Apolline Tardy

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RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

To advance Human-Computer Interaction research by centering the lived experiences of the disabled community, drawing on my social sciences background, creative endeavors, and commitment to disability advocacy.

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University   Pittsburgh, PA
MA in Rhetoric (GPA 4.0)   May 2023
Selected courses: Social Web in HCI, Coding for Humanists, Research Methods,
Humanities Analytics, Equity in Communication, Leadership Dialogue and Change.

Bennington College   Bennington, VT
BA in Sociolinguistics and Psychology (GPA 3.96)   May 2022
Thesis: The Metaphysics of Audism – Uncovering the roots and forces that drive audism today.
Selected courses: Language as a System and Social Behavior, Language Power and Belonging.

CERTIFICATES

Intro to Accessibility and Inclusive Design, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign   Nov 2024
Introduction to Web Accessibility, The World Wide Web Consortium W3Cx on EdX   Aug 2024
Disability & Digital Media: Accessibility, Representation, and Inclusion, Curtin University   May 2021

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

HCI Research Assistant, Advisor: Prof. Andrew Begel   Pittsburgh, PA
CMU Software and Societal Systems Department, VariAbility Lab   July 2023 – Present
● Designed research projects to support the workplace inclusion of autistic individuals.
● Investigated how miscommunication occurs in dyadic conversations of mixed neurotypes.
● Performed qualitative analysis of 200 recorded conversations and survey data with UMD faculty.
● Trained 2 undergraduate students to perform discourse analysis using ELAN software for 6 months.
● Created a codebook of lexical, auditory and visual cues using the Facial Action Coding System,
   for Machine Learning classifiers to detect communication misunderstandings.

DEI Researcher, Advisor: Prof. David Brown   Pittsburgh, PA
CMU Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences   Jan – May 2023
● Won $300 DEI Grant to study how disability influences the experience of belonging at CMU.
● Recruited 12 participants, including 6 abled and 6 disabled students, through social media platforms.
● Scripted questions on community and belonging, and conducted semi-structured 30 mins interviews.
● Conducted keyness analysis using concordancing software AntConc to identify high-frequency words
   across interview groups, revealing distinct usage of indefinite pronouns characteristic to each corpus.
● Performed collocational analysis to study the context of negative indefinite pronouns, and performed
   qualitative review to find associations with personal identity, and feelings of solidarity and alienation.

Corpus Linguistics Researcher, Advisor: Prof. Suguru Ishizaki, David Brown   Pittsburgh, PA
CMU Dietrich College of Humanities and Social Sciences   Nov – Dec 2022
● Conducted research in "Humanities Analytics" and "Coding for Humanists" class.
● Compiled a corpus of 991 Reddit posts from 'r/deaf' using web scraping tool Python PRAW.
● Analyzed 149 deafness disclosures with AntConc, focusing on information structure, and temporality.
● Hypothesized how linguistic choices of disclosure can suggest personal attitudes, assumptions and assessments, according to affective (positive or negative) and evidential (certainty or doubt) meaning.

LEADERSHIP

ABLE Advocacy Committee, *Carnegie Mellon University*   Nov 2022 – May 2023
● Pitched ableism awareness campaigns to challenge harmful stereotypes.
● Cultivated partnerships with mental health organizations such as Here For You.
● Collaborated with the Director of the Office of Disability Resources to pilot a new part-time attendance program for students with medical conditions.

Chronically Ill & Disabled Student Union, *Bennington College*   March 2020 – May 2022
● Co-founded a coalition to strengthen disability social integration and belonging.
● Set up Discord and Instagram networks for open dialogue and mutual empowerment.
● Launched mentorships and mental well-being circles with the Director of Wellness to address the community's social and emotional needs beyond academic context.

CREATIVE PROJECTS

WebXR Creative Director and Concept Artist | [Horizon Chaser](#) (Team of 2)   Nov 2024 – Present
● Commissioned an immersive experience for a new VR platform launch for a leading tech company (under NDA).
● Developed a magical train design and style guide, mood boards, and visual references for a WebXR project.
● Collaborated with a 3D artist to develop detailed 3D assets through concept art and environmental illustrations.
● Provided iterative feedback and guidance for visual consistency in the scene throughout the production process.

Logo Designer | 7th Annual Neurodiversity at Work Research Conference   Sept 2024 – Present
● Designed the 7th NWRC logo, incorporating visual elements representing the host city and neurodiversity.
● Maintained consistency with previous branding while introducing a refreshed design referring to Pittsburgh.
● Delivered a meaningful and cohesive visual identity tailored to the conference's theme and audience.

SKILLS

● Languages: Fluent in French, English, Spanish, and Italian; Intermediate in Mandarin Chinese; Beginner in ASL
● Accessibility: Experience with WCAG 2.0 guidelines, content accessibility, and web accessibility best practices
● Technical Skills: Experience in Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and basic knowledge of backend frameworks
● Design & Tools: Skilled in Figma, GitHub, Final Cut Pro, Procreate, and Adobe Illustrator

ACHIEVEMENTS & AWARDS

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Grant, Carnegie Mellon University   December 2022
Distinguished Student Award, Middlebury Chinese Language School   August 2021
Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Grant, Bennington College   December 2020
TEDx Talk Speaker, South Island School Hong Kong   February 2018