

Nicholas Vincent

Assistant Professor, Simon Fraser University

nvincent@sfu.ca

<https://www.nickmvincent.com>

Academic Appointments

2023– **Assistant Professor**
Present Simon Fraser University, Computing Science
Affiliate at Digital Democracies Institute and School of Public Policy. Research Director at Metagov.

2022–2023 **Postdoctoral Scholar**
University of California, Davis, Communication
Co-advised by [Seth Frey](#) (UC Davis, Department of Communication) and [Amy X. Zhang](#) (University of Washington, School of Computer Science and Engineering)

Education

Aug 2017– **PhD, Technology and Social Behavior (joint degree, Computer Science and Communication)**
Oct 2022 Northwestern University
• Advisor: [Brent Hecht](#)
• Data Leverage: A Framework for Empowering the Public to Mitigate Harms of Artificial Intelligence. Received SIGCHI 2024 Outstanding Dissertation Award and Northwestern University School of Communication Dissertation Award. [\[link\]](#)

Aug 2012– **BS, Electrical Engineering**
May 2016 University of California, Los Angeles
• Magna Cum Laude

Publications

Peer Reviewed

[P21] **Collective Bargaining in the Information Economy Can Address AI-Driven Power Concentration**
Nicholas Vincent, Matthew Prewitt, Hanlin Li
NeurIPS Position Papers, 2025

[P20] **An Audit and Analysis of LLM-Assisted Health Misinformation Jailbreaks Against LLMs**
Ayana Hussain, Patrick Zhao, Nicholas Vincent
AIES, 2025

[P19] **Responsible AI in Open Ecosystems: Reconciling Innovation with Risk Assessment and Disclosure**
Mahasweta Chakraborti, Bert Joseph Prestoza, Nicholas Vincent, Seth Frey
AIES, 2025 (Previously appeared as a workshop paper at AAAI Workshop on AIGOV)

[P18] **Algorithmic Collective Action with Two Collectives**
Aditya Karan, Nicholas Vincent, Karrie Karahalios, Hari Sundaram
ACM FAccT, 2025

[P17] **Push and Pull: A Framework for Measuring Attentional Agency on Digital Platforms**
Zachary Wojtowicz, Shrey Jain, Nicholas Vincent
ACM FAccT, 2025

[P16] **A Canary in the AI Coal Mine: American Jews May Be Disproportionately Harmed by Intellectual Property Dispossession in Large Language Model Training**
Heila Precel, Allison McDonald, Brent Hecht, Nicholas Vincent
ACM CHI, 2024

[P15] **Pika: Empowering Non-Programmers to Author Executable Governance Policies in Online Communities**
Leijie Wang, Nicholas Vincent, Julija Rukanskaitė, Amy X. Zhang
ACM CHI, 2024

[P14] **Peer Produced Friction: How Page Protection on Wikipedia Affects Editor Engagement and Concentration**
Leah Ajmani, Nicholas Vincent, Stevie Chancellor
ACM CSCW, 2023

[P13] **The Dimensions of Data Labor: A Road Map for Researchers, Activists, and Policymakers to Empower Data Producers**
Hanlin Li, Nicholas Vincent, Stevie Chancellor, Brent Hecht
ACM FAccT, 2023

[P12] **Behavioral Use Licensing for Responsible AI**
Danish Contractor, Daniel McDuff, Julia Katherine Haines, Jenny Lee, Christopher Hines, Brent Hecht, Nicholas Vincent, Hanlin Li
ACM FAccT, 2022

[P11] **CEAM: The Effectiveness of Cyclic and Ephemeral Attention Models of User Behavior on Social Platforms**
Farhan Asif Chowdhury, Yozen Liu, Koustuv Saha, Nicholas Vincent, Leonardo Neves, Neil Shah, Maarten W Bos
AAAI ICWSM, 2021

[P10] **Addressing Documentation Debt in Machine Learning Research: A Retrospective Datasheet for BookCorpus**
Jack Bandy, Nicholas Vincent
NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks, 2021

[P9] **AdverTiming Matters: Examining User Ad Consumption for Effective Ad Allocations on Social Media**
Koustuv Saha, Yozen Liu, Nicholas Vincent, Farhan Asif Chowdhury, Leonardo Neves, Neil Shah, Maarten W Bos
ACM CHI, 2021

[P8] **Can "Conscious Data Contribution" Help Users to Exert "Data Leverage" Against Technology Companies?**
Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht
ACM CSCW, 2021 (Previously appeared as a workshop paper at Collective Intelligence.)

