CASSIDY LAIDLAW

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley   **2020 – Present**

- Ph.D. in computer science advised by Stuart Russell, focusing on human-AI cooperation, learning human preferences, and robustness in machine learning.
- Supported by a National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship.

University of Maryland, College Park   **2014 – 2018**

- Double B.S. in computer science and math, Middle East studies minor, GPA 4.00/4.
- Selected as one of top five graduating seniors for "academic distinction, exemplary character, and service to the campus or public communities."

PUBLICATIONS AND PREPRINTS

Cassidy Laidlaw and Anca Dragan. **The Boltzmann Policy Distribution: Accounting for Systematic Suboptimality in Human Models**. *ICLR 2022*.

Cassidy Laidlaw and Stuart Russell. **Uncertain Decisions Facilitate Better Preference Learning**. *NeurIPS 2021 (spotlight, given to ~12% of accepted papers)*.

Cassidy Laidlaw, Sahil Singla, and Soheil Feizi. **Perceptual Adversarial Robustness: Defense Against Unseen Threat Models**. *ICLR 2021*.

Cassidy Laidlaw and Soheil Feizi. **Functional Adversarial Attacks**. *NeurIPS 2019*.

Daniel Cudeiro, Timo Bolkart, Cassidy Laidlaw, Anurag Ranjan, and Michael J. Black. **Capture, Learning, and Synthesis of 3D Speaking Styles**. *CVPR 2019*.

Cassidy Laidlaw and Soheil Feizi. **Playing it Safe: Adversarial Robustness with an Abstain Option**. *arXiv preprint (2019)*.

EXPERIENCE

Post-Undergraduate Researcher, University of Maryland   **April 2019 – September 2020**

- Research with Soheil Feizi on adversarial attacks and defenses for nonstandard threat models, leading to papers at NeurIPS 2019 and ICLR 2021.

Research Intern, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems   **May 2017 – January 2018**

- Research with Michael Black on statistical face models, leading to a paper at CVPR 2019.

Freelance Software Developer   **June 2014 – August 2020**

- Built web, mobile, and data science solutions for startups, large corporations, and government.

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Reviewing: NeurIPS (2021), ICLR (2022), and the ICML Workshop on Uncertainty and Robustness in Deep Learning (2021). Received **outstanding reviewer award (top 8%)** for NeurIPS 2021.

AI4ALL Project Leader: led a group of high school students through a three-day AI project during this 2021 summer camp.

HONORS AND AWARDS

National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship

University of Maryland University Medal Finalist: selected as one of five finalists for the highest honor that the university can bestow on an undergraduate student based on the criteria of "academic distinction, exemplary character, and service to the campus or public communities."

Banneker/Key Scholarship: the University of Maryland's most prestigious scholarship.