024-Present

*Dr. Olga Russakovsky, Dr. Judith E. Fan (Stanford)* | **Princeton VisualAI Lab**

- Study the effects of how various messaging and portrayals around large language models affects the general public's beliefs and attitudes towards the technology.

### **Large Scale Less-Than-One-Shot Learning Using Language** MAY 2024-Present

*Dr. Olga Russakovsky, Dr. Ilya Sutskever, Dr. Tom Griffiths* | **Princeton VisualAI Lab**

- Develop method of leveraging language to teach a model image classification with more classes than training images.

### **Role of Language in Vision-Language Learning** SEP 2023-MAY 2024

*Dr. Olga Russakovsky, Dr. Tom Griffiths* | **Princeton VisualAI Lab**

- Analyzed the contribution of language to Vision-Language model performance by hypothesizing a cognitive architecture of the models and ablating various components.

### **Monitored Distillation for 3D-Depth Estimation** OCT 2021-JUN 2022

*Dr. Stefano Soatto* | **UCLA Vision Lab**

- Built an ensemble of teachers by computing a criterion based on reprojection error to train a lightweight student model in unsupervised sparse to dense depth completion.
- Addressed weaknesses of each teacher model and ensemble holistically by balancing distilled loss with typical unsupervised color and structural reprojection losses using similar criteria.

### **Small Lesion Segmentation for Brain MRI Scans** MAR 2020-OCT 2021

*Dr. Stefano Soatto* | **UCLA Vision Lab**

- Proposed a technique using subpixel methods to retain details of a brain MRI scan that are often lost through rapid spatial downsampling and max-pooling in medical image segmentation works.
- Devised method that outperforms the state of the art while reducing memory requirements by 72.3% and 57.5% for training and testing respectively.

### **Monotonicity Verification Extension** APR 2021-JUN 2021

*Dr. Guy Van den Broeck* | **Statistical and Relational Artificial Intelligence Lab (StarAI)**

- Extended monotonicity verification system for small fully connected networks to actor-critic based models.

- Developed **Python** scripts to convert between checkpoint save formats between **TFLearn** and **Keras** APIs for **TensorFlow** to extend generalizability.

## LEADERSHIP & OUTREACH

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### Mentorship

- Mentor for Undergraduate through REU Diversity Program (1 mentee) JUN 2025-SEP 2025
- Mentor for First Year Grad Students (2 mentees) SEP 2023-Present
- Mentor for High School Research Interns (2 mentees) JUN 2023-AUG 2023
- Mentor for Society of Women Engineers @ UCLA Undergrad (1 mentee) OCT 2024-Present
- UCLA Alumni Mentor (3 mentees) SEP 2022-Present

### Climate & Inclusion Committee Member, Visual AI Lab, *Princeton University*

- Organize social and mentorship opportunities within the lab SEP 2024-Present

### Graduate Fellow, Natural and Artificial Minds Initiative, *Princeton University*

- Facilitate cross-disciplinary connections for researchers studying intelligence JAN 2025-MAY 2025

### Prison Teaching Initiative, *Princeton University*

- Math and science tutor for incarcerated students JAN 2023-MAY 2023

### Aquinas Institute Bible Study Leader, *Princeton University*

- Organize and host weekly Bible studies for graduate students SEP 2024-MAY 2025

### Graduate Society of Women Engineers, *Princeton University*

- Chapter co-founder at Princeton University OCT 2022-MAY 2024
- Princeton Computer Science Pre-Application Mentor NOV 2022

### Society of Women Engineers, *UCLA*

- Internal Vice President and Executive Board Member APR 2021-JUN 2022
- Evening with Industry External Director and Executive Board Member APR 2020-APR 2021
- SWE Families Head OCT 2020-JUN 2021
- Student Relations Director and Executive Board Member APR 2019-APR 2020

### Grad2Mentor Program, *UCLA*

- Co-founded high school mentorship program for underrepresented students in CS APR 2021-SEP 2021

## SKILLS

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- Languages: Python, R, C++/C, Typescript/Javascript, Java, HTML/CSS
- Frameworks/Packages: Pytorch, Tensorflow, Keras, Numpy, React
- Large-scale Surveys: Qualtrics, Prolific, Pre-Registrations
- Technologies: Unix, Git, Latex
- Hobbies: Spikeball, dance, cooking, and reading! Currently reading: *The Power of Silence* by Robert Cardinal Sarah