

# Derya Akbaba, PhD

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## Education

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### Linköping University

Norrköping, Sweden

#### PHD, COMPUTER SCIENCE (MEDIA & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY)

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

Salt Lake City, UT

#### MSC IN COMPUTING

2019 - 2022

- Focus: Data Visualization; Human-Centered Computing
- 4.0 GPA
- Advisor: Miriah Meyer

### Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

#### BSC IN INDUSTRIAL & LABOR RELATIONS

2010 - 2013

- Minors: Economics; Cognitive Science

## Publications

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### 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 PUBLICATIONS<sup>1</sup>

- [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

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<sup>1</sup> 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

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### 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

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- 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

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### WORKING GROUPS

2025	<b>FemTech and Feminist Tech Focus Period</b> , 3-day workshop about technology design @ KTH	Sweden
2024	<b>NORDES Summer school</b> , Week focused on socio-ecologically just design after progress	Sweden
	<b>Digital STS Hub</b> , Science and technology studies group sharing & supporting research	Sweden
	<b>Feminist Wonder Working Group</b> , Interdisciplinary HCI scholars developing a toolbox of feminist methods/methodologies	virtual
2023	<b>Dagstuhl Seminar</b> , Week-long event on topic of: "Visualization and the Humanities: Towards a Shared Research Agenda"	Germany
2022	<b>STEM Ambassador, Spring Cohort</b> , Semester long program run by U of Utah, that trains and supports communicating science efforts to the public	USA
2021	<b>Visiting Researcher, Polarization Lab, Duke University</b> , Conducted study with Dr. Chris Bail and computational sociologists	USA
2020	<b>CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women</b> , Conference that supports women in computing	virtual
	<b>ComSciCon 2020 Flagship Workshop</b> , Workshop for training and supporting science communication to public	virtual
	<b>Critical Code Studies</b> , Working group to discuss code from critical theoretical perspectives	virtual
2019	<b>School for Poetic Computation</b> , Member of Code, Paper, Scissor Cohort examining material aspects of code	USA

### PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

2025	<b>Data &amp; Me Exhibit</b> , Exhibit at local science center <a href="#">[Vis.C News]</a> <a href="#">[LiU News]</a>	Sweden
	<b>Data Crafting Workshops</b> , Data physicalization workshops for children	Sweden
2024	<b>Östergötland Stadsmission Workshops</b> , Data physicalization workshops for empowerment <a href="#">[Vis.C News]</a>	Sweden

## Presentation + Talks

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