ALAYNA KENNEDY

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ABOUT ME

I am a technology professional with 3+ years of actualizing AI ethics frameworks. My research interests involve science and technology studies, applied ethics, and examining a systems-thinking approach to responsible technology. As a practitioner, I aim to effectively apply ethical change within current systems.

EXPERIENCE

Tech Community Lead| Digital Freedom Fund   Aug 2022 – Present
Berlin, Germany

- Spearheaded a 12-month initiative to bridge gaps between litigators and technologists working in the digital rights non-profit space by organizing and facilitating a series of 4 workshops and publishing a report on the findings from those sessions to a large network of digital rights activists
- Established relationships with large networks of technologists in the U.S. and Europe as part of a larger effort to develop mentorship and co-working programs between technical and legal experts

AI Governance Expert | Ethical Intelligence   Jul 2021 – Present
Edinburgh, United Kingdom

- Developed an AI governance maturity scale for startup companies, working with a tech for good VC firm with 200+ companies in their portfolio by translating business requirements and best practices into recommendations and frameworks for implementing AI governance into a startup ecosystem, resulting in a framework that directly influenced the startup funding pipeline
- Implemented a value centered design approach to machine learning development into a client's agile project management system, creating a framework and process flow for adding ethics into development

Data Scientist & AI Ethics Program Manager | IBM   Aug 2014 – Aug 2018
Washington DC, United States of America

- Worked as an ML developer and data scientist for IBM's US Federal practice while also pursuing multiple avenues of AI ethics work, leading an AI ethics team, and contributing to the development of white papers and reports on AI ethics for IBM's internal think tank. Promoted to a full-time role on the IBM AI ethics board focusing on education and stakeholder buy-in for company-wide AI ethics initiatives. Started developing the first company-wide AI ethics training, contributing to the wider IBM AI ethics community at events, presentations, and conferences.
- Started IBM's first federal sector AI ethics team, recruiting over 15 volunteers and securing over $50K in funding. Distilled AI ethics literature into a risk management framework and gained support from multiple stakeholders across the sector to deploy the framework into the AI product development cycle, from marketing through delivery
- Created an AI governance framework with the global IBM AI ethics community. Identified and engaged stakeholders within the IBM AI ethics community and developed the framework into a fully-funded project with support from the IBM AI ethics board
- Selected as an AI research fellow at IBM's Institute for Business Value in a competitive application process and contributed to the development of a white paper and policy recommendation document on the use of AI in government. Used this research to inform internal IBM decision making and the AI ethics board's external engagement strategy

EDUCATION

MSc in Science and Technology in Society | University of Edinburgh   Aug 2022
Grade: A3, degree awarded with merit

- Coursework on philosophy of AI ethics and technology policy with a focus on sociotechnical systems
- Designed and implemented a large independent research project in collaboration with Data & Society, conducting a series of interviews with responsible tech professionals to create policy recommendations

<u>Dissertation</u>
Title: "Moving Ethics Beyond Frameworks: A Qualitative Analysis of AI Ethics Operationalization Within Industry." This work examined industry practices around "Responsible Technology" and "AI Ethics" to assess the current state of implementation and operationalization of high-level frameworks.

BSc in Engineering Science | The Pennsylvania State University   Aug 2018
Grade: 3.7/4.0 GPA

<u>Honors Thesis</u>
Title: "Using Computational Narratology to Address the Artificial Intelligence Value Alignment Problem." This thesis assessed the ways that natural language processing (NLP) could provide an avenue for value-aligned AI governance using value-laden language as a source of machine-translatable governance metrics.

PUBLICATIONS

Author	"Social Worlds of AI Ethics" *University of Edinburgh*, expected 2022
Lead Author	"The Business Case for AI Ethics," *All Tech is Human*, Mar 2021
1st Author	"Auditing Government AI," *NeurIPS Ethical AI workshop,* Dec 2020
Author	"Optimization of Neural Network Architecture for Biomechanic Classification Tasks with Electromyogram Inputs," *International Journal of Artificial Intelligence & Applications,* Oct 2016

PROJECTS

Participatory Governance | Re-State   Nov 2022
Researched, wrote, and generated case studies for a project developing
participatory governance frameworks for emerging technology

Public Tech Leadership Collaborative | Data & Society   Oct 2022
Served in peer-learning collaborative to support government decision-makers
in understanding and addressing the social and ethical implications of data and technology

Freelance Technology Writer | Various Publications   Aug 2022
Compiled research in support of books being written by major US pundits,
In addition to my own freelance writing on technology and society for various publications

SKILLS

Programming	SQL, R, Python, MATLAB, SAS, LaTeX, Java, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Perl/Raku
Software	Watson Studio, Microsoft Office Suite, G-Suite, Tableau, SAS Enterprise Miner, SolidWorks, pgAdmin, XML databases