Ulysses Pascal, Ph.D. — Curriculum Vitae

Current Position

Postdoctoral Researcher
Large Language Lab
University of California Los Angeles
Los Angeles, CA

Education

2016–2024 Ph.D. in Information Studies, UCLA
Dissertation: *Linked Capital: Infrastructural Mobilities in Financial Markets, from NASDAQ to SESDAQ (1967-1990)*
Advisor: Dr. Sarah T. Roberts, UCLA
Defense Date: July 3, 2024

2023 Certificate in Digital Humanities, UCLA

2012 B.A. Anthropology, Reed College

Grants and Fellowships

2025 Claims Conference Research Grant [Contributing author] ($308,000)

2023 Lee Kong Chian Research Fellowship, National Library of Singapore ($25,000)

2022 Hagley Archives Exploratory Grant ($400)

2021 Charles Babbage Institute Norberg Travel Grant ($1000)

2021 David Vickter Foundation Grant ($6000)

2019 ICCA Interdisciplinary Symposia/Workshop Award ($4,700)

2017 Digital Cultures Lab Travel Grant ($400)

2016–2022 University Fellowship, UCLA

Awards & Honors

2021 Andrew Horn Memorial Scholarship

2012 Phi Beta Kappa

2011 Commendation for Excellence Award in Academic Performance, Reed College

2007–2011 William R. Hearst Scholarship for Excellence in Academic Achievement

Scholarly Publications

Forthcoming (2026): Pascal, Ulysses. "Generative AI and the 'Contextification' of Human Language." *Critical AI.*

Forthcoming (2026): Pardo-Guerra, Juan Pablo, and Ulysses Pascal. "Historicizing Market Infrastructure." In *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Historical Sociology*, edited by

Richard Lachmann, Rebecca Jean Emigh, and David McCourt. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

2026 Pascal, Ulysses. "Contested De/centralization: NASDAQ, the National Market System, and the Politics of "the Market for Markets." *Finance and Space*. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1080/2833115X.2026.2730411

2026 Benjamin Charles Germain Lee, et al. AI and the Future of Holocaust Research and Memory (pre-print). DOI: https://doi.org/10.6069/cx72-s697

2026 Presner, T., Bonazzi, A., Pascal, U., Tang, A., Toubian, S., & Wasdahl, A. (2026). Response III: Uncritical Fabulation and Holocaust Vibe: How AI Constructs the Past. *Digital Memory Dialogues*, 2(4). DOI: https://doi.org/10.20919/SAIM6630

2026 Pascal, U., Fang, C., & Bassens, D. (2026). Decentering tech oligarchy. *Science as Culture*, 1–16. https://doi.org/10.1080/09505431.2026.2624830

2025 Bassens D, Fang C, Pascal U. Striving for sovereignty across the cloud finance stack: A relational comparison of the United States, the European Union, and China. *Finance and Society.* Published online 2025:1-21. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/fas.2025.10019

2023 Pascal, Ulysses. "Amazon 1-Click and the Value of Broken Infrastructure." In *Amazon Anthology: At the Intersection of Culture and Capital*, edited by Paul Smith, Alex Monea, and Maillim Santiago. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Press, 2023.

2020 Pascal, Ulysses. "La Ludicizzazione Dei Videogiochi." In *Game Over: Critica della Ragione Videoludica*, edited by Matteo Bittanti. Milan: Mimesis Edizioni, 2020. (Translation of "The Gamification of Games" for *Game Over: A Critique of Video Game Rationality*)

Conference Presentations

2026 "Muck: A Command Line Interface for Agentic Journalism." Second Place Finalist in Generative AI in the Newsroom competition. Computation + Journalism Conference. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL. October 3-4, 2026.

2025 "Hyperscalar Geographies." Co-organized panel for the Digital Geographies Conference. University of Lisbon, Lisbon. November 3–5, 2025.

2025 "Financial Cloud Sovereignty." Co-organized panel for the FinGeo Global Conference. National University of Singapore, Singapore. February 26–28, 2025.

2025 "On Development Software, Sovereignty, and the Financial Modernization of Singapore (1980-1990)." FinGeo Global Conference. National University of Singapore, Singapore. February 26–28, 2025.

2024 "Reading the Language of Large Language Models." Co-presented at The AI Paradigm: Between Personhood and Power. UC Irvine. Irvine, CA. May 23-24, 2024.

2023 "Colonial Circuits." Co-organized panel on Digital Capitalism and Imperialism for 4S, Honolulu. November 8-9, 2023.

2023 "Market Technology Policy: The role of SESDAQ in Singapore's Plans for Development," SHOT, Long Beach, CA.

2023 "The Stock Market of Tomorrow: NASDAQ and the Colonial Circuits of Finance," Royal Geographical Society Annual International Conference, London, August 29, 2023

2021 "ANNA: Market Metadata and the Uneven Infrastructures of Financial Assetization." 4S Conference, Panel on Markets as Data, Toronto, October 6, 2021.

2021 "From Hammer to Infrastructure: Tracing 'Breakdown' in Amazon's Vectors of Power." 4S Conference, Toronto, October 9, 2022.

2021 "Spatial Semiotics: Toward an Economic Geography of Information." The American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting, April 7, 2021.

