

## EDUCATION

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**Rutgers University** New Brunswick, NJ  
PhD in Machine Learning 2023–present  
**Advisor:** Dr. Jorge Ortiz, Dept. of Electrical & Computer Engineering

**Honors College, Rutgers University** New Brunswick, NJ  
B.S. in Electrical & Computer Engineering, GPA: 4.0/4.0 2019–2023

## PROJECTS

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### BBQS-CAMERA

NIH BRAIN Initiative January 2024 –present

- Developing a hardware/software framework of multimodal models for inference of anxiety state and memory efficiency from behavioral biomarkers
- Studying the human brain–behavior relationship based on physiological indicators, neural and behavioral signals, environmental indicators, and Ecological Momentary Assessments (EMAs)

### AI Agents for Smart Streetscapes

NSF Center for Smart Streetscapes (CS3) September 2023 –present

- Developing a naïve pipeline to infer accelerometer readings from video footage of people on a crosswalk
- Assisting data collection and development of a cross-modal inference model for visual and IMU data

### Data Insights Application for Obesity

Senior Capstone Project January - May 2023

- Collaborated with Data Scientists from Novo Nordisk to develop an iOS application to interface a machine learning model based on the LightGBM algorithm
- Conducted in-depth research on user experience for pharmaceutical representatives negotiating with healthcare payer programs
- Developed a working prototype of an end-user platform that provides a quantitative view into the comorbidity risks of patients and the cost associated with their treatment based on state and national level data

### Visual Prompting for Depth Estimation

MIT CSAIL Summer - Fall 2022

- Studied prompting techniques for computer vision, specifically for depth estimation
- Researched and curated datasets and pre-trained depth estimation models for implementing visual prompting
- Developed training code and fine-tuned hyper-parameters (learning rate, prompt size, loss function, optimizer, evaluation metrics) for training a visual prompt on top of a CNN-based pre-trained model
- Designed experiments to train the most optimal visual prompt that outperforms state-of-the-art in depth estimation
- Adapted prompting to a Vision Transformer model
- Trained and tested a visual prompt on out of distribution datasets to show improvement in evaluation metrics

### Domestic Audio Classifier

Rutgers CyberPhysical Intelligence Lab Fall 2021

- Researched potential datasets for the acoustic scene classifier and testing out different feature extraction techniques for building the most efficient audio classifier.
- Designed an effective pipeline to fetch, process, and extract features from audio clips of daily household activities like cooking, washing, exercising, etc.

## Analyzing Social Distancing Based on Sensory Inputs

Rutgers WINLAB

Summer 2021

- Designed multi-step preprocessing pipeline to optimize the results from the final distance estimation algorithm
- Preprocessed a dataset consisting of over 300 million images from Nexar to optimize performance through a Distance Estimation algorithm
- Implemented an object detection CNN model called You Only Look Once (YOLO) to filter out images with people and then used NumPy norm and geometric mean to develop an algorithm that filtered out blurry images which did not meet a designated threshold average-per-pixel brightness

## RESEARCH

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### Rutgers Cyber-Physical Intelligence Lab

Piscataway, NJ

Graduate Research Assistant

Current

- Leading research project on predicting anxiety from behavioral biomarkers [Projects 1]
- Conducting research on cross-modal inference on visual and inertial measurement unit (IMU) data [Projects 2]

### Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Cambridge, MA

Summer Research Intern at MIT CSAIL

Summer 2022

- Led and developed an independent research project in collaboration with a PhD student, under the direct supervision of MIT Faculty
- Attended weekly Professional Development workshops and Research Seminars
- Participated in coffee chats with MIT Faculty to discuss research and graduate school
- Actively participated in journal club meetings for discussions on various social issues
- Completed weekly intern reports and other deliverables (research proposal, abstract, poster, bio-sketch, statement of objectives)

### Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

Undergraduate Research Assistant at CyberPhysical Intelligence Lab

Fall 2021

- Collaborated with another PhD student in building a model for training ambient sensing programs based on sensory inputs and activity patterns.
- Researching potential datasets for the acoustic scene classifier and testing out different feature extraction techniques for building the most efficient audio classifier.

### Rutgers University

New Brunswick, NJ

Summer Research Intern at WINLAB

Summer 2021

- Collaborated with 5 interns to detect if social distancing was being followed by people in New York City based on dashboard and traffic camera image data.
- Processed and maintained image directories and Python scripts on a remote server and designing and updating the project website to establish a timeline, record of progress, and future goals

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND POSTERS

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- [1] **T. Ehsan**, H. Senthilkumar, A. Uddin, S. Bansal, J. Canevari, S. Motlani, and S. Haghani, “Comorbiviz: A tool for visualizing comorbidity risks and costs associated with obesity”, International Conference on e-Health and Bioengineering, 2023.

