

# Lara Karki (Schenck)

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## EDUCATION

**Georgia Institute of Technology** – PH.D. HUMAN-CENTERED COMPUTING

2022 – PRESENT

- Advisor: Dr. Betsy DiSalvo
- Keywords: data science workforce development, broadening talent pipelines, skills integration, on-the-job learning, non-traditional educational pathways

**School of the Museum of Fine Arts at Tufts University** – BACHELOR OF FINE ARTS

2009 – 2011

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

**Senior Principal Software Engineer** – PENSKE MEDIA CORPORATION

2018 – 2022

Full stack web engineering and technical leadership on a product and engineering team of 80 people maintaining a network of 25+ high traffic websites.

- Architected modular user interface system, build tools, testing, and coding standards to speed up development time, reduce technical debt, and deploy shared packages across network.
- Developed workflows to improve inter-departmental communication with engineering.
- Led and deployed re-platform and upgrade initiatives across the network.
- Advocated for diversity, equity, and inclusion in team culture, hiring, and compensation.

**Lead Instructor**

2013 – 2018

Developed curriculum and instructed web development courses for adult learners with non-traditional backgrounds.

- **University of Southern California**, WordPress Development – Los Angeles, 2018
- **Girl Develop It**, multiple workshops – National, 2015-2018
- **Pratt Institute of Design**, UI/UX Prototyping in Code and Coding I-II – NYC, 2015-2016
- **Decoded**, Code in A Day Workshop Facilitator – NYC, 2014-2016
- **Noble Desktop**, WordPress.org – NYC, 2015
- **General Assembly**, Front-end Web Development Lead Instructor – NYC, 2014

**Independent Consultant** – LARA SCHENCK, LLC

2011 – 2017

Contract front-end and WordPress development and training for startups and small to large businesses and web development agencies.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**CAT (Culture & Technology) Lab** – GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

2022 – PRESENT

Community-based participatory research to understand how mid-skill data work can be a pathway to technical career growth. Assume the role of Career Development Coordinator for [DataWorks](https://dataworkforce.gatech.edu) (<https://dataworkforce.gatech.edu>) at Georgia Tech.

- Develop workplace curriculum in job search and professional networking for career transitioning adults.
- Focus on informal learning and catalyzing self-sustaining workplace communities of practice.

**Independent**

2017 – PRESENT

Investigation into gatekeeping practices that affect informally trained developers in industry computing communities. Collaboration with Dr. Felienne Hermans.

- Mixed methods research to understand how developers construct their understanding of "real" programming.

## AWARDS

**Pathbreakers Fellowship** – GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

2024

**Graduate Research Fellowship** – NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

2023

**President's Fellowship** – GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

2022

## PUBLICATIONS

**Peer-Reviewed Conference and Journal**

1. **Lara Karki**, Gabe DuBose, Zajerria Godfrey, Dana Priest, Annabel Rothschild, Benjamin Rydal Shapiro, Betsy DiSalvo. 2025. "A Window into Data Apprenticeship: Developing an Integrated Work-Training Curriculum for Novice Adults". In SIGCSE TS 2025.
2. **Lara Karki**, Kayla Uleah, Carl DiSalvo, Sierra Traynail Ross, Jadin Butler, Selamawit Husein, Emanuel Bryant, Dana Priest, Justin Booker, and Betsy DiSalvo. "'I get hives when I come on here': Persisting Through Platform-Delivered Microaggressions on LinkedIn." *Revision Under Review for CSCW 2025.*

3. **Lara Karki**, Idel Martinez-Ramos, Sabine Verdult, Dana Priest, Asher Brown, Felienne Hermans, and Betsy DiSalvo. "There Is No "Real" Programming; There Is Only Mythology of Programming." *Revision Under Review for ACM Transactions on Computing Education*.
4. Carl DiSalvo, Annabel Rothschild, **Lara L. Schenck**, Ben Rydal Shapiro, and Betsy DiSalvo. 2024. "When Workers Want to Say No: A View into Critical Consciousness and Workplace Democracy in Data Work". *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 8, CSCW1, Article 156 (April 2024), 24 pages. DOI (<https://doi.org/10.1145/3637433>). *DEI Recognition*.

