

Derya Akbaba, PhD

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Academic Appointments

KTH Royal Institute of Technology

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCHER, DIVISION OF SOFTWARE AND COMPUTER SYSTEMS

Focus: Missing Data – Reimagining AI Systems to Challenge Structural Silences

Stockholm, Sweden

2025 - present

Education

Linköping University

PHD, COMPUTER SCIENCE (MEDIA & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

- Focus: Data Visualization; Epistemology; Human-Centered Computing
- Advisor: Miriah Meyer, Co-Advisor: Lauren Klein
- Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems, and Software Program (WASP) Program Graduate
- Thesis: [Shifting Perspectives: Conducting Visualization Research with Entanglement Epistemology](#)

Norrköping, Sweden

2022 - 2025

University of Utah

MSC IN COMPUTING

- 4.0 GPA
- Advisor: Miriah Meyer

Salt Lake City, UT

2019 - 2022

Cornell University

BSC IN INDUSTRIAL & LABOR RELATIONS

- Minors: Economics; Cognitive Science

Ithaca, NY

2010 - 2013

Publications

PAPER AWARDS

- 2025 **Best Paper Honorable Mention**, IEEE VIS for paper [C6] (top 5%)
- 2024 **Best Paper Award**, IEEE VIS for paper [C5] (top 1%)

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL AND CONFERENCE PAPERS

- [C6] H. Lin, M. Lisnic, **D. Akbaba**, M. Meyer, A. Lex. *Here's what you need to know about my data: Exploring Expert Knowledge's Role in Data Analysis*. (to be published) Proceedings of 2025 IEEE VIS. **Honorable Mention**. DOI: [0.31219/osf.io/dn32z_v2](https://doi.org/0.31219/osf.io/dn32z_v2)
- [C5] **D. Akbaba**, L. Klein, M. Meyer. *Entanglements for Visualization: Changing Research Outcomes through Feminist Theory*, IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proceedings of VIS 2024), 31(1):1279-1289, 2025. **Best Paper Award**. DOI: [10.1109/TVCG.2024.3456171](https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2024.3456171)
- [C4] T. Kauer, **D. Akbaba**, M. Dörk and B. Bach, *Discursive Patinas: Anchoring Discussions in Data Visualizations*, IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proceedings of VIS 2024), 31(1):1246-1256, 2025. DOI: [10.1109/TVCG.2024.3456334](https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2024.3456334)
- [C3] **D. Akbaba**, M. Meyer. *"Two Heads are Better than One": Pair-Interviews for Visualization*. Short Paper. IEEE Visualization and Visual Analytics (VIS), 206-210, 2023. DOI: [10.1109/VIS54172.2023.00050](https://doi.org/10.1109/VIS54172.2023.00050)
- [C2] **D. Akbaba**, D. Lange, M. Correll, A. Lex, M. Meyer, *Troubling collaboration: Matters of care for visualization design study*, In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 1-15, 2025. DOI: [10.1145/3544548.3581168](https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3581168)
- [C1] H. Lin, **D. Akbaba**, M. Meyer, and A. Lex, *Data Hunches: Incorporating Personal Knowledge into Visualizations*, IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (Proceedings of VIS 2022), 29(1):504-514, 2023. DOI: [10.1109/TVCG.2022.3209451](https://doi.org/10.1109/TVCG.2022.3209451)

PEER-REVIEWED WORKSHOP PAPERS & EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

- [P7] B. Vincenzi, N. Campo Woytuk, A. Gómez Ortega, K. Sauvé, L. Forlano, **D. Akbaba**, E. Forero, S. Thulin, P. Sanches, K. Kuksenok. *Bring Your Own Biodata (BYOB): Feminist, Corporeal and Collective Approaches to Datafied Bodies*. Workshop. Companion Publication of the 2025 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference, 2025.
DOI: [0.1145/3715668.3734162](https://doi.org/0.1145/3715668.3734162)
- [P6] T. Villalobos Lujan, P. Sengupta, **D. Akbaba**, S. Alessio-Robles, A. L. Dogan, M. Meltis, F. Shokooh Valle, L. Oehlberg. *Interaction Design as a Form of Decolonial Care*. Workshop. Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Creativity and Cognition, 2025.
DOI: [10.1145/3698061.3728395](https://doi.org/10.1145/3698061.3728395)
- [P5] **D. Akbaba**. *words matter || mattering words*. A Toolbox of Feminist Wonder: Theories and methods that can make a difference, CSCW, 2023.
Extended abstract.
- [P4] **D. Akbaba**, E. Kaklopoulou. *A speculative feminist knowledge elicitation system*. AI for Humanity and Society, WASP-HS, 2023.
Extended abstract.
- [P3] T. Kauer, **D. Akbaba**. *"I Was Here: Digital Traces as Design Material"*. Information+ Conference, 2023.
Extended abstract.
- [P2] **D. Akbaba**, L. Klein, M. Meyer. *Reflections on applying feminist theory to visualization research*. Extended Abstract. Information+ Conference, 2022.
Extended abstract.
- [P1] **D. Akbaba**, J. Wilburn, M. Meyer. *Manifesto for Putting 'Chartjunk' in the Trash 2021!*. alt.vis, IEEE VIS, 2021.
DOI: [10.48550/arXiv.2109.10132](https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2109.10132)

