

ESHTA BHARDWAJ

[Email](#) · [LinkedIn](#) · [Personal Website](#) · [Google Scholar](#)

Researcher and [PhD Candidate](#) studying data practices in machine learning (ML) from a data curation lens. Research interests include examining concerns of fairness, accountability, and transparency in ML dataset development, developing methods to promote reflexivity in data work, and examining how archival, librarian and curatorial approaches can be adopted within ML.

EDUCATION

PhD	University of Toronto, Information Supervisor: Christoph Becker	Sep 2022 – Present
MA	York University, Information Systems and Technology Thesis: “Data Analytics in Climate Change Studies” Supervisor: Peter Khaiter	May 2022
BA	York University, Information Technology Specialized Honours	May 2020

HONORS AND AWARDS

Ontario Graduate Scholarship		2026 – 2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Merit-based provincial award granted on the basis of academic experience and achievements as well as clarity and significance of submitted research proposal.▪ Amount awarded: \$15,000.		
Ontario Graduate Scholarship		2025 – 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Amount awarded: \$15,000.		
Faculty of Information Excellence Award		2025 – 2026
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Merit-based award granted in recognition of achieving an external, competitive award.▪ Amount awarded: \$5000.		
Women in Machine Learning (WiML) Travel Award		2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Competitive travel award to attend and present at the Women in Machine Learning workshop.▪ Amount awarded: \$700.		
NeurIPS 2024 Scholar Award		2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Competitive travel award to attend and present at the Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems, a leading global venue for AI/ML research.▪ Amount awarded: \$2400.		
SGS PhD Research and Conference Travel Award		2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Travel award to attend and present at Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency.▪ Amount awarded: \$3000.		
CapaCITY/É Summer Institute		2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Competitive travel award to attend the CapaCITY/É project’s first training institute on implementation science for sustainability initiatives through interdisciplinary collaboration.▪ Amount awarded: \$900.		
WDS-ITO Student Travel Award for Research Data Alliance Plenary		2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Competitive travel award granted to attend the Research Data Alliance 20th Plenary Meeting to learn research data management (RDM) practices and infrastructure, interoperability, and data stewardship and advance its usage within ML research.▪ Amount awarded: \$5000.		

- The [DCI Fellowship](#) offers students and researchers the ability to lead research at the intersection of sustainability, computing and technology, and curation activities. As part of the DCI, I have been part of establishing a baseline platform for data curation and modelling for [Curbcut Toronto](#).
- Amount awarded: \$5000.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Conference Proceedings (full-text)¹

1. **Bhardwaj, E.***, Zogheib, C.*, & Becker, C. Evaluating Structured Documentation as a Tool for Reflexivity in Dataset Development. (2026). In The 2026 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), 6903–6955. [DOI](#). (*equal contribution)
2. Qiao, H., Munson, R., Smith, N., **Bhardwaj, E.**, & Becker, C. Humour as Resistance: Visceralizing the Environmental and Social Impact of AI through Humour-based Creative Practices. (2026). In Proceedings of the 2026 Conference on Creativity and Cognition (C&C).
3. Guliyeva, N., **Bhardwaj, E.**, & Becker, C. Exploring the Viability of the Updated World3 Model for Examining the Impact of Computing on Planetary Boundaries. (2025). In Proceedings of the 2025 Workshop on Computing within Limits (LIMITS). [URL](#).
4. **Bhardwaj, E.**, Gujral, H., Wu, S., Zogheib, C., Maharaj, T., & Becker, C. (2024). The State of Data Curation at NeurIPS: An Assessment of Dataset Development Practices in the Datasets and Benchmarks Track. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems Datasets and Benchmarks Track (Spotlight at NeurIPS). [DOI](#).
5. **Bhardwaj, E.**, Qiao, H., & Becker, C. (2024). Limits at a Distance: Design Directions to Address Psychological Distance in Policy Decisions Affecting Planetary Boundaries. In Proceedings of the 2024 Workshop on Computing within Limits (LIMITS). [DOI](#).
6. **Bhardwaj, E.**, Gujral, H., Wu, S., Zogheib, C., Maharaj, T., & Becker, C. (2024). Machine learning data practices through a data curation lens: An evaluation framework. In The 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), 1055-1067. [DOI](#).
7. **Bhardwaj, E.***, Qiao, H.*, & Becker, C. (2023). Pathways to urban sustainability: Design perspectives on a data curation and visualization platform. In Proceedings of the 2023 Workshop on Computing within Limits (LIMITS). [DOI](#). (*equal contribution)

