Professional Experience

10/2023 – 01/2024

Research Assistant, Cognitive, computational and systems neuroscience lab, University Leiden
Leiden, Netherlands

Principal Investigator: Dr Anne E. Urai

Electrophysiological alignments of single-cell Neuropixels recordings in the mouse brain.

07/2023 – 09/2023

Internship, Lifespan Neural Dynamics Group, Max-Planck Institute
Berlin, Germany
Principal Investigator: Dr Douglas Garrett

Quantitative Methods to analyze neural variability in the human brain.

11/2018 – 12/2021

Manager User Experience (UX), Roche Sequencing Solutions
Belmont / Santa Clara, CA, USA

User research, User-Centered Design and Usability Engineering of products for next genome sequencing (NGS) laboratories, pathologists, bioinformaticians, and oncologists.

Process Manager Usability Engineering.

11/2015 – 10/2018
08/2014 – 10/2015

Manager User Experience (UX), Roche Diagnostics
Senior Usability Engineer, Roche Diagnostics
Rotkreuz, Switzerland

User research, User-Centered Design and Usability Engineering of products for molecular laboratories, clinical chemistry, blood banks, or point-of-care facilities.

Process Manager Usability Engineering.

07/2010 – 06/2014

Usability Engineer, Karl Storz GmbH & Co.KG
Schaffhausen, Switzerland

User research, User-Centered Design and Usability Engineering of products for minimally invasive surgery and OR management.

09/2006 – 06/2010

Designer and Usability Engineer, designS & Freelancer
Berlin, Germany

Interfacedesign of webbased tools, interaction design of products in safety-critical context, design of print media.

Usability documentation for medical device manufacturers on behalf of BEO MedConsulting Berlin GmbH.

Design and Usability Testing on behalf of relevantive GmbH, Berlin.

Education

Since 02/2022	**MSc (Research) Psychologie, specialization Cognitive Neuroscience (120 ECTS), University Leiden** *Leiden, Netherlands* Thesis: *Age differences in response time variability, assessed through a computational model of task-switching.* Supervisor Dr B. Jongkees
02/2016 – 07/2020	**BSc Psychology (180 ECTS), Distant-learning University Switzerland** *Brig, Switzerland* Thesis*: When boredom fails: The impact of state boredom on goal-directed behavior* (magna cum laude); Supervisor Dr C. Martarelli.
09/2002 – 01/2006	**Industrial Design (Diplom), University Wuppertal** *Bergische Universität Wuppertal, Germany* Semester abroad in Koscie, Slovakia (2005) Thesis: *SafIRa – a portable device for non-invasive blood glucose monitoring.*
09/1999 – 08/2002	**Product Design, Kunsthochschule Kassel** *Kassel, Germany*
1998	**Abitur** *Albert-Einstein-Gymnasium Frankenthal, Germany*

Teaching Experience & Contributions

2024	*Talk*: Introduction into electrophysiological alignments using the IBL software GUI.
2023	*Teaching Assistant*, University Leiden; Course: Introduction to Cognitive Science*,* BSc Data Science & Artificial Intelligence; Supervision of students and grading of student essays.
2022	*Workshop*: Pimp your figure – UX essentials for scientific visualizations.
2014 – 2021	*Training*: UX in medical device development – Usability Engineering Essentials. *Talk*: Talking E – The E in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; *2021* *Workshop*: UX in Systems Engineering; Roche Systems Engineering Forum 2019 *Training*: Data integrity in qualitative methods of usability engineering. *Training*: Compliance Trainings Usability Engineering Process.

	Training: Usability Testing for medical devices.
2011	*Article*: Hygienezone OP. (design report, issue 2/2011; in German)
	Article & Product Reviews: Diverse contributions to design of medical devices in the online outlet *zwomp*.

Scientific Contributions & Open Science Material

2024	*Blogpost CoCoSys Lab*: Of mice and (wo)men – or: how I learned to read spikes; Link
2023	*Poster Präsentation* Konferenz Brain & Cognition 2023, Egmond aan Zee, Niederlande: Zang F, Khanal A, **Förster S**, International Brain Laboratory, Churchland AK, Urai AE. (2023): Age-Related Changes in Neural Noise in a Decision-Making Task
	Blogpost Series: Of mice and men; Link
	Talk: Palliative care for patients with glioblastoma.
2022	Co-Organisor of the local hublet of Neuromatch Conference at Leiden University.
	Paper discussion: Frank et al., 2004, By carrot or by stick: Cognitive reinforcement learning in Parkinsonism.
	NMA group project: Post-error slowing in mice.

Qualifications

UX Methods	User Researcher & Usability Engineer in medical device development
	- Formative and summative Usability Evaluations
	- Interaction design, Information architecture
	- Interfacedesign
	- User flow visualization, Customer / User Journeys
	- Personas
	- Co-Creation, Workshop Facilitation
	- Contextual inquiry, Field observation, Interviews
	- Task Analysis, Use Error Analysis
	- Expert Review, Heuristic Analysis, Cognitive Walkthrough
International Standards	IEC 62366-1, Technical Report 62366-2, FDA Guidance: Applying Human Factors and Usability Engineering to Medical Devices, HE75, ISO 14971, IVDR, MDR, GDPR
Processes & Soft Skills	- User-Centered Design, Design Thinking, Lean UX
	- Jobs-to-be-done, Service Design

	• UX in Agile, SAFe • Requirements & Systems Engineering, Project Management, Change Management, Stakeholder Management & Communication
Certificates & Awards	• Introduction to Network Inference and Network Learning in R: Markov random Fields and Bayesian Networks; *2024* • Summer school, Neuromatch Academy (NMA): Computational Neuroscience; *2022* • SAFe 5 Agilist Certificate; *2020* • Project Management – Methods und Instruments; *2015* • Certificate Usability Engineer (25 ECTS), *TU Deggendorf*: Certified Professional for Usability and User Experience – Foundational Level (CPUX-F); *2013 – 2014* • IREB Certified Professional for Requirements Engineering – Foundation Level; *2012* • Seminar Usability & Requirements, Institut für Informationstechnologien im Gesundheitswesen; *2011* • Certified Business Plan designS through 3CERT GmbH; registration number 800365; *2008* • Winner VDID early career award; *2006*
Language skills	• German (Mother tongue) • Englisch (proficient) • Dutch (basics)
Software	• Figma, Adobe XD, Miro, Balsamiq • Jira, Git, Github, Trello, Smartsheet • R, SPSS, Python

Engagements

Committees & expert associations	• VDID (Verband Deutscher Industriedesigner) e.V.; Member *2006 – 2019; deputy regional leadership Berlin-Brandenburg till 2010*. • German UPA; *2008 – 2012* • VDE DGBMT (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Biomedizinische Technik); *2008 – 2021* • VDE DKE 811.4: German Committee for the European standard to apply Usability Engineering to medical devices (IEC 62366); *2009 – 2021* • NVP (Dutch Society for Brain and Cognition); *since 2023*
Voluntary service	• Palliative care / End of life care • Crisis text line: counselling via text messages • Diakonie: counselling for young & adolescents (phone, email) • Neighborhood community service