

Victoria C. Chávez

victoria@vickiebananas.com | vickiebananas.com

Education

Northwestern University | Evanston, IL

Joint Ph.D. Student, Computer Science & Learning Sciences, expected 2026

Advisor: Marcelo Worsley

Brown University | Providence, RI

M.A., Urban Education Policy – Computer Science Education

Advisor: John Tyler

Brown University | Providence, RI

B.A., Computer Science & Hispanic Studies

Advisor: John F. Hughes

University of Granada | Granada, Spain

Study Abroad Focus: Scientific and Technical Translation and Interpretation

Research & Teaching Interests

My research interests can be broadly categorized as computer science education, disability, ableism, accessibility, and social justice. Most recently, my work has been on how accessibility is taught and learned, as well as how computing education codifies ableism and how disabled students and educators disrupt it.

Current Positions

Labs for Liberation, Northwestern University | Evanston, IL

Design Alchemist, July 2023–Present

- ❖ Develop a branding and style guide for the project
- ❖ Design and develop websites, logos, and ‘swag’
- ❖ Edit and transcribe podcasts

Northwestern University, Department of Computer Science | Evanston, IL

Instructor, March 2023–Present

- ❖ Human Computer Interaction
- ❖ Computing, Ethics, and Society (co-taught with Natalie Araujo Melo during first iteration)

Higher Education Teaching Experience

Northwestern University, Department of Computer Science | Evanston, IL

Teaching Assistant, September 2022–December 2022

- ❖ Human Computer Interaction (Marcelo Worsley)
- ❖ Programming Languages (Vincent St-Amour)

University of Rhode Island, Department of Computer Science and Statistics | Kingston, RI

Lecturer, June 2020–August 2021

- ❖ Computing Concepts
- ❖ Being Human in STEM
- ❖ Web Design and Programming
- ❖ Planning for Academic Success
- ❖ Data Structures and Abstractions
- ❖ Dynamic Web Design and Programming

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- ❖ Computer Problem Solving for Science and Engineering

Community College of Rhode Island, Computer Studies Department | Warwick, RI

Visiting Lecturer, January 2020–May 2020

- ❖ Intro to Computer Ethics
- ❖ Java Programming
- ❖ Advanced Java Programming

University of Rhode Island, Department of Computer Science and Statistics | Kingston, RI

Instructor, August 2019–May 2020

- ❖ Web Design and Programming
- ❖ Dynamic Web Design and Programming
- ❖ Computer Problem Solving for Science and Engineering

Lead Lab Teaching Assistant, August 2019–December 2019

- ❖ Joy of Programming (Vic Fay-Wolfe)

Brown University, Department of Education | Providence, RI

Teaching Assistant/Co-Instructor, January 2019–May 2019

- ❖ The Craft of Teaching (Chris Buttimer)

Teaching Assistant, January 2019–May 2019

- ❖ Adolescence in Social Context (Chris Buttimer)

Brown University, Data Science Initiative | Providence, RI

Head Teaching Assistant, March 2018–August 2018

- ❖ Introduction to Topics in Data and Computational Science (Daniel Potter)

Teaching Assistant, January 2018–May 2018

- ❖ Advanced Topics in Data and Computational Science (Eliezer Upfal)

Brown University, Computer Science Department | Providence, RI

Teaching Assistant, September 2015–May 2016

- ❖ An Integrated Introduction, Functional Programming course (John F. Hughes)
- ❖ An Integrated Introduction, Object Oriented Programming course (Amy Greenwald)

Head Teaching Assistant, March 2016–December 2016

- ❖ An Integrated Introduction, Functional Programming course (John F. Hughes)

K-12 Teaching Experience

Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth | Saratoga Springs, NY

Teaching Assistant, July 2019–August 2019

- ❖ Fundamentals of Computer Science (Stephen O. Agyei-Mensah)

Scituate High School | Scituate, RI

Computer Science Teacher, March 2019–June 2019

- ❖ Computer Science A
- ❖ AP Computer Science A
- ❖ Computer Science Principles
- ❖ AP Computer Science Principles
- ❖ Foundations of Engineering and Computer Science

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Generation Citizen | Pawtucket, RI

Democracy Coach, February 2017–May 2017

- ❖ Law and Society, Shea High School (James Matuszek)

Girls Who Code | Chicago, IL

Teaching Assistant, June 2015–August 2015

- ❖ Summer Immersion Program, Microsoft (Chrissy Zicarelli)

Research Experience

Computer Science for Rhode Island (CS4RI) | Providence, RI

Research Intern, September 2018–June 2019

- ❖ Proposed and conducted original research on the accessibility of computer science programs for students with disabilities in Rhode Island K-12 schools

Brown University | Providence, RI

Education Standards Team Research Assistant, May 2017–June 2019

- ❖ Collected and analyzed data and generated data visualizations for Dr. Susan Moffitt's education policy research project on the Common Core. Reports from this data were published for California's Getting Down to Facts II project.

