Emma J. McDonnell

ejm249@uw.edu
https://ej-mcdonnell.github.io/
Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, 98122
630-340-0253

Education

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON — SEATTLE, WA
Ph.D. Candidate in Human Centered Design and Engineering — 2019 – Present
Advised by Dr. Leah Findlater — GPA: 4.00
Committee Members: Dr. Daniela Rosner, Dr. Jon Froehlich, Dr. Mark Harniss

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY — EVANSTON, IL
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science — 2015 – 2019
Minor in Gender and Sexuality Studies — GPA: 3.59

Research Interests

Human-Computer Interactions, Accessibility, Assistive Technology, Critical Design, Disability Studies

Research Experience

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON — 2019 – Present
Research Assistant
- PIs: Dr. Leah Findlater, Dr. Jon Froehlich
- Investigating how to design captioning systems to support hearing and d/Deaf and hard of hearing people in creating more accessible group conversation practices

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY — 2017 – 2019
Research Assistant
- Advised by Dr. Anne Marie Piper and Dr. Bryan Pardo
- Developed a real-time conversation monitoring system for small-group conversations designed to indicate to hearing individuals when their conversation behaviors become inaccessible to hard of hearing people
- Created a small dataset of audio segments from podcasts, and used it to train a classifier to recognize audio as speech, non-speech noise, or silence to allow blind audio engineers to navigate an audio file faster

Publications

JOURNAL PAPERS

[1] ***Honorable Mention and Diversity and Inclusion Recognition:*** **Emma J. McDonnell**, Ping Liu, Steven M. Goodman, Raja Kushalnagar, Jon E. Froehlich, and Leah Findlater. 2021. Social, Environmental, and Technical: Factors at Play in the Current Use and Future Design of Small-Group Captioning. In *PACM on Human Computer Interaction*, Vol. 5, CSCW2, Article 434, October 2021. ACM, New York, NY, USA. 25 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3479578

[2] Steven M. Goodman, Ping Liu, Dhruv Jain, **Emma J. McDonnell**, Jon E. Froehlich, and Leah Findlater. 2021. Toward User-Driven Sound Recognizer Personalization With People Who Are d/Deaf or Hard of Hearing. *Proc. ACM Interact. Mob. Wearable Ubiquitous Technol.* 5, 2, Article 63 (June 2021), 23 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3463501

CONFERENCE PAPERS

[1] **Emma J. McDonnell**, Soo Hyun Moon, Lucy Jiang, Steven M. Goodman, Raja Kushalnagar, Jon E. Froehlich, and Leah Findlater. 2023. "Easier or Harder, Depending on Who the Hearing Person Is": Codesigning Videoconferencing Tools for Small Groups with Mixed Hearing Status. Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. ACM, New York, NY, USA.

[2] *Best Paper Nominee:* **Emma J. McDonnell*,** Kelly Mack*, Leah Findlater, and Heather D. Evans. 2022. Chronically Under-Addressed: Considerations for HCI Accessibility Practice with Chronically Ill People. In Proceedings of the 24th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '22). ACM, New York, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.1145/ 3517428.3544803

[3] *Honorable Mention:* Kelly Mack, **Emma J. McDonnell,** Venkatesh Potluri, Maggie Xu, Jailyn Zabala, Jeffrey P. Bigham, Jennifer Mankoff, and Cynthia L. Bennett. 2022. Anticipate and Adjust: Cultivating Access in Human-Centered Methods. In Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22). ACM, New York, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.1145/3491102.3501882

[4] Jazz Rui Xia Ang*, Ping Liu*, **Emma J. McDonnell,** and Sarah Coppola. 2022. "In this Online Environment, We're Limited": Exploring Inclusive Video Conferencing Design for Signers. Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. ACM, New York, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.1145/3491102.3517488

[5] *Honorable Mention:* Kelly Mack, **Emma J. McDonnell**, Dhruv Jain, Lucy Lu Wang, Jon E. Froehlich, and Leah Findlater. 2021. What Do We Mean by "Accessibility Research"?: A Literature Survey of Accessibility Papers in CHI and ASSETS from 1994 to 2019. *Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.* Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA. DOI: https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3411764.3445412

EXTENDED ABSTRACTS, POSTERS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[1] *In Submission.* Momona Yamagami, Kelly Mack, **Emma J. McDonnell**, Jerry Cao, Katherine M. Steele, Heather D. Evans, Leah Findlater, Jennifer Mankoff, on behalf of CREATE. 2022. Centering Accessibility for Person-Centered Care Planning for MCC. Response to Request for Information on Person-Centered Care Planning for Multiple Chronic Conditions (MCC). Federal Register.

