

# ALICIA PARRISH

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## WORK & LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

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### Facebook via Pro Unlimited, Linguist (Summer term contract) 2020

- Joined the Assistant Engineering team to develop ontology and training data for NLU models
- Created instructions for linguistic annotators & integrated new data to expand existing NLU capacity
- Ran data manipulation experiments to improve model performance

### Undergraduate instruction at NYU 2018 - present

- Developed lesson plans and set learning outcomes to assess student progress
- Emphasized clear study design in analyzing psycho- and neurolinguistic experiments

### United States Peace Corps, Volunteer in the Republic of Benin 2010 - 2013

- Years 1 & 2: Taught English as a foreign language full-time to over 200 middle school students
- Year 3: Coordinated and trained 25 peer-education teams focusing on health education

## SELECTED PROJECTS

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**The Bias Benchmark for QA** – Led an interdisciplinary team in the creation of a novel benchmark to assess social biases in the output of question-answering models. [[Preprint link](#)]

**QA explanations** – Launched the creation of a dataset for explanations to question-answer pairs designed to improve human accuracy when relying on model-generated answers. Coordinated all data collection and designed human judgment experiments and baselines. [[Ongoing work](#)]

**Crowdsourcing experiments for NLU** – Led a team of linguists, computer scientists, and data scientists in building a novel, human-in-the-loop style iterative method of crowdsourcing for natural language inference training data inspired by insights from linguistics. [[Paper link](#)]

**Building an NLP benchmark** – Collaborated with students from linguistics, computer science, and data science to build and assess a human-solvable benchmark for re-usable language models based on 67 well-attested grammatical patterns in English syntax, semantics, and morphology. [[Paper link](#)]

## EDUCATION

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New York University, Ph.D in Linguistics 2017 - 2022 (expected)

Michigan State University, M.A. in Linguistics 2014 - 2017

Illinois State University, B.A. in Psychology 2006 - 2010

## TECHNICAL SKILLS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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**Computer skills:** R, Python, Matlab, PsychoPy, Praat, Excel, Amazon Mechanical Turk, version control (git), LaTeX

**Experiments and Data Analysis:** Experiment design for human behavioral and neural experiments (child and adult participants), creating experimental baselines, bootstrapping & permutation tests, regression & univariate analyses, neural decoding analyses

**Academic accomplishments:** 15+ first-authored presentations, 7 peer-reviewed papers, teaching assistant or primary instructor of 6 undergraduate courses (15-35 students), awarded NSF DDRI Grant

**Language skills:** English (native), French (professional fluency), Yoruba (elicitation only)