

Newsletter



Caltech Ethics Bowl Team

In 2024, Caltech students came together to create the Institute's first Ethics Bowl team—a case-based, moral argumentation tournament, growing across the United States since 1993! The Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl provides students with the opportunity to discuss and work towards solving complex ethical issues in a team setting, cultivating respect for civil discussions while building essential skills such as critical thinking, public reasoning, consensus-building, and oral communication.

After a fall quarter full of preparation, students Chigozirim (ChiChi) Ifebi (ACM, sophomore), Sanjana Shah (Bi, junior), Sophia Slora (Bi, senior), Eric Lee (CS, junior), Arabella Camunez (ChE, sophomore), Aishat Yatarova (ME, freshman), and Dr. Ozan Gurcan (coach) traveled to Stanford University to compete in the CA regional along with 26 other teams! Caltech won two of their three rounds, finishing just short of a bid for nationals. The ethical issues students deliberated on included the use of phones and social media in classrooms; use of AI and ID verification in airports; and issues related to DNA extraction from the environment for research and law enforcement purposes. Through collegial dialogue on ethical issues of our time, the event seeks to foster a sense of responsibility as participants in a democracy.

The full case set is available [here](#). To learn more about our team and the Ethics Bowl, check out our [Tech Policy blog](#).

Myrl Marmarelis



Myrl received his PhD in Computer Science from USC in August 2024. He was born and raised in Irvine, CA, but lived in Greece for a short time where he attended elementary school before returning to Palos Verdes, CA for high school. He received his undergraduate degree from USC, where his father is a professor.

In 2024, Myrl joined Caltech as a postdoctoral scholar in Computing & Mathematical Sciences. He is currently working with both Professor Anima Anandkumar and Professor R. Michael Alvarez on AI for science and causal inference. He is also part of The Ronald and Maxine Linde Center for Science, Society, and Policy (LCSSP).

Myrl was selected as the 2024-2025 recipient of the Simoudis Discovery Prize, which provides seed funds for emerging projects at the intersection of big data, machine learning, and autonomy. This award will help support his research at Caltech with Anima Anandkumar.



[Caltech 2024 Election Integrity Project](#)

[Information and Misinformation in Elections: 2025 Conference](#)

[January 16-17, 2025](#)

This conference was a two-day online research and practitioner event on January 16-17, 2025, to discuss research regarding information and misinformation in the 2024 U.S. elections and other elections. Research topics included how campaigns used innovative new approaches to target and persuade voters, how social media influenced voters, what the electorate knew (or did not know) about the candidates and issues, misinformation in the election, election rumors and denialism, rhetoric about election integrity, disinformation dissemination and impact on the election, and conspiracy theories regarding the candidates and the administration of the election. We heard from practitioners during the conference about their experiences with misinformation in recent elections.

This conference was organized by R. Michael Alvarez (Caltech) and Betsy Sinclair (WUSTL) and was supported by a grant to Caltech from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation, as well as support from The Ronald and Maxine Linde Center for Science, Society, and Policy.

To follow the conference on social media, use the hashtag [#CaltechElectionIntegrityConf2025](#).

Connect with us and stay up to date on the latest from LCSSP:

