

Kathleen (Kate) Candon

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EDUCATION

- 2020 – Present **Yale University [USA]**
PhD in Computer Science | Advisors: Marynel Vázquez & Brian Scassellati
- 2012 – 2016 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) [USA]**
B.S. in Mathematics with Computer Science | Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2020 – Present **Interactive Machines Group & Social Robotics Lab at Yale University**
Graduate Student Researcher
- Researching implicit and explicit feedback in human-robot interactions
 - Mentoring undergraduate students in various research activities

PEER-REVIEWED FULL CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

- [C7] **Kate Candon**, Nicholas C. Georgiou, Rebecca Ramnauth, Jessie Cheung, E. Chandra Fincke, and Brian Scassellati. Artificial Intelligence for Future Presidents: Teaching AI Literacy to Everyone. For *Symposium on Educational Advances in Artificial Intelligence (EAAI) in Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, Feb 2025.
- [C6] **Kate Candon**, Jesse Chen, Yoony Kim, Zoe Hsu, Nathan Tsoi, and Marynel Vázquez. Nonverbal Human Signals Can Help Autonomous Agents Infer Human Preferences for Their Behavior. In *Proceedings of the 22nd International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems (AAMAS)*, May 2023. [23% Accept. Rate]
- [C5] Qiping Zhang, Austin Narcomey, **Kate Candon**, and Marynel Vázquez. Self-Annotation Methods for Aligning Implicit and Explicit Human Feedback in Human-Robot Interaction. In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)*, March 2023. [25% Accept. Rate]
- [C4] Jake Brawer, Debasmita Ghose, **Kate Candon**, Meiying Qin, Alessandro Roncone, Marynel Vázquez, and Brian Scassellati. Interactive Policy Shaping for Human-Robot Collaboration with Transparent Matrix Overlays. In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)*, March 2023. ***Best Technical Paper Award**. [25% Accept. Rate]
- [C3] **Kate Candon**, Helen Zhou, Sarah Gillet, and Marynel Vázquez. Verbally Soliciting Human Feedback in Continuous Human-Robot Collaboration: Effects of the Framing and Timing of Reminders. In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)*, March 2023. [25% Accept. Rate]
- [C2] **Kate Candon**, Zoe Hsu, Yoony Kim, Jesse Chen, Nathan Tsoi, and Marynel Vázquez. Perceptions of the Helpfulness of Unexpected Agent Assistance. In *Proceedings of the 10th International Conference on Human-Agent Interaction (HAI)*, December 2022. [39% Accept. Rate]
- [C1] Nathan Tsoi, **Kate Candon**, Deyuan Li, Yofti Milkessa, and Marynel Vázquez. Bridging the Gap: Unifying the Training and Evaluation of Neural Network Binary Classifiers. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*, November 2022. [26% Accept. Rate]

PEER-REVIEWED SHORT CONFERENCE PAPERS

- [S1] **Kate Candon**, Nicholas C. Georgiou, Helen Zhou, Sidney Richardson, Qiping Zhang, Brian Scassellati, and Marynel Vázquez. REACT: Two Datasets for Analyzing Both Human Reactions and Evaluative Feedback to Robots Over Time. In *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI)*, March 2024.

PEER-REVIEWED LATE BREAKING REPORTS

- [L1] Houston Claire, **Kate Candon**, Olivia Clark, and Marynel Vázquez. Multiplayer Space Invaders: A Platform for Studying Evolving Fairness Perceptions in Human-Robot Interaction. In *Companion of the 2024 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI Companion)*, March 2024.

PEER-REVIEWED WORKSHOP PAPERS

- [W4] **Kate Candon**. Towards Better Robot Learners: Leveraging Implicit and Explicit Human Feedback Together in Human Robot Interactions. In *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, vol. 39, no. 28, February 2025. ***AAAI Doctoral Consortium**.
- [W3] **Kate Candon**. Leveraging Implicit Human Feedback to Better Learn from Explicit Human Feedback in Human-Robot Interactions. In **Companion of the 2024 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI '24)*, March 2024. ***HRI Pioneers**.
- [W2] **Kate Candon**. Towards Creating Better Interactive Agents: Leveraging Both Implicit and Explicit Human Feedback. In *Proceedings of the 2023 International Conference on Autonomous Agents and Multiagent Systems (AAMAS)*, May 2023. ***AAMAS Doctoral Consortium**
- [W1] **Kate Candon** and Marynel Vázquez. Context²: On the importance of the context of context in human robot interaction. In *HRI workshop on Context-Awareness in Human-Robot Interaction*, March 2022.

AWARDS

2025	AAAI Doctoral Consortium Participant & Student Scholarship
2024	HRI Pioneers
2023	AAMAS Doctoral Consortium Participant & Student Scholarship
2020, 2022	Honorable Mention for National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2022	CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women: travel grant to attend conference

MENTORING

2024	Lena Qian (Undergraduate Researcher, Interactive Machines Group)
2023	Sidney Richardson (Undergraduate Researcher, Interactive Machines Group)
2023	Hanah Leventhal (Undergraduate Thesis, Interactive Machines Group)
2023	Crystal Wang (Undergraduate Thesis, Interactive Machines Group)
2023	Sam Danquah (Undergraduate Thesis, Interactive Machines Group)

2022-2023	Helen Zhou (Undergraduate Researcher, Interactive Machines Group)
2022	Coco Sack (Undergraduate Thesis, Social Robotics Lab)
2022	Ariel Melendez (Undergraduate Researcher, Social Robotics Lab)
2021-2022	Jesse Chen (Undergraduate Researcher, Interactive Machines Group)
2021	Yoony Kim (Undergraduate Researcher, Interactive Machines Group)
2021	Zoe Hsu (STARS Undergraduate Researcher, Interactive Machines Group)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2024, Spring 2025	AI for Future Presidents, Yale University <i>Teaching Fellow</i>
Spring 2022	Artificial Intelligence, Yale University <i>Teaching Fellow</i>
Fall 2021	Intelligent Robotics, Yale University <i>Teaching Fellow</i>

WORK EXPERIENCE

2018-2020	Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) <i>Senior Strategy Manager, MassHealth</i>
2016-2018	McKinsey & Company <i>Business Analyst</i>