

Rashid Mushkani
AI & Urban Studies PhD Candidate
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EDUCATION

2022 – 2025	Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Planning, Université de Montréal Mila – Quebec AI Institute (Defense: August 2025)
2019 – 2021	Master of Engineering in Architecture and Civil Engineering, Toyohashi University of Technology, Japan (Young Researcher Award)
2012 – 2016	Bachelor of Science in Architecture, Kabul University, Afghanistan (Best Student Award)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024	Researcher at AI4Humanity, Mila – Quebec AI Institute (Mitacs Accelerate Internship)
2023	Practical Training Lecturer, Université de Montréal – Faculty of Environmental Design (On-site and seasonal)
2022	Studio Instructor, Toyohashi University of Technology, Toyohashi, Aichi, Japan (On-site and seasonal)
2017–2019	Assistant Professor, Architecture Department, Engineering Faculty, Kabul University, Kabul, Afghanistan (On-site and tenure-track) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Taught undergraduate courses in foundational design, environmental design and society, and architectural history- Supervised students in design projects and research activities, fostering critical thinking and analytical skills
2016–2019	Architect, Aga Khan Trust for Culture, Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), Kabul, Afghanistan <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Participated in architectural design, urban design, and building conservation projects- Contributed to initiatives such as the Chihilsitoon Garden Project, and Kabul Riverfront Transformation- Prepared design drawings, site plans, and technical documentation

SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Total grants obtained since September 2019 (\$243,670)

1. Bourses en intelligence artificielle des Études supérieures et postdoctorales (ESP), \$10,000, 2024–2025, Université de Montréal.
2. Doctoral Scholarship from FRQSC - Fonds de recherche du Québec - Société et culture, \$83,334, from April 2024 to March 2027. Support for my doctoral studies at the Université de Montréal.
3. Mitacs Accelerate Scholarship, \$30,000, from April 2024 to March 2025, Issued by Mitacs. Funding for a research project in collaboration with Mila - Quebec AI Institute.
4. Guy-Desbarats Excellence Scholarship, \$5,000, Awarded in March 2024, Issued by Université de Montréal. Recognition of academic excellence in my doctoral program.
5. Student Engagement Prize, \$1,000, Awarded in March 2024, Issued by Université de Montréal. Recognition of my engagement with over 30 community organizations in Montréal.
6. FAVE Perseverance Scholarship, \$2,000, Awarded in December 2023, Issued by Université de Montréal. Recognition of my perseverance and dedication in my studies.
7. Welcome Scholarship - Faculty of Environmental Design, \$5,000, Awarded in October 2022, Issued by Université de Montréal.
8. UdeM Exemption Scholarship for International Students, 70% reduced tuition fees, from 2022 to 2024, Issued by Université de Montréal.
9. TUT-DC Fellowship, \$43,220, Awarded in March 2022, Issued by Toyohashi University of Technology (TUT), Japan. Recognition of my academic contributions during my research master's degree.
10. JICA PEACE Scholarship, \$64,116, from September 2019 to March 2022, Issued by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Financial support for my research master's degree in Japan.
11. Young Researcher Award, awarded in 2021, Issued by Toyohashi University of Technology (TUT), Japan. Recognition of outstanding contributions in academic research.
12. Faculty of Engineering Appreciation Award, awarded in November 2018, Issued by Kabul University, Afghanistan. Recognition of my academic and service contributions within the faculty.
13. Best Student Award, awarded in December 2016, Issued by Kabul University, Afghanistan. Distinction for academic excellence during my bachelor's in engineering.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed articles:

- Nayak, S., Mushkani, R. A., Berard, H., Cohen, A., Koseki, S., & Bertrand, H. MID-Space: Aligning Diverse Communities' Needs to Inclusive Public Spaces. Pluralistic Alignment Workshop at NeurIPS 2024. <https://openreview.net/forum?id=kyfkMRT4Ao>
- Koseki, S., Ammar, T., Mushkani, R. A., Berard, H., & Tannir, S. (2024). Evaluation algorithmique inclusive de la qualité des espaces publics. Proceedings of SCAN24: International Conference on New Digital Tools for Construction and Urban Planning, Tunis, November 6-8, 2024. This paper received the Best Paper Award. <https://doi.org/10.1051/shsconf/202420301005>
- Gowaikar, S., Berard, H., Mushkani, R. A., Marchand, E. B., Ammar, T., & Koseki, S. (2024). AI-EDI-SPACE: A Co-designed Dataset for Evaluating the Quality of Public Spaces. Presented at CVPR 2024 Workshop on Responsible Data. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2411.00956>
- Mushkani, R. A. (2022). Article Flere Fronter (Several Fronts: Architecture at War) published in Arkitekten, Anneks. <https://indd.adobe.com/view/30b55513-1c08-4d9f-955e-4b5f6c728962>
- Mushkani, R. A., & Ono, H. (2022). Urban planning, political system, and public participation in a century of urbanization: Kabul, Afghanistan. Cogent Social Sciences, 8(1), 2045452. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2022.2045452>
- Mushkani, R. A., & Ono, H. (2021). The role of land use and vitality in fostering gender equality in urban public parks: The case of Kabul city, Afghanistan. Habitat International, 118, 102462. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.habitatint.2021.102462>
- Mushkani, R. A., & Ono, H. (2021). Spatial equity of public parks: A case study of Kabul City, Afghanistan. Sustainability, 13(3), 1516. <https://doi.org/10.3390/su13031516>
- Mushkani, R. A., & Ono, H. (2020). Public Spaces of Developing Countries Post COVID-19: A Reflection on Current Situation from Planning Perspective in Case of Kabul City, Afghanistan. International Journal of Innovation Management, 8(3), 1-5. <https://doi.org/10.31219/osf.io/ey752>

