Humphrey Curtis

February 2026 | humphreywcurtis@gmail.com | humphreycurtis.github.io

About

I am a Research Associate at King's College London and completed my PhD within the Human-Centred Computing Research Group under Timothy Neate and Rita Borgo. My PhD research focused on wearable and discreet augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) technologies for people with aphasia following stroke. Through participatory design across disadvantaged London communities, I explored how smartwatches and smart badges can serve as wearable communication safety nets during moments of stress and breakdown, while identifying limitations of smartglasses due to cognitive load. I am currently open-sourcing this portfolio of wearable AAC tools. More recently, my work has engaged with the growing role of generative AI in accessibility. During an internship at Microsoft Research, I worked on remote meeting agents for Microsoft Teams to support chronically ill people in maintaining employment and social connection. Now I am now developing Advokit, an inclusive GenAI-enhanced toolkit co-designed with people with aphasia to support access to public services, including benefit navigation, community stories and language assistance tools.

Professional Experience

Microsoft Research — Seattle, USA
Ability Team; Research Intern — 06/2024–09/2024
Mentored by Dr Martez Mott

Lucky Beans Childcare Limited — London, UK
Freelance Web Development — 06/2019–09/2019

Plenum Group — London, UK
Interim Executive Search — 06/2018–09/2018

Santander — London, UK
Work Experience; Corporate Finance (Healthcare) — 06/2016–09/2016

EuroABS — London, UK
Work Experience — 06/2015–09/2015

Bank of America Merrill Lynch — London, UK
Insight Week — 02/2015

Education

King's College London — London, UK
Research Associate, Department of Informatics, Human-Centered Computing Group — 11/2025–Present
Supervised by Dr Filip Bircanin and Dr Timothy Neate
Advokit research project: Envisioning and building inclusive AI-enhanced digital access to public services

King's College London — London, UK
PhD in Computer Science, Department of Informatics — 09/2021–2026
Supervised by Dr Timothy Neate and Dr Rita Borgo; **Passed viva with minor corrections**
Departmental profile: www.kcl.ac.uk/people/humphrey-curtis

King's College London — London, UK
MSc Advanced Computer Science; **Distinction** — 09/2020–09/2021

University of Bristol — Bristol, UK
MSc Computer Science; **Merit** — 09/2019–09/2020

Institut d'Études Politiques de Grenoble — Grenoble, France
Year Abroad; **Distinction** — 09/2017–09/2018

University of Exeter — Exeter, UK
BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics; **First Class** — 2015–2019

Dulwich College — London, UK
Secondary Education — 2009–2015

2025 Ken Rothman Award: Health Research From Home
2024 Best Paper Nomination: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility
2024 NMES PhD Research Competition Award: Faculty NMES PhD competition
2023 Best Student Paper Award: ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility
2023 Best Paper Award: CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems
2022 SIGACCESS Travel Scholarship: Funds to travel and present at ASSETS 2022
2021 KCL PhD Studentship: Departmental scholarship to cover PhD, expenses and living costs
2021 Academic Prize: Best overall performance on MSc Advanced Computing program

Technical Skills

Programming: Python; JavaScript (Next.js, React); Swift; C; Java; SQL
Web & Infrastructure: HTML; CSS; Git; REST APIs; MongoDB; Firebase; Vercel
Systems: Linux; Emacs; Vim
Research & Authoring: LaTeX; Microsoft Office
Media & Design: Figma; DaVinci Resolve; Shotcut; Affinity Suite

Publications   ORCID | Google Scholar

Journal Articles

J1   Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2025). **Making smartglasses accessible: perspectives and prototypes from co-design with people with aphasia**. *Scientific Reports*, 15, 38309. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-025-22253-2

Conference Papers

C1   Curtis, H., Jenkins, A., Gentry, A., Zacharek, S., McVicker, S., Bircanin, F., & Neate, T. (2026). **"Computer Says No": Disabled Welfare Experiences and Envisioned Futures Under AI Governance**. Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26), Barcelona, Spain. DOI: 10.1145/3772318.3791025

C2   Curtis, H., Bircanin, F., & Neate, T. (2025). **"An Old Bastard in Bright Orange Satin!": Zuzenna's Aphasia Diary and Lessons Learned from DIY Augmentative and Alternative Communication**. Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '25), Denver, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3663547.3746369

C3   Mo, T., Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2025). **Life as an International Computer Science PhD Student with Cerebral Palsy**. Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '25), Denver, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3663547.3749835

C4   Curtis, H., Beneteau, E., Cutrell, E., Ford, D., Junuzovic, S., Paradiso, A., Tang, J., & Mott, M. (2025). **"I use video calling in all areas of my life": Understanding the Video Calling Experiences of Chronically Ill People**. Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '25), Yokohama, Japan. DOI: 10.1145/3706598.3713193

C5   Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2024). **Looking Past Screens: Exploring Mixed Reality and Discreet AAC Devices**.
♀   Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '24), St John's, Canada. DOI: 10.1145/3663548.3675655

C6   Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2024). **Beyond Repairing with Electronic Speech: Towards Embodied Communication and Assistive Technology**. Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24), Honolulu, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3613904.3642274

