

Benno Krojer

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EDUCATION

Mila – Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute / McGill University 2021 – 2026

PhD in Computer Science

Montreal, Canada

Courses: Applied Machine Learning, Mathematical Tools for Computer Science, Representation Learning (UdeM), Reinforcement Learning, NLU, Vision-and-Language Models (all grade A)

LMU Munich

2017 – 2020

Bachelor of Science in Computational Linguistics, Minor in Computer Science

Munich, Germany

- Grade: 1.1 (equivalent to GPA of 3.9), top of class
- Thesis: Are Pretrained Language Models Symbolic Reasoners Over Knowledge? (supervised by Hinrich Schütze)

Trinity College

Sept 2018 – Apr 2019

Erasmus Exchange for 2 semesters

Dublin, Ireland

INDUSTRY AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Intern in JEPA team (full-time)

July 2024 – Feb 2025

Meta (FAIR)

Montreal, Canada

- Analyzing physical world understanding in VideoLLMs (supervision: Mido Assran and Nicolas Ballas)

Research Intern (full-time)

Apr 2021 – Aug 2021

Mila - Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute

Montreal, Canada

- Vision-and-language models

Research Intern in Machine Translation (full-time)

Dec 2020 – Mar 2021

Lilt GmbH

Berlin, Germany

- Research on novel attention mechanisms in Transformers to improve coverage in Neural Machine Translation

Machine Learning Intern in Computer Vision for Robots (full-time)

Sept 2020 – Nov 2020

Micropsi Industries

Berlin, Germany

- Making the computer vision model deployed on robots more robust against difficult light conditions

Research Assistant in Machine Translation (20h/week)

Feb 2020 – Aug 2020

LMU Munich

Munich, Germany

- Researched adversarial attacks, data augmentation and test set creation for Coreference Resolution in Neural Machine Translation together with Prof. Alexander Fraser and his PhD students (publication listed below)

Deep Learning Engineer (20h/week)

May 2019 – Mar 2020

Helsing (named Hellsicht GmbH at the time)

Munich, Germany

- Cell image segmentation pipeline with U-Net & ResNet models for client from the pharmaceutical industry
- Predictive Maintenance in mechanical systems

Computational Linguistics Programmer (10h/week)

Feb 2017 – Jul 2018

Intrafind GmbH

Munich, Germany

- Improving language identification system used in Intrafind's Search Engine

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- [LatentLens: Revealing Highly Interpretable Visual Tokens in LLMs](#)
Benno Krojer, Shravan Nayak, Oscar Mañas, Vaibhav Adlakha, Desmond Elliott, Siva Reddy, Marius Mosbach.
Forty-Third International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML), 2026.
- [A Shortcut-aware Video-QA Benchmark for Physical Understanding via Minimal Video Pairs](#)
Benno Krojer, Mojtaba Komeili, Candace Ross, Quentin Garrido, Koustuv Sinha, Nicolas Ballas, Mido Assran.
Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR), 2025.

- [Learning Action and Reasoning-Centric Image Editing from Videos and Simulation](#)
Benno Krojer, Dheeraj Vattikonda, Luis Lara, Varun Jampani, Eva Portelance, Christopher Pal, Siva Reddy.
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS Spotlight, Dataset & Benchmarks Track), 2024. (Spotlight)
- [Are Diffusion Models Vision-And-Language Reasoners?](#)
Benno Krojer, Elinor Poole-Dayana, Vikram Voleti, Christopher Pal, Siva Reddy.
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2023.
- [Image Retrieval from Contextual Descriptions](#)
Benno Krojer, Vaibhav Adlakha, Vibhav Vineet, Yash Goyal, Edoardo Ponti, Siva Reddy.
Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL), 2022.
- [Are Pretrained Language Models Symbolic Reasoners Over Knowledge?](#)
Nora Kassner*, **Benno Krojer***, Hinrich Schütze.
Conference on Computational Natural Language Learning (CoNLL), 2020.
- [ContraCAT: Contrastive Coreference Analytical Templates for Machine Translation](#)
Dario Stojanovski*, **Benno Krojer***, Denis Peskov*, Alexander Fraser.
Conference on Computational Linguistics (COLING), 2020.
- [The Promise of RL for Autoregressive Image Editing](#)
Saba Ahmadi, Rabiul Awal, Ankur Sikarwar, Amirhossein Kazemnejad, Ge Ya Luo, Juan A. Rodriguez, Sai Rajeswar, Siva Reddy, Christopher Pal, **Benno Krojer**, Aishwarya Agrawal.
Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS), 2025.
- [Improving Automatic VQA Evaluation Using Large Language Models](#)
Oscar Manas, **Benno Krojer**, Aishwarya Agrawal.
AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence, 2024
- [Pragmatic Inference with a CLIP Listener for Contrastive Captioning](#)
Jiefu Ou, **Benno Krojer**, Daniel Fried.
Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL) 2023