REPORTS, EDITOR LETTERS, & SCIENCE COMMUNICATION

- [O4] G. Panagiotidou, A. McNutt, **D. Akbaba**, N. Hengesbach, M. Meyer. *Critical Data Visualization—Part II*. Guest Editors' Introduction. IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications, 45(4):11–13, 2025.
DOI: [10.1109/MCG.2025.3585321](https://doi.org/10.1109/MCG.2025.3585321)
- [O3] G. Panagiotidou, A. McNutt, **D. Akbaba**, N. Hengesbach, M. Meyer. *Critical Data Visualization—Part I*. Guest Editors' Introduction. IEEE Computer Graphics and Applications, 45(3):14–16, 2025.
DOI: [10.1109/MCG.2025.3579638](https://doi.org/10.1109/MCG.2025.3579638)
- [O2] J. Drucker, M. El-Assady, U. Hinrichs, F. Windhager, **D. Akbaba**. *Visualization and the Humanities: Towards a Shared Research Agenda (Dagstuhl Seminar 23381)*. Report. Schloss Dagstuhl-Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, 2024.
DOI: [10.4230/DagRep.13.9.137](https://doi.org/10.4230/DagRep.13.9.137)
- [O1] **D. Akbaba**. *Visualizing Uncertainty: What can graphics convey about the character of data?*. Science Communication. Natural History Magazine, 2020.
Personal copy available upon request.

UNDER REVIEW / IN PREPARATION

- [R7] J. Rogers, **D. Akbaba**, J.S. Brown, A. Lex, M. Meyer, *Reflections on Traceability for Visualization Research*, Under review, EuroVis, 2026.
- [R6] **D. Akbaba**, C. Svensson, C. Torelli, M. Callmeryd, M. Meyer, *Thinking Inside the Box: Considerations for Putting Data Physicalization Workshops in a Box*, Under review, EuroVis, 2026.
- [R5] **D. Akbaba**, L. Rahm, A. Payberah, *Unpacking Technology Through Interdisciplinary Reflection*, Under review, WASP/WASP-HS/DDLS conference, Extended Abstract, 2026.
- [R4] **D. Akbaba**, L. Rahm, A. Payberah, *Ecofeminist AI*, Under review, Data Justice Lab, Extended Abstract, 2026.
- [R3] M. Salimipanah, **D. Akbaba**, S. Tahmasebinotarki, A. Payberah, *Feminist Large Language Models for Detecting Silence and Contesting Online Gender-Based Violence*, To be submitted, ACM FAccT, 2026.
- [R2] **D. Akbaba**, D. Mayano, M. Gezeliuss, Y. He, M. Meyer, *Disruptive Visualization Vibes: Visualization Experiments in a Science Center*, To be submitted, ACM DIS, Pictorial, 2026.
- [R1] C. Blomgren, **D. Akbaba**, M. Meyer, *Crediting in Science Centers*, under review, To be submitted, ACM DIS, 2026.

Professional Service + Teaching

REVIEWING

- IEEE VIS Full Papers ('25, '24, '23, '22), alt.vis ('23, '22), VISAP ('25)
- ACM CHI Full Papers ('26, '25), alt.chi ('25)
- ACM DIS Full Papers ('25)
- ACM C&C Pictorials ('25)
- IEEE TVCG Journal ('25, '23)
- Frontiers Journal ('24)

SERVICE

- 2025 CG&A Critical Visualization (Special issue) Guest Editor
Input Visualization (IEEE VIS Workshop) Organizing Committee
VIS Arts Program (IEEE VIS affiliated event) Program Committee
Bring Your Own Biodata (ACM DIS Workshop) Organizing Committee
- 2024 Visions for the Future (IEEE VIS Workshop) Organizing Committee
EuroVis Student Volunteer
- 2023 alt.vis (IEEE VIS Workshop) Organizing Committee
Information+ Conference Organizing Committee
- 2022 alt.vis (IEEE VIS Workshop) Organizing Committee
Eyeo Festival Student Volunteer
- 2021 Fair pay (IEEE VIS panel) Organizer
- 2020 IEEE VIS Student Volunteer
College of Engineering Diversity Committee (U. of Utah) Grad Student Body Representative

ADVISING

- S2024 Camilla Svensson MSc of Design, Linköping University
- S2024 Claudia Torelli MSc of Design, Linköping University
- S2021 Pranav Rajan BSc of Computer Science, University of Utah

UNIVERSITY TEACHING

- F2025 FID3216: Data Feminism Guest Seminar Instructor, KTH
- S2024 TDDE39: Physical Interaction Design and Prototyping Guest Seminar Instructor, Linköping University
- F2024 FID3216: Data Feminism Guest Seminar Instructor, KTH
- F2023 TNM101: Advanced Visualization Design Guest Seminar Instructor, Linköping University
- S2023 TDDE39: Physical Interaction Design and Prototyping Guest Seminar Instructor, Linköping University
- S2020 COMP1010: Programming for All Teaching Mentor, University of Utah

