

# NUREDIN ALI

Pronouns: He/His

[ali00530@umn.edu](mailto:ali00530@umn.edu)

[Website](#)  $\diamond$  [Google Scholar](#)

## EDUCATION

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**University of Minnesota** Aug 2022 - Present  
PhD student; Computer Science  
Advisor: [Stevie Chancellor \(PhD\)](#)

**Mekelle University** Sep 2016 - Dec 2020  
Bachelor of Science; Information Systems. GPA: 3.96/4.0 (Top 2%)

## PUBLICATIONS

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\* refers to equal contribution

[Mental Health Model Generalization on Cross Cultural Social Media Data \[In Progress\]](#)

Nuredin Ali, Charles Chuankai Zhang, Ned Mayo, Stevie Chancellor

[Error Analysis of Tigrinya-English Machine Translation Systems \[Preprint\]](#)

Negaïs Haile\*, Nuredin Ali\*, Asmelash Teka

- Accepted at ICLR 2023 on AfricaNLP workshop.
- Under-review at Association for Computational Linguistics (**ACL 2023**).

[Machine Learning Models Evaluation and Feature Importance Analysis on Non Performing Loans Dataset](#)

Rufael Fekadu\*, Anteneh Getachew\*, Yishak Tadele\*, Nuredin Ali\*, Israel Goytom  
NeurIPS 2021 Workshop on Machine Learning for Development (**ML4D**)

[Banknote Recognition for Visually Impaired People \(Case of Ethiopian note\)](#)

Nuredin Ali

NeurIPS 2021 Workshop on Machine Learning for Development (**ML4D**)

[Exploring Transfer Learning on Face Recognition of Dark Skinned, Low Quality and Low Resource Face Data](#)

Nuredin Ali

NeurIPS 2020 at **Black in AI (BAI)** Workshop.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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- [College of Science and Engineering \(CSE\) 3 Year Fellowship](#), University of Minnesota. 2022
- 1st place winner of Blackathon. A hackathon organized by Black American researchers. 2021
- Selected to [Engineering For Developing Communities](#). **(1.6% acceptance rate)** 2019
- Top 10 Best Students of the year award (High School). **(1.5% acceptance rate)** 2015

## RESEARCH INTERNSHIPS

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**Distributed AI Research (DAIR)**

Summer 2023

PhD Research Intern

Mentors: [Timnit Gebru \(PhD\)](#), [Alex Hanna \(PhD\)](#), [Dylan Baker](#)

- I Will work with interdisciplinary team of social scientists, computer scientists, journalists on analysing **large social media data** to understand social media harms on societies.

**Distributed AI Research (DAIR)**

Fall 2023

PhD Research Intern

Mentors: [Timnit Gebru \(PhD\)](#), [Alex Hanna \(PhD\)](#), [Dylan Baker](#)

- I continued to work on the project. Especially geared toward Hate Speech Modeling, starting from building an extensive codebook. We are building a dataset in collaboration with the Journalists and Activists.

**INDUSRTY EXPERIENCE**

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**Chapa**

June 2021 - June 2022

*Machine Learning, Researcher*Mentor: [Israel Goytom](#)

- Worked on a research project to mitigate the non-performing loans of private banks in Ethiopia using Machine Learning.
- Prepared a report by analysing transactions and tweets for the donation platform of one of the grandest projects of the country, the Great Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD).
- We worked with Python libraries such as Scikit learn, used Tensorflow/Keras and Pytorch frame works, with a team of three researchers.
- Mentored University interns on the non-performing loans research project.

**Lesan.ai**

Summer 2019, 2020

*Machine Learning, Intern*Mentor: [Asmelash Teka \(PhD\)](#)

- Worked on model evaluation. After extensive evaluation of the model I found that the translation model has domain specific errors.
- Worked on domain adaptation of the translation model. Specially, solving the models' poor performance on translating sports news.
- Implemented Python Scrapy for scraping data.
- Scraped data of different languages from web pages for training and evaluating the model.

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**IT Essentials, ICT Agency of Setit Humera**

July 2018 - Aug 2018

*Lecturer*

- Taught a class of 40 students:
  - In this course, with the collaboration of ICT Agency of Setit Humera, I taught selected high school and college students of the city.
  - Mainly targeted on giving the essential IT skills which introduced the students to computer programming.

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

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- ICLR Tiny Papers a DEI initiative, Serving as Area Chair (AC).

2023

- Development Work Group at Mechanism Design for Social Good (MD4SG), Co-organizer. 2023
- ICLR AfricaNLP Workshop, Reviewer. 2023
- ICLR Machine Learning for Global Health (MLGH) Workshop, Reviewer. 2023

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

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- Head of ICT department, School association, Mekelle University** Sep 2019 - Feb 2020
- **Led and organized** a group of students to provide trending IT fields like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning.
  - Communicated with the association peer-leaders to provide lectures on IT skills, to provide IT support to students, managed different tasks of the association.

- Engineering for Developing Communities, Mekelle** July 2019 - Aug 2019  
*Summer Research Program*
- International Summer Program offered in collaboration of Technion University of Israel and Mekelle Institute of Technology (MIT).
  - A holistic program to understand, brainstorm, analyze, and implement problem solving community projects.
  - Developed project concepts and maintain optimal workflow by communicating with community.
  - Worked with colleagues to design projects by cooperating with different organizations to support our community.

- Member of University Parliament** Sep 2017 - Dec 2020  
*Students Representative of Information Systems Department*
- Closely supervised the facilities of around 5000 students of the Main campus.
  - Closely supervised the University Management such as Head of School of Computing, Lecturers of the Computer Science Department and others.
  - Held monthly meeting to discuss on monthly reports and how the facilities such as food, libraries, and classes are being provided to our students.

## VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

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- Database coordinator and fundraiser** Oct 2019 - Sep 2020  
*Fkreseb Charitable Organization*
- Cooperating and registering of fresh students through E-student** Sep 2019 - Oct 2019  
*Mekelle University*
- Cafeteria Committee (For two months in WAR time)** Oct 2019 - Dec 2020  
*Main Campus, Mekelle University*
- Served as a member of Peace Forum** Sep 2019 - Dec 2020  
*Mekelle University*
- Served as a member of anti-corruption office** Sep 2019 - Dec 2020  
*Mekelle University*

## Languages and Hobbies:

- Tigrinya (Native), English (Proficient), Arabic (Intermediate), Amharic (Fluent).
- Play Football (soccer), Reading, Running.