

NICOLE B. SULTANUM

University of Toronto

PhD Student in Computer Science

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ABOUT ME

My research interests fall on visual interaction, encompassing **human-computer interaction (HCI)**, **data visualization**, **computer graphics**, and their many embodiments and applications. I am keen on applied research, and have worked on a variety of projects in academia and industry covering a wide range of application domains, from education and training, games, arts & design to oil & gas and medicine. More recently, I've been interested in how to better support quality understanding of large collections of text.

EDUCATION

University of Toronto, Canada – Department of Computer Science, Fall 2015-present

PhD In Computer Science (*ongoing*)

- Supervisors : *Fanny Chevalier and Michael Brudno*

University of Calgary, Canada – Department of Computer Science, Fall 2009- Summer 2011

MSc in Computer Science, August 2011

- Thesis : *Exploring Novel Interfaces for 3D Visualization of Reservoir Simulation Post-Processing Data*
- Supervisors : *Mario Costa Sousa and Ehud Sharlin*

Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), Brazil, Informatics Centre (*Centro de Informática - CIn*), 2004-2008

BSc in Computer Science, August 2008

- Graduation Research Project Title: *Interactive Ink Brushstroke Simulation via Tablets* (original title: “*Simulação interativa de traços em tinta e pincel através do tablet*”)
- Supervisor: *Silvio Melo*
- Available at: <http://www.cin.ufpe.br/~tg/2008-1/nbs2.zip> (in Portuguese)

GPA: 9.31/10.0

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adobe Research

Research Intern, January 2020 – April 2020

Industry research on HCI and Data Visualization, involving text + graphics linking and storytelling approaches for data driven documents.

Microsoft Research

Research Intern, June 2019 – August 2019

Industry research on HCI and Machine Teaching, involving the design and evaluation of a machine teaching language for object detection.

IBM Research Brazil

Research Software Engineer, June 2012 – July 2015

Industry research on Visualization and HCI applied to Natural Resources, with efforts also encompassing project proposal elaboration, patents, publications and multidisciplinary development.

Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary, Canada - Interactive Reservoir Modeling and Visualization Research Group

Research Assistantship, November 2011 – May 2012

Interactive models and platforms for visualization on oil /gas exploration and production, with a focus on interactive multi-touch displays and surface computing technology for visual interactive exploration petroleum data.

GCF Sistemas

Professional Traineeship, March 2008 – June 2009

C# Development and project management of applications for commerce and ERP.

AWARDS

Didi Graduate Student Award

Toronto, Sept 2019 – C\$10,000

Awarded to Computer Science MSc or PhD students working in Knowledge representation, computer vision, human computer interaction, edge computing, machine learning, or social computing, chosen on the basis of academic standing and research potential.

Ontario Graduate Scholarship

Toronto, Sept-2019 to Aug 2020 – C\$15,000

Jointly funded by the Province of Ontario and the University of Toronto, granted to graduate students in all disciplines on the basis of academic merit.

General Motors Women in Science and Mathematics Award

Toronto, April 2019 – C\$5,000

Awarded to women graduate students who are enrolled in a program in science or mathematics in the Faculty of Arts & Science.

Robert E. Lansdale/Okino Computer Graphics Graduate Fellowship in DGP (Dynamic Graphics Project)

Toronto, November 2018 – C\$2,000

Scholarship awarded to a graduate student in the Department of Computer Science's Dynamic Graphics Project on the basis of academic merit.

Mitacs Globalink Research Award for Research Abroad

Toronto, May 2018 – C\$6,000

Competitive funding for senior undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral fellows in Canada to conduct 12–24-week research projects at universities overseas. Funds supported a 4-month research visit at Inria-Saclay, France, under Prof. Anastasia Bezerianos, from October 2018 to January 2019.

ACM CHI 2018 - Honorable Mention

Montreal, Apr 2018

Granted to the top 5% (minus top 1%) submissions to CHI 2018 (101/2590 submissions)

Wolfond Scholarship Program in Wireless Information Technology

University of Toronto, Sept 2015 to Aug 2017 – C\$20,000

The Wolfond Scholarship in Wireless Information Technology was established by Greg Wolfond to recognize outstanding scholars pursuing research in areas relating to mobile computing, wireless information technology, networks, human-computer interaction, and digital media.

