

**Sylvan Zheng**

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EDUCATION

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**New York University** M.P.S. Interactive Telecommunications, expected May. 2021

**Yale University** B.S. Computer Science, with distinction, *cum laude* May. 2017

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Lockwood Strategy**

Senior Software Engineer  
2020 - present | New York, NY

Research, development, and deployment of a statistical model and web frontend product to predict political messaging effects from social media data. Development of software used to manage and launch field experiment treatments and surveys on Facebook. Analysis and presentation of field experiments.

**Harmony Labs**

Contract Data Scientist  
2019 | New York, NY

Investigated the impact of mainstream U.S. media reporting on perceptions of the economy through analysis of news media and TV captions through construction of data infrastructure, supervised topic models, and other natural language processing techniques

**Facebook**

2018 - 2019 | Menlo Park, CA  
Software Engineer

Technical driver of product intervention experimentation processes, data analysis, and heuristic and metric construction to understand and mitigate politically motivated harassment on Facebook. Launched and analyzed four product experiments across feed ranking, automated content moderation, and user feedback surfaces.

2017 - 2018 | New York, NY  
Software Engineer

Designed and implemented international politician data infrastructure initiative along with two other engineers and non profit partner organizations. This data powered the Facebook ballot product allowing launches in a dozen countries.

2016 | Seattle, WA  
Software Engineering Intern

Improved common Facebook internationalization platform database query performance times from minutes to seconds by restructuring the underlying representations of text translations

SELECTED WORKS

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**Great Political Thinking 2020**

[greatpoliticalthinking2020.com](http://greatpoliticalthinking2020.com)

Producer, director, and technical lead of a satirical political analysis podcast. Script is generated from a machine learning model trained on political commentary.

**Inherent Tradeoffs**

[squidgetx.github.io/inherent\\_tradeoffs](https://squidgetx.github.io/inherent_tradeoffs)

Interactive web essay exploring the relationships between various definitions of bias in machine learning algorithms. This work was presented in a talk at the NYU ITP Tech for Social Good 2020 conference.

SKILLS

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C | C++ | Java | Python | R | Javascript | D3 | Ruby | PHP | z80

AWARDS

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Facebook Diversity Internal Hackathon Finalist (2018) | Richard U Light Fellowship (2015) | 1st Place Omnimag AI Programming Contest (2010)