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Welcome!

Flourish-A-Thon 2026

MAY 1-5, 2026 · DSAI MT. WASHINGTON, BALTIMORE

Tonight's Agenda

- Orientation
- Icebreaker
- What is human flourishing?
- Speed Team Forming Activity
- Team Meeting/Coordination



Who We Are

Odia Kane PhD, MPH



Ricky Mouser PhD, MS



Goals and Objectives

1. Develop thoughtful AI solutions that are genuinely impactful and actionable
2. Engage in robust interdisciplinary collaboration with other JHU students from across the university
3. Learn a lot and have fun!



The Next 5 Days

Day 1

1. Kickoff
2. Build a team
3. Brainstorm

3-6pm, SE 304

Day 2

Workshop I: Human
Factors Design

Workshop II:
Sociotechnical Design

12-4pm, BSC 403

Day 3

Check-ins with
the organizers

Zoom



Workshop Presenters (May 2)



Yeganeh Shahsavar

Armstrong Institute, Center for
Health Care Human
Factors
SOM Anesthesiology and
Critical Care Medicine



Allison Schmidt

Armstrong Institute for
Patient Safety and
Quality
Johns Hopkins Medicine



Samuel Lefcourt

CEO of Lefcourt Medical AI
Johns Hopkins University



The Next 5 Days (cont'd)

Day 4

Develop & finalize
pitch decks

Day 5

Expo Day

4-6pm, BSC 210B

Day 6

Fill out survey to
help next year's
event thrive!



Judges



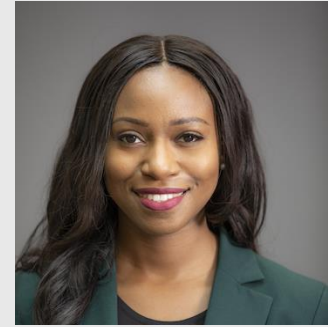
**Adam
Byerly**

JHUAPL + CLSP



**Dr. Nathan
Stenberg**

Berman + SOM



**Dr. Dena
Ford Robinson**

Microsoft



Flourish-A-Thon

Expectations



Team Expectations

- Each participant is expected to be a member of a team and attend scheduled activities
- Each team will:
 - **Present a 5-minute pitch;**
 - **Provide a one-page project summary;**
 - **Submit any code to the Flourish-A-Thon portal.**
- We expect all members of this community to treat each other with respect and provide a supportive, harassment- and bullying-free environment.



Public Health Leads

- Scope out the problem with research
- Identify the flourishing gap
- Interview end users
- Attend Workshop I

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Public Health



Flourish-A-Thon

Business Leads

- Research market and scaling
- Evaluate the competitive landscape
- Interview end users
- Attend Workshop I

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Business



Technical Leads

- Build prototype
- Design the technical implementation
- Develop the 1-page model card
- Attend Workshop II

