Toluwani Samuel Aremu

AI Safety | Trustworthy AI | Responsible AI

Certifications • Email • GitHub • Google Scholar • LinkedIn • Website

KEY COMPETENCIES

- **Skills**: Research, Mathematics, Statistics, Machine Learning, Deep Learning, Data Science, Project Management, Programming, Writing.
- **Tools**: Python, VB.Net, PyTorch, Lightning, TensorFlow, Keras, Jax, Scikit-learn, NumPy, Matplotlib, Visual Studio, Visual Studio Code, PyCharm, Jupyter, Latex, Office 365, Google [Docs, Sheets, Slides].
- **Research Interests**: Generative AI, Watermarking, Alignment (Self/Agentic), Scalable Oversight, Debate.

EDUCATION

Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), UAE AUG 2023 – PRESENT

- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Machine Learning.
- **Research Areas**: AI Safety

Mohamed Bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI), UAE JAN 2021 – DEC 2022

- Master of Science (MSc) in Machine Learning.
- **Research Area**: Privacy-Preserving ML.

University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria MAY 2018 – MAY 2020

- Master of Science (MSc) in Computer Science.
- **Research Area**: Cryptography.

Adeleke University, Nigeria OCT 2012 – JUL 2016

- Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Computer Science.
- **Minor**: Philosophy.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher, Trustworthy-ML Lab, MBZUAI, UAE AUG 2023 – PRESENT

- **Research Area**: Safe and Trustworthy Generative AI.
- **Selected Publications (* denotes equal contribution):**
  - S. Fares, K. Ziu, **T. Aremu***,...., "MirrorCheck: Efficient Adversarial Defense for Vision-Language Models," arXiv, 2024. (under review at TMLR)
  - A. Diaa, **T. Aremu**, & N. Lukas, "Optimizing Adaptive Attacks against Content Watermarks for Language Models," arXiv, 2024. (under review at ICML '25, accepted at ICLR-WMARK '25)
  - N. Tastan, S. Fares, **T. Aremu**, S. Horvath, and K. Nandakumar, "Redefining Contributions: Shapley-Driven Federated Learning," 33rd International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI), Jeju, Korea, 2024.

Research Assistant, MCR-Lab, MBZUAI, UAE FEB 2023 – AUG 2023

- **Research Area**: AI Applications in Smart Cities.
- **Selected Publications:**
  - **T. Aremu** et al., "On the reliability of Large Language Models to misinformed and demographically informed prompts," (AAAI) AI Magazine, vol. 46, no. 1, 2025.
  - **T. Aremu**, L. Zhiyuan, R. Alameeri, M. Khan, and A.E. Saddik, "SSIVD-Net: A Novel Salient Super Image Classification and Detection Technique for Weaponized Violence," Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems, pp. 16–35, Jan. 2024.
  - W. Y. Kang, **T. Aremu**, Y. Balah, M. Nadeem, I. G. Navarette, and A. E. Saddik, "ScholarFace: Scanning Faces, Discovering Minds," 2024 IEEE International Conference on Consumer Electronics (ICCE), pp. 1–5, Jan. 2024. (US Patent App. 18/672,708)

Applied Science Intern, M42 HealthCare, UAE FEB 2023 – APR 2023

- **Achievements:**
  - Developed an end-to-end pipeline for efficiently downloading and preprocessing the NHANES dataset, ensuring streamlined data preparation.
  - Integrated AutoML capabilities to automate analysis, training, and evaluation of statistical models while allowing flexibility for custom configurations.
  - Engineered a feature which generates a comprehensive TRIPOD report post-evaluation, providing structured insights for model assessment and transparency.

