



# NEIL MAJITHIA

neil.majithia@live.co.uk | linkedin.com/in/neil-majithia-70bbb2221 | nevadam.github.io | +44 7 462 467 167

An experienced researcher working at the intersections of frontier technology and government policy. Skilled in quantitative and qualitative research with an extensive background in computational methods, ranging from advanced data science to AI benchmarking. Proven ability to communicate findings effectively and with character through award-winning journalism and academic work, having presented at global AI conferences (including NeurIPS 2025) to diverse audiences. Especially interested in the consequences of technological innovation, whether intended or not.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Research Lead (prev. Research Intern, Researcher) | Open Data Institute (ODI), London; August 2023 – Present

- ◇ First-author or project lead for more than 18 research publications across the Data-centric AI and Privacy-enhancing Technologies (PETs) programmes for clients including Google, Microsoft, DSIT, and the McGovern foundation.
- ◇ With a focus on the interactions between government and the technology industry, turned computational research into qualitative evidence for decision-making that has been presented to, and cited by, UK government.
- ◇ Led an international team on the design and development of CitizenQuery-UK, a person-centric AI benchmark exploring the dynamics of AI-generated misinformation. Presented the bespoke evaluation method at NeurIPS 2025.
- ◇ Investigated the trust ecosystem between privacy experts when confronted with PETs developed by big-Tech, examining the extent to which transparency can induce trust. Applied these findings across subsequent AI research.
- ◇ Developed the ODI's framework for AI-ready data and applied it with UK local authorities, returning unique insights about the status of data practices in local government. Currently investigating where enterprise SaaS solves – and doesn't solve – these issues. Reached an international audience and was republished in the AAI AI magazine.
- ◇ Lead researcher on a national-scale project for Depts. for Education and for Health and Social Care, designing data standards and infrastructure to support Child and Adult Social Care.

### Researcher | Centre for digital Public Health in Emergencies (dPHE), UCL, London; May 2023 – December 2024

- ◇ Built sophisticated statistical models of behavioural responses to COVID-19 lockdown policies in the UK, based on self-reported data from a mobile application. Utilised advanced time-series modelling that was iterated over 6 months.
- ◇ First-authored a paper on the design of the app and presented at IEEE SeGAH 2024. Awarded Best Paper for demonstrating how gamification promoted data donation in a healthcare setting.

### Developer and Research Assistant | CORE Econ, UCL, London; January 2022 – April 2022

- ◇ Developed interactive web-based simulation tools to communicate basic and advanced macroeconomics, recognized with the Best Research Poster at Explore Econ 2022. Was commended for design that provided semantic interpretability in its underlying code and an algorithmic perspective of economic interactions.

## EDUCATION

### BSc Economics | University College London (UCL); September 2020 – July 2023

- ◇ Specialised in quantitative economics, network analysis, and statistical risk modelling, also learning macro-scale topics in advanced international trade, politics, and disaster risk.
- ◇ Produced a dissertation containing Python-based simulations of COVID-19 viral spread and economic impact to evaluate the effectiveness of varied international policy interventions during pandemics.
- ◇ Wrote for "The Cheese Grater" for 18 months, winning the national "Best News Story" award for investigative journalism on campus welfare at the Student Publication Association National Awards (2023).

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

**Programming** · Python, Stata, R, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Git · **Data Visualisation** · **Research Methods** · Literature Reviews, Interviews, Workshops, Data Science, AI Training and Benchmarking · **Writing and Journalism** · **LaTeX**

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- ◇ Majithia, N. et al. (2026). *The CitizenQuery Benchmark: A Novel Dataset and Evaluation Pipeline for Measuring LLM Performance in Citizen Query Tasks*. arXiv preprint. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N. et al. (2025). *Trust and Transparency in Privacy-Enhancing Technologies*. ODI Research. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N. et al. (2025). *An Actionable Framework for AI-ready Data*. AAI AI Magazine. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ MLCommons Endpoints (2025). *Croissant & GeoCroissant: Standardizing Metadata for ML*. Presentation. [link](#)