C7   Curtis, H., Lau, Y., & Neate, T. (2024). **Breaking Badge: Augmenting Communication with Wearable AAC Smartbadges and Displays**. Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24), Honolulu, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3613904.3642327

C8   Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2023). **Watch Your Language: Using Smartwatches to Support Communication**. Proceed-
🏆   ings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '23), New York, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3597638.3608379

C9 Curtis, H., You, Z., Deary, W., Tudoreanu, M., & Neate, T. (2023). **Envisioning the (In)Visibility of Discreet and Wearable AAC Devices**. Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23), Hamburg, Germany. DOI: 10.1145/3544548.3580936

C10 Curtis, H., Neate, T., & Vazquez Gonzalez, C. (2022). **State of the Art in AAC: A Systematic Review and Taxonomy**. Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '22), Athens, Greece. DOI: 10.1145/3517428.3544810

Book Chapters

B1 Curtis, H. & Neate, T. (2026). **Future Directions of AAC: Co-design of Wearable Communication Technologies with Users with Aphasia**. In A. Caute & A. Roper (Eds.), *Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Aphasia*. Routledge (Taylor & Francis).

Late-Breaking Work

L1 Sattar, S., Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2024). **Public Assistive Displays: Employing Public Interactive Displays to Improve Public Transport Access 4All**. Late-Breaking Work, ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24), Honolulu, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3613905.3650890

Workshop Papers

W1 Neate, T., Vincenzi, B., Barros Pena, B., Nevsky, A., Lewthwaite, S., Desai, S., Loizides, F., Curtis, H., & Bircanin, F. (2025). **Accessibility in Austerity: Formulating Strategies for Accessibility Research in Constrained Times**. Proceedings of the 38th International BCS Human-Computer Interaction Conference (BCS HCI '25). DOI: 10.14236/ewic/BCSHCI2025.4

Doctoral Consortium

D1 Curtis, H. (2022). **Wearable, Discreet, Augmentative and Alternative Communication**. Doctoral Consortium, BCS Human-Computer Interaction (BCS HCI '22), Keele University, UK. DOI: 10.14236/ewic/HCI2022.54

Teaching Experience

6CCS3HCI: Human-Computer Interaction, King's College London	London, UK
Teaching assistant for labs and marker under Dr Timothy Neate, Dr Georgia Panagiotidou & Dr Petr Slovak	2021–2026
7CCSMSDV: Simulation and Data Visualization, King's College London	London, UK
Teaching assistant for labs and Marker under under Dr Rita Borgo	2022–2025
King's Undergraduate Research Fellowship	London, UK
Research Mentor for Master's and Undergraduate summer thesis projects	05/2023–08/2023

Service & Volunteering

Aphasia Re-Connect, Roberta Williams Speech and Language Therapy Centre	London, UK
Weekly Charity Volunteer (under Dr Sally McVicker)	2021–Present
British Computer Society (BCS) Human-Computer Interaction Conference	Cardiff, Wales
Associate Chair	2025
Cockney CHAI	London, UK
Web Chair; designed and maintained the conference website	2025
ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS)	Athens; New York; St John's
Student Volunteer (2022–2023); Student Volunteer Chair and Research Mentor (2024)	2022–2024
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems	New Orleans, USA
Student Volunteer	05/2022

Reviewing Experience

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)	2023–Present
ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS)	2025–Present
ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS)	2025–Present
BCS Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (BCS HCI)	2025
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC Journal)	2024
ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)	2023, 2024
European Journal of Special Needs Education	2023
ACM Nordic Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (NordiCHI)	2023, 2024
ACM CHI Conference on Play (CHI PLAY)	2023
ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST)	2023

Invited Talks & Media

The Importance of Ethics in HCI, AI, and Assistive Technology	March 2025
University of Oklahoma, HCI module guest lecture	
Wearable and Discreet AAC Devices to Support Communication	February 2025
Health Research From Home Showcase, Google HQ, King's Cross	
Participatory Design & AAC: Looking Beyond Prominent Tech for Speech	September 2024
Aphasia Summit, City, University of London	
Not Everyone Needs a Device Like Stephen Hawking: Looking Beyond Prominent Technologies for Speech	September 2024
HCID Day, City, University of London	
Interview on UK Disability History Month and Personal Research	December 2023
Enabled in Academia	
Improving the Accessibility of London Transport	November 2023
Transport for London (TfL)	
Interview on Wearable AAC Devices	August 2023
Electronic Specifier Magazine	

Interests

Reading and Film: I am interested in literature, philosophy, history and cinema. Find me at: Goodreads and Letterboxd.
Sport: I have yet to find a sport I do not enjoy and golf remains the primary one. Represented King's College London and the University of Exeter in BUCS golf. Represented Spencer CC in cricket (4th nationally, 2012) and coached at Battersea Ironsides CC.
Societies and Leadership: Member of the University of Bristol Computer Science Society (2019–20). Former member of PPE Society and Exeter Entrepreneurs Society; served as a Study Abroad Mentor. Completed Excode (2018) and participated in the International Student Initiative at Sciences Po Grenoble (2017–18).
Challenges and Awards: Duke of Edinburgh Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards. Completed National Citizen Service (The Challenge, 2014).