

HYEMI SONG

HOME <https://hyemisong.com/> PORTFOLIO <https://bohyemian.com/> EMAIL hsong02@cs.umd.edu

Summary

Research interests: Information Visualization, HCI, Human-Centered AI, and Immersive Analytics.

Main topic: The complex interplay between Natural Language and Data Visualization in XR within generative AI-powered immersive analytics, under the supervision of [Dr. Amitabh Varshney](#). For my dissertation, I am exploring speech-based multimodal interaction techniques for immersive analytics, with a focus on enhancing human–system communication to support more intuitive data exploration workflows.

Immigrant status: US Permanent Resident (EB-1A Extraordinary Ability, self-petitioned, 2021).

Educational background

Ph.D. Computer Science, University of Maryland College Park, 2022 - Present

Master of Science, Computer Science, University of Maryland College Park, 2022-2024

Master of Fine Arts, Digital + Media, Rhode Island School of Design

Bachelor of Science, Molecular Biology, The Catholic University of Korea

Publications

C1 **Hyemi Song**, Kirsten Whitley, Eric Krokos, Amitabh Varshney — New Paper, Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI), IUI 2026 (conditionally accepted)

J2 **Hyemi Song**, Matthew Johnson, Kirsten Whitley, Eric Krokos, Amitabh Varshney — Embodied Natural Language Interaction (NLI): Speech Input Patterns in Immersive Analytics, IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG), IEEE VIS 2025 (acceptance rate of 24.4%), [LINK](#)

P2 **Hyemi Song**, Sai Gopinath, Zhicheng Liu — Intents, Techniques, and Components: a Unified Analysis of Interaction Authoring Tasks in Data Visualization, Master's scholarly paper, University of Maryland, Preprint, 2024, (Invited for fast-track submission to CGF journal via EuroVis 2023), [LINK](#)

J1 Hannah K. Bako, Xinyi Liu, Grace Ko, **Hyemi Song**, Leilani Battle, Zhicheng Liu — Unveiling How Examples Shape Data Visualization Design Outcomes, IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG), IEEE VIS 2024 (acceptance rate of 23.2%), [LINK](#)

P1 Zongxia Li, Paiheng Xu, Fuxiao Liu, **Hyemi Song** — Towards understanding in-context learning with contrastive demonstrations and saliency maps, Preprint 2023, [LINK](#)

T1 **Hyemi Song** — Walking in a Place, Walkesta, Rhode Island School of Design, MFA Thesis 2016, [LINK](#)

Books & Book chapters

B2 **Hyemi Song**, Solar System, Annual Student Artists' Book Juried Contest, Rhode Island School of Design, 2015

B1 Steven Heller, Rick Landers, Raw Data, (Published Works: The temperature of my mind, Visualizing works), 2014

Research and Professional experience

University of Maryland College Park, USA, 2022 - Present

Position: Research Assistant (Full-time, Advisor: Dr. Amitabh Varshney)

Microsoft, Redmond, USA, 2019 - 2022

Position: Senior Designer (Full-time) - Specialized in Data Visualization (Azure Machine Learning, Responsible AI)

Datadog Inc, New York, USA, 2017 - 2019

Position: Product Designer (Full-time) - Specialized in Data Visualization

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT Senseable City Lab, Cambridge, USA, 2016 - 2017

Position: Research Fellow (Full-time, Data Visualization Specialist)

NAVER Corporation, Seoul, Korea, 2011 - 2014

Position: UX Researcher (Full-time) - Social Media, Search Engine

VINYL Interactive, Seoul, Korea, 2010 - 2011

Position: UX Researcher (Full-time) - New Media Art Installation

2015 Brothers, Seoul, Korea, 2009 - 2010

Position: Art Director (Full-time) - Advertisement

PXD, Seoul, Korea, 2008 - 2009

Position: UX Researcher (Full-time) - Web/Mobile Operation Systems and Applications