[P7] **A Deeper Investigation of the Importance of Wikipedia Links to Search Engine Results**
Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht
ACM CSCW, 2021

[P6] **Data Leverage: A Framework for Empowering the Public in its Relationship with Technology Companies**
Vincent, Nicholas and Li, Hanlin and Tilly, Nicole and Chancellor, Stevie and Hecht, Brent
ACM FAccT, 2021

[P5] **How Do People Change Their Technology Use in Protest?: Understanding Protest Users**
Hanlin Li, Nicholas Vincent, Janice Tsai, Jofish Kaye, Brent Hecht
ACM CSCW, 2019 (Two co-first authors.)

[P4] **Measuring the Importance of User-Generated Content to Search Engines**
Nicholas Vincent, Isaac Johnson, Patrick Sheehan, Brent Hecht
AAAI ICWSM, 2019 (Previously appeared as a workshop paper at WikiWorkshop.)

[P3] **"Data Strikes": Evaluating the Effectiveness of a New Form of Collective Action Against Technology Companies**
Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht, Shilad Sen
ACM The Web Conference, 2019

[P2] **Women (still) ask for less: Gender differences in hourly rate in an online labor marketplace**
Eureka Foong, Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht, Elizabeth M Gerber
ACM CSCW, 2018

[P1] **Examining Wikipedia With a Broader Lens: Quantifying the Value of Wikipedia's Relationships with Other Large-Scale Online Communities**

Nicholas Vincent, Isaac Johnson, Brent Hecht

ACM CHI, 2018 (Best paper award.)

Workshop Papers & Posters

[W16] **If open source is to win, it must go public**

Joshua Tan, Nicholas Vincent, Katherine Elkins, Magnus Sahlgren

CodeML @ ICML 2025, 2025

[W15] **Epistemic Authority in AI Fact-Checking: A Human and Data Centric Perspective**

Devansh Bhojak, Nicholas Vincent

4S 2025 Conference: Reverberations, 2025

[W14] **Step-By-Step Reasoning with Meta Cognitive Prompts to Reduce Contextual Hallucination**

Brian Miki, Nicholas Vincent

HEAL Workshop @ CHI 2025, 2025

[W13] **Canada as a Champion for Public AI: Data, Compute and Open Source Infrastructure for Economic Growth and Inclusive Innovation**

Nicholas Vincent, Mark Surman, Jake Hirch-Allen

author preprint, 2025

[W12] **Responsible AI in Open Ecosystems: Reconciling Innovation with Risk Assessment and Disclosure**

Mahasweta Chakraborti, Bert Joseph Prestoza, Nicholas Vincent, Seth Frey

AAAI 2025 Workshop on AIGOV, 2024

[W11] **Designing an open-source LLM interface and social platforms for collectively driven LLM evaluation and auditing**

Timothy J. Baek, Nicholas Vincent, Lawrence Kim

HEAL Workshop @ CHI 2024, 2024

[W10] **The Need for Flexible Interfaces for Text-to-Image Auditing: A Case Study of DALL·E 2 and DALL·E 3**

Clare Provenzano, Parsa Rajabi, Diana Cukierman, Nicholas Vincent

GenAICHI @ CHI 2024, 2024

[W9] **An Alternative to Regulation: The Case for Public AI**

Nicholas Vincent, David Bau, Sarah Schwettmann, Joshua Tan

RegML 2023 Workshop @ NeurIPS 2023, 2023

[W8] **Sharing the Winnings of AI with Data Dividends: Challenges with 'Meritocratic' Data Valuation**

Nicholas Vincent, Brent Hecht

EAAMO 2023 Poster Track, 2023

[W7] **Epistemic Injustice in Online Communities: Unpacking the Values of Knowledge Creation and Curation within CSCW Applications**

Leah Ajmani, Mo Houtti, Jasmine C Foriest, Michael Ann Devito, Nicholas Vincent, Isaac Johnson

Workshop at CSCW, 2023

[W6] **Can Licensing Mitigate the Negative Implications of Commercial Web Scraping?**

Hanlin Li, Nicholas Vincent, Yacine Jernite, Nick Merrill, Jesse Josua Benjamin, Alek Tarkowski