## AWARDS & HONOURS

- ◇ Best Paper Award, IEEE SeGAH 2024
- ◇ Best Media Piece, UCL SU Arts Awards 2023
- ◇ Best News Story, Student Publication Association (SPA) Awards 2023
- ◇ Best Research Poster, Explore Econ 2022
- ◇ Highly Commended, The Econ Games 2021



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## PUBLICATIONS

### AI READINESS, FRAMEWORKS & STANDARDS

- ◇ Majithia, N., Carey-Wilson, T., Simperl, E. & Shadbolt, N. (2026). *An actionable framework for AI-ready data*. AI Magazine e70054. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., Carey-Wilson, T., & Simperl, E. (2025). *A framework for AI-ready data*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Simperl, E., Majithia, N., Carey-Wilson, T., Kuldmaa, A., & Liivak, P. (2025). *Insights from UK councils on standards, readiness and reform to modernise public data for AI*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Massey, J., Majithia, N. & Simperl, E. (2025). *How ready is open data for AI?* Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Massey, J., Majithia, N. & Simperl, E. (2025). *Bringing governance into the ODI framework for AI-ready data*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., Carey-Wilson T. & Simperl, E. (2024). *Transforming AI data governance with Croissant: a new standard for ML metadata*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Pezuela Robles, C. M., De Majo, C., Alonso, D., et al. (2025). *AI-ready Data Products*. Big Data Value Association (BDVA). [\[link\]](#)

### GENERATIVE AI & BENCHMARKING

- ◇ Majithia, N., Shinde, R., Chapman, Z., Trital, P., Decker, J., Maskey, M., Simperl, E., & Shadbolt, N. (2026). *The CitizenQuery Benchmark: A Novel Dataset and Evaluation Pipeline for Measuring LLM Performance in Citizen Query Tasks*. arXiv preprint arXiv:2602.04064. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., Shinde, R., Maskey, M., Simperl, E., & Shadbolt, N. (2026). *CitizenQuery-UK: Benchmarking LLM performance in citizen queries about public information on gov.uk*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., Simperl, E., Thwaites, E., & Kilcoyne, M. (2024). *The UK government as a data provider for AI*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., & Simperl, E. (2024). *Methods to Assess the UK Government's Current Role as a Data Provider for AI*. arXiv preprint arXiv:2412.09632. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., Massey, J., & Simperl, E. (2024). *Generative AI tools for data discovery and use*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Massey, J., Majithia, N., & Simperl, E. (2024). *Democratising access to data: Bridging the data divide with generative AI models*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., & Simperl, E. (2025). *The UK must lead on data to unlock AI's full potential*. Computer Weekly. [\[link\]](#)

### PRIVACY, TRUST & HEALTH

- ◇ Majithia, N., Inverarity, C., Simperl, E., Abu-Salma, R., & Tinsman, C. (2025). *Trust and transparency in privacy-enhancing technologies*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Snaith, B., Worth, S., Simperl, E., & Majithia, N. (2024). *Building a user-centric AI data transparency approach: The AI Data Transparency Index*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., Simperl, E., Tinsman, C., Himmelsbach, E., Keller, J.R. & Inverarity, C. (2024). *Fostering a thriving PETs ecosystem*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., Simperl, E., Inverarity, C., Keller, J.R. & Tinsman, C. (2024). *PETs in Practice 2: Trusted Research Environments*. Open Data Institute. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N., Aldosery, A., Wood, C. et al. (2024). *MyLockdownJournal – a Gamified Journaling App supporting Citizens' Wellbeing during COVID-19 Lockdowns*. IEEE 12th International Conference on Serious Games and Applications for Health (SeGAH). [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Majithia, N. (2024). *Open Data Science To Be Proud Of: Geographic Healthcare Analysis with Healthsites.io and WorldPop*. ODI Medium Blog. [\[link\]](#)

### JOURNALISM

- ◇ Majithia, N., & Plati, E. (2023). *Chun Buckets Everywhere: How initiation ceremonies ruin the freshers experience*. The Cheese Grater. [\[link\]](#)
- ◇ Papaoikonomou, A.M. & Majithia, N. (2023). *Nightmare at Gower Street! How Negligence and Administration Errors Pushed One Student to the Brink*. The Cheese Grater. [\[link\]](#)