MAX WHITTON

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EDUCATION

Boston University September 2025 - Present
Ph.D in Computer Science
Dean's Fellowship

Cornell University August 2021 - May 2025
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science, magna cum laude
Relevant Courses: Robot Learning, Deep Learning, Research Design for ML
Overall GPA: 3.85

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Moog, Inc May 2024 - January 2025
AI Development Team *Buffalo, NY*

- Worked on a small development team to deploy internal applications used by thousands of users at a global engineering firm.
- Developed and scaled an application to automate in-context AI translation of .docx and .pptx files.
- Researched, developed, and deployed an application to validate database entries using generative AI.
- Joined the team as a summer intern and accepted a return offer to work part time during the academic year.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Gong Research Group September 2025 - Present
Boston University *Boston, MA*

- Pursuing a Ph.D advised by Professor Boqing Gong and funded by BU's Dean's Fellowship.
- Conducting graduate-level research on machine learning, with a focus on deep learning and visual representation learning.
- Investigating transformer-based vision language models for tasks such as image QA and multimodal understanding.

Collaborative Discovery Group January 2025 - May 2025
Cornell University *Ithaca, NY*

- Participated in a collaboration between professor Jennifer Sun and Cornell University's Hein Fish Lab.
- Prepared an expert-annotated animal behavior detection dataset and provided benchmark results from SOTA vision models.
- Contributions were later included in manuscript submitted to CVPR 2026.

Social Dynamics Lab January 2025 - May 2025
Cornell University *Ithaca, NY*

- Assisted in a collaboration between Professor Lillian Lee and Cornell University's sociology department.
- Built a series of LLM-powered confirmation bias simulations and interpreted the findings.
- Studied and deployed knowledge graphs to support information indexing, retrieval, and reasoning.

PUBLICATIONS

Wang, S.*, Wang, W.*, Wang, Z.*, **Whitton, M.*,** *et at,* Gong, B (2026). Baby-VLM-V2: Toward Developmentally Grounded Pretraining and Benchmarking of Vision Foundation Models *(CVPR 2026)*