



# TAO BOJLÉN

## SOFTWARE ENGINEER

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## SKILLS

### Object-oriented programming

Primarily Java, Python, and JavaScript/TypeScript, version controlled with Git

### Web development

Django, React, front-end development (HTML, CSS), REST APIs

### Linux/UNIX

Server management, Bash, scripting

### Relational databases

Postgres, SQL

### Philosophy

Primarily philosophy of mind, with an increasing focus on phenomenology and continental philosophy

## SUMMARY

I'm a software engineer interested in using technology for social good. I'm into machine learning, art, and philosophy of mind.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Palantir Technologies

Oct 2017 - Aug 2018

#### Forward Deployed Engineer

Palantir creates data analysis software with a strong focus on mission impact and civil liberties.

- Developed data integration pipelines and front-end tools for visualization and analysis of big data
- Led the development of key products, with thousands of users, in an agile environment
- Maintained a production system and debugged performance and availability issues

Tech stack: TypeScript, React, Java, Postgres, AtlasDB

### Edinburgh University Students' Association

Feb 2014 - Feb 2015

#### Software engineer (contractor)

Designed and developed a voting platform for thousands of students that increased engagement with the student union. The project was used by students to discuss and vote on proposals for the student council.

Tech stack: Django, JavaScript, Bootstrap

## EDUCATION

### University of Edinburgh

2013 - 2017

#### BSc (Hons) Cognitive Science

Received a First Class degree in 2017. Cognitive Science at Edinburgh is an interdisciplinary degree and I took courses in computer science and philosophy. I focused on machine learning and philosophy of mind, respectively. I wrote my dissertation on generating head motion from text using techniques from machine translation.

Some of the courses that influenced me most were:

- Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition
- Machine Translation
- The Computational Mind
- Feminist Theory
- Technology in Society

### University of Connecticut

2015 - 2016

#### International exchange

GPA for the year: 3.88

### Birkerød Gymnasium

2009 - 2012

#### International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme

Graduated top of class from my high school in Denmark.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Undergraduate dissertation

2016 - 2017

#### Text-driven head motion synthesis using neural networks

Supervised by Dr. Hiroshi Shimodaira. Abstract:

Head motion plays an important nonverbal role in face-to-face communication. In the literature on animated talking agents, there is some work on speech-driven head motion synthesis, but little on text-driven synthesis in spite of the fact that the semantic content of an utterance is an important

contributor to head motion. We present an evaluation of different neural network architectures, an analysis of hyperparameters, and finally a text-driven, deep neural network-based system for head motion synthesis. The proposed model performs well in subjective evaluations, and we show that this is in part because of its access to the meaning of words in input sentences.

## AWARDS

### **Jisc Summer of Student Innovation (2014)**

I created a web app to facilitate students getting involved in their local student union. The project first started at, and won, a university hackathon. Later it was selected as one of the winners of the Jisc [Summer of Student Innovation](#) competition and was used by the student union at my university. The competition awarded £5000 in funding and continuing mentorship over the summer.

## EXTRACURRICULARS

### **Student leader at InfPALS - informatics peer support (2016)**

InfPALS is a student-run programme to support informatics students. I ran a weekly session for first-year undergraduates on functional programming and logic. It helped improve students' study skills, facilitate learning, and help with the transition to higher education. I received very positive feedback from the students at the end of the year.

### **Summer course on Kierkegaard at the University of Copenhagen (2015)**

A summer course on the philosophy of Søren Kierkegaard, primarily through his book *Either/Or*.

### **Student societies (2013-2017)**

- Student Voice for Animal Rights (secretary)
- National Organization for Women (member, University of Connecticut chapter)
- Philosophy Club (member)

## PORTFOLIO

### **[fediverse.space](#) (2018)**

A tool to visualize communities on decentralized social networks. Uses Django for the backend, Gephi for graph analysis, and React + TypeScript for the frontend.

### **[Vegan UConn](#) (2016)**

A webapp that lists vegan options at the University of Connecticut dining halls. Built with Python, Django, and BeautifulSoup to scrape websites.

### **[eusay](#) (2015)**

A voting and discussion platform for student unions. Won the 2014 Smart Data Hack at the University of Edinburgh, the 2014 Jisc Summer of Student Innovation, and was deployed to all students at my university.