Journal Articles

1. **Bhardwaj, E.**, & Khaiter, P. (2023). Is the climate getting WARMer? A framework and tool for climate data comparison. Environmental Modelling & Software, 171, Article 105879. [DOI](#).
2. **Bhardwaj, E.**, & Khaiter, P. (2022). What data analytics can or cannot do for climate change studies: An inventory of interactive visual tools. Ecological Informatics, Article 101918. [DOI](#).

PEER REVIEWED WORKSHOPS

Organizer

1. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Becker, C. (2025). Leveraging humour, satire, and art to engage with the environmental impacts of AI. ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT), CRAFT Workshop.
2. **Bhardwaj, E.**, Qiao, H., Munson, R., & Becker, C. (2025). Humour as Resistance: Creative Approaches to Data Center Accountability. ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (COMPASS) Workshop.
3. Qiao, H., **Bhardwaj, E.**, Landau, V., Bonfils, N., Iqbal, M., Jaworsky, O., Munson, R., Rubisova, L., Smith, N., Thapa, A., & Becker, C. (2025). Are You Thirsty? So is Your AI. ACM

¹ Full-text articles in peer reviewed conference proceedings are considered equivalent contributions to journal articles in Computer Science and computing-adjacent disciplines.

SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (**COMPASS**) Arts & Demos.

Short-length Submissions in Conference Proceedings

1. **Bhardwaj, E.**, Qiao, H., Munson, R., & Becker, C. (2025). Humour as Resistance: Creative Approaches to Data Center Accountability. ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (**COMPASS**) Workshop. [DOI](#).
2. Qiao, H., **Bhardwaj, E.**, Landau, V., Bonfils, N., Iqbal, M., Jaworsky, O., Munson, R., Rubisova, L., Smith, N., Thapa, A., & Becker, C. (2025). Are You Thirsty? So is Your AI. ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies (**COMPASS**) Arts & Demos. [DOI](#).

Abstract Submissions

1. Qiao, H., **Bhardwaj, E.**, Landau, V., Bonfils, N., Iqbal, M., Jaworsky, O., Munson, R., Rubisova, L., Smith, N., Thapa, A., & Becker, C. (2025). Are You Thirsty? So is Your AI. Responsible AI Day at the ACM SIGKDD Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (**KDD**).
2. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Becker, C. (2025). Leveraging humour, satire, and art to engage with the environmental impacts of AI. ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (**FAccT**), CRAFT Workshop.
3. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Becker, C. (2024). Supporting Responsible Machine Learning by Improving Data Curation. 19th Women in Machine Learning Workshop (WiML) at **NeurIPS**.
4. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Qiao, H. (2024). Pathways to urban sustainability: Design perspectives on a Toronto-based data curation and visualization platform. Ontario Climate Risk Workshop (**OCRW**) at the Beatrice and Arthur Minden Symposium on the Environment.
5. **Bhardwaj, E.** (2023). Data Practices in Decision-Making for Environmental Sustainability. Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (**CSCW**) workshop on Data-Enabled Sustainability.
6. **Bhardwaj, E.** (2023). Data Curation for Community Empowerment in ML Research. Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (**CSCW**) workshop on Community-Driven AI.
7. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Khaiteer, P. (2022). Visualization tools for climate data analytics. In 2022 International Congress on Environmental Modelling and Software and Science Based Decision Making (**iEMSs**).
8. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Khaiteer, P. (2021). Data Analytics Approach to Climate Change Studies. In 2021 International Congress on Modelling and Simulation (**MODSIM**).

