

# Sarah Akhavan Kazemzadeh

Practices in Enabling Technologies (PiET) lab, Lassonde School of Engineering, York University, Toronto, Ontario

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## Education

### York University

Toronto, Canada

M.Sc IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

Sep 2018 - PRESENT

- Member of Practices in Enabling Technologies (Piet) Lab
- Supervisor: Professor Melanie Baljko
- Thesis: Switch-Activated Writing System For People With Deaf-Blindness And Motor Disabilities

### Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic)

Tehran, Iran

B.Sc. IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Sep 2013 - Aug 2018

## Work Experience

### Adanic Banking Informatics

UI/UX DESIGNER & FRONTEND DEVELOPER

Dec 2016 - Jul 2018

- Conducted iterative user tests on "KeyLead" application (a banking application for Ayandeh Bank in Iran); prototypes and released versions.
- User experience and interface enhancement of the Keylead and related banking services; mobile and web applications.
- Redesigned Keylead as part of the rebranding plan to be used by other banks in Iran.
- Dealt with the matters of internationalization and localization of design guidelines available at the time (in terms of cultural aspects of cognition, language, etc.) to be used in a Persian culture and language setting.

### Torob Online Markets Search Engine

UI/UX DESIGN INTERN

Jun 2016 - Sep 2016

- Learned how to work with google analytics and how to analyze user behavior.
- Redesigned the user interface of the android application of Torob according to Material Design Guidelines.
- Redesigned the navigation and product categorization.
- My efforts lead to an improvement in their Alexa rank to be among the top 1000 in Iran.

### Nivad Cloud, located in Sharif Accelerator in Sharif University of Technology

FRONTEND DEVELOPER/DJANGO DEVELOPER

Oct 2015 - Nov 2016

- Worked as a django developer, frontend developer, and a designer, focusing on the front-end part in a lean startup setting.

## Research Experience

### Practices in Enabling Technologies (PiET) Lab, Lassonde School of Engineering, York University

SWITCH ACTIVATED WRITING SYSTEM

Fall 2019 - PRESENT

- Designing and Implementing an Open Source Writing System for people with deaf-blindness and motor disabilities.
- Designing a deployment and maintenance model for longevity of the system.

SMART TOOLBOX STUDY

Fall 2019 - Winter 2020

- Designed an evaluation framework to measure the usability of the SMART Toolbox.
- Conducted data analysis to specify the user profiles.
- Designed and directed Think Aloud Sessions.

TREASURE BOX BRIALLE

Fall 2018 - Summer 2019

- Worked on the design of a more accessible User Interface for people with visual impairments.

## Teaching Experience

### Course Director, School of Information Technology, York University

DESIGNING USER INTERFACES

Summer 2020 - PRESENT

- Outlined the principles of design and how to apply them when designing interactive systems
- Explained the cognitive aspects of user behavior through an introduction to cognitive science
- Introduced Human-Centered Design Methodology, its activities and how to apply it to the process of design of interactive systems
- Described the tools and techniques to know the user and involve them in the process of design
- Introduced the tools and techniques to prototype design ideas
- Introduced evaluation frameworks in order to analyze, discuss, and test the design of interactive systems

## Co-Course Director, School of Information Technology, York University

WEB TECHNOLOGIES

Fall 2020 - PRESENT

- Explained how websites function and their structure
- Explained the basics of front-end development using HTML, CSS, Javascript
- Introduced prominent frameworks and tools to design, create, and style websites, e.g., Bootstrap

## Teaching Assistant, Lassonde School of Engineering, York University

USER INTERFACES, HUMAN COMPUTER INTERACTION

Winter 2019 - Winter 2021

## Volunteer Experience

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### Electrical Engineering and Computer Science - Graduate Students Association, York University

VP ORGANIZATION

Sep 2019 - Sep 2020

- Planned and hosted monthly EECS-GSA social events.
- Coordinated EECS-GSA elections.
- Argued students issues on their behalf in the EECS-GSA meetings.

## Technical Skills

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<b>Design &amp; Prototyping</b>	Sketch, Adobe XD, Adobe Illustrator, InvisionApp, Adobe Comp
<b>Digital Painting &amp; Photo Editing</b>	Adobe Photoshop, Procreate, Gimp, Tayasui Sketches Pro, Adobe Lightroom
<b>Programming &amp; Scripting Languages</b>	Python, C, C++, Java, Shell Scripting
<b>Web development</b>	Django with Python, JQuery, HTML, CSS, XML, AJAX
<b>Data Mining and Visualization</b>	WEKA, Rapidminer, Scikit-Learn, Pandas, Matplotlib, Numpy
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	LaTeX

## Honors & Awards

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2014	<b>2nd Place</b> , local ACM contest of Amirkabir University of Technology (Among Amirkabir Teams)
2014	<b>1st Place</b> , regional ACM contest of Sharif University of Technology (Among All-girls Teams)
2013	<b>5th Place</b> , local ACM contest of Amirkabir University of Technology (Among Amirkabir Teams)
2013	<b>1st Place</b> , regional ACM contest of Sharif University of Technology (Among All-girls Teams)

## Hobbies

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Learning new languages (right now French), Digital Painting, Illustrating, Drawing