Teaching and Research statement

My commitment to equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility (EDIA) is grounded in both personal values and lived professional experience. Throughout my academic and research journey, I have consistently worked to create inclusive environments that respect and empower individuals from diverse backgrounds and with varying abilities.

During my PhD, I had the opportunity to collaborate closely with individuals with visual impairments as part of my thesis work. This experience shaped my understanding of accessibility not as an add-on, but as a foundational element in research design. By incorporating their lived experiences and feedback into the development process, I was able to co-create solutions that were not only technically effective but also meaningfully usable and inclusive.

In addition to research, I have contributed to EDIA through public engagement and advocacy. I served as a panelist on a discussion focused on understanding disabilities in virtual reality (VR), in the International Symposium on Virtual and Augmented Reality, in Brazil. This platform allowed me to advocate for inclusive design practices in emerging technologies, highlight the importance of intersectional accessibility in digital environments, and engage with a diverse audience of academics, developers, and users.

In teaching, I've worked with students with hearing and locomotor impairments, ensuring that my instructional strategies and materials were fully accessible. This included using captions and transcripts, providing alternative formats, and adapting lab activities to accommodate mobility challenges. These experiences deepened my understanding of how thoughtful pedagogical design can make a significant difference in a student's ability to participate fully in academic life.

Looking forward, I remain committed to advancing a culture of EDIA in all aspects of my work—research, teaching, and service. I aim to continue involving marginalized voices in co-design processes, advocate for inclusive technologies, and foster learning environments where all students and collaborators can thrive.

Renan Guarese