Providence Children and Youth Cabinet | Providence, RI

Summer Practicum Intern, June 2018–August 2018

- ❖ Created three professional development trainings for K-12 educators on trauma-informed practices in the classroom.

Government & Non-Profit Experience

Code.org | Seattle, WA

State Policy Fellow, September 2021–July 2022

- ❖ Collected and analyzed data to understand and support the expansion of Computer Science education in K-12 in the US, contributing to the 2022 State of Computer Science Report.
- ❖ Consulted on the accessibility of the 2021 State of Computer Science Report.

YWCA YWeb Career Academy | Woonsocket, RI

Instructor, October 2020–August 2021

- ❖ Design and deliver curriculum for a 12-week intensive web design and development program for unemployed and underemployed women and people of color interested in pursuing technical careers.
- ❖ Advise YWCA for scalable and sustainable YWeb practices.
- ❖ Develop proposal for YWCA-URI partnership to enable participants to receive college credit for their participation in the program.

Computer Science for Rhode Island (CS4RI) | Providence, RI

Consultant, June 2019–August 2021

- ❖ Help ensure communication and implementation strategies have a strong focus on broadening participation in computing. Collaborate with external research efforts and activities.

Industry Experience

Microsoft | Cambridge, MA

Software Engineer Garage Intern, June 2017–August 2017

- ❖ Designed and developed accessibility features for an existing Windows native application.

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Twitter | San Francisco, CA

Software Engineer Intern, May 2016–August 2016

- ❖ Developed tools to automate the process of reviewing ads (promoted tweets).

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Conference Proceedings

- Chávez, V. C.,** Van Wart, S. (2023). "Accessibility is important to everybody": Unpacking Students' Understanding about Accessibility. In *Blikstein, P., Van Aalst, J., Kizito, R., & Brennan, K. (Eds.), Proceedings of the 17th International Conference of the Learning Sciences - ICLS 2023* (pp. 1474-1477). International Society of the Learning Sciences. <https://doi.org/10.22318/icls2023.262420>
- Chávez, V. C.** (2023). "The Focus Came in Handy for Me Too": Exploring Accessibility Learning and Identity Formation in a Web Development Course. In *Blikstein, P., Van Aalst, J., Kizito, R., & Brennan, K. (Eds.), Proceedings of the 17th International Conference of the Learning Sciences - ICLS 2023* (pp. 2127-2128). International Society of the Learning Sciences. <https://doi.org/10.22318/icls2023.307950>
- Chávez, V. C.** (2021). Expanding Computer Science for All: Effectiveness of State Practices and Implementation. *Virtual American Education Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting*. <https://doi.org/10.3102/1688247>.

Public Scholarship

- Chávez, V.C.** (2023). Advocacy & Activism in the Disability Community. *NCWIT re:think Magazine*. <https://ncwit.org/rethink/issue-3/>.
- Chávez, V. C.,** Bettin, B., Araujo Melo, N., Castro, F., Huff Jr, E. W., Jayathirtha, G., Kivuva, M., Kong, M., Solomon, A., and Tsan, J. (2022). ReCSistance, Recipes for Resistance. <https://recipes4resistance.github.io/2022/11/11/e1p2.html>
- Melo, N.A., Bettin, B.C., Castro, F., **Chávez, V.C.,** Huff, E.W., Jayathirtha, G., Jimenez, Y.A., Kivuva, M., Kong, M., Solomon, A. and Tsan, J. (2022). An Open Letter to the CS Ed Community. *The Papaya Project*. <https://the-papaya-project.github.io/letter>.
- Chávez, V.,** and Alarcon, T. (2017). "Increasing retention rates of undergraduates in STEM". Broader Impacts and Open Educational Resources, Brown University Student Publications. Brown Digital Repository. *Brown University Library*. <https://doi.org/10.7301/Z0B27SHR>.

Peer-Reviewed Magazines

- Chávez, V.C.** (2023). How My Students and I (Re) Discovered the Joy of Computing in CS2. *ACM Inroads*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1145/3596918>.

Invited Talks and Presentations

- Chávez, V.** (2023). Accessibility Q&A. Mapping Climate Justice. *trubel&co*.
- The Papaya Project.** (2022). Recipes for ReCSistance. Identity & Computing Lecture Series. *Alliance for Identity-Inclusive Computing Education (AiiCE)*.

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Chávez, V., Melo, N.A., Tsan, J., Castro, F. (2022). Making CS education more equitable & accessible for our most marginalized students. SIGCAS Works in Progress Special Edition: Vision in Progress. ACM SIGCAS Computers & Society.

Chávez, V. (2022). Accessibility in STEM. Howard Hughes Medical Institute Inclusive Excellence Faculty Cohort. Rochester Institute of Technology. Rochester, NY.

