

DERYA D. AKBABA

✉ derya@cs.utah.edu

♦ gotdairyya.github.io

Updated: May 2020
University of Utah
SCI Institute
Salt Lake City, UT

08/2019 - present **UNIVERSITY OF UTAH** **SALT LAKE CITY, UT**
Expected Degree: PhD Computing
Advisor: Miriah Meyer
Research Interest: Critical Visualization Design, Data Visualization for Society

Graduated **CORNELL UNIVERSITY** **ITHACA, NY**
05/2013 BS Industrial and Labor Relations
Minors: Cognitive Science, Economics

{INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE}

10/2013 - 6/2019 **LOCUS ANALYTICS: [home.locus](#)** **NEW YORK, NY**
Locus is pioneering an information system for economic data based on functional locations.

02/2017 - 6/2019 Research & Development -- DIRECTOR
Set vision and direction for Locus product; focus on developing collaborative team building.

- * Worked with team of senior managers and CEO to set 3 to 5 year company objectives
- * Researched & developed new paths of use for information system technology
- * Set goals, monitored progress, and managed team of 12 analysts and developers
- * Expanded 11 new projects across countries, academics, and private companies

08/2016 - 6/2019 Product & Design -- CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Defines the abstract visual language that parallels R&D work.

- * Created data visualizations
- * Managed product development by setting objectives, reviewing copy, leading team through prototyping
- * Built data visualization literacy curriculum

06/2015 - 6/2019 Summer Internship -- EDUCATOR + CURRICULUM DEVELOPER
Develops curriculum and teaches college interns, business partners, and high school students.

06/2018 Trained summer intern class of 13

05/2017 Led 2-day workshop for 30 business owners in Cameroon

06/2016 - 8/2016 Partnered with community school in Harlem/Bronx

06/2015 Redesigned curriculum to incorporate constructivist learning methods

3/2018 - 12/2018 **WEDWELL: [bewedwell.com](#)** **NEW YORK, NY**
wedwell is a women run startup focused on connecting holistic wellness providers with a larger audience.

7/2018 - 12/2018 Design & Development -- CTO
Developed technology roadmap for product development.

{PROJECTS + INTERESTS}

Volunteering & Accomplishments

06/11 -13/2020 Participant in ComSciCon flagship workshop (<https://comscicon.com/>)
08/2019 - 1/2020 Department Fellowship, U of Utah fellowship covering first year costs + tuition waiver
02/2018 - 1/2019 NYC Make-a-Thon Site Leader (Make a Mark): organizing NYC Make-a-Thon event in 2019
01/20/2018 Created Design Equity campaign in a 12-hr design-a-thon ([design equity campaign](#))
06/2017 - 9/2017 Biked across America, built affordable homes, raised over \$5k ([bikeandbuild.org](#))
12/2015 - 8/2016 Non-Resident Coordinator for Back on My Feet - Team Brooklyn ([nyc.backonmyfeet.org](#))
09/2011 - 5/2012 Art Beyond Cornell: taught art lessons to incarcerated girls ([orgsync.rso.cornell.edu/org/artbeyondcornell](#))
2010 Writing Excellence Award, published in *UMass Amherst Writing Anthology 2011-2012*, "Consider the Wallace"
03/2010 - 3/2010 UMass Alliance for Community Development, Exmore, VA: spring break focused on social justice work

{UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH}

01/2013 - 5/2013	Cornell University -- POLICY ANALYSIS AND MANAGEMENT LAB <i>Determining whether physician group practices have market power.</i>	ITHACA, NY
01/2012 - 5/2012	Cornell University -- SCHEINMAN INSTITUTE ON CONFLICT RESOLUTION <i>Analyzing the alternative dispute resolution tactics in businesses and schools.</i>	ITHACA, NY
9/2011 - 12/2011	Cornell University -- COGNITIVE SCIENCE LAB <i>Conducted experiments to test theory of pattern and rule recognition amongst participants.</i>	ITHACA, NY
06/2011 - 7/2011	Cornell University -- HIGH ROAD FELLOWSHIP <i>8-week service learning fellowship focused on social justice through community action.</i>	BUFFALO, NY