Kiz Entertainment, Seoul, Korea, 2004

Position: Animator (Full-time)

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eyeballNYC, New York, USA, 2015
Samsung Electronics, Seoul, Korea, 2007
Cheil World Wide, Seoul, Korea, 2006
 Positions in three companies: Design Intern (Full-time)

Teaching experience

University of Maryland College Park, 2022 Spring/Summer, 2023 Spring/Summer/Fall
 Position: Teaching Assistant, Class: Introduction to Data Science, Web Application Development with JavaScript
Rhode Island School of Design, 2016 Winter
 Position: Instructor, Class: Measuring the Universe (2016 RISD Winter Session)

Grants, Fellowships & Scholarships

University of Maryland College Park, USA - Travel Grant, 2025 (\$1,600)
University of Maryland College Park, USA - Fellowship, Future Faculty Program, 2025-Present (\$2,000)
ACM DIS, USA - Awarded one-year ACM Professional Membership for paper review contribution, 2024
IEEEVIS, USA - Inclusive and Diversity Scholarship, 2023 (\$1,000, Registration Fee Weaver)
University of Maryland College Park, USA - Assistantship, 2022-Present
University of Maryland College Park, USA - Dean's Fellowship, 2022-2024 (\$5,000)
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA - Fellowship, 2016 - 2017 (\$40,000)
Rhode Island School of Design, USA - Assistantship/Fellowship, 2014 - 2016
Samsung Art & Design Institute, Korea - Scholarship, 2007 (\$4,000)

Community service

IEEEVIS - Student Volunteer, 2025
ACM CHI- Invited Session Chair (Case Studies), 2025
ACM CHI- Reviewer, 2024 - Present, (Full papers: 2024, Case Studies: 2024)
PacificVis- Reviewer, 2024 - Present, (Full papers -TVCG Journal: 2024)
ACM Designing Interactive Systems- Reviewer, 2024 - Present, (Full papers: 2024)
IEEEVIS - Reviewer, 2023 - Present, (Full papers: 2023/2025, Short papers: 2024)
UMD Graduate Admissions Committee, 2023
PacificVis - Juror, 2022 - 2023
IEEEVIS Arts Program - Program Committee, 2018 - Present (Full papers, Exhibitions, Pictorials)
A' Design Award & Competition, Italy - Jury Member, 2018 - 2022
Brown University, Computer Science Department, USA - Portfolio Reviewer, 2019 - 2021
Apexart, USA - Jury Member, 2017

Mentoring service

Yutian Zhang - PhD, UMD, CS
 Peer Mentorship UMD, 2025
Saumya Verma - Master, UMD, iSchool
 User Research Methods, 2024
John Robert Cole - Master, UMD, CS
 Peer Mentorship UMD, 2024

Invited talks, Lectures, Workshops (Selected)

Ohio State University Ohio, USA, 2022
 Lecture: Data and Human Communication
GyeongGi Cultural Foundation, Seoul, Korea, 2021
 Lecture: Data as a communication medium: art, design, and human
San Jose State University San Jose, USA, 2021
 Lecture: Data and Human Communication
 Workshop: Measuring the temperature of my mind

Awards

ACM Designing Interactive Systems, USA - Awarded for Best Paper Review Contribution, 2024
IEEE Arts Program, Melbourne, Australia - Accepted for exhibition, 2023 (Project: Solar System)
A'Design Award and Competition, Italy - Winner (Gold), 2018-2019
Information is Beautiful Awards, USA - Long List, 2018