- [2] **T. Ehsan**, H. Senthilkumar, A. Uddin, S. Bansal, J. Canevari, S. Motlani, and S. Haghani, “Data insights application for obesity”, in *Poster Session of 45th Annual International Conference*, IEEE Engineering in Medicine & Biology Society, 2023. [Online]. Available: <https://embc23-c10000.eorganiser.com.au/data/clients/1/697/submissions/164739/abstract.pdf>.
- [3] **T. Ehsan**, H. Bahng, and I. Phillip, “Visual prompting for depth estimation”, in *37th Annual MIT Summer Research Symposium*, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2022. [Online]. Available: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/14FullDYIwf0bTOJSyVJsxJMnZmeG2Mp4/view?usp=sharing>.
- [4] T. Chowdhury, A. Bhatti, I. Mandel, **T. Ehsan**, W. Ju, and J. Ortiz, “Towards sensing urban-scale covid-19 policy compliance in new york city”, in *Proceedings of the 8th ACM International Conference on Systems for Energy-Efficient Buildings, Cities, and Transportation*, ser. BuildSys '21, Coimbra, Portugal: Association for Computing Machinery, 2021, pp. 353–356, ISBN: 9781450391146. [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3486611.3491123>.
- [5] **T. Ehsan** and D. Keates, “Self-care in the 21st century: Personal wellness or a capitalist propaganda?”, in *Undergraduate Research Writing Conference*, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey, 2020. [Online]. Available: <https://sites.rutgers.edu/nb-senior-exhibits/wp-content/uploads/sites/442/2020/08/Taqiya-Ehsan-final-pdf.pdf>.

## TEACHING

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<b>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant</b> at Rutgers University <i>Data Structures (CS112)</i>	Fall 2022–Spring 2023
<b>Learning Assistant</b> at Rutgers University <i>Honors College Forum (SAS125)</i>	Fall 2020–Spring 2022

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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• Rutgers Eugene V. DuBois Fellowship	2023–2024
• Matthew Leydt Society	2023
• Rutgers James Dickson Clark Scholarship	2019–2023
• Dean’s List	2019–2023
• Honors College Merit Pin	2022
• National Merit Scholarship	2014–2019

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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<b>Assistant Residence Life Coordinator</b> , Honors College & Brett Hall <i>I am responsible for directly supervising 17 Resident Assistants (RAs) and advising the Hall Govt. overseeing approx. 750 residents across 2 buildings. I also act as the first point of contact for RAs across 2 campuses for crisis management and conflict resolution while on call.</i>	2023–Current
<b>Peer Mentor</b> , Society of Women Engineers <i>I work towards facilitating 1:1 mentorship for underclassman female engineers in the SWE Leaders-Learners Program with a view to providing guidance concerning available resources within the Rutgers School of Engineering and means by which SWE can support their undergraduate and professional careers</i>	2020–Current
<b>Resident Assistant</b> , Sojourner Truth Apartments <i>I was responsible for addressing any issues students may have with other residents and acting as a moderator to solve any related problems, helping residents stay informed about campus resources and activities to encourage student involvement on campus, listening to student concerns and communicating those to administration</i>	2021–2023

**Secretary**, Society of Women Engineers

2022–2023

*I sent out weekly newsletters to club members, tracked member attendance, organized shared documents, coordinated the club Slack channels, and tracked action items during bi-weekly board meetings. I also collaborated with other the Internal VP and President to plan logistics for the Women in Engineering National Conference trip and the Annual Banquet.*

**First Year Mentor**, Honors College Ally

2022–2023

*I worked with first-year Honors College students to help guide them through their transition into college and prepare them for success. My primary responsibility was to help first-year students gain insight into navigating the diverse social, extracurricular, and academic areas of college life through team building events, and workshops aimed at fostering curiosity, knowledge, and purpose in them.*

**E-board Member**, Honors College Student Advisory Board

2021–2022

*I spearheaded a committee that advocated for the underrepresented majors within the Honors College, focusing on their needs and expectations for a successful college career. As a committee, we spoke with students from said majors 1-on-1 and presented their thoughts, opinions, and struggles to the Honors College Deans, along with ideas on how to serve them better.*