Ali Atiia, PhD

summary

experience

Zero-knowledge
Blockchain security
Smart contracts
Product & Project
Ethereum & Layer-2
Strategy & Growth
Software development
Algorithms & Complexity
Genomics & DNA Nanotech
Experimental molecular bio

- Talks ♂ Articles ♂ Teaching ♂ Academia ♂ Blockchain ♂ Publications ♂
- ali@pse.dev atiia@cs.mcgill.ca ali@electisec.com English, French, Arabic, Spanish ₽



2025-now	Product Owner	PSE 🛛 Ethereum Foundation 🖻		
2021-now	Founder	Electisec 🛛		
2024-25	Technical Coordinator & Adviso	r PSEIZ Ethereum Foundation Z		
2019-20	Blockchain R&D	Independent 🛛		
2013-18	Lecturer TA	McGill University, Montréal 🛛		
2013-16	Researcher in-vitro in-silico	IRIC Montreal ☞ NII Tokyo @		
2005-08	Software developer	Aramco, Dhahran Haradh 🛽		
2003-05	Software developer	EventCatalyst, Paris 🛛		
2004-05	IT Director	AUP Student Government, Paris 🛛		
2003	Web development intern	Aramco, Udhailiyah 🗹		
		education		
2012-18	PhD, Computer Science	McGill U, Dr. Waldispühl 🖻 Dr. Vidal 🖻		
2009-11	Master, Computer Science	Concordia U, Dr. Kharma 🛛 Dr. Suen 🖻		
2001-05	Bachelor, Computer Science	UNL USA 🛛 AUP France 🖄		
2000-01	College Preparatory Program (CPC) Aramco, Dhahran 🖄			
		awards		
2020	Independent 🛛 R&D Grant	Gitcoin 🗹		
2019	Hackathon winner 0x, UMA, Tl	ne Graph Prizes 🛛 ETH Waterloo 🗗		
2015	International PhD Internship w	ith Dr. K. Inoue NII Institute, Tokyo 🖻		
2012	MoE Graduate Scholarship (Ph	CS) McGill U, Montréal 🗗		
2011	Best Thesis Award Nominated	by V Chvâtal 🛛 Master's Thesis 🗗		
2008	MoE Graduate Scholarship (Ma	ster CS) Concordia U, Montréal 🛛		
2000	Aramco CDPNE 🛛 Scholarship (I	Bachelor CS) UNL & AUP &, USA/France		

leadership

2021-23	Founder, team growth from 2 to >2	25 in 2 yea	rs Electisec 🗹
2023	Nominee 🛛 Runner-up 🖓 Security	y Council	Arbitrum Foundation 🖻
2022-23	Review Committee Member		TrustX ☎ Devconnect ☎
2015-17	President of CSGS Councillor at I	PGSS C	SGS @ PGSS @ McGill U @
2006-08	Team Lead at Aramco	Software c	lev unit, Haradh G Plant 🖻

highlights



ethereum



2019-24: Blockchain and Zero-knowledge

alizk.xyz/blockchain 🖻

◆ Work at Ethereum Foundation's ☑ PSE team ☑: technical coordination of zkVM related efforts, product ownership of proof systems and multi-party computation projects, technical project planning, organizational strategy, advisorship on auditing and security, and public communication ☑ ☑.

• Founder of Electisec: smart contract and ZK security auditing, training, project and product management, recruitment, and client relations.

◆ Built the "teaching hospital" of software auditing: novel trial-by-fire ☑ training model at Electisec produced exceptional auditing talent ☑, which seeded the spun-out smart contract auditing arm ☑.

◆ Mentoring: authored and delivered the ZK-in-Context series ☑ to flatten the steep learning curve of ZK theory for aspiring ZK auditors. Managed the selection and onboarding of new auditors. Reviewed all research output and provided technical feedback. Introduced auditors and researchers to new areas like multi-party computation.

◆ Independent ♂ Gitcoin-funded ♂ R&D in the Ethereum ecosys 1 ♂ 2 ♂ 3 ♂ 4 ♂ 5 ♂

2009-18: Complexity Theory & DNA Nanotech alizk.xyz/academia 🗗



◆ Went beyond the reductionist method: articulated a framework ☑ of the cell as a self-modifying state machine whose transition function is determined by the active segments of the genome at a given moment of time.

◆ Rigorously applied the complexity theory of computer science as an explanatory theory □ for the unique topology □ of genetic interaction networks, as a stepping stone to understanding and debugging cellular malfunctions.

◆ Designed and implemented wet-lab methods ☑ for scaling ☑ the fabrication ☑ of DNA-based nanostructures.

◆ Worked under joint supervision of Dr. Waldispühl ☑, Dr. Vidal ☑, Dr. Major ☑, and Dr. Inoue ☑

2003-08: Software Development

Aramco 🖻 | EventCatalyst Paris 🖻



eventcatalyst

◆ Developed backends to interface with legacy instrumentation to extract gas plants' sensor readings ☑. ASP/JSP-driven intranet Web applications to consume sensor readings: aggregation for KPIs, trend and outlier detection, auto-reporting.

◆ SAP Business Warehousing & CRM ☑ : design, configuration, and maintenance of Business Intelligence reports/applications using SAP BW, with additional Javabased extensions atop NetWeaver.

◆ Reported to EventCatalyst founder and chief architect Lamia Laraqui ⊠: full-stack web applications driven by ASP and MS Stored Procedures (SQL) in the backend for the EventCatalyst ⊠ SaaS. Clients included Direction Générale des Armement, L'Oréal, France Télécom (now Orange ☑), NEC, nVidia, and the UN.