Workshop at CSCW 2023, 2023

[W5] **Ethical Tensions, Norms, and Directions in the Extraction of Online Volunteer Work**

Hanlin Li, Leah Ajmani, Moyan Zhou, Nicholas Vincent, Sohyeon Hwang, Tiziano Piccardi, Sneha Narayan, Sherae Daniel, Veniamin Veselovsky

Workshop at CSCW, 2022

[W4] **Misleading Tweets and Helpful Notes: Investigating Data Labor by Twitter Birdwatch Users**

Isaiah Jones, Brent Hecht, Nicholas Vincent

ACM CSCW Posters, 2022

[W3] **Collaborative Design of Contribution Tracking Systems for Decentralized Organizations**

Nicholas Vincent, Christine Vandevenoede

CESC 2022, 2022

[W2] **Deep learning of tissue fate features in acute ischemic stroke**

Noah Stier, Nicholas Vincent, David Liebeskind, Fabien Scalzo

BIBM 2015 Workshop on Biomedical Visual Search and Deep Learning, 2015

[W1] **Detection of hyperperfusion on arterial spin labeling using deep learning**

Nicholas Vincent, Noah Stier, Songlin Yu, David S Liebeskind, Danny JJ Wang, Fabien Scalzo

BIBM 2015 Workshop on Biomedical Visual Search and Deep Learning, 2015

Other Publications

[O8] **Open WebUI: An Open, Extensible, and Usable Interface for AI Interaction**

arXiv preprint, 2025

[O7] **WikiGap: Promoting Epistemic Equity by Surfacing Knowledge Gaps Between English Wikipedia and other Language Editions**

arXiv preprint, 2025

[O6] **AI for Just Work: Constructing Diverse Imaginations of AI beyond "Replacing Humans"**

arXiv preprint, 2025

[O5] **A step forward in tracing and documenting dataset provenance**

Nature Machine Intelligence, News & Views, 2024

[O4] **Twitter Engagement with Retracted Articles: Who, When, and How?**

arXiv preprint, 2022

[O3] **From My Data to Our Data**

Book Chapter, 2021

[O2] **A Data Dividend that Works: Steps Toward Building an Equitable Data Economy**

Berggruen Institute white paper, 2021

[O1] **Mapping the Potential and Pitfalls of 'Data Dividends' as a Means of Sharing the Profits of Artificial Intelligence.**

arXiv preprint, 2019

Editorial & Commentary

Op-eds, essays, and commentary published in external venues.

[E5] **Where Biden's AI policies fall short in protecting workers.**

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Jan 2024 ([Link](#))

[E4] **How creatives can stop AI from stealing their work.**

The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Sep 2023 ([Link](#))

[E3] **A roadmap toward empowering the labor force behind AI.**

Montreal AI Ethics Institute Research Summaries, Jun 2023 ([Link](#))

[E2] **ChatGPT Stole Your Work. So What Are You Going to Do?**

Wired, Dec 2022 ([Link](#))

[E1] **What if we could check Big Tech?: The collective voice of millions of users could be as effective as regulation**

Northwestern Now, Feb 2021 ([Link](#))

Grants

2025–2026 **Informing Memory Institutions and Humanities Researchers of the Broader Impact of Open Data Sharing via Wikidata**

Wikimedia

Role: Collaborator | Amount: 49,450 USD | With: Hanlin Li

2024–2029 **Empowering Data Creators to Advance Responsible Artificial Intelligence**

NSERC Discovery Grant with supplement

Role: Principal Investigator | Amount: 175,000 CAD

2023–2025 **Data Empowerment through Data Sharing in the Humanities**

Breaking Barriers Interdisciplinary Incentive Grant (SFU)

Role: Co-Investigator | Amount: 60,000 CAD | With: Michelle Levy, Sheelagh Carpendale, Denise Oleksijczuk

Awards and Honors

2024: ACM SIGCHI Outstanding Dissertation Award , ACM SIGCHI ([details](#))

2023: Graduate Dissertation Award , Northwestern University School of Communication ([details](#))

2019: Presidential Fellowship Finalist , Northwestern University

2017: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention , National Science Foundation (NSF)

Teaching Experience

Fall 2025 **Instructor, CMPT120 Introduction to Computing Science and Programming**

Simon Fraser University, ~200 students

Fall 2025 **Instructor, CMPT419 Special Topics in AI: Collective Action and Public Interest AI**