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Technical



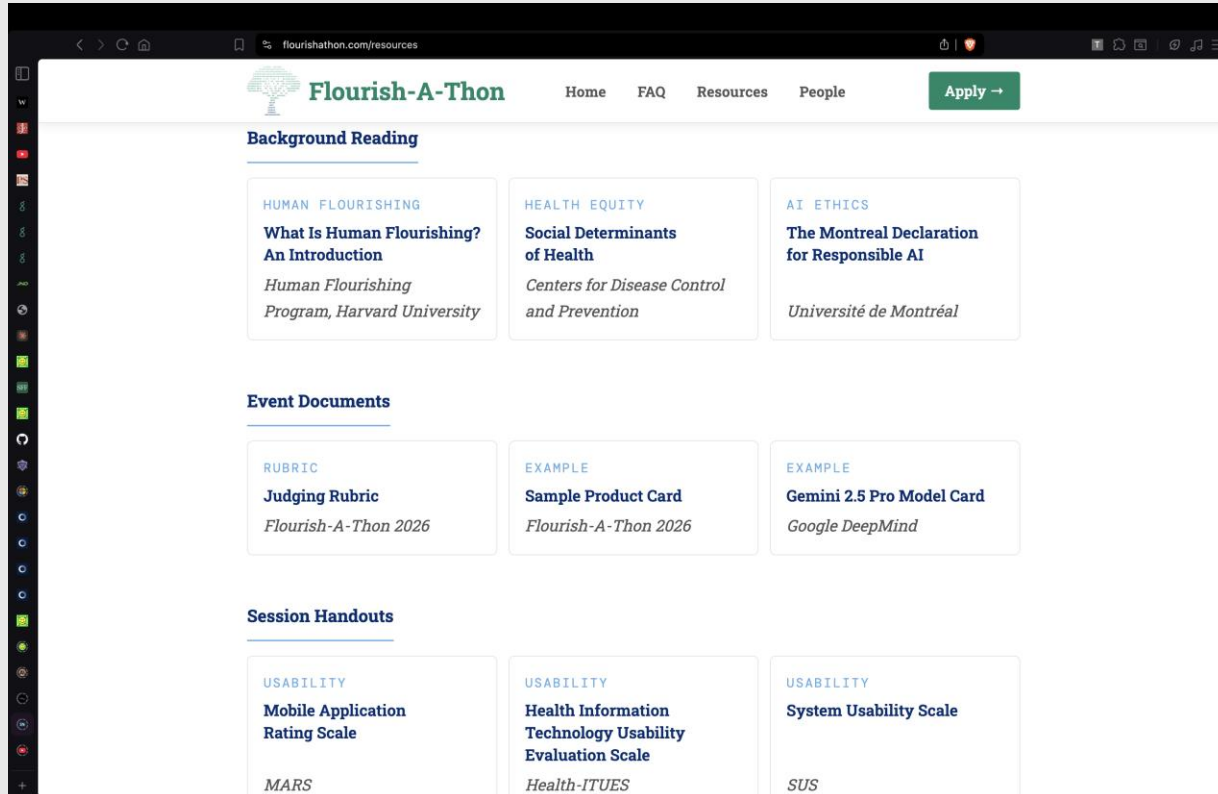
Website Walkthrough

Know your resources



Flourish-A-Thon

flourishathon.com/resources



The screenshot shows the 'Resources' page of the Flourish-A-Thon website. The page is organized into three main sections: 'Background Reading', 'Event Documents', and 'Session Handouts'. Each section contains three cards with titles, authors, and affiliations.

Flourish-A-Thon Home FAQ Resources People [Apply →](#)

Background Reading

<p>HUMAN FLOURISHING</p> <p>What Is Human Flourishing? An Introduction</p> <p><i>Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University</i></p>	<p>HEALTH EQUITY</p> <p>Social Determinants of Health</p> <p><i>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</i></p>	<p>AI ETHICS</p> <p>The Montreal Declaration for Responsible AI</p> <p><i>Université de Montréal</i></p>
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Event Documents

<p>RUBRIC</p> <p>Judging Rubric</p> <p><i>Flourish-A-Thon 2026</i></p>	<p>EXAMPLE</p> <p>Sample Product Card</p> <p><i>Flourish-A-Thon 2026</i></p>	<p>EXAMPLE</p> <p>Gemini 2.5 Pro Model Card</p> <p><i>Google DeepMind</i></p>
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Session Handouts

<p>USABILITY</p> <p>Mobile Application Rating Scale</p> <p><i>MARS</i></p>	<p>USABILITY</p> <p>Health Information Technology Usability Evaluation Scale</p> <p><i>Health-ITUES</i></p>	<p>USABILITY</p> <p>System Usability Scale</p> <p><i>SUS</i></p>
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Flourish-A-Thon

Icebreaker Social

Hot Takes



Flourish-A-Thon

Hot Takes

1. On the lined side, write your **Hot Take**:
an unpopular opinion you'd be willing to defend.
2. Find a partner, swap cards, and discuss.
3. On the blank side of the card you're now holding,
place one sticker: **Fire** if you agree, **Trash** if you don't.
4. Find a new partner and repeat!



What is flourishing?

Some philosophical background



Aren't you glad you asked?

virtue enjoyment pleasure
happiness thriving health rights
flourishing wellbeing
eudaimonia benefit
welfare well-being
the Good Life desire-fulfilment
preference satisfaction legacy
meaning in life quality of life



Flourish-A-Thon

welfare

how well YOUR LIFE goes FOR YOU



Flourish-A-Thon

welfare



how well YOUR LIFE goes FOR YOU ?



Flourish-A-Thon

welfare



how well YOUR LIFE goes FOR YOU ?

?



Flourish-A-Thon

welfare

how well YOUR LIFE goes FOR YOU ?



?



