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) 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 Fellowshop – 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