[2] **Emma J. McDonnell.** 2022. Understanding Social and Environmental Factors to Enable Collective Access Approaches to the Design of Captioning Technology. Doctoral Consortium. In Proceedings of the 24th ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '22). ACM, New York, NY, USA. https://doi.org/10.1145/3517428.3550417

[3] Lucy Lu Wang, Kelly Mack, **Emma J. McDonnell**, Dhruv Jain, Leah Findlater, and Jon E. Froehlich. 2021. A bibliometric analysis of citation diversity in accessibility and HCI research. In CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Extended Abstracts (CHI '21 Extended Abstracts), May 8–13, 2021, Yokohama, Japan. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 11 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3411763.3451618

ACCEPTED WORKSHOPS

[1] **Emma J. McDonnell.** 2022. Time to Think about Time. For the workshop "Dreaming Disability Justice in HCI," *CHI 2022,* New Orleans, LA.

[2] **Emma J. McDonnell**, Leah Findlater, Audrey Desjardins. 2020. Bridging Accessibility and Disability Studies Research to Speculate Beyond Ability Norms. For the workshop "Nothing About Us Without Us: Investigating the Role of Critical Disability Studies in HCI," *CHI 2020,* Honolulu, HI.

"*" signals that authors should be considered co-first authors of this publication.

Honors/Awards

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOW   2021-2026
- Five-year fellowship awarded to top graduate student applicants in NSF-supported STEM fields
- Three years of financial support in the form of a stipend and tuition waiver, totaling $138,000

GEORGE C. CASEY PRIZE   May 2019
- Awarded to the best essay written by an undergraduate Gender Studies student at Northwestern each year

MURPHY SCHOLAR   2015-2019
- One of 17 (of 377) first years in Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences selected to receive a stipend for independent research and research mentoring

Teaching Experience

DIRECTED RESEARCH GROUP: CURRENT TRENDS IN ACCESSIBILITY RESEARCH   Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022
Facilitator
- I organize, plan, and run weekly discussions of accessibility papers published in CHI and ASSETS that year with HCDE community members ranging from first year undergraduates to post-doctoral scholars
- University of Washington Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering

INTRODUCTION TO DISABILITY STUDIES   Spring 2021
Teaching Assistant
- Dr. Joanne Woiak – University of Washington Disability Studies Program
- Ran two discussion sections, teaching 50 students weekly, grading, and planning weekly section content

USABILITY STUDIES   Winter 2021
Teaching Assistant
- Dr. Sarah Coppola – University of Washington Department of Human Centered Design and Engineering

FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMING   Winter 2018, Fall 2018, Winter 2019
Head Teaching Assistant
- Dr. Sara Sood and Dr. Ian Horswill - Northwestern University Department of Computer Science
- Worked with Dr. Sara Sood to design and teach discussion sessions for students with no prior coding experience

FUNDAMENTALS OF COMPUTER PROGRAMMING 1.5   Spring 2018
Teaching Assistant
- Dr. Sara Sood - Northwestern University Department of Computer Science

INTRODUCTION TO DATA STRUCTURES AND ALGORITHMS   Fall 2017
Teaching Assistant
- Dr. Jesse Tov - Northwestern University Department of Computer Science

Invited Talks/Panels

CSCI 327 INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY DESIGN, OBERLIN COLLEGE   February 2023
Guest Lecturer for Dr. Emily Wang
- Disability History for Computer Science

ACCESSCOMPUTING WEBINAR   January 2023
Presenter and Panelist
- Considerations for Technology Design for People with Chronic Illnesses

ACCESS LUNCH, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY   December 2022
Guest Speaker
- Toward Collective Access in Captioning Design

UW ALLEN SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING ACCESSIBILTY COLLOQUIUM   November 2022
Guest Speaker
- Chronically Under-Addressed: Considerations for HCI Accessibility Practice with Chronically Ill People

HCDE 315 and 515 ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVE DESIGN   January 2023, October 2022, April 2022
Guest Lecturer for Dr. Sarah Coppola
- Disability Studies for HCI and Design Practice