Top of Class Award – 9.31/10.0

Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), Aug 2008

Honors status granted to the student with highest overall average in the Computer Science class of 2008.1 (i.e., 2008 1st Semester).

PUBLICATIONS

1. **N. Sultanum**, C. Murad, D. Wigdor. [2020] **Understanding and Supporting Academic Literature Review Workflows with LitSense**. Proceedings of the International Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI'20), September 2020. (*short conference paper*)
2. **N. Sultanum**, S. Ghorashi, C. Meek, G. Ramos. [2020] **A Teaching Language for Building Object Detection Models**. Proceedings of the 2020 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS'20). pp. 1223–1234, July 2020. (*full conference paper*)
3. J. Zhang, **N. Sultanum**, A. Bezerianos, F. Chevalier. [2020] **DataQuilt: Extracting Visual Elements from Images to Craft Pictorial Visualizations**. Proceedings of ACM SIGCHI 2020 (CHI'20), April 2020. (*full conference paper*)
4. **N. Sultanum**, D. Singh, M. Brudno, F. Chevalier. [2019]. **Doccurate: A Curation-Based Approach for Clinical Text Visualization**. IEEE Transactions on Visualization and Computer Graphics (TVCG), 25.1, pp.142-151, January 2019. (*journal paper*).
5. **N. Sultanum**, M. Brudno, D. Wigdor, F. Chevalier. [2018] **More Text Please! Understanding and Supporting the Use of Visualization for Clinical Text Overview**. Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI'18), p. 422, April 2018, Canada. (*full conference paper, Honorable Mention*).
6. **N. Sultanum**, P. Thaine, M. Brudno, M. Glueck, D. Wigdor and F. Chevalier. [2017] **MedStory: Unlocking the Qualitative Power of Medical Narratives**. Proceedings of 8th Workshop on Visual Analytics in Healthcare (VAHC'17), October 2017, Phoenix, Arizona. (2-page extended abstract + poster presentation).
7. M.A.S. Netto, R.L.F. Cunha, **N. Sultanum**. [2015] **Deciding When and How to Move HPC Jobs to the Cloud**. IEEE Computer 11, pp. 86-89, November 2015 (*magazine article*)
8. **N. Sultanum**, M. Motta, C. Cardonha and R. Herrmann. [2014] **Watchboard: Curated Microblogging for the Enterprise**. Proceedings of CHI'14 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems, pp. 2107-2112, May 2014, Toronto, Canada (*extended abstract + poster presentation*)
9. **N. Sultanum**, E.V. Brazil and M.C. Sousa. [2013] **Navigating and Annotating 3D Geological Outcrops Through Multi-touch Interaction**. Proceedings of ACM International Conference on Interactive Tabletops and Surfaces (ITS '13), pp. 345-348, October 2013, St Andrews, UK (*extended abstract + poster presentation*)
10. M. Tozser, **N. Sultanum**, E. Sharlin, K. Rutheford and C. Foster [2012] **Re-collision: a collision reconstruction forensics tabletop**. Proceedings of ACM International Conference on Interactive Tabletops and Surfaces (ITS '12), pp. 81-84, November 2012, Cambridge, MA (*short paper*)
11. P. Lapides, **N. Sultanum**, E. Sharlin and M.C. Sousa [2012] **Seamless Mixed Reality Tracking in Tabletop Reservoir Engineering Interaction**. Proceedings of the International Working Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI '12), pp. 725-728, May 2012, Anacapri, Italy (*extended abstract + poster presentation*)
12. **N. Sultanum**, S. Somanath, E. Sharlin and M.C. Sousa [2011] **"Point it, Split it, Peel it, View it": Techniques for Interactive Reservoir Visualization on Tabletops**. Proceedings of ACM International Conference on Interactive Tabletops and Surfaces (ITS '11), pp. 192-201, November 2011, Kobe, Japan (*full conference paper*)
13. J. Harris, J. Young, **N. Sultanum**, P. Lapides, E. Sharlin and M.C. Sousa [2011] **Designing Snakey: A Tangible User Interface Supporting Well Path Planning**. Proceedings of 13th IFIP TC13 Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (INTERACT '11), pp. 45-53, September 2011, Lisbon, Portugal (*short conference paper*).
14. J. Harris, J. Young, **N. Sultanum**, P. Lapides, E. Sharlin and M.C. Sousa [2011] **Snakey: A Tangible User Interface for Well Path Planning in the Context of Reservoir Engineering**. Technical Report 2011-1003-15, May 26, 2011, Department of Computer Science, University of Calgary, AB, Canada