World Changing Ideas Awards (by Fast Company), USA - Finalist, 2018
IEEE Arts Program, Berlin, Germany - Accepted for exhibition
A'Design Award and Competition, Italy - Winner (Iron), 2016-2017
53rd American Graphic Design Awards, GDUSA, USA -Winner (Student), 2016
Spark International Design Awards, USA - Finalist, 2016
Annual Student Artists' Book Juried Contest, USA - Accepted for exhibition and publication at RISD Fleet Library, 2015
Adobe Design Achievement Awards, USA - Semifinalist, 2008, 2015, 2016
Adobe Design Achievement Awards, USA - Honorable Mention 2007
IF Design Award, USA - Winner, 2010
Good Design Award, Japan - Winner, 2010
Seoul Design Olympiad 2009, Korea - Winner (Honorable Mention), 2009
SADI Graduation Award, Korea - Experimental Portfolio Winner, 2008
11th Environmental Management Corporation Award, Korea - Winner, 2006

Media appearance

Monthly Design (Oldest Korean Design Magazine), Seoul, Korea, 2018
Feature Interview, Title - Data Visualization Designer, Hyemi Song / [LINK](#)
Data Vis Today, USA, 2018
Feature Interview, Podcast (Episode 13) / [LINK](#)
IdN, Hong Kong, 2018
Featured article (Project: CityWays), IdN is an international Design Magazine / [LINK](#)
The Guardian, USA, 2016
News Article (Project: Urban Exposure), Data Visualization at MIT Senseable City Lab / [LINK](#)
Visual Loop, Brazil, 2012
Featured article, Title - Finding stories of data visualization from twitter / [LINK](#)
Information Aesthetics, USA, 2011
Featured article, Title - Visualizing Works: Hyemi Song's Innovative Portfolio / [LINK](#)
Visualising Data, USA, 2011
Featured article, Title - Visualizing Works: Hyemi Song's Innovative Portfolio
Sadi Vision, Korea, 2011
Featured article (Project: Visualizing Works)
IF Online Gallery, USA, 2010
IF Online Gallery (Project: KT Olleh Square)
2009 Seoul Design Olympiad, Korea, 2009
Annual publication for winners
Adobe Design Achievement Award Online Gallery, USA, 2008
ADAA Online Gallery (Project: The temperature of my mind)

Exhibitions

IEEE Arts Program, Melbourne, Australia, 2023 (Project: Solar System)
Design Korea Festival 2020, Design Beyond Data, @Coex, Seoul, Korea, (Declined) 2020
IEEE Arts Program, Berlin, Germany, 2018
A'design Award Winner exhibition, @Mood, Italy, 2017
Shenzhen Design Week, @Shenzhen Convention Center, China, 2017
RISD Nature Lab anniversary exhibition, @Waterman Gallery, USA, 2017
Internet Festival, @Waterman Gallery, Pisa , Italy, 2016
RISD Graduate Exhibition, @Providence Convention Center, USA
Dark Matter, @RISD Sol Koffler Gallery, USA
Image Landscapes, @RISD Gelman Gallery, USA
Annual Student Artists' Book Exhibition, @RISD Fleet Library, USA
2009 Seoul Design Olympiad, @Jamsil Main Stadium, Korea
Sharing Experience 2009, @Zero one center Gallery, Korea
Onepiece Magazine Ceremony Party 500, Korea
Reviewing Hanul Exhibition, @Space Hiut, Korea
GUANGZHOU Design Korea Exhibition, Guangzhou, China
2nd D.I.P. Exhibition, @SADI Space Gallery, Korea

21st D.I.P. Exhibition, @SADI Space Gallery, Korea

SADI Graduation Exhibition, @SADI Space Gallery, Korea

Hanul Exhibition, @Shinhan Gallery, Korea

Chelsea College of Arts Graduation Exhibition, @Hugon Road Gallery, UK

Permanent collections

Walking in a Place Walkestra, Book, RISD Fleet Library, Rhode Island School of Design, 2016

Solar System, Art Book, RISD Fleet Library, Rhode Island School of Design, 2015

Skillsets

Front, Backend, Data Visualization, Immersive Analytics — Javascript, React, Redux, Express.js, MongoDB, Python, HTML, CSS, C#, D3js, VegaLit, Matplotlib, Three.js, PyTorch, Unity

Design & Research — Graphic Design, UX/UI design, Interaction Design, UX Research, Academic Research