ACCESSIBILITY, HCI, AND AGING GROUP, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN   October 2022
Guest Speaker
- Toward Collective Access in Captioning Design

HCDE 515 ACCESSIBILITY AND INCLUSIVE DESIGN, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON   July 2021
Guest Speaker for Dr. Sarah Coppola
- Social, Environmental, and Technical: Factors at Play in the Current Use and Future Design of Small-Group Captioning

SOCIETY FOR DISABILTY STUDIES   April 2021
Panelist
- Devva Kasnitz, Jen Mankoff, Meryl Alper, **Emma McDonnell,** Kelly Mack, and Venkatesh Potluri. April 18, 2021. Human Computer Interaction Folk Have Found Disability Studies: Playing Together Well! *Society for Disability Studies @ Ohio State University Conference 2021*

HCI 05499 - SPECIAL TOPICS IN HCI: ACCESSIBILITY, CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY   March 2021
Guest Speaker for Dr. Patrick Carrington
- Social, Environmental, and Technical: Factors at Play in the Current Use and Future Design of Small-Group Captioning

Work Experience

IBM, Austin, Texas   June 2018 – September 2018
Research Intern, Division of Accessibility Research
- Implemented an indoor navigation system called NavCog which provides blind users turn-by-turn directions to make multiple spaces on the IBM Austin campus more accessible to blind visitors and employees
- Accessibility Subject Matter Expert and team lead for a group of designers exploring accessible airport navigation
- Created a tool to automatically generate accessible color palettes to enable web designers to meet web accessibility standards for color contrast

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, Soudan, Minnesota   June 2016 – September 2016
Decommissioning Intern, Soudan Underground Laboratory
- Deconstructed MINOS Neutrino detector, a joint venture between the University of Minnesota and Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory

Mentoring/Advising

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
- Weerachet (Pitch) Sinlapanuntakul, PhD Human Centered Design and Engineering, 2023-Present
- Andy Moon, M.S. Human Centered Design and Engineering, 2020-Present
- Lucy Jiang, B.S. Computer Science and Engineering, 2021-2022
- Ana Liu, M.S. Human Centered Design and Engineering, 2019-2022
- Jazz Ang, M.S. Human Centered Design and Engineering 2021-2022

Volunteer/Service

ASSETS 2022 Virtual Co-Chair   November 2021-October 2022
- Member of the ASSETS 2022 Organizing Committee, responsible for planning and executing the virtual aspect of this year's hybrid conference

HCDE PhD STUDENT RESEARCH GRANT REVIEWER   April 2022-Present
- Providing feedback on and making decisions about PhD student applications for department grants, making decisions about $6000 of funding annually

PhD STUDENT AMBASSADOR   October 2021-Present
- Serving as a contact for prospective HCDE PhD students, meeting 1:1 and facilitating information sessions

PhD APPLICATION REVIEW   December 2020-Present
- Annually review applications for the HCDE PhD Program

PROSPECTIVE PhD VISIT COORDINATOR   March 2020-Present
- Annually plan and run activities to introduce prospective PhD students visiting HCDE to the department and to Seattle

GIRLS WHO CODE FACILITATOR   September 2021-June 2022
- Supporting high school girls in learning Python and gaining familiarity with computer science

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR   January 2018 – May 2019
- Ran Northwestern's Tournament of Champions in Extemporaneous Speaking, a national speech tournament for 60-70 of the nation's best high school extemporaneous speakers
- Coordinated an annual conference and two-day tournament, leading a team of 15 peers to manage catering, registration, tournament administration, judging, scheduling, and awards

BEST BUDDIES NORTHWESTERN   September 2015 – March 2019
- Three-year member of the executive board, serving as Vice President and Membership and Activities Coordinator for Northwestern's Best Buddies chapter which connects college students with local disabled high schoolers

Reviewing

- CHI 2022*, 2023
- ASSETS 2022
- DIS 2022
- CSCW 2022
- alt.chi 2022
- ISWC 2021

"*" Indicates Special Recognition for Outstanding Reviews

Skills

- Programming experience in Python, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, R, and Racket
- Working proficiency in Spanish, beginner proficiency in American Sign Language
- Accomplished public speaker, making national semifinals in extemporaneous, impromptu, and persuasive speaking at the collegiate level