

Lara Karki *Human-Centered Computing Ph.D. Research Intern*

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PhD candidate in Human-Centered Computing with proven ability to conduct applied research in industry settings, driving innovations in product, process, and adoption. Combines technical expertise (software engineering and AI/ML applications) with social science research methods to solve complex sociotechnical business problems, translating research and technical concepts into executive-level strategic recommendations.

EDUCATION	Ph.D. Human-Centered Computing – GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	2022 - PRESENT
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Coursework: Research Methods, Issues in Human-Centered Computing, Learning & Development, Social Studies of Technology, Prototyping Interactive Systems, Future of Work◦ Research: Future of Work, Workforce Development, Human-Centered AI, Reskilling/Upskilling, AI Impact on Work	
	Bachelor of Fine Arts – SCHOOL OF THE MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS AT TUFTS UNIVERSITY	2009 - 2011
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WORK EXPERIENCE	Intern - Commercial AI Capabilities – MERCK	SUMMER 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Delivered branded framework for conceptualizing human-centered approaches to AI product development across four domains (adoption, user empowerment, human-AI collaboration, governance), with actionable research agendas prioritized according to business impact; presented to department leadership and socialized across leaders in Animal Health and R&D◦ Conducted ethnographic observation and interviews with 25+ stakeholders including product designers, data scientists, analysts, leadership, and sales management across business units, identifying adoption bottlenecks as a primary business challenge; translated findings into targeted research protocols and frameworks◦ Developed and integrated three research protocols into existing product initiatives: interview study assessing AI's impact on sales representative workflows; survey identifying target user segments for proof-of-concept product scaling; and validation survey to assess adoption barriers◦ Translated academic research on human-AI collaboration for a general audience, presenting to 150+ employees in Responsible AI interest group, facilitating cross-functional knowledge sharing	
	Research Assistant – GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	2022 - 2024
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Conducted applied research on emergent data work roles created by AI/ML technologies, developing integrated training and work-based learning program addressing skill gaps in technology-driven career transitions◦ Designed and implemented curriculum addressing emergent job search challenges and program gaps, increasing employment outcomes for participants by 50% through targeted skill development interventions◦ Formed research teams with program participants as co-researchers, increasing rigor of results by incorporating participants' first-person perspectives	
	Principal Software Engineer – PENSKE MEDIA CORPORATION	2018 - 2022
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Conducted applied research study with 15+ stakeholders across product, design, and engineering to assess how emerging web technologies align with business challenges; translated findings into framework and recommendations for C-suite, securing CEO buy-in for platform innovation initiative and developing proof-of-concept prototypes◦ Initiated approach to a re-usable component system and platform architecture; increased productivity for re-platforming brand acquisitions by 60% and enabled engineering team to more rapidly address brand requests◦ Developed change management approach including documentation, training, collaboration tools, and communication channels supporting adoption across 80-person product and engineering department; aligned objectives between engineering, design, product, and brand stakeholders	
	Independent Consultant – LARA SCHENCK, LLC	2011 - 2018
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Serviced a range of clients including The Weather Channel, Barnes and Noble, web development agencies, startups, and small businesses◦ Developed customized training plans and end-to-end product designs and builds◦ Implemented front-end component systems and design language to enable cross-functional design-development collaboration	
	Adjunct Instructor - "Prototyping in Code" – PRATT INSTITUTE	2014 - 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Founding instructor of the UI/UX continuing education certificate program◦ Developed curricula for two sequential classes to in programming fundamentals and application of programming to UI prototyping and technical communication◦ Taught classes of 12-15 non-technical, working professionals from areas including sales, graphic design, and marketing	
	Executive Education Facilitator – DECODED	2014 - 2016
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Facilitated "Code in a Day" workshop targeting non-technical executives, with outcomes of improved technical	

- communication and fundamental understanding of modern development concepts
- Provided individualized support to executives to ensure effectiveness of curriculum
 - Translated technical concepts to everyday business use cases and communication needs, enabling understanding applicable to business problems
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THOUGHT LEADERSHIP & OUTREACH

- Conference Speaker & Thought Leader – INTERNATIONAL** 2013 - PRESENT
- Developed conference talk to highlight emerging technologies in UI development and best practices, shaping the industry's disposition towards front-end development
 - Delivered presentation at 13 conferences internationally between 2017-2019 to crowds between 25-500+ people; recordings with 40k+ views
 - Presented research in academic conferences and industry communities, communicating research findings to academics in a variety of disciplines
- Technical Advisor & Developer – SMALL NON-PROFITS** 2018 - 2024
- Advised non-profit leadership on technical decision making for web platforms
 - Developed websites with the goal of reducing maintenance efforts as much as possible
 - Educated employees on website maintenance and usage
- CS Classroom Volunteer – MICROSOFT TEALS** 2021 - 2022
- Provide instructor support twice per week for Intro to Computer Science at a public school in an underserved neighborhood of Pittsburgh.
- Open Source Contributor – WORDPRESS CORE** 2011 - 2022
- 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.
 - Contributed code updates to WordPress Core
 - Presented at meetups and conferences vital to maintaining and growing the open-source community
 - Contributed to conference planning and led volunteers for WordCamp Los Angeles
- Mentorship & Community Organizing – NATIONAL** 2011 - PRESENT
- Co-founded mentorship program pairing senior PhD students with junior PhD students in GA Tech College of Computing (present)
 - Founded ongoing developer meetups in New York (CodePen meetup) and Los Angeles (CSS.Ia)
 - Co-organized and developed educational workshops for institutionally sponsored meetups (GirlDevelopIt, Write Speak Code, Global Diversity CFP Day, LearnTeachCode)
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SKILLS

- Human-Centered AI:** AI/ML product design & development, human-AI collaboration, responsible AI, adoption, workforce impacts, integration into work practices;
- Development:** Full-stack web engineering (PHP, Enterprise WordPress, JS, React, HTML/CSS), software architecture (design systems, MVC), software testing and CI/CD, data analysis (Python, pandas, matplotlib);
- Research:** Applied research methods, ethnography, interviews and surveys, qualitative analysis, mixed-methods, impact evaluation, user research, Dovetail, MAXQDA, UI prototyping and testing;
- Languages:** English (Native), Nepali (Fluent), Spanish (Advanced Beginner)
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AWARDS

- Pathbreakers Fellowship – GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** 2024
- Graduate Research Fellowship – NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION** 2023
- President's Fellowship – GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY** 2022
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SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Lara Karki**, Kayla Uleah, Carl DiSalvo, Sierra Traynail Ross, Jadin Butler, Selamawit Husen, Emanuel Bryant, Dana Priest, Justin Booker, and Betsy DiSalvo. 2025. 'I get hives when I come on here': Persisting Through Platform-Delivered Microaggressions on LinkedIn. Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact. 9, 7, Article CSCW232 (November 2025), 36 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3757413>
- Lara Karki**, Dana Priest, James G. Dubose, Zajerria Godfrey, Annabel Rothschild, Ben Rydal Shapiro, and Betsy DiSalvo. 2025. A Window into DataWorks: Developing an Integrated Work-Training Curriculum for Novice Adults. In Proceedings of the 56th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education V. 1 (SIGCSE 2025). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 568–574. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3641554.3701826>
- 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. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3637433>.