Conference Presentations

Chávez, V. C. and Melo, N. A. (2022). Abolish Normalcy: Re-imagining Academia to Support and Sustain Disabled And High Risk Students Amidst A Pandemic. ESOCITE/4S (Society for Social Studies of Science) Joint Meeting. Cholula, MX.

Chávez, V. (2019). Broadening Participation in Computing: Increasing Accessibility for Students with Disabilities. Ensuring Equity and Quality for All Students: Policies and Practice Reconsidered. Brown University. Providence, RI.

Chávez, V. (2019). Increasing Retention Rates of Undergraduates in STEM. Social Inclusion and Social Justice Conference. Shippensburg University. Shippensburg, PA.

Chávez, V. (2018). Increasing Retention Rates of Undergraduates in STEM. Computer Science Undergraduate Research Symposium. Brown University. Providence, RI.

Chávez, V. (2018). Increasing Retention Rates of Undergraduates in STEM. Being Human in STEM (HSTEM) Summit. Yale University. Providence, RI.

Workshops

Brown, S. M. and **Chávez, V.** (2021). Centering Learning and Equity in Assessment. *Tapia Conference*.

Giuriceo, C. M., Bryer, K., & **Chávez, V.** (2019). Engage, Excite, Educate, & Empower ALL Students: Broadening Participation and Success in STEAM. Computer Science Teacher Association New England Regional Conference. Boston, MA.

Giuriceo, C. M., Bryer, K., **Chávez, V.**, Forsythe, D. (2019). Engage, Excite, Educate, & Empower ALL Students: Broadening Participation and Success in STEAM. *Increasing Diversity, Equity and Leadership STEM Conference for Youth*. Providence, RI.

Guest Lectures

Chávez, V. (2022). Designing with Accessibility in Mind. Tools and Technologies of the World Wide Web. Northwestern University. Evanston, IL.

Chávez, V. (2022). Designing with Accessibility in Mind. Intro to Web Development. Northwestern University. Evanston, IL.

Panels

Chavez, V., Marquis, E., Page, S., Dowell, M. (2023). Disability Inclusion in the Ongoing Pandemic. AccessAdvance Webinar Series. Online.

Ola, O., **Chávez, V. C.**, Liao, S., Peña, J., and Zhang, L. (2023). Creating Safe Spaces for Instructor Identity in Computing. ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education V. 1 (SIGCSE 2023). Toronto, ON, Canada.

Chávez, V., Coronel, F., Cortez, X., Mendez, B, Prado, B. (2022). Fireside Chat. University of Chicago SACNAS.

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Service Experience

Professional Service

Conferences

- ❖ SIGCSE TS 2024 Experience Reports and Tools Reviewer
- ❖ RESPECT 2022 Social Media Chair
- ❖ SIGCSE TS 2021 Workshop Reviewer

Organizations

- ❖ NCWIT Collegiate Award Reviewer, 2018
- ❖ NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Educator Award Reviewer, 2018
- ❖ NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing Reviewer, 2014

Institutional Service

Northwestern University

- ❖ NU Tech Ethics Initiative Lead, June 2022–Present

University of Rhode Island

- ❖ Computer Science & Statistics Undergraduate Committee Member, June 2020–July 2021
- ❖ Computer Science & Statistics Diversity Committee Member, June 2020–July 2021
- ❖ exploreCSR Program Committee Member, June 2020–April 2021

Brown University

- ❖ Mosaic+ Founder and Curriculum Lead, January 2015–December 2015

Grants

NU Office of Diversity and Inclusion Social Justice Mini Grant: Code'n'Color Graduate Student Group

- ❖ Dates: July 2022–June 2023
- ❖ Amount: \$2,500

SIGCSE Special Projects Grants: "Recipes for Resistance: A Multi-Modal Podcast Centering Justice, Joy, and Healing."

- ❖ Dates: May 2022–June 2023
- ❖ Amount: \$4,600
- ❖ Acceptance Rate: 14%

Professional Development

Knowbility | Online

- ❖ Knowbility Creator Program, Spring 2022

Teach Access | Online

- ❖ Teach Access Study Away Program, Spring 2022

Alliance for Identity-Inclusive Computing Education (AiiCE) | Online

- ❖ Cultural Competence in Computing (3C) Fellow, Cohort 1, Spring/Summer 2021

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University of Rhode Island, Department of Computer Science and Statistics | Kingston, RI

- ❖ Teaching for Learning HIT Seminar Fellowship, Fall 2020
- ❖ Hybrid Online Bootcamp (for teaching hybrid sync/async online courses), Summer 2020

Campus Compact | Online

- ❖ Campus Compact Fusion Accelerated Course, Summer 2020

Code.org | Online

- ❖ Inclusive and Culturally Relevant Lesson Planning, Summer 2020

Community College of Rhode Island Computer Studies Department | Warwick, RI

- ❖ Effective Practices in Online Teaching Course, Spring 2020