

Shreyansh Padarha

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I'm a PhD researcher at the Reasoning with Machines Lab (OxRML), University of Oxford, supervised by Prof. Adam Mahdi. My work covers LLM evaluations, multimodal understanding and AI safety, alongside a broader interest in post-training methods and emergent capabilities. I'm interested in how we vet what models produce (particularly plausible-sounding scientific claims) in scenarios where there's a lack of ecologically valid baselines to check against.

Education

University of Oxford, United Kingdom	September 2026 – Present
Doctor of Philosophy (DPhil), LLM Evaluations and Post-Training (AI for Science)	
University of Oxford, United Kingdom	Distinction (73%, Top 5%)
Master of Science (MSc), Social Data Science	September 2025
CHRIST (Deemed to be University), India	3.93/4.0 (Rank: 1)
Bachelor of Science (BSc), Data Science	June 2024

Selected Publications

- 2026  Evaluating AI-based Scientific Knowledge Synthesis with Epidemiological Systematic Reviews Padarha, S., et al. *NeurIPS 2026*
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-  Agentic Reinforcement Learning for Search is Unsafe Yang, Y., Padarha, S., Lee, A., Mahdi, A. *EMNLP 2026*
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-  Strategic Navigation or Stochastic Search? How Agents and Humans Reason Over Document Collections Borchmann, L., et al. (incl. Padarha, S.) *ICML 2026 (Oral, Top 0.5%)*
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-  Running the Gauntlet: Re-evaluating the Capabilities of Agents Beyond Familiar Environments Vysotskyi, M., et al. (incl. Padarha, S.) *Under Review (ICLR 2027)*
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-  LiveHumanRightsBench: Stress-Testing Reliability of LLM Judgments on Live Human-Rights Cases Zhang, T., et al. (incl. Padarha, S.) *Under Review (ICLR 2027)*
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- 2025  Evaluating LLM-as-a-Judge under Multilingual, Multimodal and Multi-domain Constraints Padarha, S., Semenova, E., Vidgen, B., Mahdi, A., Hale, S. A. *NeurIPS 2025 (Workshop on Evaluating the Evolving LLM Lifecycle)*
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-  Fully automated deep learning framework for detection and classification of impacted mandibular third molars in panoramic radiographs Veerabhadrapa, S. K., et al. (incl. Padarha, S.) *Journal of Oral Medicine and Oral Surgery (Volume 31)*
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-  Interconnected Intelligence: Navigating Through Power Quality Checking and Control Using Smart Intelligence-Based Methods Padarha, S., Modi, S., Lekha, J. *Smart Power Systems (pp 163–183)*
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- 2024  A Multifaceted Approach at Discerning Redditors Feelings Towards ChatGPT Padarha, S., Vijayalakshmi, S. *EAI Endorsed Transactions on Internet of Things 2024 Vol. 10*
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- 2023  Ensemble Learning Algorithm for Cattle Breed Identification using Computer Vision Techniques Vijayalakshmi, A., et al. (incl. Padarha, S.) *IACIDS 2023*
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-  Data-Driven Dystopia: an uninterrupted breach of ethics Padarha, S. *Case Study*

Teaching

2025 Teaching Assistant Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford *Oxford, United Kingdom*
December 2025 – March 2026

- Designed and took tutorial modules for *Applied Machine Learning with LLMs* course in Hilary Term '26 for a postgraduate cohort of 40 students.

Tutor Stanford University, Stanford House *Oxford, United Kingdom*
November 2025 – December 2025

- Took LLM pre-training and post-training modules for computer science undergraduate students completing semesters abroad at the University of Oxford.

Recent Positions

2025 Research Assistant Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford *Oxford, UK*
September 2025 – September 2026

- Worked under Prof. Scott Hale and Prof. Adam Mahdi on UKRI-funded research on synthesising migration discourse, alongside LLM evaluation projects spanning safety, multimodality, and agents.

Research Assistant (Part-time) Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford *Oxford, UK*
May 2025 – July 2025

- Worked under Dr Fabian Braesemann for the Science of Startups Initiative (SOSI). Created technical stack for a novel founder's personality website.

2024 Researcher Asia Pacific University of Technology & Innovation (APU) *Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*
January 2024 – May 2024

- Worked under Dr. V. Sivakumar and with clinical stakeholders across Malaysia and the Philippines to develop a deep learning framework to identify impacted mandibular third molars (wisdom teeth) and associated pathologies from panoramic X-rays.

2023 AI Engineer Anantadi Tech *Pune, India*
June 2023 – September 2023

- Led a team of interns in R&D of an AI-powered in-video advertising and product placement application. Developed computer vision frameworks for object detection, segmentation, and tracking.

2022 Automation Engineer Elecsol Technology Pvt. Ltd. *Raipur, India*
July 2022 – August 2022

- Worked on industrial automation systems, including PLCs and drives. Developed an IoT-based dashboard for real-time monitoring of legacy industrial equipment.

Skills

Technical Python (PyTorch, TensorFlow, TRL, vLLM, UnSloth, OpenAI SDK, NumPy, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Plotly, Flask, Streamlit), R, SQL, MongoDB, L^AT_EX

Soft Skills Team leadership, mentoring & teaching, public communication

Co-curricular University Student Council & Student Welfare Office (BSc); President, Data Science Association (BSc); Cohort Representative (MSc); Conference volunteering

Awards & Activities

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- PhD fully funded by Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Grand Union DTP.
 - Research funded (grants) by Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) and Dieter Schwarz Foundation (DSF)
 - Technical Lead, IMD (Indian Meteorological Department) – 1st National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS-India) (2023)
 - BSc Extra-Curricular Scholarship, Merit Scholarship (Academic Year: 2022-23, 2023-24)