# Nediyana Daskalova

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CONTACT Research Scientist INFORMATION Spotify

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Research Interests Human-Computer Interaction; health-tracking; self-experiments; sleep tracking; personal informatics; social media; mental health; well-being

EDUCATION

### Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island USA

Ph.D., Computer Science, May 2020

- Dissertation Topic: "Personalized Systems for Guided and Flexible Self-Experiments"
- Adviser: Prof. Jeff Huang

M.S., Computer Science, May 2016

### Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa USA

B.A. with honors, Computer Science, May 2014

### RESEARCH PROJECTS

# SleepCoacher (available on Google Play store and App Store)

Developed a system, SleepCoacher, which guides users through single-case experiments for sleep by collecting raw mobile sensor data and generating personalized, data-driven recommendations based on a collection of templates recommendations created with input from clinicians.

### Self-E (available on Google Play Store)

Developed a system, Self-E, which guides novice self-experimenters through the steps of conducting a single-case experiment and applies a Thompson Sampling technique to automatically analyze the data.

#### **Self-Experiments**

Developed a set of guidelines for running self-experiments based on two cohorts of students. By encouraging people to iterate on their experiments, the guidelines aim to make the process more practical for novices. We present these guidelines for future self-experiments and designers of self-experimentation tools.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

# ${\bf Brown\ University},\,{\rm Graduate\ Student}$

August 2014 - May 2020

Collaborated with sleep clinicians and behavior change researchers on developing systems for self-experiments through user studies, usability testing, prototyping, programming the back-end server of the systems, deploying them to the appstore.

### Instagram UX Research, Research Intern

June - August 2018

Worked with Sebastian Fite on Instagram's Discovery Explore team. Conducted in-lab usability studies, a diary study, and online surveys. Collaborated closely with a team of data scientists, designers, PMs.

### Microsoft Research, Research Intern

April - June 2017

Worked with Jessica Lundin's team of data scientists and Kay Hofmeester's UX team on building a system to generate personalized recommendations for improving sleep. Worked on analyzing the existing 40 million sleep records from the Microsoft Band.

## Yahoo UX Research, Research Intern

June - August 2016

Worked with Frank Bentley on all communications products at Yahoo: weekly in-lab user studies, diary studies, and online surveys. Conducted research on the use of email and coupons in email.

### Grinnell College, Undergraduate researcher

June 2013 - May 2014

Worked with Prof. Janet Davis to research persuasive technology design methodologies to improve student wellness behaviors (focusing on sleep) at Grinnell College. Used a participatory design approach to create and evaluate experience prototypes.

#### **PUBLICATIONS**

- N. Daskalova, E. Kyi\*, K. Ouyang\*, A. Borem, S. Chen, S.H. Park, N. Nugent, and J. Huang "Self-E: Practical Self-Experiments." CHI 2021.
- N. Daskalova, Y. Wang, C. Araujo, G. Beltran, J. Yoon, N. Nugent, J. Williams, and J. Huang "SleepBandits: Guided Flexible Self-Experiments for Sleep." CHI 2020.
- N. Daskalova, B. Lee, J. Huang, C. Ni, J. Lundin. "Investigating the Effectiveness of Cohort-Based Sleep Recommendations." Ubicomp 2018. (acceptance rate 27.9%).
- N. Daskalova. "Personalized Behavior-Powered Systems for Guiding Self-Experiments." CHI Doctoral Consortium 2018.
- N. Daskalova, K. Desingh, A. Papoutsaki, D. Schulze, H. Sha, and J. Huang. "Lessons Learned from Two Cohorts of Personal Informatics Self-Experiments." Ubicomp 2017. (acceptance rate 21%)
- F. Bentley, N. Daskalova, N. Andalibi. "If a person is emailing you, it just doesn't make sense": Exploring Changing Consumer Behaviors in Email." CHI 2017. (acceptance rate 25%)
- N. Daskalova, D. Metaxa-Kakavouli, A. Tran, N. Nugent, J. Boergers, J. McGeary, and J. Huang. "SleepCoacher: A Personalized Automated Self-Experimentation System for Sleep Recommendations." UIST 2016. (acceptance rate 20.6%)
- A. Papoutsaki, P. Sangkloy, J. Laskey, N. Daskalova, J. Huang, and J. Hays. "Webgazer: Scalable webcam eyetracking using user interactions." IJCAI 2016. (acceptance rate 25%)
- N. Daskalova, N. Ford, A. Hu, K. Moorehead, B. Wagnon, J. Davis. "Informing Design of Suggestion and Self-Monitoring Tools through Participatory Experience Prototypes." Persuasive 2014.

# CASE STUDIES AND WORKSHOPS

- N. Daskalova, F. Bentley, N. Andalibi. "It's All About Coupons: Exploring Coupon Use Behaviors in Email." Case Study, CHI 2017.
- F. Bentley, **N. Daskalova**, Brooke White. "Comparing the Reliability of Amazon Mechanical Turk and Survey Monkey to Traditional Market Research Surveys." Case Study, CHI 2017.
- N. Daskalova, J. Ma, T. Chen, V. Nguon, J. Qian, C. Chen and J. Huang. "HeyPillow: Computationally Guided Sleep Behavior Study Through Sensing." WISH symposium, CHI 2019.