Forthcoming contributions:

- Mushkani, R. A., Berard, H., Ammar, T., & Koseki, S. Co-producing AI: An augmented AI lifecycle. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Nature. Status: Under second review.
- Mushkani, R. A. Validating Intersectoral Knowledge in AI and Urban Studies: A Framework for Transdisciplinary. Humanities and Social Sciences Communications. Status: Under review.
- Gowaikar, S., Berard, H., Mushkani, R. A., & Koseki, S. (2024). From Efficiency to Equity: Measuring Fairness in Preference Learning. ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 2025), Athens, Greece. Status: Under review.

- Mushkani, R. A. Negotiative Alignment: Embracing Disagreement to Achieve Fairer Outcomes – Insights from Urban Studies. ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 2025), Athens, Greece. Status: Under review.
- Mushkani, R. A., Berard, H., Cohen, A., & Koseki, S. Position: The Right to AI. International Conference on Machine Learning, (ICML) 2025 Position Paper Track. Status: Under review.
- Mushkani, R. A., Nayak, S., Berard, H., Cohen, A., Koseki, S., & Bertrand, H. LIVS: A Pluralistic Alignment Dataset for Inclusive Public Spaces. International Conference on Machine Learning, (ICML) 2025 Conference Submission. Status: Under review.
- Mushkani, R. A., & Koseki, S. Intersecting Perspectives: A Participatory Street Review Framework for Urban Inclusivity. Habitat International. Status: Under review.
- Mushkani, R. A., Berard, H., Ammar, T., & Koseki, S. Public Perceptions of Montréal's Streets: Implications for Inclusive Public Space Making and Management. Journal of Urban Management. Status: Under review.
- Mushkani, R. A., & Koseki, S. Street Review: A Participatory AI-Based Framework for Assessing Streetscape Inclusivity. Computers, Environment and Urban Systems. Status: Under review.

Talks:

2025: "the Right to AI" – AI & Cities track at the AMLD – Applied Machine Learning Days, EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland.

2025: "the Right to AI: Rethinking Participatory Approaches in AI" – Participatory AI Research & Practice Symposium, SciencesPo, Paris, France.

2024: "Using AI to Design Inclusive Public Spaces" – Innovate for Cities 2024 in Montréal, Canada.

2024: "MID-Space: Aligning Diverse Communities' Needs to Inclusive Public Spaces" – Contributed Talk at the Pluralistic Alignment Workshop at NeurIPS, Vancouver, Canada.

2024: Presentation of the MID-Space dataset at the 7th Montréal AI Symposium (MAIS), an event focused on AI and governance.

2023: Presented Benchmarking Inclusion in Public Space: An Image-based Assessment Method at the Benchmarking Spatial Justice in Policymaking, Planning and Design symposium at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Netherlands, December 14, 2023.

2021: "Power and Political System in a Century of Urbanization" – Asian Studies Online Consortium: Challenge and Harmony in Asia, Kyushu University, University in Fukuoka, Japan (Online).

2021: Presented Socio-spatial study of urban public parks: Kabul City, Afghanistan during the thesis defense for a master's degree in engineering at Toyohashi University of Technology.

2020: "Spatial Equity and Accessibility of Public Parks in Kabul City, Afghanistan" – 16th Conference of Asian and African City Planning (Online).

2019: "A Social Study of Public Space" – The 15th Conference of International Development and Urban Planning, Tokyo City University, Tokyo, Japan.

2018: Presented Urban fabric of the old city of Kabul in Tabriz, Iran.

2016: Presented Heritage and public space in Kabul at the Aga Khan Development Network, India.

2016: Presented Urban fabric of Kabul at Kabul University, Afghanistan.

2016: Urban design proposal for the Nasaji neighborhood, Kabul City, Afghanistan, defense project at Kabul University, Faculty of Engineering.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Research Groups & Committees

- UNESCO Chairs on Social Inclusion in Cities:
Moderator and active member, representing the UNESCO Chair in Urban Landscape at the Université de Montréal (2023–present).
- AIJ (Architectural Institute of Japan) Research Committee on Urban Planning and Design:
Moderator and contributor (2020–2022), focusing on planning techniques for African city planning.

Community Engagement & Advocacy

- Volunteer – Research for the Front Lines (Since November 2024)
Contributing to projects addressing environmental and social challenges.
- Collaborated with multiple community organizations in Montréal (e.g., RÉZO, Société québécoise de la déficience intellectuelle, Agir Montréal, Aide aux Trans du Québec, RLQ – QLN, ALAC, Association musulmane de Montréal-Nord, Maison d’Haïti, Afrique au Féminin) to co-produce AI systems and collect feedback on public space inclusivity.
- Advocate – PlacemakingX (Since July 2020)
Actively involved in promoting inclusive placemaking practices.