

Seth Flaxman

Avenue du Temple 6, 1020 Renens VD, Switzerland
flaxman@post.harvard.edu
Citizenship: United States of America
Immigration status: Swiss B Permit



Key competencies: background in theoretically oriented math and computer science research, significant programming and web development experience, demonstrated leadership in varied, dynamic roles on teams and in organizations.

Education

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland 2009-2010

Postgraduate studies. Doctoral coursework and research project on lattices for algorithms lab. Will transfer to a PhD program in machine learning and public policy beginning in 2011 at **Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.**

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA 2004-2008

B.A. *Magna Cum Laude* awarded 2008. Joint concentration in computer science and mathematics. Significant coursework in the social sciences. High honors on senior thesis. GPA in field: 3.75, overall: 3.74/4.00

Evanston Township High School, Evanston, IL, USA 2000-2004

Work

Organisation for International Co-operation and Development (OECD), Paris, France Fall 2009

Contract information design and programming work for interactive gender index. Implemented tool at <http://my.genderindex.org>, enabling users to visualize, explore data on gender inequality in developing countries

Media and Design Lab at the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne September 2008-September 2009

Research assistant for Prof. Jeffrey Huang. Worked on CityRank (www.cityrank.ch) team responsible for information design, algorithmic methodology, and web coding and contributed to ongoing lab research at the intersection of architecture and computer science.

Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) at Harvey Mudd College, Claremont, CA, USA Summer 2006

Computer science research on approximation algorithms for optical networks on a team of five undergraduates, advised by Prof. Ran Libeskind-Hadas.

Harvard Social Cognition & Emotion Laboratory, Cambridge, MA, USA Spring 2005

Contract programming for an online study conducted by Todd Rogers.

Staff at Olin-Sang-Ruby Union Institute, Oconomowoc, WI, USA Summer 2004, 2005

Publications and Presentations

Presented work on my.genderindex.org tool at OECD-UNESCO International Workshop on “Gender Equality and Progress in Societies,” March 2010, Paris.

Flaxman, Seth, Jeffrey Huang, John Stephenson, and Xavier Comtesse. “CityRank: a dynamic tool for exploring and generating city indicators.” *Information Design Journal*. 17:3, January 2010. Gave presentation at the Data Designed for Decisions Conference in Paris, France, June 2009.

Corcoran, Kevin, Seth Flaxman, Mark Neyer, Peter Scherpelz, Craig Weidert, and Ran Libeskind-Hadas. “Approximation Algorithms for Traffic Grooming in WDM Rings,” IEEE International Conference on Communications 2009. Gave presentation in Dresden, Germany, June 2009.

Flaxman, Seth. “On the Optimality of Some Semidefinite Programming-Based Approximation Algorithms under the Unique Games Conjecture.” Senior honors thesis in computer science. Thesis advisor: Prof. Madhu Sudan. Received high honors (*Magna Cum Laude Minus*), 2008. Unpublished manuscript available in the Harvard University Archives.

Teaching

Course assistant for Personal Interaction Studio, Lausanne, Switzerland **Spring 2009**
Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne course on human computer interaction and programming mobile phones (Nokia S60). Graded homework, helped with lab, worked with students in designing their projects.

Individual tutoring, Geneva, Switzerland **Fall 2008-Spring 2009**
High school students in International Baccalaureate Mathematics and Chemistry.

Teaching fellow for Computer Science 121, Harvard **Fall 2006**
Introductory course on formal computational models and complexity theory, taught by Prof. Harry Lewis. Ran weekly recitation section and office hours. Wrote and graded homework assignments and exams.

Course assistant for Math 21a, Harvard **Fall 2005**
Multivariable calculus course, taught by Kathy Paur. Ran weekly problem session and worked in math question center. Graded homework assignments.

Academic Honors and Awards

United States National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship (declined, 2010).

EPFL departmental fellowship for first year of doctoral studies in computer science, 2009-2010.

Baccalaureate Service Reader at Harvard Commencement, 2008.

Harvard Center for Middle Eastern Studies Henry Rosovsky Summer Fellowship for Research in Israel, 2007.

High School Valedictorian. National winner, Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. Intel Science Talent Search Semifinalist. Siemens-Westinghouse Competition Semifinalist. 2004.

Skills

Programming languages: proficient in python, C/C++, php; working knowledge of Perl, Java, ML.

Web tools: django, jQuery, HTML, CSS, Drupal

Databases: MySQL

Operating systems: Windows, Linux, FreeBSD, MacOS X, BeOS.

Community organizing, as learned by participation in semester-long Harvard Social Studies tutorial "Practicing Democracy" with Marshall Ganz with 10 hours required fieldwork per week.

Languages: proficient in French (reading and conversation), some knowledge of Hebrew and Yiddish

Leadership

VP for Community Relations, Harvard Hillel

Served on Steering Committee (undergraduate board) of Harvard Hillel. Ran committee in charge of interfaith, intercultural, and social action work. Helped organize Alternative Spring Break trip to Mexico with American Jewish World Service. 2007.

Co-Chair of the Harvard College Progressive Jewish Alliance

Revitalized dormant organization and created new organizational structure. Recruited diverse group of new members and forged new alliances with other religious, cultural, and political organizations; planned large-scale talks, screenings, religious events, and political actions. Spring 2005-Winter 2007.

Web Director of the Harvard College Democrats, Fall 2005-Fall 2006

President of ReCKlez, the Harvard Klezmer Band, Fall 2007-Spring 2008

Board Member of the Reform Minyan at Harvard Hillel, Spring 2005-Spring 2008