*equal contribution

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Vanier Scholarship (50.000 CAD/year, 2023 - 2026)
- Nick Cercone Scholarship (6.000 CAD, 2022)
- FRQNT Scholarship (declined, 2023)

ACADEMIC/COMMUNITY SERVICE AND TALKS

- **Organizer** of the Mila-wide speaker series [Tea Talks](#) (Jan 2025 – ongoing)
- **Reviewing**: EMNLP 2026, AC for MechInterp workshop at ICML 2026, ECCV 2026, ICML 2026, Mechanistic Interpretability Workshop at NeurIPS 2025, Actionable Interpretability Workshop at ICML 2025, MIV (Mechanistic Interpretability for Vision) Workshop at CVPR 2025, CogSci 2025, CVPR 2025, NeurIPS 2024, NeurIPS DB Track 2024, COLM (Ethics Reviewer) 2024, ACL 2024, COLING 2024, [Multilingual Multimodal Learning \(MML\) Workshop at ACL 2022](#)

- **Talks:** Philipp Isola Lab MIT (April 2026), AI2 (March 2026), David Bau Lab Northeastern (Feb 2026), University of Copenhagen (Feb 2026), TTIC (Jan 2026), LMU Munich; Tel Aviv University; Bar-Ilan University; UT Austin NLP group (all Nov and Dec 2025), Speed Science competition at Mila ([Recording](#)) (June 2025), FAIR Reading Group (Sept 2024), AI2 Mosaic (Feb 2024), ACL Oral Presentation (May 2022), Samsung/Mila/NYU Workshop (Apr 2022), Copenhagen NLP Reading Group (Apr 2022)
- **Workshop Organizer:** [World Modeling Workshop](#) (Feb 2026), NewInML at NeurIPS 2023 (responsible for speaker selection)
- **Supervision:** Ben Saine and Donghao Zheng (undergraduate independent study in CS, McGill, 2026), Ada Tur (undergraduate intern, 2025), Nooshin Soheililangroodi (undergraduate independent study in CS, McGill, 2024), Michelle Yang (undergraduate independent study in Linguistics, McGill, 2021), course projects of McGill's NLU course in 2023 (1 project) and 2025 (3 projects)
- **Teaching:** TA for *Fundamentals of Machine Learning* COMP 451, Guest Lectures for *Natural Language Understanding with Deep Learning* in 2023 and 2025
- **Reading Group** organization (at Mila): founded the Language Grounding Reading Group (2021-2025)
- **Volunteering:** for [AI Helps Ukraine](#) (Nov 2023), McGill BRIDGE Mentoring Program (Winter 2024) where CS grad students are matched with underrepresented undergrads to get started in research
- Reviewer of applications for Mila PhD/MSc cohort (Dec 2023)
- **Science Communication and Transparency:** Tradition of a *Behind The Scenes* section in every paper, Hosting podcast [Behind the Research of AI](#)

EXTRA-CURRICULAR

Founder of [PhilosophiaMunich](#), a Student Philosophy Society
TUM/LMU Munich

Aug. 2019 – Jul. 2021
Munich, Germany

- Organization of regular paper discussions, speaker events, dedicated reading groups and socials
- Creating Social Media Content & recruiting new members

Competitive Ultimate Frisbee

2011 – Today

- Highlights: U24 Worlds and U17 Euros for German National Team, 8th best club in Europe 2018
- Coaching: Mixed senior team in Montreal, Munich Juniors Team for several years, children sports camps