NON-UNIVERSITY TEACHING ¹

- F2025 Mapping as a Social Science Method Workshop, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
- F2024 Data Crafting for Team Leaders Workshop, Östergötlands Stadsmission, Sweden
- S2024 Data Crafting for Young Children Workshop, Visualiseringscenter C, Sweden
- S2024 Data Crafting for Empowerment & Expression Workshops, Östergötlands Stadsmission, Sweden
- S2024 Feminist Data Visualization Seminar + Workshop, Graphic Hunters Beautiful Data Series, virtual
- S2022 Introduction to Data Science Workshop, Women Tech Council, Utah

¹An important aspect of my pedagogical philosophy is to extend my teaching efforts outside of traditional university spaces. I achieve this through workshops and seminars with non-profit organizations and professional groups, reaching a diverse range of age groups and communities.

Selected Experience

INTERDISCIPLINARY ENGAGEMENTS

2025	FemTech and Feminist Tech Focus Period , 3-day workshop about technology design @ KTH	Sweden
2024	NORDES Summer school , Week focused on socio-ecologically just design after progress	Sweden
	Digital STS Hub , Science and technology studies group sharing & supporting research	Sweden
	Feminist Wonder Working Group , Interdisciplinary HCI scholars developing a toolbox of feminist methods/methodologies	virtual
2023	Dagstuhl Seminar , Week-long event on topic of: "Visualization and the Humanities: Towards a Shared Research Agenda"	Germany
2022	STEM Ambassador, Spring Cohort , Semester long program run by U of Utah, that trains and supports communicating science efforts to the public	USA
2020	CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women , Conference that supports women in computing	virtual
	ComSciCon 2020 Flagship Workshop , Workshop for training and supporting science communication to public	virtual
	Critical Code Studies , Working group to discuss code from critical theoretical perspectives	virtual
2019	School for Poetic Computation , Member of Code, Paper, Scissor Cohort examining material aspects of code	USA

AFFILIATIONS

2025 - ongoing	ColibrAI , Research Lab and network across three European institutes for co-liberative development of AI	SE, FI, DE
	Co-liberative Computing , Research group at KTH Royal Institute of Technology promoting criticality in CS education and research	Sweden

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2025	Data & Me Exhibit , Exhibit at local science center [Vis.C News] [LiU News]	Sweden
	Data Crafting Workshops , Data physicalization workshops for children at science center	Sweden
2024	Östergötland Stadsmission Workshops , Data physicalization workshops for empowerment [Vis.C News]	Sweden

VISITING RESEARCHER

2021	Polarization Lab, Duke University , Conducted study with Dr. Chris Bail on computational sociology	USA
2020	Marc Lab, University of Utah , Conducted study with Drs. Bryan Jones and Crystal Sigulinsky on neurobiology	USA

Presentation + Talks

	Care, Craft, & Complexity, Visualizing Knowledge Conference	<i>Finland</i>
	Exploring entangled threads in visualization research, Lecture Series at ITU Copenhagen	<i>Denmark</i>
2024	Exploring New Threads in Visualization Research, FFF at KTH	<i>Sweden</i>
	Responsible Computing: Sketching a different future for vis research, VIG at Utrecht University	<i>Netherlands</i>
	Responsible Computing: Sketching a different future for vis research, VIS Cluster at TU Eindhoven	<i>Netherlands</i>
	Are visualizations haunted?, Cest-la-viz Conference	<i>Netherlands</i>
	Changing Research Outcomes through Feminist Theory, Best Paper Session at IEEE VIS	<i>USA</i>
	Changing Research Outcomes through Feminist Theory, Atlanta Interdisciplinary Artificial Intelligence Network at Emory University	<i>USA</i>
	Staying with the Trouble: Applying Feminism to Visualization Research, University of Utah	<i>USA</i>
	Data Empowerment, Östergötlands Stadsmission	<i>Sweden</i>
	Feminist Data Visualization, Beautiful Data sessions by Graphic Hunters	<i>virtual</i>
2023	Troubling Collaboration: Matters of Care in Visualization Design Study, CHI Conference	<i>Germany</i>
	Troubling Collaboration: Matters of Care in Visualization Design Study, ITU Copenhagen	<i>Denmark</i>
	Staying with the Trouble: Applying Feminism to Visualization Research, King's College London	<i>UK</i>
	Staying with the Trouble: Applying Feminism to Visualization Research, City, University of London	<i>UK</i>
	Staying with the Trouble: Applying Feminism to Visualization Research, CIM at University of Warwick	<i>UK</i>
2021	Manifesto for Putting "Chartjunk" in the Trash 2021!, alt.vis Workshop at IEEE VIS	<i>virtual</i>
	Interactive Visualizations in Social Science Networks, Polarization Lab at Duke University	<i>USA</i>