

MIKE MCKENNA



Melbourne, AU



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<https://tinyurl.com/scholarmm>

EDUCATION

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

Canberra, Australia

Graduate Diploma of Computing
Bachelor of Laws

COLLEGE OF LAW

Melbourne, Australia

*Graduate Diploma of Legal
Practice*

TECHNICAL SKILLS

LANGUAGES

PYTHON, GO, SQL

CLOUD PROVIDERS

AWS, AZURE/DATABRICKS, GCP

DISTRIBUTED SYSTEMS

PYSPARK

KEY PACKAGES

PYTORCH, H2O, SCIKIT-LEARN

ACCREDITATIONS

IAPP CERTIFIED INFORMATION

PRIVACY TECHNOLOGIST

PROFILE

Mike McKenna is a data scientist, data ethicist, and lawyer. Their technical focus is algorithmic auditing and risk-management frameworks for ethical AI development. They combine their engineering and legal background to contribute to policymaking at the highest levels. Their work has been presented in high-level government contexts in Australia and the USA, including to the White House and the CDC.

WORK EXPERIENCE

SERVICES AUSTRALIA | BRISBANE

Data Ethicist | 2022 - 2023

- Core team member in the delivery of Services Australia's Data Trust & Ethics Framework and associated materials and processes, including the associated DataTEST.
- Led reviews of data-driven and non-data-driven initiatives to inform senior executives and the Data Trust & Ethics Committee, ensuring appropriate data governance and data ethics considerations are incorporated throughout the relevant life cycle.
- Reviewed and built internal risk management processes, including specialist processes for AI/ML and Business Rule Automation.
- In collaboration with other SMEs in the branch, developed case studies for training that are specific to Services Australia's challenges and context.
- Served as the go-to expert in the Branch on the application of emergent AI/ML, including Generative AI and computer vision applications.

PARITY | NEW YORK

Director of Data Science | 2022

Senior Data Scientist | 2021 - 2022

- Co-led Parity's data and algorithm auditing practice, including the first known independent algorithmic audit under NYC law 2021/144.
- Co-designed Parity's AI risk framework. The framework accounted for the discovery, measurement and mitigation of a variety of AI risks in data collection, model development, and post-deployment scenarios. The framework recently beat competitors' offerings to secure a pilot at a \$450bn tech company.
- Under the broader ethical AI practice, provided professional advice, impact assessments, education, and research output for various public and private entities.
- Designed and implemented Parity's AI experimentation framework, which was used to evaluate benchmark design, model fairness, and overall audit quality.
- Led Parity's development of reinforcement-learning solutions for fair model search, coordinating with the Engineering team to support online and offline deployment scenarios.
- Reviewed proposed algorithmic accountability laws by request of legislators, including the Algorithmic Accountability Act of 2022.

WORK EXPERIENCE (Continued)

CVS HEALTH | PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Senior Data Scientist / Machine Learning Engineer | 2019 – 2021

Covid-19 Core Team – Operation Warp Speed

- Coordinated with the highest levels of state and federal government on Covid-19 vaccine distribution and adherence under Operation Warp Speed.
- Led a data science team responsible for rapidly improving vaccine distribution and answering urgent government research questions, while personally streamlining vaccine distribution in Phase 1A across several West Coast states
- Collaborated with CVS's equity teams and community stakeholders to design interventions reducing vaccine hesitancy for African-American and Hispanic populations
- Working collaboratively with senior leaders, co-designed CVS's data ethics framework.

Retail Experimentation Team

- Served as lead data scientist on various natural language processing and workforce innovation projects on tabular data.
- Led model development for outreach optimization providing incremental annual value of 5 million USD.
- Championed data ethics concerns within the team

WIDGET BRAIN | CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

Data Scientist | 2018 – 2019

- Generated value for large supermarket, cosmetics and theatre chains by designing demographic-based demand forecasting and roster optimization solutions.
- Empowered engineers at a large shipping company by integrating ML models with an internal tool designed to explain for root cause analysis and anomaly detection.
- Expanded existing core product by implementing deep learning extensions (LSTMs).

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY | CANBERRA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Researcher, Research Assistant, Teaching Assistant | 2014 – 2017

- Researcher on Australia's first large-scale study of identity theft.
- Explained theft cost predictions to non-ML experts by leveraging interpretable random forests.
- Researcher on various other projects in political science and international relations, including projects on apex court career trajectories and Chinese economic statecraft.
- Co-facilitated interdisciplinary workshops on topics including narrative theory, AI ethics, and AI scenario planning.

MADDOCKS | CANBERRA, AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

Seasonal Clerk | 2015-2016

- Supported the provision of legal services and advice in the Government practice at Maddocks
- Constructed memos and conducted legal research on a variety of legislation, regulation and case law relevant to the practice.