### Honors and Awards

Invitation & travel grant for CHI'18 Doctoral Consortium	2018
Brown University Travel Grant for CHI'16, CHI'17	2016,2017
Brown University Travel Grant for UbiComp'17, Ubicompb'18	2017,2018
Best Aging in Place Hack at MIT's Grand Hack 2016	2016
ACM-W Scholarship for UIST'16	2016
Brown University Travel Grant for GHC of Women in Computing	2014,  2016
Invitation & travel grant for CRA-W Grad Cohort Workshops	2015,2016
Dropbox Scholarship for Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing	2013

### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Teaching Assistant, Brown University

- CS1300: User Interfaces. Fall 2015, Fall 2016.
- CS2951-r: Personal Informatics Seminar. Spring 2016.
- CS2300: Human-Computer Interaction Seminar. Spring 2018.

### Teaching Assistant and Grader, Grinnell College

- CS151: Functional Problem Solving. Fall 2013.
- CS161: Imperative Problem Solving. Spring 2013, Spring 2014.

# Reviewer Experience

SERVICE

CHI (2015-2021), CSCW (2016, 2019, 2021), WWW 2015

### **Brown University**

Hackathon Mentor: HealthHacks RI, Innovate4Sleep October 2019 Student Volunteer: UIST'16, Ubicomp'17, Ubicomp'18, CHI'19 2016-2019 Event Coordinator, Graduate Women in CS August 2014 - May 2020 Diversity Committee Member January 2018 - December 2020 Panelist for Applying to Graduate School in STEM March 2017 Hour of Code Volunteer December 2016 PhD Recruitment Coordinator September 2014 - May 2015 Department Representative, Graduate Student Council Spring 2015

### Grinnell College

Student Educational Policy Committee
Hall Wellness Coordinator
Social Event Coordinator, International Student Organization

Spring 2015, Fall 2015 September 2011 - August 2013 May 2011 - May 2012

### Relevant Coursework

### **Brown University**

- Personal Informatics Seminar
- Designing & Developing User Interfaces
- Human-Computer Interaction Seminar
- Data Science
- Web Apps
- Experimental Data Analysis
- Computational Vision
- Applied Artificial Intelligence

### Grinnell College

- Discrete Structures
- Analysis of Algorithms
- Software Design
- Computer Organization and Architecture
- Cognitive Psychology & Decision-Making
- Behavioral Psychology
- Neuroscience of the Social Brain
- Positive Psychology

#### CERTIFICATES

Effective Performance Workshops, Brown University

May 2018

Certificate I: Sheridan Teaching Seminar - Reflective Teaching, Brown University

Spring 2016

### INVITED TALKS

Practical Self-Experiments with Self-E. Emergency Digital Health Innovation (EDHI) Program Seminar at the Department of Emergency Medicine, Brown University. October 2019.

Guiding Cohorts into Sleep Recommendations through Self-Experiments. Scientific Staff Meeting (SSM) of the Division of Sleep and Circadian Disorders (DSCD) at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School. February 2019.

Personalized Behavior-Powered Systems for Guiding Self-Experiments. Rising Star series at University of Massachusetts Amherst. November 2018.

Guiding Cohorts into Sleep Recommendations through Self-Experiments. Providence Sleep Research Interest Group (PSRIG) at the E.P. Bradley Sleep Research Lab. November 2018.

Sleep Coacher: A Personalized Automated Self-Experimentation System for Sleep Recommendations. Microsoft Research. April 2017.

Evaluation. Guest Lecture for User Interfaces class. Brown University. November 2016.

### STUDENT MENTORING

Yusuf Karim (August 2019-present)

Andrew Park, Eindra Kyi, Maria Kloiber, visiting undergraduate research students (summer 2019)

Niharika Jhingan, Kevin Ouyang, undergraduate students (January 2019-present)

Lisa Wang, undergraduate student (January 2018-present)

Cintia Araujo, Angel Suet Yan Cheung, undergraduate students (August 2018-2019)

Ishaan Agarwal, undergraduate student (2017-2019) Jina Yoon, undergraduate student (2016-2018)

Guillermo Beltran, undergraduate student (2015-2017)

Guo Wang, Dominique Moore, undergraduate students (2017)

Adrienne Tran, undergraduate student (2015-2016)

Danaë Metaxa-Kakavouli, undergraduate student (2014-2015), now a PhD student at Stanford

#### Selected Press

### Brown researchers developing new interactive sleep app

Brown University News (November 2016)

https://news.brown.edu/articles/2016/11/sleepcoacher

### Brown scientists developing new self-contained SleepCoacher app

News Medical Life Sciences (November 2016)

https://www.news-medical.net/news/20161101/Brown-scientists-developing-new-self-contained-Sleep Coacher-app.aspx

### How your smartphone can actually improve your sleep

South China Morning Post (February 2017)

http://www.scmp.com/lifestyle/health-beauty/article/2067203/how-your-smartphone-can-actually-improve-your-sleep

### Novel interactive app to improve sleep

Yahoo News (November 2016)

https://sg.news.yahoo.com/novel-interactive-app-improve-sleep-083603245.html

### Why Yahoo thinks it may be time to blow up your inbox

FastCompany (S. Melendez, May 2017)

https://www.fastcompany.com/40419395/why-yahoo-thinks-its-time-to-blow-up-your-inbox

## Be ready to roll on Black Friday with Yahoo Mail's handy coupon list

Digital Trends (Christian de Looper, November 2016)

https://www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/yahoo-mail-coupons-smart-travel-view/

# An Interdisciplinary Team Including Multiple Brown CS Students Wins An Award At MIT Grand Hack 2016

Brown CS News (Jesse Polhemus, May 2016)

http://blog.cs.brown.edu/2016/05/05/interdisciplinary-team-brown-wins-award-mit-grand-hack-2016/