Albin Zeqiri

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Human-Computer Interaction Researcher/Doctoral Candidate

I am a **final-year PhD candidate in Human–Computer Interaction** at Ulm University, focusing on user-centered sustainability and carbon reduction in resource-intensive digital systems. My research spans (1) designing citizen-facing interactions for emerging urban technologies that go beyond simple automation and (2) analyzing how carbon-reduction mechanisms are implemented in deployed digital systems and what user behaviors they trigger. Methodologically, I combine empirical studies (online, lab, and field), qualitative analysis, statistical methods, and machine learning, including NLP on datasets collected through data mining.

I have a background in HCI (BSc), Data Science (BSc, MSc), and Behavioral Psychology, and have published at top-tier HCI venues, including CHI and IMWUT. I also collaborate closely with academic (**UCL Interaction Centre, Karlsruhe Institute for Technology**) and industry partners (**Mercedes-Benz Tech Innovation**).

Skills

Experimental Design: Online/Laboratory/Field-based Experiments (exploratory/hypothesis-driven), Large-Scale Literature Surveys (e.g., PRISMA), Data Mining Workflows (Design & Implementation)
Quantitative Methods: Statistical analysis (Frequentist/Bayesian), Machine Learning/Deep learning
Qualitative Methods: Participatory Design, Design Thinking, Workshops, Interviews, Thematic analysis, Grounded Theory
Programming: Python, PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, R, Java, C#, C/C++, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Unity,
Design: UI/UX Prototyping, Image/Video editing
Languages: Albanian (native), German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

Employment

ULM UNIVERSITY - Chair of Human-Computer Interaction   Ulm, Germany
Research Associate   09/2022 — present
- Led HCI research on behavioral determinants of resource-intensive system use across residential, automotive, and online contexts, integrating qualitative and quantitative methods.
- Designed and conducted 15+ research studies, including controlled experiments, in-the-wild deployments, and work focused specifically on data mining/dataset curation as input for AI-based systems
- Collaborated with academic (**UCL Interaction Centre**, **Karlsruhe Institute of Technology**) and industry research partners (**Mercedes-Benz Tech Innovation**), with primary responsibility of planning and setting up reproducible machine learning workflows aimed at predicting user behavior based on real-world datasets.
- Supervised and mentored 20+ undergraduate and graduate students, providing guidance through problem formulation, study design, data analysis, and publication

ULM UNIVERSITY – Chair of Human–Computer Interaction/Visual Computing   Ulm, Germany
Research Assistant/Tutoring   12/2019 — 04/2022
- Developed interactive VR research prototypes using Unity and C#
- Supported the design, execution, and evaluation of empirical user studies
- Taught C#, Unity, and fundamentals of UI/UX prototyping to a class of 40+ students
- Managed and maintained course materials for supervising faculty
- Evaluation and reporting of various monocular depth estimation models in terms of performance and scalability

Education

Ulm University, Ulm, Germany   09/2022 − 12/2026 (expected)
PhD Candidate in Human-Computer Interaction
Dissertation Working Title: Carbon Reduction Mechanisms in Resource-Intensive Digital Systems: A Sufficiency-Based Approach to User-Centered Design
Research Areas: Responsible and Sustainability Computing, Design Tradeoff Optimization
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Enrico Rukzio

Ulm University, Ulm, Germany   03/2020 − 08/2022
M.Sc. Computer Science   Overall Grade: 1.3 (A-equivalent)
Thesis Title: A Dataset and Temporal Modeling Approach for Automated Thermal Comfort State Recognition   Thesis Grade: 1.0 (A-equivalent)
Published at UbiComp '24: 10.1145/3678503

Ulm University, Ulm, Germany   10/2016 − 12/2019
B.Sc. Computer Science   Overall Grade: 2.0 (B-equivalent)
Thesis Title: Depth Levels: Measuring Achievable Levels of Voluntary Vergence Eye Movements for Eye-based Human-Computer Interaction   Thesis Grade: 1.0 (A-equivalent)

Publications

M. Sasalovici, **A. Zeqiri**, R. C. Schramm, O. J. A. Nunez, P. Jansen, J. P. Freiwald, M. Colley, C. Winkler, and E. Rukzio. 2025. *Bumpy Ride? Understanding the Effects of External Forces on Spatial Interactions in Moving Vehicles.* In Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '25). 10.1145/3706598.3714077.

A. Zeqiri, J. Britten, C. Schramm, P. Jansen, M. Rietzler, and E. Rukzio. 2025. *PlantPal: Leveraging Precision Agriculture Robots to Facilitate Remote Engagement in Urban Gardening.* In Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '25). 10.1145/3706598.3713180.

A. Zeqiri, P. Jansen, J. O. Rixen, M. Rietzler, and E. Rukzio. 2024. *'Eco Is Just Marketing': Unraveling Everyday Barriers to the Adoption of Energy-Saving Features in Major Home Appliances.* In Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies (IMWUT). 10.1145/3643558.

M. Colley*, S. Hartwig*, **A. Zeqiri**, T. Ropinski, and E. Rukzio. 2024. *AutoTherm: A Dataset and Benchmark for Thermal Comfort Estimation Indoors and in Vehicles.* Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies (IMWUT). 10.1145/3678503.

A. Zeqiri, M. Rietzler, and E. Rukzio (2024). *Exploring Contextual Feature Combinations for Prediction of Subjective Thermal Perceptions.* In Companion of the 2024 on ACM International Joint Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing (UbiComp '24). 10.1145/3675094.3678487.

Other

Secured competitive funding for both my own doctoral research and collaborative lab projects through scholarships and co-authored research grants.

- Received the *Landesgraduiertenförderung (LGFG)* doctoral scholarship, a competitive three-year fellowship supporting PhD research in Germany
- Received a one-time travel grant (€2800) from the *Graduate & Professional Training Center Ulm*
- Co-authored a successful Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) Reinhart Koselleck proposal, *VRooms: Fighting Climate Change by Increasing the Utilization of Buildings through Everyday Extended Reality* (project link), with Prof. Dr. Enrico Rukzio