Flourish-A-Thon

Three Theories of Welfare

experiences



Three Theories of Welfare

experiences

**The Deceived
Businessman**



Flourish-A-Thon

Three Theories of Welfare

experiences

ignorance

desires



Three Theories of Welfare

experiences

ignorance

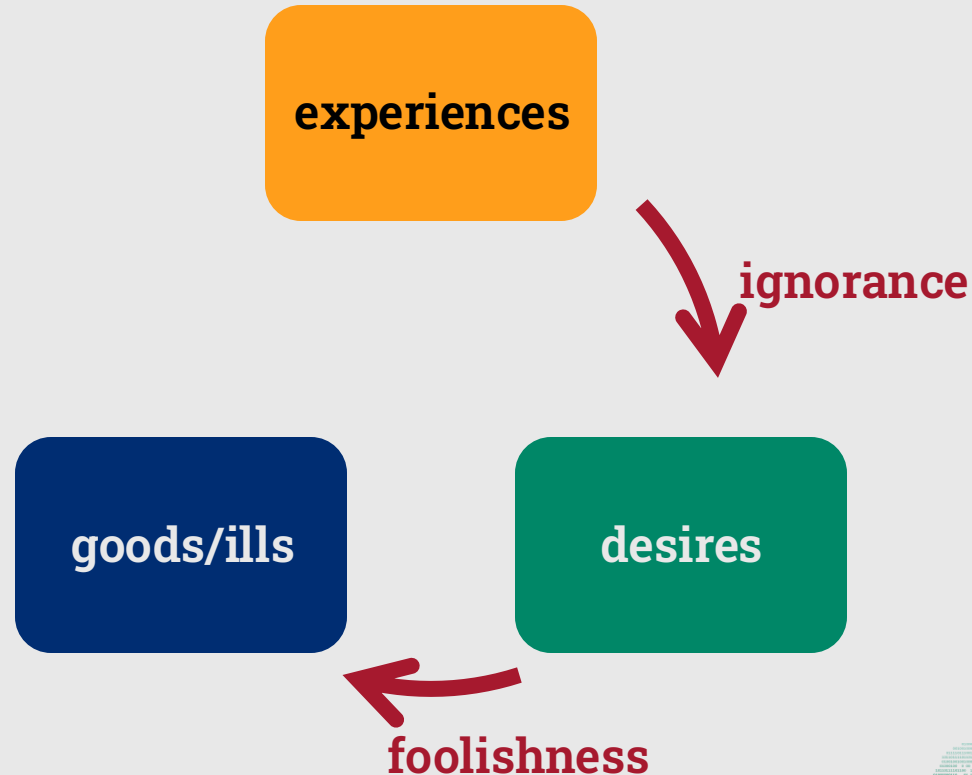
desires

The Grass
Counter



Flourish-A-Thon

Three Theories of Welfare



Three Theories of Welfare

experiences

ignorance

desires

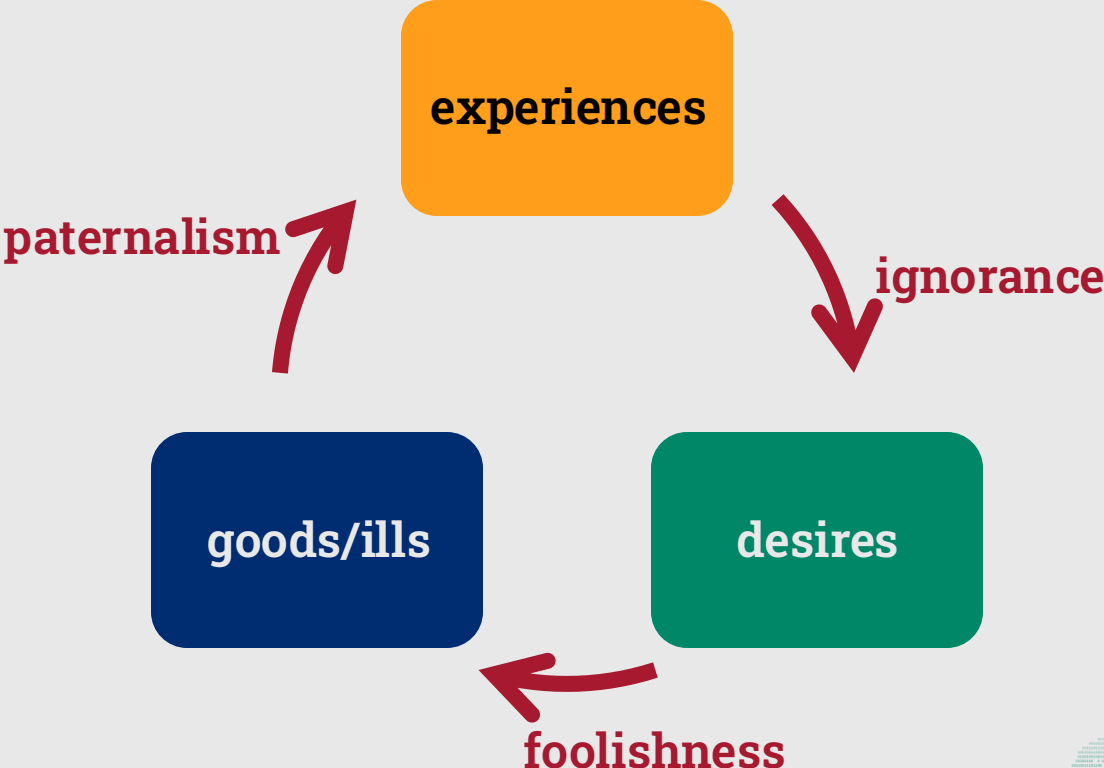
flourishness

Mid-Life
Crisis



Flourish-A-Thon

Three Theories of Welfare



flourishing



Flourish-A-Thon

flourishing

when **your life** goes well for you



Flourish-A-Thon

flourishing gap



flourishing gap

when a lack of X makes your life go less well for you



Key Takeaways

- Flourishing is a **contested normative** notion.



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- Different aspects of flourishing seem to be in **tension**, pulling us in different directions.



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- Flourishing is a **contested normative** notion.
- Different aspects of flourishing seem to be in **tension**, pulling us in different directions.
- Even aspects of flourishing (e.g., **health**) are **complex!**



Thinking in Tradeoffs

- Even aspects of flourishing (e.g., **health**) are complex!



Thinking in Tradeoffs

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 - There can be tradeoffs within health
 - (e.g., during Covid: **mental** v. **physical**)



Thinking in Tradeoffs

- Even aspects of flourishing (e.g., **health**) are complex!
 - There can be tradeoffs within health
 - (e.g., during Covid: **mental** v. **physical**)
 - There can be tradeoffs of health against other aspects
 - (e.g., lots of unhealthy things are **fun**)



Thinking in Tradeoffs

- Even aspects of flourishing (e.g., **health**) are complex!
 - There can be tradeoffs within health
 - (e.g., during Covid: **mental** v. **physical**)
 - There can be tradeoffs of health against other aspects
 - (e.g., lots of unhealthy things are **fun**)
- Health is itself a contested normative notion!
 - (e.g., deeply conflicting attitudes towards **fatphobia**)



What we're looking for

- Because flourishing is a contested normative notion, **work with end-users to define your flourishing gap!**