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations that Accompany Full-text Articles in Peer Reviewed Proceedings

1. **Bhardwaj, E.**, Gujral, H., Wu, S., Zogheib, C., Maharaj, T., & Becker, C. (2024). The State of Data Curation at NeurIPS: An Assessment of Dataset Development Practices in the Datasets and Benchmarks Track. In Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems Datasets and Benchmarks Track (**Spotlight Poster - NeurIPS D&B**). [Recorded talk](#)². [Poster](#).
2. **Bhardwaj, E.**, Qiao, H., & Becker, C. (2024). Limits at a Distance: Design Directions to Address Psychological Distance in Policy Decisions Affecting Planetary Boundaries. In Proceedings of the 2024 Workshop on Computing within Limits (**LIMITS**). [Recorded talk](#).
3. **Bhardwaj, E.**, Gujral, H., Wu, S., Zogheib, C., Maharaj, T., & Becker, C. (2024). Machine learning data practices through a data curation lens: An evaluation framework. In The 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (**FAccT**), 1055-1067. [Recorded talk](#).
4. **Bhardwaj, E.***, Qiao, H.*, & Becker, C. (2023). Pathways to urban sustainability: Design perspectives on a data curation and visualization platform. In Proceedings of the 2023 Workshop on Computing within Limits (**LIMITS**). (*equal contribution)

² All recorded talks are made available online to accompany the synchronous oral talk performed at the event.

Presentations that Accompany Peer Reviewed Short-length Submissions

1. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Becker, C. (2024). Supporting Responsible Machine Learning by Improving Data Curation. 19th Women in Machine Learning Workshop (WiML) at **NeurIPS**. [Poster](#).
2. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Qiao, H. (2024). Pathways to urban sustainability: Design perspectives on a Toronto-based data curation and visualization platform. Ontario Climate Risk Workshop (**OCRW**) at the Beatrice and Arthur Minden Symposium on the Environment. [Poster](#).
3. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Khaiteer, P. (2022). Visualization tools for climate data analytics. In 2022 International Congress on Environmental Modelling and Software and Science Based Decision Making (**iEMSs**). [Recorded talk](#).
4. **Bhardwaj, E.** & Khaiteer, P. (2021). Data Analytics Approach to Climate Change Studies. In 2021 International Congress on Modelling and Simulation (**MODSIM**). [Recorded talk](#).

OTHER SERVICE & MISC.

Affiliate, Toronto Climate Observatory	2023 – Present
Member, FAIR for Machine Learning (FAIR4ML) IG	2023 – Present
Member, Just Sustainability Design Lab	2022 – Present
Student Volunteer, Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)	2026, 2024
Reviewer, Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)	2026
Reviewer, ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)	2026
Volunteer Mentor, PhD Peer Mentorship Program at UofT FOI	2025
Reviewer, The ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)	2025
Reviewer, Women in Machine Learning Workshop (WiML) at NeurIPS	2024, 2025
Reviewer, Journal of Environmental Modelling & Software	2024
Reviewer, International Conference on ICT for Sustainability	2023

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Thesis**, York University 2022
- Successfully defended [master's thesis](#) on data analytics in climate change studies with a focus on developing a data analysis framework and visualization tool for climatic analysis on a regional scale to compare climate models with the corresponding observed values. Nominated for the annual Thesis Prize.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Toronto

Instructor, Faculty of Information

- INF1005/6: Caring for Datasets: Applying Information Lenses in the Age of AI 2026
- Six-week workshop-style graduate course on developing skills and knowledge on approaching dataset development processes as craft work and through a critical, reflexive lens.

Instructor, Data Sciences Institute

- Data Visualization, Data Science Certificate 2025
- Six-class module offered to doctoral students on the theories, best practices, and technical skills for developing data visualizations using Python.

Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Information

Jan 2023 – Present

- INF1003: Information Systems, Service and Design (graduate, 5 cohorts)
- INF1339: Introduction to Computational Thinking (graduate, 1 cohort)
- INF1342: System Requirements and Architectural Design (graduate, 4 cohorts)
- INF2040: Project Management (graduate, 1 cohort)

- INF2169: User-Centered Information Systems Development (graduate, 2 cohorts)

York University

Teaching Assistant, Information Technology

Sep 2020 – Apr 2022

- ITEC 1000: Introduction to Information Technologies (undergraduate)
- ITEC 1010: Information and Organizations (undergraduate)