15. **N. Sultanum**, E. Sharlin, M.C. Sousa, D.N. Miranda-Filho and R. Eastick [2010] **“Touching the Depths”: Introducing Tabletop Interaction to Reservoir Engineering**. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Interactive Tabletops and Surfaces (ITS '10)*, pp. 105-108, November 2010, Saarbrücken, Germany (*short conference paper*)
16. **N. Sultanum** and S. Melo [2008] **SketchSim: Interactive Simulation of Ink Brushstrokes**. *Workshop of Undergraduate Work - WUW, in Electronic Proceedings of XXI Brazilian Symposium on Computer Graphics and Image Processing (SIBGRAPI '08)*, October 2008, Campo Grande, Brazil (*extended abstract + poster presentation*)
17. Gurgel, **N. Sultanum**, R. Lopes Arcoverde, E.W. Almeida, P. Tedesco [2006] **A Importância de Avaliar a Usabilidade dos Jogos: A Experiência do Virtual Team**. *V Brazilian Symposium on Computer Games and Digital Entertainment (SBGames)*, November 2006, Recife, Brazil (*full conference paper, in Portuguese*)
18. A.S. Gomes, C. Araújo, D. Arruda, **N. Sultanum**, L. Paiva, L. Menezes [2006] **Participação de professores de matemática no desenvolvimento de aplicações educativas computacionais para o ensino de estruturas aditivas**. *Electronic Proceedings of Pernambucan Meeting on Mathematics Teaching (EPEM '06)*, 2006, Caruaru, Brazil (*workshop paper, in Portuguese*)

PATENTS (authors listed in alphabetical order)

1. M.A.S. Netto, **N. Sultanum** and R.L.F. Cunha, International Business Machines Corp [2018]. **User interface and system supporting user decision making and readjustments in computer-executable job allocations in the cloud**. US Patent Application 15/989,276. Filing 2018-05-25 • **Grant 2018-09-04** • Publication 2018-09-04
2. K. Mantripragada, U. Mello, R.H. Nemoto, L.C.V. Real and **N. Sultanum**, International Business Machines Corp [2017] **System and method for tracking pollution**. U.S. Patent Application 15/840,470. Filing 2017-12-13 • **Grant 2019-04-23** • Publication 2019-04-23
3. C.H. Cardonha, S. Mazon, D.L.N.C. Pereira, and **N. Sultanum**, International Business Machines Corp [2017] **Contextual text adaptation**. U.S. Patent 9,519,871. Filing 2016-08-02 • **Grant 2017-06-06** • Publication 2017-06-06
4. C.H. Cardonha, R.A. de Paula and **N. Sultanum**, International Business Machines Corp, [2017] **Personalized content selection for time-constrained sessions**. U.S. Patent Application 15/084,804. Filing 2016-03-30 • Publication 2017-10-05
5. C.H. Cardonha, and **N. Sultanum**, International Business Machines Corp [2017] **System and method for the identification of personal presence and for enrichment of metadata in image media**. U.S. Patent 9,798,742. Filing 2015-12-21 • **Grant 2017-10-24** • Publication 2017-10-24
6. C.H. Cardonha, R.G. Herrmann, M.M. Motta and **N. Sultanum**, International Business Machines Corp [2015] **Personalized aggregator for organizing and publishing public and private content**. U.S. Patent Application 14/624,931. Filing 2015-02-18 • **Grant 2018-04-17** • Publication 2018-04-17
7. C.H. Cardonha, R.G. Herrmann, M.M. Motta, and **N. Sultanum**, International Business Machines Corp [2017] **Generating navigable content overviews**. U.S. Patent 9,582,574. Filing 2015-01-06 • **Grant 2017-02-28** • Publication 2017-02-28
8. A.P. Binotto, K. Mantripragada, , A.C.N. Junior, M.A.S. Netto , **N. Sultanum** and L.P. Tizzei, International Business Machines Corp [2016] **Efficient facilitation of human review and computational analysis**. U.S. Patent Application 14/537,180. Filing 2014-11-10 • Publication 2016-05-12
9. F.L. Koch and **N. Sultanum**, International Business Machines Corp [2017] **Non-subjective quality analysis of digital content on tabletop devices**. U.S. Patent 9,842,341. Filing 2014-04-30 • **Grant 2017-12-12** • Publication 2017-12-12