What we're looking for

- Because flourishing is a contested normative notion,
work with end-users to define your flourishing gap!
- Because different aspects of flourishing seem to be in tension,
pulling us in different directions,
incorporate multiple evals to explore the problem space!



What we're looking for

- Because flourishing is a contested normative notion,
work with end-users to define your flourishing gap!
- Because different aspects of flourishing seem to be in tension,
pulling us in different directions,
incorporate multiple evals to explore the problem space!
- Because even aspects of flourishing (e.g., health) are complex,
highlight the tradeoffs affecting relevant stakeholders!



Finding the **right** problem, designing the **right** solution

Odia Kane



Flourish-A-Thon

Defining the flourishing gap

- When a **lack of X** makes your life go **less well** for you
 - Activity: Rapid Fire List



Defining the flourishing gap

- When a **lack of X** makes your life go **less well** for you
 - WHY?
 - WHO?

Activity: Revisit your list and be **specific about the harms**



Designing the Solution

- **How can we increase X?**
 - Is it up to the person?
 - Systems?
 - Other forces?
- **Why use AI to address the problem?**



Example: Self-Esteem Coach

- Teenagers and young adults suffer with self-confidence and general self-esteem
 - In turn, they are turning to LLMs to navigate their interpersonal troubles
- Self-esteem is important for human flourishing because...
- **I propose an AI Self-Esteem Coach that...**
- **The solution uses AI to do X, Y, Z**



SPEED Team Forming Activity

15 minutes



Flourish-A-Thon

Process

Everyone take two sticky notes that correspond to your role

- **Public Health Leads (5 minutes)**
 - Here's a PH problem I think AI could help
- **Business Leads (5 minutes)**
 - I like this idea, here's a business model I think could fit
- **Tech Leads (5 minutes)**
 - I like this idea, here's a technical approach I think could work



Example

Flourishing
Gap

Business
Model

Business
Model

Technical
Approach

Flourishing
Gap

Business
Model

Technical
Approach

Technical
Approach



Get to know your team!

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Exchange numbers, clarify goals...