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Yuri Ishitoya

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EDUCATION

Rice University — Houston, TX, USA
Ph.D. in Computer Science (Advisor: Prof. Vicente Ordóñez Román) — Aug 2026 –

Ochanomizu University — Tokyo, JPN
M.S. Program in Information Science, GPA: 4.0/4.0 (Advisor: Prof. Ichiro Kobayashi). — Apr 2025 – Aug 2026
Withdrew to pursue a Ph.D. at Rice University.

Ochanomizu University — Tokyo, JPN
B.S. in Information Science, GPA: 3.8/4.0 (Advisor: Prof. Ichiro Kobayashi) — Apr 2021 – Mar 2025

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

OMRON SINIC X Corporation — Tokyo, JPN
Research Intern (Advisor: Dr. Mai Nishimura) — Jan 2026 – Jul 2026

- Proposed a method for adapting pretrained vision-language models to downstream action prediction tasks with no architectural changes, by grounding outputs in natural language [1].

Ochanomizu University — Tokyo, JPN
M.S. Researcher, Information Science (Advisor: Prof. Ichiro Kobayashi) — Apr 2025 – Aug 2026

- Developed embedding-level bias mitigation techniques by mapping concept vectors from hidden states to output embeddings and manipulating dimensions that control token probability distributions [3].

vislang at Rice University — Texas, USA
Visiting Student (Advisor: Prof. Vicente Ordóñez Román) — Feb 2025 – Aug 2025

- Created a benchmark to evaluate how VLM scale influences associative reasoning and bias.
- Led a comprehensive evaluation of 39 vision-language models across classification, bias assessment, and identity verification tasks [2].

Artificial Intelligence Research Center at Fujitsu Laboratories Ltd. — Tokyo, JPN
Short-term Research Intern (Advisor: Dr. Hiroya Inakoshi) — Aug 2024

- Designed prompt-based personality conditioning techniques and evaluation metrics to control and measure persona attributes in LLM-generated training data for bias detection, as part of a fair AI recruitment interview system [4, 5].

Ochanomizu University — Tokyo, JPN
B.S. Researcher, Computer Science (Advisor: Prof. Ichiro Kobayashi) — Apr 2024 – Mar 2025

- Developed a frequency-based bias detection method by applying Discrete Fourier Transform (DFT) to log-likelihood sequences, isolating stable low-frequency components that capture subtle gender bias beyond probability-gap analyses [6].

Ochanomizu University — Tokyo, JPN
Pre-Graduation Undergraduate Research Project (Advisor: Prof. Takayuki Itoh) — Apr 2023 – Mar 2024

- Analyzed gender gap factors across 47 prefectures in Japan by collecting and screening over 300 regional datasets to identify correlations and latent structures underlying disparities[7].

PUBLICATIONS

Preprints & Under Review

1. **Ishitoya, Yuri**, Siburian, J., Hamaya, M., Saito, K., Beltran-Hernandez, C. C. & Nishimura, M. *CLAP: Direct VLM-to-VLA Adaptation via Language-Action Grounding* arXiv preprint arXiv:2607.08974. 2026.
2. **Ishitoya, Yuri**, Flores, V., Yang, Z., Cascante-Bonilla, P. & Ordonez, V. *Evaluating Vision-Language Models through a Human-Centered Benchmark* Under review at ACL Rolling Review. Manuscript: ishity.github.io/yuriishitoya. 2025.

Domestic Conference Papers (Non-refereed, in Japanese)

3. **Ishitoya, Yuri** & Kobayashi, I. *Mitigating Statistical and Causal Bias Through Output Embedding Operations* in *Proceedings of the 32nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Natural Language Processing (NLP2026)* Non-refereed, in Japanese (2026).

4. Ishida, K., **Ishitoya, Yuri**, Kobayashi, I. & Igarashi, Y. *A Study on the Usefulness of an Interviewer Support System that Points Out Gender-Based Judgments* in *Proceedings of the 212th Human-Computer Interaction Study Group (IPSJ SIG-HCI)* Non-refereed, in Japanese (2025).
5. Ishida, K., **Ishitoya, Yuri**, Kobayashi, I. & Igarashi, Y. *Proposal and Development of an AI Interviewer Support System that Points Out Gender-Based Judgments* in *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI2025)* Non-refereed, in Japanese (2025).
6. **Ishitoya, Yuri** & Kobayashi, I. *A Study on Detecting Subtle Biases by Expanding the Log-Likelihood into a Frequency Space* in *Proceedings of the 39th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI2025)* Non-refereed, in Japanese (2025).
7. **Ishitoya, Yuri** & Ito, T. *Analysis of the Causes of the Gender Gap through Data Comparison and Visualization by the 47 Prefectures* in *Proceedings of the 38th Annual Conference of the Japanese Society for Artificial Intelligence (JSAI2024)* Non-refereed, in Japanese (2024).

FELLOWSHIP & GRANTS

Toyota Riken Overseas Scholarship, Toyota Riken (2-year full Ph.D. funding) 2026
Tobitate! Study Abroad Scholarship, Japan Ministry of Education (JPY 670k grant, 22% acceptance rate) 2025
MITOU IT Program, IPA (JPY 2.74M grant, 13% acceptance rate) 2023
Women Leaders Support Fund, Public Resource Foundation (JPY 1.0M grant, 6.8% acceptance rate) 2023

HONORS & AWARDS

Oin-kai Research Encouragement Award, Ochanomizu University 2025
Pre-Graduation Research Excellence Award, Ochanomizu University 2024

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Yamada Shintaro D&I Foundation (Public Interest Incorporated Foundation) Tokyo, JPN
Software Engineer Nov 2024 – May 2025

- Designed and developed an application and screening platform for a STEM scholarship program for female high school students.

Dots to Code Association Tokyo, JPN
Founder & Representative Director Jun 2024 – Apr 2025

- Organized Japan's largest hackathon for women and non-binary individuals.

SERVICE

Teaching

- Teaching Assistant, Ochanomizu University: Introduction to Natural Language Theory

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Leadership

- Co-founder, Blend Gendered Innovation Initiative (2023-Current)
- Co-founder, OchaHack (2023)
- Intern, Waffle (NPO for gender equity in STEM), 2022-2023: delivered programming curricula to 500+ female students

SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python, JavaScript (Vue.js, React, Node.js), C, Java, OCaml, R, Dart (Flutter), CUDA
- **AI/ML & NLP:** PyTorch, Hugging Face Transformers, scikit-learn, NLTK, SpaCy, NNsight
- **Tools & Platforms:** Firebase, MongoDB, Postman, Docker, Git, LaTeX