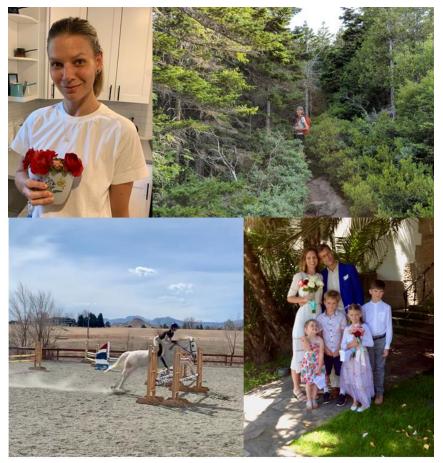# Rebecca Morrison

Rebecca Morrison is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science who joined CU Boulder in 2018, working in our Numerical and Scientific Computing group. I got to take Rebecca's Uncertainty Quantification class last Spring and learned so much in it. As in the class, her thoughtfulness is apparent every time we talk, and I encourage you to experience that for yourself!

What is your path to CU Boulder?

Rebecca is a native of San Luis Obispo, CA, and went to Scripps College (one of the Claremont colleges) for her undergraduate studies, where she majored in Physics. She started graduate school at the University of Texas in Austin, originally studying physics, but found a better fit for her interests in an institute for computational sciences at UT, now called the Oden Institute. After graduating from UT, Rebecca did a postdoc at MIT in their Aeronautics and Astronautics department, in a computational lab there. While she was a postdoc, Professor Jed Brown reached out to her, inviting her to apply for a position at CU. She was not actively on the job market at the time, but the more she learned about CU, the more excited she got about the department and decided to apply for the position. After deferring for a year to finish her postdoc, Rebecca joined us in Fall of 2018.

How would you explain your research to a ten-year-old?

Rebecca has two primary threads of research: *"I make observations about the world around us and try to do a couple different things with those observations. One is to find some structure in [the observations], and the other is to see if those observations match up with our model of the natural or physical processes. If they don't match, I ask why, and what can we do about it?"*

If you had an alternative career, what would it be?

Rebecca thinks she would enjoy doing something in botany or horticulture. She loves plants and gardens, and, as a child, thought she was going to have some outdoor, field-based job doing something with trees. She joked that it's a wonder how she works in a Computer Science department now, given that she didn't really enjoy being on computers when she was younger and would rather spend time outdoors.

What are some of your hobbies?

As a child, Rebecca spent lots of time horseback riding, and after pausing in grad school, she has recently resumed riding since moving to Boulder. When not riding, Rebecca also plays a lot of tennis and other sports, loves reading fiction novels, and plays a bit of piano. (Current book recommendation: Cormoran Strike series by Robert Galbraith, a pen name for J.K. Rowling.) While at Scripps, Rebecca also walked on to the university basketball team at one point!

What is something you're proud of?

Rebecca is really proud of the relationship she has with her family and friends. She has been able to maintain meaningful friendships from each major part of her life, from San Luis Obispo to Claremont to Austin to Cambridge, and now to Boulder! She's really proud of how these friendships have lasted and even grown over time, and how she has managed to stay connected with her family and friends despite her many moves across the country.

Icebreaker suggestions

Get to know Rebecca by asking how her most recent ride was or asking her what she's currently reading!

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