Simon Fraser University, ~60 students

Spring 2025 **Instructor, CMPT419 Special Topics in AI: Human and Data-centered AI**

Simon Fraser University, ~40 students [[outline](#)]

Fall 2024 **Instructor, CMPT120 Introduction to Computing Science and Programming**

Simon Fraser University, ~169 students

Spring 2024 **Instructor, CMPT419 Special Topics in AI: Human and Data-centered AI**

Simon Fraser University, ~53 students [[outline](#)]

Fall 2023 **Instructor, CMPT120 Introduction to Computing Science and Programming**

Simon Fraser University, ~188 students [[outline](#)]

2023-2025 **Special research projects supervision, I also supervise special research projects (offered through CMPT415/416 and 498 for undergrad honours thesis). Total students: 1 in 2023, 16 in 2024, 10 in 2025. Special Research Projects**

Simon Fraser University, ~27 students

Fall 2020 **Teaching Assistant, MTS525 Statistics and Statistical Programming (graduate)**

Northwestern University [[outline](#)]

Industry Experience

Apr 2021– **Research Intern**

Aug 2021 Microsoft, Office of the CTO, Redmond, WA

Mar 2020– **Research Intern**

Jun 2020 Snap Inc, Computational Social Science, Santa Monica, CA

Aug 2016– **Cloud Programming Specialist**

May 2017 Cloubakers, Chicago, IL

May 2016– **NREIP Naval Research Intern**

Aug 2016 Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (now NAVWAR), San Diego, CA

May 2015– **NREIP Naval Research Intern**

Aug 2015 Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command (now NAVWAR), San Diego, CA

May 2014– **Software Engineer Intern**

Aug 2014 Cisco Systems, San Jose, CA

May 2013– **Cross Functional Intern**

Aug 2013 Cisco Systems, San Jose, CA

Academic Service

Reviewing

Meta-reviews / Program Committee: AAAI ICWSM 2023; ACM EAAMO 2023; ACM CHI (2025, 2026); NeurIPS Position Papers 2025

HCI/Social Computing Conference Reviews: ACM CHI (2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024); ACM CSCW (2020, 2021, 2022, 2025); AAAI ICWSM (2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024); ACM The Web Conference (2022, 2023); WikiWorkshop (2023, 2025); IC2S2 (2023); SEGA Workshop on Smart Education and Generative AI (2025)

ML Conference Reviews: NeurIPS (2023, 2024); NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025); ICML (2024); ICML Position Papers (2025); ICML Workshops (DataWorld - 2025); ACM FAccT (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025); ACM WSDM (2023); AAAI (2024); ICLR (2024)

Journal Reviews: Nature Machine Intelligence; PLOS One; Patterns; Information, Communication, and Society; ACM Journal on Responsible Computing; ACM Transactions on Computing for Healthcare

Grant Reviews: Wikimedia Foundation Research Fund; NSERC (2024)

commendations: Best Reviewer - ICWSM 2021, ICWSM 2022; Special recognitions - NeurIPS Datasets and Benchmarks 2022, CSCW 2022, CHI 2025

Committee & Organizing Roles

2025 : Organizer, Workshop on Algorithmic Collective Action @ NeurIPS 2025

2024 : Advisor, Workshop on Creativity & Generative AI @ NeurIPS 2024

2024 : Member, Simon Fraser University, Media, Communication, and Events Committee

2024 : Organized the Data Challenge track at ICWSM 2024., ICWSM 2024 Data Challenge Co-chair

2023 : Member, Simon Fraser University, Undergraduate Program Committee

2023 : Organizer of the AI Palace conference/residency in Bückerberg, Germany in Summer 2023 and Summer 2024., AI Palace Conference/Residency

2019 : Organizer, California Data Dividends Working Group, Organizer

2019 : Organizer, Northwestern University Artificial Intelligence Journal Club

2018 : Co-chair, InfoSocial Graduate Student Conference

2018 : Member, Northwestern University, Computer Science Ph.D. Advisory Council

Selected Talks & Panels

Dec 2025 **Panel Moderator, NeurIPS Workshop on Algorithmic Collective Action (Panel)**

Sep 2025 **A Data Flow Perspective on "AI Social Simulation": Will Recent AI Advances Enable New Social Science, Destroy Ecosystems for Knowledge, or Something More Subdued?**
Seattle, WA

