



School of  
Public Policy




**ALINA TURNER**  
**Research Fellow**  
Health & Social Policy



Dr. Alina Turner is the CEO and Co-Founder of [helpseeker.org](https://www.helpseeker.org) and a Research Fellow at the School of Public Policy, University of Calgary. A refugee who arrived in Canada at age 12, she is a cultural anthropologist, data scientist and technologist who has spent two decades building from ethnographic fieldwork to frontier AI for social systems.

Dr. Turner led the [Compass Initiative](#) — co-funded by Canada's Digital Technology Supercluster with Microsoft and the University of Toronto — which produced Karto, Navigi and Mareto, a suite of AI-powered tools for social sector data analytics, service navigation and case management now serving over 200 municipalities across Canada.

Her collaboration with UofT's Centre for Social Services Engineering advanced ontological methods for social service provisioning,



resulting in a machine-readable standard for representing needs, services and outcomes at scale. She works with the Government of Alberta on applying AI to government efficiency and data-driven social policy.

HelpSeeker's research has shaped national policy debates, most notably the Municipalities Under Pressure series commissioned by the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and cited in the Globe and Mail and CBC. Dr. Turner's publications at the School of Public Policy — and established frameworks for systems planning and service integration, while in The Philanthropist — made the case for ethical AI adoption in social purpose organizations.

She holds a PhD in socio-cultural anthropology from the University of Calgary. Turner's primary research interests include AI and data science for social systems, social sector systems architecture and applied ontologies for public service delivery.

