

Derya Akbaba, PhD

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Education

Linköping University

PHD, COMPUTER SCIENCE (MEDIA & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

Norrköping, Sweden

2022 - 2025

- 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*

University of Utah

MSC IN COMPUTING

Salt Lake City, UT

2019 - 2022

- Focus: Data Visualization; Human-Centered Computing

• 4.0 GPA

• Advisor: Miriah Meyer

Cornell University

BSC IN INDUSTRIAL & LABOR RELATIONS

Ithaca, NY

2010 - 2013

- Minors: Economics; Cognitive Science

Publications

PAPER AWARDS

2025 Best Paper Honorable Mention, IEEE VIS for paper [C4] (top 5%)

2024 Best Paper Award, IEEE VIS for paper [C3] (top 1%)

REFEREED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS¹

- [C4] 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
- [C3] **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.
- [C2] 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.
- [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.

REFEREED WORKSHOP, SHORT PAPERS, + EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

- [P6] **D. Akbaba**. *words matter || mattering words*. Workshop Paper. A Toolbox of Feminist Wonder: Theories and methods that can make a difference, CSCW, 2023.
- [P5] **D. Akbaba**, E. Kaklopoulou. *A speculative feminist knowledge elicitation system*. Workshop Paper. AI for Humanity and Society, WASP-HS, 2023.
- [P4] **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.
- [P3] T. Kauer, **D. Akbaba**. *“I Was Here: Digital Traces as Design Material*. Extended Abstract. Information+ Conference, 2023.
- [P2] **D. Akbaba**, L. Klein, M. Meyer. *Reflections on applying feminist theory to visualization research*. Extended Abstract. Information+ Conference, 2022.
- [P1] **D. Akbaba**, J. Wilburn, M. Meyer. *Manifesto for Putting ‘Chartjunk’ in the Trash 2021!*. Workshop Paper. alt.vis, IEEE VIS, 2021.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

¹ Top-tier publication venues in Visualization and HCI research include IEEE VIS and ACM CHI. In computer science, students are typically the first authors, and faculty/senior authors are listed last.

- [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.
- [O1] **D. Akbaba**. *Visualizing Uncertainty: What can graphics convey about the character of data?*. Magazine. Natural History Magazine, 2020.

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)

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

TEACHING

- S2024 TDDE39: Physical Interaction Design and Prototyping Guest Seminar Instructor, Linköping University
S2024 Feminist Data Visualization Workshop Instructor, Graphic Hunters
F2023 TNM101: Advanced Visualization Design Guest Seminar Instructor, Linköping University
S2023 TDDE39: Physical Interaction Design and Prototyping Guest Seminar Instructor, Linköping University
S2022 SHETech Explorer Day Instructor, Women Tech Council, Utah
S2020 COMP1010: Computing for All Teaching Assistant, University of Utah

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

Selected Experience

WORKING GROUPS

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 Digital STS Hub , Science and technology studies group sharing & supporting research Feminist Wonder Working Group , Interdisciplinary HCI scholars developing a toolbox of feminist methods/methodologies	Sweden Sweden 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
2021	Visiting Researcher, Polarization Lab, Duke University , Conducted study with Dr. Chris Bail and computational sociologists	USA
2020	CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women , Conference that supports women in computing ComSciCon 2020 Flagship Workshop , Workshop for training and supporting science communication to public Critical Code Studies , Working group to discuss code from critical theoretical perspectives	virtual virtual virtual
2019	School for Poetic Computation , Member of Code, Paper, Scissor Cohort examining material aspects of code	USA

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

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

Presentation + Talks

2025	Care, Craft, & Complexity , Visualizing Knowledge Conference Exploring entangled threads in visualization research , Lecture Series at ITU Copenhagen	Finland Denmark
2024	Exploring New Threads in Visualization Research , FFF at KTH Responsible Computing: Sketching a different future for vis research , VIG at Utrecht University Responsible Computing: Sketching a different future for vis research , VIS Cluster at TU Eindhoven Are visualizations haunted? , Cest-la-viz Conference Changing Research Outcomes through Feminist Theory , Best Paper Session at IEEE VIS Changing Research Outcomes through Feminist Theory , Atlanta Interdisciplinary Artificial Intelligence Network at Emory University Staying with the Trouble: Applying Feminism to Visualization Research , University of Utah Data Empowerment , Östergötlands Stadsmission Feminist Data Visualization , Beautiful Data sessions by Graphic Hunters	Sweden Netherlands Netherlands Netherlands USA USA USA Sweden virtual
2023	Troubling Collaboration: Matters of Care in Visualization Design Study , CHI Conference Troubling Collaboration: Matters of Care in Visualization Design Study , ITU Copenhagen Staying with the Trouble: Applying Feminism to Visualization Research , King's College London Staying with the Trouble: Applying Feminism to Visualization Research , City, University of London Staying with the Trouble: Applying Feminism to Visualization Research , CIM at University of Warwick	Germany Denmark UK UK UK
2021	Manifesto for Putting “Chartjunk” in the Trash 2021! , alt.vis Workshop at IEEE VIS Interactive Visualizations in Social Science Networks , Polarization Lab at Duke University	virtual USA