#### Short Papers/Posters

1. Lara L. Schenck and Betsy DiSalvo. 2023. "From Data Work to Data Science: Getting Past the Gatekeepers." In *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Conference on International Computing Education Research - Volume 2 (ICER '23)*, Vol. 2. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 1–2. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3568812.3603468>
2. Lara L. Schenck and Betsy DiSalvo. "Computational Work + Workplace Learning: A Pathway to Computing Careers for Adults." IPaT Industry Innovation Day and the Gvu Research Showcase, April 2023; CRA Grad Cohort for Women, April 2023.

#### INDUSTRY CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*Generative Art With FizzBuzz in CSS* (invited) at CodeDay – online, 2021  
*CSS Algorithms* at StrangeLoop – St. Louis, 2019  
*Is CSS a Programming Language?* at Abstractions – Pittsburgh, 2019  
*CSS Algorithms* at JS Conf US – San Diego, 2019  
*Writing CSS Algorithms* at CSS Camp – Barcelona, 2019  
*Algorithms of CSS* at CSS Day (invited) – Amsterdam, 2019  
*CSS is a Programming Language* at WordCamp Montclair (invited) – Montclair, NJ, 2019  
*Bridging the Gap Between Design & Development* at WordCamp US – Nashville, 2018  
*Understanding Today's CSS with Algorithms* at SIGNAL (invited) – San Francisco, 2018  
*The Algorithms of CSS* at js.la – Los Angeles, 2018  
*The Algorithms of CSS* at CSSConf EU – Berlin, 2018  
*Let's Build A Gutenberg Block Workshop* at WordCamp EU – Belgrade, 2018  
*Let's Build A Gutenberg Block* at WordCamp San Diego – San Diego, 2018  
*The Five-figure WordPress Website* at Abstractions – Pittsburgh, 2016  
*Vetting and Choosing Themes* at WordCamp Pittsburgh – Pittsburgh, 2016  
*Why the Designer Failed FizzBuzz* at SassConf – Austin, 2015  
*Sassy WordPress* at WordCamp Montreal – Montreal, 2014  
*Freelancing, Real Talk* at WordCamp NYC – NYC, 2014

#### SKILLS

**Technical:** Full-stack web development, software engineering and architecture, Python and pandas;  
**Research:** Qualitative analysis, mixed-methods, ethnography, engaged scholarship;  
**Languages:** English (Native), Nepali (Advanced)

#### VOLUNTEER

**CS Classroom Volunteer** – MICROSOFT TEALS 2021 - 2022  
 Provide instructor support twice per week for Intro to Computer Science at Westinghouse Academy, a public school in an underserved neighborhood of Pittsburgh.

**Open Source Contributor** – WORDPRESS CORE 2011 - 2022  
 Active member, organizer, and contributor in open source WordPress communities.
 

- Facilitated weekly Core CSS team meetings to oversee and contribute code to long-term projects improving the maintainability of the WordPress Core CSS code-base.
- Contribute code updates to WordPress Core.
- Organize community meetups and conferences vital to maintaining and growing the open-source community.

#### INDUSTRY OUTREACH

**Mentor**, Learn Teach Code – Los Angeles and online, 2017-2021;  
**Co-Organizer**, Global Diversity CFP Day – Pittsburgh, 2019;  
**Mentor**, Write Speak Code – Los Angeles, 2017-2019;  
**Mentor**, Global Diversity CFP Day – Los Angeles, 2018;  
**Co-Organizer**, WordCamp LA – Los Angeles, 2018;  
**Founder and organizer**, CSS.la – Los Angeles, 2017-2019;  
**Founder and organizer**, CodePen Meetup NYC – NYC, 2014-2016;  
**Mentor, Presenter**, WordPress NYC Meetup – NYC, 2014-2016