

# Lynn Cherif

✉ [lynn.cherif@gmail.com](mailto:lynn.cherif@gmail.com) | 🌐 [lc-dev.github.io](https://github.com/lc-dev) | 📄 GitHub | **in** LinkedIn | 🎓 Google Scholar

## EDUCATION

---

### McGill University and Mila - Quebec AI Institute

M.Sc., Computer Science (Thesis) | CGPA: 4.00/4.00

Montreal, Canada

Aug. 2023 – Expected Apr. 2025

*Co-supervisors:* [Prof. Doina Precup](#), [Dr. Khimya Khetarpal](#)

### McGill University

B.Eng., Honours Mechanical Engineering, minor in Computer Science | CGPA: 3.73/4.00

Montreal, Canada

Sep. 2018 – May 2023

*Supervisor:* [Prof. Yaoyao Fiona Zhao](#)

## PUBLICATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC WORKS

---

1. **L. Cherif**, E. Meriaux\*, J. Qin\*, V. Patel, M. Klissarov, D. Precup, and K. Khetarpal “Leveraging Affordances for Reinforcement Learning in Large Discrete Action Spaces,” In *Women in Machine Learning (WiML) Symposium at ICML 2024*
2. S. Lee, M. Kim, **L. Cherif**, D. Dobre, J. Lee, S. J. Hwang, K. Kawaguchi, G. Gidel, Y. Bengio, N. Malkin, and M. Jain, “Learning diverse attacks on large language models for robust red-teaming and safety tuning,” arXiv preprint arXiv:2405.18540
3. **L. Cherif\***, M. Safdar\*, G. Lamouche, P. Wanjara, P. Paul, G. Wood, M. Zimmermann, F. Hannesen, and Y. Zhao, “Evaluation of Key Spatiotemporal Learners for Print Track Anomaly Classification Using Melt Pool Image Streams,” *IFAC-PapersOnLine*, vol. 56, no. 2, pp. 4733–4739, Jan. 2023.
4. **L. Cherif**, Y. Zhao, “Development and Implementation of Computer-Vision-Based Deep Learning Models for Anomaly Classification in Laser Powder Bed Fusion,” *McGill Univ.*, Dec. 2022. [*Undergraduate thesis*]

\* Equal Contribution

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

### Reasoning & Learning Lab, McGill University/Mila - Quebec AI Institute

Aug. 2023 – Present

*Machine Learning Graduate Researcher* | *Advisors:* [Prof. Doina Precup](#), [Dr. Khimya Khetarpal](#)

- Create deep reinforcement learning agents that can efficiently, continually, and robustly adapt in real-world changing environments
- Leverage large generative models (e.g., LLMs/VLMs) to improve reinforcement learning agents’ learning and performance

### Additive Design & Manufacturing Lab, McGill University

Dec. 2021 – Dec. 2022

*Machine Learning Undergraduate Researcher* | *Advisor:* [Prof. Yaoyao Fiona Zhao](#)

- Researched and developed spatiotemporal convolutional neural networks for robust anomaly classification in laser powder bed fusion (a metal 3D printing process)
- Identified gaps in the literature, designed experiments, and created a large dataset
- **Co-first authored a conference paper**, wrote a **thesis**, and presented findings to **20+ academics**

### McGill Interstellar Flight Group, McGill University

May 2020 – Aug. 2020

*Laser-thermal Propulsion Undergraduate Researcher* | *Advisor:* [Prof. Andrew J. Higgins](#)

- Investigated and optimized the mathematical model of a cooling system for a laser-thermal rocket’s combustion chamber to allow travel from **Earth to Mars in 45 days (instead of 6-8 months)**
- Presented findings in a **poster** to the faculty of engineering, and a public **preliminary design review of 40 academics and industry professionals**
- Published work was **widely covered by the press** (e.g., [Forbes](#))

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

---

### Dell Technologies – Secureworks, Montreal, Canada

May 2022 – Jul. 2023

Data Scientist Intern | Scientific Advisors: [Dr. François Labrèche](#), [Serge-Olivier Paquette](#)

- Improved vulnerability prioritization by **~20%** by researching and developing novel features for the product's language and machine learning models
- Extended data fetchers to include additional sources and adapted the deployed machine learning models
- Presented results regularly in monthly all-product team demos to engineering and product executives, and **200+ people**
- Received **full-time offer** and **repeated part-time offers**

