

# SAMUEL NELLESSEN

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EDUCATION	<b>Faculty of Social Sciences, Radboud University</b> <i>B.Sc. in Artificial Intelligence</i> • Current GPA: 4.00/4.00 (in Dutch system: 8.84/10) • Honours Programme in Artificial Intelligence	Nijmegen, Netherlands 2023 - 2026 ( <i>expected</i> )
	<b>Otto-Von-Guericke-University</b> <i>B.A. in Philosophy, Neuroscience and Cognition (not finished)</i> • GPA: 3.87/4.00	Magdeburg, Germany 2021 - 2023
	<b>Magdeburg-Stendal University of Applied Sciences</b> <i>B.Sc. in Psychology (not finished)</i> • GPA: 3.95/4.00	Stendal, Germany 2020 - 2021

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EXPERIENCE	<b>ARENA 5.0 Participant</b>   Alignment Research Engineer Accelerator • A 4-5 week in-person ML bootcamp with a focus on AI safety.	2025.04 - 2025.06
	<b>Research Assistant Computational Psychiatry</b>   Motivational and Cognitive Control lab, Donders Institute • Computational Modelling for a decision-making behavioural task in MATLAB.	2024.02 - present
	<b>Neurotech Foresight Fellow</b>   Foresight Institute	2024 - 2025
	<b>AI Safety Scholar</b>   AIMM Programme • The main goal of the “AI safety scouts scholars” program is to get promising people into AI safety earlier. The program comes with intense mentorship from experienced “scouts” in the field.	2022.08 - 2023.09
	<b>Long-Term Future Fund Grantee</b>   EA Funds • Funding for self-studying ML and researching the possible applications of a Neuro/CogScience perspective for AGI Safety.	2022.07 - 2023.01
	<b>Knowledge Manager &amp; Team Development Referee, Future Matters Project</b>   Future Matters Project • Supported team operations, task management, and knowledge base creation.	2021.02 - 2022.06
	<b>Project Manager</b>   Together For Future e.V.	2019.11 - 2021.05

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SKILLS	<b>Technical Skills:</b> Data Analysis, Computational Modeling, Reinforcement Learning, Theoretical Neuroscience, Writing. <b>Programming:</b> Python (specifically, PyTorch/Pandas/Numpy/common ML libraries), MATLAB, Stan, Java, Scala. <b>Soft Skills:</b> Hands-on Mentality, Team Collaboration, Curiosity, Creativity, Growth Mindset. <b>Languages:</b> German, English.
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PROJECTS	<b>AI Safety Camp 2025: Understanding the Reasoning Capabilities of LLMs</b> <i>Conducting Mechanistic Interpretability research in an international team of 4 people, aiming for publication at NeurIPS or ICLM MechInterp workshop</i>	Ongoing
	<b>Reinforcement Learning Agent Development</b> <i>Implemented and evaluated a Proximal Policy Optimization (PPO) agent within a custom Gymnasium environment as part of university coursework. Ongoing extension with variants of PPO/other SOTA RL algorithms</i>	Ongoing
	<b>Personal data scraping project</b> <i>Developed a data pipeline using Python (requests, pandas) to scrape, process, and analyze local supermarket product data, implementing custom algorithms to identify optimal food choices based on nutritional value and cost.</i>	2025
	<b>Developing 'sAI'm'</b> <i>Fine-tuning a large language model (LLM) on personal text corpus to explore personalized agent capabilities, potential biases, and data privacy considerations.</i>	Ongoing
	<b>Competing in Kaggle's BirdCLEF 2024 Challenge</b> <i>Research Code Competition on Bird Sound Classification</i>	2024
	<b>Assessing Artificial Sentience: Are we responsible?</b> <i>Essay series about artificial sentience</i>	2023
	<b>How do mice vary in the amount of past information they use to make decisions under uncertainty?</b> <i>Neuromatch Academy Computational Neuroscience Course</i>	2023
	<b>Research Sequence on "Hebbian Natural Abstractions"</b> <i>Blog Project with Jan Hendrik Kirchner</i>	2022
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	<b>GRANTS AND AWARDS</b>	
	• <b>Research grant</b> , AI Safety Mentors & Mentees Programme	2022-2023
	• <b>Research grant</b> , Long-Term Future Fund	2022-2023
	• <b>Top of the year in Philosophy</b> , A-levels	2019
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<b>COURSES AND SUMMER SCHOOLS</b>	• <b>Computational Neuroscience Summer School</b> , Neuromatch Academy	2023
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<b>VOLUNTEERING</b>	• <b>User Experience Lead</b> , Fridays for Future International	2019-2020
	• <b>Press Officer</b> , Fridays for Future Düsseldorf	2019
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<b>ADVISING</b>	<b>Advising for: Foresight AI Safety Grant Program</b>	