10. K. Mantripragada, L. V. Real, **N. Sultanum**, International Business Machines Corp
[2014] **Apparatus and methods for co-located social integration and interactions.**
U.S. Patent Application 13/969,077. Filing 2013-02-06 • Publication 2014-08-07

INVITED RESEARCH TALKS

Bridging the (Visual) Gap for Comprehensive Understanding of Clinical Text

- *Microsoft Research, Cambridge (2019)*
- *Ontario Tech University (UOIT) (2019)*
- *Uncharted (2019)*
- *The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) (2019)*

Information Visualization – Computing for Medicine

- *University of Toronto, Canada (2018)*

Introduction to Data Visualization: Theory and Practice (Full day workshop)

- *University of Toronto, Canada (2017)*
- *LNCC (Laboratório Nacional de Computação Científica), Brazil (2014) (in portuguese)*

Exploring Novel Interfaces for 3D Visualization of Reservoir Flow Simulation Data

- *University of Bristol, UK (2011)*

Exploring Novel Interfaces for 3D Visualization of Reservoir Simulation Post-Processing Data

- *Heriot-Watt University, UK (2011)*
- *Imperial College London, UK (2011)*
- *Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) (2011)*

Interactive Collaborative Visualization for Reservoir Engineering

- *Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE) (2010)*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistantship, University of Toronto

- *Topics in Information Visualization (Fall 2019)*
- *Introduction to Data Science (Winter 2019)*
- *Introduction to Data Science (Summer 2018) (Course design assistantship)*
- *The Design of Interactive Comp. Media (Winter 2018, Winter/Fall 2016, Fall 2015)*
- *Topics in Computational Biology – Computational Methods in Medicine (Winter 2018)*
- *Theory and Methods in Knowledge Media Design (Fall 2017)*
- *Video Game Design (Winter 2017)*
- *Information Architecture (Fall 2016)*

Teaching Assistantship, University of Calgary

- *Introduction to Human-Robot Interaction (Winter 2012) (Course advisor)*
- *Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction (Fall 2009)*

Teaching Assistantship, Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE)

- *Image Processing: 1st semester 2007*
- *Theory of Computation: 2nd semester 2006*
- *Logics for Computer Science: 1st semester 2005 - 1st semester 2006 (3 semesters)*
- *Introduction to Programming: 2nd semester 2004 - 1st semester 2006 (4 semesters)*

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Organizing Chair

- ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (**CHI**) – *Student Volunteer Co-chair* – **2020 & 2021**

Associate Chair / Program Committee

- International Conference on Graphics, Visualization & Human-Computer Interaction (**GI**) – **2020**
- ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (**CHI**) – *Late Breaking Work* – **2018**

Reviewer

- ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (**CHI**) – **2020, 2016, 2017**
- EG/VGTC Conference on Visualization (**EuroVis**) – **2019**
- IEEE Conference on Visual Analytics Science and Technology (**VAST**) – **2019, 2018**
- International Conference on Graphics, Visualization & Human-Computer Interaction (**GI**) – **2018**
- International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction with Mobile Devices and Services (**MobileHCI**) – **2017**
- IEEE International Symposium on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (**RO-MAN**) – **2017**
- ACM International Conference on Tangible, Embedded and Embodied Interaction (**TEI**) – **2015, 2014, 2013**
- ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (**CSCW**) – **2014**

Student Volunteer

- IEEE **VIS** – **2019**
- ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (**CHI**) – **2019, 2018, 2017, 2012** (will be **SV Co-chair** for **CHI 2020 – 2021**)
- ACM User Interface Software and Technology Symposium (**UIST**) – **2018**
- ACM International Conference on Interactive Surfaces and Spaces (**ISS**) – **2016**
- ACM International Conference & Exhibition on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques (**SIGGRAPH**) – **2009, 2010, 2011**