### Acrylic Robotics (Startup), Montreal, Canada

May 2021 – Dec. 2021

Software & Robotics Developer Intern

- Spearheaded the technical development of the **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> robot prototypes able to autonomously paint art** on canvas
- Presented weekly technical developments to the **CEO and business development team**
- Designed front- and back-end tools for the proprietary drawing application
- Tested the **first partnership with a renowned artist**

## TEACHING & MENTORING

---

### McGill Artificial Intelligence Society (MAIS) Hacks Lecturer and Mentor

Oct. 2022

- Presented beginner- and intermediate-level machine and deep learning tutorials at one of Canada's largest hackathons (**150+ participants**)
- Aided teams in technical tool selection and technical difficulties

### Promoting Opportunities for Women in Engineering Conference Mentor, McGill University

Feb. 2022

- Presented, guided, and answered technical questions during the design challenge of a conference for high school/CEGEP women<sup>+</sup> students
- Ensured the inclusion and active participation of all 8 students in the team

## SELECTED SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

---

### Lab Representative, Mila – Quebec AI Institute

Nov. 2023 – Present

- Empower and represent the McGill master thesis students affiliated with Mila at student assemblies, professor-admin discussions, and the equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) committee

### McGill AI Podcast Lead/Co-Producer, McGill AI Society

May 2022 – May 2023

- Grew number of downloads by **+60%** by leading\* a team of 4 producers and democratizing critical AI discussions with top contributors in the field [\[Podcast Link\]](#)
- Themes: current and future AI research, applications, and ethical challenges
- Guests: **ACM A.M. Turing award winner, research director at Google DeepMind**, students, professors, principal industry researchers
- Promoted to **senior advisor** for the 2023-2024 academic year

\* *I was an acting lead as there was no designated leader*

### Promoting Opportunities for Women in Engineering Conference Moderator, McGill University

Feb. 2022

- Presented and moderated questions for a women<sup>+</sup> engineering student speaker panel as part of a conference for high school/CEGEP women<sup>+</sup> students

### McHacks 9 Hackathon Competitor, McGill University

Jan. 2022

- Co-developed a machine-learning-based web application in a team of 4 to provide policymakers a systematic way to recommend COVID-19 public health measures based on past policies and current public health indices
- Published and presented the web-application at the hackathon [\[GitHub\]](#)

### McHacks 8 Hackathon Competitor, McGill University

Jan. 2021

- Learned HTML and CSS programming languages and developed the front-end of a web-application for random exam generation based on the course, chapter, level of difficulty, and number of students, in under 36 hours
- Published the completed prototype web-application at the hackathon in a team of 3 people [\[GitHub\]](#)

**Engineering Undergraduate Society Orientation Leader, McGill University***Aug. 2020*

- Guided and acquainted incoming engineering students to McGill, the faculty, and Montreal communities over four days, with a second orientation leader
- Ensured fun, safety, and inclusion of the team

**Sustainability in Engineering Vice President of Finance, McGill University***May 2019 – May 2020*

- Created and distributed the annual budget
- Contributed to the organization of the team's events

**Mechanical Engineering First Year Committee Member, McGill University***Sep. 2018 – Apr. 2019*

- Organized events for first-year mechanical engineering students to promote and facilitate connections

**HONOURS AND AWARDS**

---

**FRQNT - Master's Training Scholarship** (\$20,000), *Fonds De Recherche Du Québec Nature et Technologie, 2024***Women in AI Excellence Scholarship** (\$10,000), *Mila - Quebec AI Institute, 2024***Louis C. Ho Summer Undergraduate Research in Engineering Award** (\$2,812.5), *McGill University, 2020***Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Undergraduate Summer Research Award** (\$2,812.5), *Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, 2020***French Baccalaureate Highest Honours (Mention Très Bien et Félicitations du Jury)**, *French Ministry of National Education (Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale), 2018***SKILLS**

---

**Programming Languages:** Python, Java, C, C++, MATLAB, Bash, SQL, HTML, CSS**Frameworks & Libraries:** PyTorch, MXNet, OpenCV, Scikit-Learn, pandas, NumPy, NLTK, Gensim**Tools & Software:** Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform (GCP), Docker, Make, CUDA, Git, Unix, Linux/Ubuntu, CI/CD, Slurm**Languages:** English (Fluent), French (Fluent), Arabic (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate)**ADVANCED COURSEWORK**

---

**Mathematics:** Ordinary Differential Equations, Intermediate & Advanced Calculus, Probability, Linear Algebra & Partial Differential Equations**Computer Science:** Applied Machine Learning, Reinforcement Learning, Engineering Systems Optimization, Numerical Methods, Natural Language Processing, Representation Learning, Intelligent Robotics