Sasha Robinson

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Education

McMaster University Hamilton, ON
GPA: 3.9 / 4.0 · Bachelor of Applied Science in Computer Science, Minor in Statistics *Spring 2026*

Publications

S. Robinson, K. Oktar, K. M. Collins, I. Sucholutsky, K. R. Allen. (Under Review). Under the Influence: Quantifying Persuasion and Vigilance in Large Language Models. *The Fourteenth International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR 2026).*

Y. Xu, **S. Robinson**, P. Kalsi, S. Mishra. (Under Review with Revise & Resubmit Decision). StoryBlocks: Towards AI-Assisted Narrative Design for Data-Driven Storytelling. *Association of Computing Machinery Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (ACM CHI 2026).*

Research Experience

Vector Institute *Spring 2025 – present*
Research Intern *Toronto, ON*

- Performed research with Prof. Kelsey Allen **(UBC)**, Prof. Ilia Sucholutsky **(NYU)**, Dr. Katherine M. Collins **(MIT)**, and Dr. Kerem Oktar **(Princeton)** studying persuasion and vigilance in LLMs using quantifiable environments as a microcosm for broader social inferences.
- Developed the study environment with Python and PDDL, performing **1000+** simulations with **5** different state-of-the-art LLMs; conducted data analysis and visualization for paper statistics and figures.
- Helped design flexible metrics for quantifying social behaviors across multiple environments; wrote a **9-page, first-author** research paper under review at **ICLR 2026**.

McMaster University *Winter 2024 – present*
Research Assistant *Hamilton, ON*

- Performed **funded** research in the MTHI Group under Prof. Swati Mishra's supervision building software that enabled creative, non-linear narrative design in data-driven storytelling with assistive natural language agents and graph solving algorithms.
- Built and deployed a full-stack web application with a React frontend and 2 LangChain RAG models on a Dockerized Flask backend; conducted human studies with **20+** live participants.
- Performed mixed-methods analysis with quantitative narrative metrics and qualitatively-coded participant feedback with Cohen's κ; wrote a **25-page, second author** research paper under review with revise & resubmit decision at **ACM CHI 2026**.

McMaster University *Winter 2025 – Spring 2025*
Research Assistant *Hamilton, ON*

- Led a group of undergraduates in the METRE Lab under Prof. Jonathan Cannon's supervision creating universally accessible mobile software for rehabilitating walking gait delay in Parkinson's patients using music therapy techniques; our work was selected by the **Residency @ The Clinic** entrepreneurship program.
- Led mobile development and taught other students software engineering principles; designed a prototype cross-platform mobile app with a React Native frontend and Python backend, including step prediction algorithms and machine learning models.
- Worked with **8** Parkinson's patients through a community initiative, **Dancing with Parkinson's**, to inform effective and inclusive design in our software.

Teaching Experience

McMaster University *Spring 2024 – Summer 2024*
Teaching Assistant (∼50 students) *Hamilton, ON*

- Prepared and presented weekly tutorials, covering topics such as introductory logic, set theory, data structures and algorithms, and number theory for students enrolled in COMPSCI 1DM3 *(Discrete Mathematics).*

Honors and Awards

Residency @ The Clinic Innovation Incubator Program, McMaster University (2025)
Dean's Honor List, McMaster University (2022 - 2025)
May @ Mac Web Design Research Project Selection, McMaster University (2024)