Student Researcher, SPriNT-AI Lab, MBZUAI, UAE JAN 2021 – DEC 2022

- **Research Area**: Privacy-Preserving ML.
- **Publication:**
  - **T. Aremu** and K. Nandakumar, "PolyKervNets: Activation-free Neural Networks For Efficient Private Inference," 2023 IEEE Conference on Secure and Trustworthy Machine Learning (SaTML), Raleigh, NC, USA, 2023.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Projects

- Accented Speech Recognition — AUG 2021 – DEC 2021
  - Implemented VQ-VAE to disentangle style and content features in the latent space of ASR systems.
  - Accuracy on accented speech improved by 3.8%.
- Racial Bias Mitigation in Self-Supervised Face Recognition Architecture — JAN 2021 – MAY 2021
  - Implemented various preprocessing and model-centric methods such as downsampling, GANs, weighted sampling, etc, to reduce racial biases in detecting faces.
  - Improved face recognition of people of color in SIM-CLR by up to 20%. However, face recognition for well represented races in the dataset reduced by up to 5%.
- Gender Bias Mitigation in Word Embeddings — JAN 2021 – MAY 2021
  - Investigated several data-centric methods proposed to mitigate gender bias in GloVe.
  - Concluded that most of these methods often lead to new forms of biases in NLP systems they are used in.

Teaching

- Teaching Assistant, Mathematical Foundations of AI (MTH701), **MBZUAI**, UAE — AUG 2024 – DEC 2024
- Teaching Assistant, Object Oriented Programming (OOP), **University of Ibadan**, Nigeria — JAN 2019 – MAY 2019

Leadership

- Graduate School Mentorship for Africans — JAN 2021 – PRESENT
- Associate Editor, MBZUAI Research Blog — JAN 2024 – PRESENT

Reviewing

- **Conferences**: — JAN 2024 – PRESENT
  - NeurIPS | ICLR | ICML | AISTATS | AAAI | DLI
- **Workshops**: — AUG 2024 – PRESENT
  - HRAIM@NeurIPS | SafeGenAI@NeurIPS | WMark@ICLR
- **Journals**: — AUG 2023 – PRESENT
  - IEEE Access | OSJ | CHBAH | AI Magazine

Talks/Presentations

- “Literature Review and Research Methodologies”, LyngualLabs, Nigeria (Tentative) — MAY 2025
- “Optimizing Adaptive Attacks against Content Watermarks for Language Models”, ICLR-WMARK, SG — APR 2025
- “SSIVD-Net: A Novel Salient Super Image Classification and Detection Technique”, SAI, UK — JUN 2024
- "PolyKervNets: Activation-free Neural Networks For Efficient Private Inference", IEEE SaTML, USA — FEB 2023
- “Ethical Perspectives of AI”, AI Summer, Department of Material Sciences, University of Denver, USA — JUL 2022

HONORS & AWARDS

- MBZUAI Conference Travel Scholarship — APR 2025
- MBZUAI PhD Fully Funded Fellowship — AUG 2023
- MBZUAI MSc Fully Funded Fellowship — JAN 2021
- UAE Golden Visa for Talented Persons/Specialists in Science — OCT 2022
- MBZUAI Award of Appreciation for Iconic Representation and Student Hospitality — AUG 2022
- ProjectSet Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurship (ICE-22) — MAY 2022
- Top 100, DeepLearning.AI Data-Centric AI Competition — AUG 2021
- NYSC-FRSC Award for the Most Creative Corp Member — OCT 2017
- 2015 AUE-NACOSS Award for the Best Programmer — JUL 2015

REFERENCES

- Dr. Nils Lukas - Assistant Professor, MBZUAI - nils.lukas@mbzuai.ac.ae.
- Dr. Karthik Nandakumar - Associate Professor, MBZUAI - karthik.nandakumar@mbzuai.ac.ae.
- Prof. Kun Zhang - Professor, MBZUAI & Carnegie Mellon University - kun.zhang@mbzuai.ac.ae.
- Prof. Abdulmotaleb El Saddik - Distinguished Professor, UOttawa - elsaddik@ottawa.ca.