

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 approaches to sustainability and carbon reduction in resource-intensive digital systems. My current research examines the moral-psychological determinants of rebound effects in pro-environmental technology use, employing a combination of empirical methods, statistical modeling, and machine learning. 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

Research Associate

Ulm, Germany

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

Research Assistant/Tutoring

Ulm, Germany

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	
<i>Dissertation Working Title:</i> Carbon Reduction Mechanisms in Resource-Intensive Digital Systems: A Sufficiency-Based Approach to User-Centered Design	
<i>Research Areas:</i> 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)
<i>Thesis Title:</i> A Dataset and Temporal Modeling Approach for Automated Thermal Comfort State Recognition	Thesis
Grade: 1.0 (A-equivalent)	
<i>Published at UbiComp '24:</i> 10.1145/3678503	
Ulm University , Ulm, Germany	10/2016 – 12/2019
B.Sc. Computer Science	Overall Grade: 2.0 (B-equivalent)
<i>Thesis Title:</i> 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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](https://doi.org/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](#)