

As a nationally ranked policy debater and coach, I grew fascinated with the intricacies of language. Guided by social ethics philosophy, I realized that subtle nuances in communication can significantly impact the accessibility of ideas, and learned how difficult it is for a goal to be universally beneficial; the effects of arms sales or immigration policy cannot be divorced from Black feminist theory or structuralist linguistics. While volunteering as the philosophy coach for the Atlanta Urban Debate League, I also began studying computer science at Georgia Tech. I was intrigued by the juxtaposition between the fluidity in ethical theories of language and the rigid logic of computation.

As I was exploring potential research labs at Georgia Tech, I was adamant that the projects be not only computationally fascinating, but cognizant of societal prerequisites and implications as well. While taking Professor Mark Riedl's Intro to AI course, I stumbled across his Human-Centered AI (HCAI) Lab's webpage. I was immediately drawn to his work on the human value alignment problem. I appreciated his group's concern about alignment *for whom, in what contexts, and with respect to which social norms* – familiar variables from my time debating public policies. My experience in the HCAI lab helped me realize that **information science perfectly encapsulated my disparate interests** in computer science, social/ethical philosophy, political science, and linguistics.

I believe that situating my research in natural language processing (NLP) within the information field would allow me to pursue my goal of socially aware language technologies that stand to benefit everyone. As I investigate the technical aspects of building and training new NLP systems, I hope to also collaborate with anthropologists to understand how my research will affect users across diverse sociocultural communities, and philosophy experts to study new moral and ethical frameworks that define the benefits of my work. My academic training in computer science, math, cognitive science, and linguistics, combined with my background in social philosophy, political science, and ethics, makes me uniquely comfortable with pursuing these goals. I am confident that the information field would provide a nurturing environment to study these research questions.