Aug 2025 **Data Leverage and AI Safety**
Singapore AI Safety Hub

Mar 2025 **Canada as Champion for Public AI**
McMaster Internet Policy Lab

Mar 2025 **Emerging Concerns with the Generative AI Data Paradigm (and how academic research and “public ai” can help)**
UBC NLP

Mar 2025 **Activism in the Age of AI**

IATSE 891 AI Day of Learning @ Downtown Vancouver

Aug 2024 **Human-Centered AI Research and New Paradigms for Generative AI Data**
Human-Centered AI Conference @ Pepperdine University

May 2024 **Economic Concentration and Dispossessive Data Use: Can HCI Solve Challenges from and to AI?**
SIGCHI 2024 Outstanding Dissertation Award

Jan 2024 **A New Grand Data Bargain for Public Interest AI**
SFU DDI

Jan 2024 **Responsive LLM Development (Panel)**
University of Toronto Data Sciences Institute: Fairness - ChatGPT Workshop

Mar 2023 **Community Dialogue on Accountable Governance and Data**
Community Data Science Collective Community Dialogues

Feb 2023 **Human-centered data and language models -- Privacy, data as labor, and licensing**
Stanford Social NLP Reading Group Talks

Jan 2023 **Algorithmic Contestability**
Center for Advancing Safety of Machine Intelligence, Toward a Safety Science of AI

Dec 2022 **Does the rise of AI need us to adopt new data licensing policies? (Panel)**
Open Health Data and AI Summit 2022

May 2021 **The Importance of Wikipedia to Search Engines and Other Systems**
Wikipedia Research Showcase

May 2021 **Public interest technologies for the ML age**
3rd Obfuscation Workshop

Dec 2020 **Data Agency: Individual or Shared?**
RadicalxChange Panels

Jul 2020 **Data Driven Economy for All (Panel)**
RadicalxChange 2020 Conference

Apr 2018 **The Critical Relationship of Volunteer-Created Wikipedia Content to Large-Scale Online Communities**
Wikipedia Research Showcase

Selected Media Coverage

Sep 2025: Should the public sector build its own AI?, The Financial Times. (Coverage) ([Link](#))

Jul 2025: AI as 'teammate'? Not so fast, say experts warning it could be 'dangerous', Canadian HR Reporter. (Interview) ([Link](#))

May 2025: Can Wikipedia survive the rise of AI and Trump?, Australian Broadcasting Corporation. (Interview) ([Link](#))

May 2025: 'Trial and error': Over half of AI redundancies a mistake, say leaders, Canadian HR Reporter. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Apr 2025: Inside Meta's secret experiments that improve its AI models, Business Insider. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Jan 2025: OpenAI Is Reaping What It Sowed With DeepSeek, Business Insider. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Jun 2024: Is data supply AI's Achilles' heel?, UBS. (Coverage) ([Link](#))

Apr 2024: Is this AI? See if you can spot the technology in your everyday life, The Washington Post. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Mar 2024: Jews have always been prolific writers. Has AI wound up with too much of their ..., Jewish Telegraphic Agency. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Mar 2024: Nicholas Vincent explains why robots.txt is no longer enough to protect against..., IT Brew. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Jan 2024: AI is killing the grand bargain at the heart of the web, Business Insider. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Oct 2023: Newspapers want payment for articles used to power ChatGPT, The Washington Post. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Aug 2023: 'Data leverage' and the Harry Potter test: How much is a single book worth to a..., Business Insider. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Jul 2023: Wikipedia's Moment of Truth, New York Times Magazine. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Jun 2023: We are all AI's free data workers, MIT Technology Review. (Coverage) ([Link](#))

Apr 2022: Internet users are 'poisoning' their personal data in the fight against online ..., Le Monde. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Jun 2021: Got the same name as a serial killer? Google might think you're the same person, Vox. (Interview) ([Link](#))

May 2021: Facebook and Others Should Pay Us for Our Data. Here's One Way, Bloomberg. (Coverage) ([Link](#))

Mar 2021: How to poison the data that Big Tech use to surveil you, MIT Technology Review. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Feb 2021: Your data is a weapon that can help change corporate behavior, Fortune. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Jul 2020: Is it time for Netflix subscribers to go on strike?, Quartz. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Mar 2018: YouTube May Add to the Burdens of Humble Wikipedia, New York Times. (Interview) ([Link](#))

Last updated: 2026-01-01