2018 "Personalizing Persuasion Architecture: Privacy Harms and Algorithmic News Media." International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media, Stanford, CA, June 25, 2018.

Presentations & Workshop Leadership

2026 Presenter in "AI Infrastructures Workshop: Infrastructures, Ecologies, Ruins." Organized by Ludovico Rella, Benedetta Catanzariti, and Louise Amoore. May 28-29, 2026.

2026 Co-presenter in "Digital Memory Dialogues II live online discussion: finding a 'North Star' for using AI." University of Sussex, UK. February 12, 2026.

2025 Presenter in "Seeing Like a Cloud." Department of Geography's Data Center Workshop. Bejing Normal University, China. November 19, 2025.

2025 Presenter in "Platform Finance." Cosmopolis Lunch Seminar. Brussels, Belgium. March 3, 2025.

2023 Presenter in "From NASDAQ to SESDAQ: Development and the Creation of the Second Board Stock Exchange in Singapore (1981–1989)." *Lee Kong Chian Research Fellows Public Presentation*, National Library of Singapore, June 17, 2023.

2022 Organizer of "Advanced Googling It: Digital Methods for Online Research," *Department of Information Studies*, November 4, 2022.

2022 Guest presenter in **"**Grad STRIVE Fellowship Panel," *Grad STRIVE 2.0 program*, November 2, 2022.

2022 Organizer of "BYO Text: Introduction to Text Generation with Large Language Models," Department of Information Studies, February 6, 2022.

2021 Guest presenter in "Data Activism Workshop," *California Rare Books School*, UCLA, Los Angeles, August 16, 2021.

2020 Co-organizer of "Feature Extraction: The Aesthetics and Politics of Algorithms," NAVEL assemblies, Los Angeles, March–May, 2020.

2019 Co-organizer of "Feature Extraction," Experimental Digital Arts, UCLA, Los Angeles, November 16–17, 2019.

Research Experience

March 2026–Present: Postdoctoral Researcher at the Large Language Lab, UCLA, Los Angeles.

Oct. 2024–March 2026: Postdoctoral Researcher in *Finance and Big Tech*, Vrije University Brussels.

May 2024–Oct 2024: Graduate Student Researcher for *History and Philosophy of Large Language Models (LLMs)*, Supervisor: Todd Presner.

Academic Service

2026 Reviewed for *Competition and Change*

2026 Reviewed for *Critical AI*

2026 Reviewed for *Finance and Space*

2026 Reviewed for *Finance and Society*

2021 Reviewed for *Internet Policy Review*

Teaching Experience

Spring 2024 Teaching Fellow for *Markets as Media: Introduction to Digital Economy and Society*, Lead Instructor

Winter 2024 Teaching Associate for *Cluster 1B: Data, Justice and Society*, Supervisors: Todd Presner, Juliet Williams, Davide Panagia, Munia Bhaumik, and Ramesh Srinivasan

Fall 2023 Teaching Assistant for *Cluster 1A: Data, Justice and Society*, Supervisors: Todd Presner, Juliet Williams, Davide Panagia, Munia Bhaumik, and Ramesh Srinivasan

Fall 2022 Special Reader for *INFSTD 211: Artifacts and Cultures*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Jonathan Furner

Winter 2022 Special Reader for *INFSTD 270: Systems and Infrastructures*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Miriam Posner

Fall 2021 Teaching Assistant for *INFSTD 20: Introduction to Information Studies*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Safiya Noble

Spring 2021 Teaching Assistant for *INFSTD 10: Information & Power*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Ramesh Srinivasan

Fall 2020 Special Reader for *INFSTD 289: Museums in the Digital Age*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Miriam Posner

Spring 2020 Special Reader for *INFSTD 410: Management Theory and Practice for Information Professionals*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Sarah Roberts

Winter 2020 Special Reader for *INFSTD 270: Systems and Infrastructures*, UCLA Department of Information Studies, Supervisor: Miriam Posner

Additional Training

2026 Economic Geography Summer School, University of Toronto. July 2026.

2025 FinGeo School, NUS, Singapore. February 23–25, 2025.

2021 Financial Geography Summer School, MIT's Department of Urban Studies and Planning (DUSP).

2020 Anti-Monopoly and Regulated Industries Summer Academy, Law and Political Economy Project, Yale University.

2018 History of Capitalism Summer Initiative, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

2015 The Neural Aesthetic: Machine Learning for Artists, School of Machines, Making and Make-Believe, Berlin, Germany

Public Engagement Writing

2020 "The Gamification of Games: When Play Becomes Chiefly About Data Collection." *Real Life Mag*, August 27, 2020.

2015 "Automated Futures." *Skogen Yearbook 2014*, November 5, 2015.

2014 "Free Money, Free Money: Bitcoin and Ethereum." *Hypocrite Reader*, Issue 44, September 2014.

Media Coverage

2026 "Team led by Todd Presner receives $308,000 grant to study how AI is shaping Holocaust history." UCLA Humanities. March 4, 2026.

2021 "This Map Shows Where Unhoused People Aren't Allowed to Exist in Los Angeles." Motherboard, August 23, 2021.

Professional Affiliations

AOIR, 4S, FinGeo, AAG, SIGCIS, SHOT

Technical Skills

Python, Natural Language Processing, GIS