Maxim Lisnic

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Research interests

I study how people interpret (and misinterpret) data and data visualizations. I design and evaluate interventions to help people understand and describe data more accurately.

large data analysis • qualitative research • data visualization design • user studies

Education

2021 – 2025 (*expected*)
University of Utah – Salt Lake City, UT
Ph.D. in Computing, Human-Centered Computing track
Thesis: "Designing Resilient Visualizations for Accurate Data Discourse"
Advisors: Marina Kogan, Alexander Lex
Committee: Kate Isaacs, Vineet Pandey, Crystal Lee

2015 – 2018
University of Chicago – Chicago, IL
B.A. in Economics; B.S. in Computer Science
General Honors

Peer-reviewed Publications

Plume: Scaffolding Text Composition in Dashboards
Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2025
doi: 10.1145/3706598.3713580
Maxim Lisnic, Vidya Setlur, Nicole Sultanum

Visualization Guardrails: Designing Interventions Against Cherry-Picking in Interactive Data Explorers
Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2025
doi: 10.1145/3706598.3713385
Maxim Lisnic, Zach Cutler, Marina Kogan, Alexander Lex

"Yeah, this graph doesn't show that": Analysis of Online Engagement With Misleading Data Visualizations
Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2024
doi: 10.1145/3613904.3642448
Maxim Lisnic, Alexander Lex, Marina Kogan

Misleading Beyond Visual Tricks: How People *Actually* Lie With Charts
Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2023
doi: 10.1145/3544548.3580910
Maxim Lisnic, Cole Polychronis, Alexander Lex, Marina Kogan

Preprints

Here's what you need to know about my data: Exploring Expert Knowledge's Role in Data Analysis
Preprint doi: 10.31219/osf.io/dn32z
Haihan Lin, Maxim Lisnic, Derya Akbaba, Miriah Meyer, Alexander Lex

Professional Research Experience

2024 Summer — **Tableau Research** – Seattle, WA
Research Intern
Mentors: Nicole Sultanum, Vidya Setlur
· Led a project to design novel LLM-supported text authoring tools for interactive visualization dashboards.

2021 – Present — **University of Utah** – Salt Lake City, UT
Graduate Research Assistant at the School of Computing
· Conducted cross-disciplinary research in data visualization & social computing to inform resilient visualization design for more accurate online data discourse.

2018 – 2020 — **The Brattle Group** – San Francisco, CA
Senior Research Analyst
· Constructed statistical models to estimate financial damages in large anti-trust, environmental, and health insurance lawsuits (up to $2.7 billion awarded in damages).

Teaching experience

Fall 2023 — **University of Utah** – Salt Lake City, UT
Teaching Assistant for COMP 5960: Applied Data Visualization

Fall 2022 — **University of Utah** – Salt Lake City, UT
Guest lecture for CS 6630: Visualization for Data Science

Spring 2022 — **University of Utah** – Salt Lake City, UT
Teaching Assistant for DS 2500: Data Wrangling

Spring 2018 **University of Chicago** – Chicago, IL
Tutor and grader for CMSC 15400: Introduction to Computer Systems

Winter 2018 **University of Chicago** – Chicago, IL
Tutor and grader for CMSC 15100: Introduction to Computer Science

Winter 2017 **University of Chicago** – Chicago, IL
Tutor and grader for CMSC 15100: Introduction to Computer Science

Presentations & Posters

October 2024 Visualization Guardrails: Designing Interventions Against Cherry-Picking in Interactive Data Explorers
Poster presentation
IEEE Visualization Conference 2024 (VIS 24), Tampa, FL

May 2024 "Yeah, this graph doesn't show that": Analysis of Online Engagement with Misleading Data Visualizations
Paper talk
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 24), Honolulu, Hawaii, USA

May 2024 Designing Insightful Data Visualizations
Invited talk
MarketDial, Salt Lake City, UT

April 2024 How People Lie With Charts
Poster presentation
Scientific Computing & Imaging (SCI) Institue, Salt Lake City, UT

April 2023 Misleading Beyond Visual Tricks: How People Actually Lie With Charts
Paper talk
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 23), Hamburg, Germany

June 2022 Vulnerable Visualizations: How Data Visualizations Are Used to Promote Misinformation Online
Contributed talk
Computation + Journalism Conference 2022 (C+J 22), New York, NY

Service

Open Research Practices Chair for The Journal of Visualization and Interaction

Reviewer for CHI 2024, CHI 2025

Student Volunteer for CHI 2024

Mentorship

Maxwell Smith (undergraduate student). Project: Classifying Misinformation on Social Media

Khandaker Abrar Nadib (PhD student). Project: Designing Interventions Against Misunderstanding of Visualizations

Honors and awards

2021 Department Fellowship, School of Computing, University of Utah

2015 – 2018 Dean's list, University of Chicago

Skills

Quantitative research: data analysis, NLP, statistical modeling, machine learning.

Qualitative research: semi-structured interviews, thematic analysis, survey design, digital ethnographic studies, visualization design studies, user studies, think-alouds.

Programming: Python, R, SQL.

Web development: JavaScript, React, Vue, D3.js, Flask.

Languages: English (fluent), Russian (native), Romanian (native).

References

Prof. **Alexander Lex**
University of Utah
Doctoral advisor
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Prof. **Marina Kogan**
University of Utah
Doctoral advisor
kogan@cs.utah.edu

Dr. **Vidya Setlur**
Tableau Research
Internship mentor
vsetlur@salesforce.com