

# Asker Kurt-Elli (he/him)

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Research interests      Social Media, Recommendation Systems, Modes of Usership, Data Ethics, Algorithmic Compliance and Resistance, Individuality, Post-Structuralism

Education      **Harvard University**      Cambridge, MA  
Special Student in Computer and Social Sciences      September 2023 – Present

**University of Cambridge**, Trinity Hall      Cambridge, UK  
MPhil in Digital Humanities      October 2022 – June 2023  
*Grade: Distinction (Ranked 2nd in Cohort)*      Supervisor: Leonardo Impett

**University of Oxford**, Magdalen College      Oxford, UK  
BA in Music      October 2019 – June 2022  
*Grade: First Class Honors (Ranked 1st in Cohort)*      Supervisor: Edward Spencer

Honors and scholarships      Michael von Clemm Fellowship (Harvard University)      2023  
Bateman Scholarship (Trinity Hall, Cambridge)      2023  
Cambridge Master's and Trinity Hall Studentship (Cambridge Trust)      2022  
Gibbs Prize (University of Oxford)      2022  
Academic Demyship (Magdalen College, Oxford)      2020  
University Exhibition (Winchester College)      2018  
Duncan Prize in Mathematics (Winchester College)      2018

Independent research      **POV: You're Reading about Playlisting Practices, Algorithmic Control, and Supercultural Resistance**

*Master's Dissertation, University of Cambridge, 2023.*

Investigating POV playlists as a prototype for user resistance to algorithmic recommendation systems. I integrate critical algorithm studies, Deleuzian philosophy, and “subcultural” theories to consider POV playlists as supercultural experiences – a collective schizophrenia which undermines assumptions of (in)dividuality encoded within recommendation systems.

**Listening to Listening: YouTube Music Reaction Videos, Affective Tints, and Yebba's Audience-Inferred Blackness**

*Undergraduate Dissertation, University of Oxford, 2022.*

Exploring how reaction videos interact with YouTube's digital architecture to amplify perceptions of vocal race. I interweave voice studies, critical race theory, and YouTube comment section analysis to propose that reaction videos cast an “affective tint” over their source media. I trace how reaction videos cultivated a narrative of Black authenticity around the white singer Yebba.

Research assistantships	<p><b>Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society</b> Harvard Law School  Research Assistant to Professor David S. Craig Nov 2023 – April 2024  Supporting research at the ‘Institute for Rebooting Social Media’ on political activism in the creator economy through statistical and ethnographic analysis.</p>
	<p><b>Institute for Historical Justice and Reconciliation</b> EUROCLIO  Research Assistant September 2021  Performed interviews and drafted case reports on post-colonial legacies in Douala, Cameroon for the ‘Contested Histories in Public Spaces’ project.</p>
Work experience	<p><b>Höegh Capital Partners</b> London, UK  Summer Analyst June – August 2023  Portfolio management at a multi-billion dollar family office.</p>
	<p><b>Cambridge Judge Business School</b> Cambridge, UK  EnterpriseTECH Team Leader November 2022 – March 2023  Led a team of Cambridge students and postdoctoral fellows in analyzing the commercial feasibility of a pre-seed edge AI accelerator architecture start-up.</p>
	<p><b>Pact VC</b> London, UK  Investment Analyst August – December 2022  Produced a library of extended market research reports and databases to forecast trends and guide deep tech and climate tech investment strategy.</p>
Skills	<p><b>Programming</b>  Proficient in Python, R, SQL, C, HTML, CSS, and JavaScript</p> <p><b>Languages</b>  English (native), French (advanced), and Arabic (basic)</p>
Community service	<p><b>Trinity Hall MCR</b> November 2022 – June 2023  Elected to manage communications, record-keeping, and constitutional affairs for the 230+ member graduate student body at Trinity Hall, Cambridge.</p>
	<p><b>La Fundación Nacional, Batuta</b> July 2017 – July 2018  Independently founded and ran an international charitable drive alongside my studies that provided 70+ musical instruments and \$2500 to an educational charity for underprivileged children affected by the Colombian conflict.</p>
Other interests	<p>Tenor Choral Scholar @ Magdalen College and Old Royal Naval College  Cor Anglais @ Oxford Uni Orchestra and National Youth Wind Orchestra  Harvard University Club Baseball and Trinity Hall Boat Club  Climber, surfer, and passionate cook of vegan Cypriot and Mauritian dishes</p>