

Yugo Iwamoto

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Overview

Human-Computer Interaction researcher with an interdisciplinary background in accessibility, human-centered AI, inclusive design, and digital communication. NSF AWARE-AI Trainee and former Graduate Research Assistant at RIT, with experience in generative AI for digital accessibility, multimodal communication tools for d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing communities, UX design, and multicultural education. Passionate about advancing equitable, human-centered AI solutions for underrepresented and multilingual communities.

Education

M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction, Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), NY

Aug 2023 – Aug 2025 | CGPA: 3.78

Capstone: Kiosk real-time speech-to-text tool for inclusive conversations between hearing and DHH users.

Relevant Coursework: Research Methods, Usability Testing, Wearable and IoT, Designing Information, Web Development I & II

B.S. in Communications & Recreation (Recreation and Tourism), State University of New York (SUNY) at Brockport, NY

Jan 2018 – Dec 2021 | CGPA: 3.37

Relevant Coursework: Advertising Communications, Tourism Marketing, Foundation of Tourism Marketing, Interpersonal Communications, Recreation Management

Research Experience

NSF AWARE-AI Research Trainee – AWARE-AI NRT, RIT, Aug 2024 – Present

- Human Computer Interaction Track under Dr. Jamison Heard and Dr. Garreth Tigwell
- Led and conducted HCI research to improve accessibility in scientific figures with generative AI.
- Analyzed mixed methods data, both qualitative and quantitative, and collaborated with disability service professionals.
- Accepted Work In Progress/Poster paper at ACCETS 2025 “Exploring Generative AI to Support Disability Service Professionals in Writing Image Descriptions for HCI Science Figures”

Graduate Research Assistant – School of Information, RIT, Aug 2024 – May 2025

- Assisted Associate Professor Catherine Beaton

- Designed and evaluated inclusive digital platforms for faculty with disabilities and launched a website for the project.
- Developed and prepared generative AI for K-12 underfunded school workshops, targeting teachers to enrich their course materials.
- Led studies on GenAI in K-12 and multilingual STEM education.

Capstone Project – Kiosk real-time speech-to-text tool for inclusive conversations between hearing and DHH users, Aug 2024 – Present | Rochester Institute of Technology, NY

- Committee Chair: Dr. Tae Oh and Committee Member: Dr. Michael McQuaid
- Developed a real-time speech-to-text prototype using an API to support conversations between Deaf/Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) and hearing individuals. Prototype is [here](#)
- Conducted user-centered design research and usability testing with DHH and hearing participants and analyzed both qualitative and quantitative data (NASA TLX, interviews).
- Focused on inclusive communication, assistive technology, and accessibility innovation in everyday environments.

Technical & UX Skills

Programming: Python, Java, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, PHP, MySQL, C++, JSON

UX & Design: Figma, Wireframing, Usability Testing, Adobe CC, Responsive Design

Tools: WordPress, Blackboard, Arduino, JMP, Microsoft 365, Google Suite, Render

Publications & Presentations

1. **Y. Iwamoto**, M. Raees, J. Heard, and G. Tigwell. 2025. Exploring Generative AI to Support Disability Service Professionals in Writing Image Descriptions for HCI Science Figures. In Proceedings of the 28th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '25). ACM, New York, NY, USA.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3663547.3759763>
2. **Y. Iwamoto**, C. Beaton, and A. Roberts. 2025. Digital Literacy and AI in Underfunded Schools. In the IEEE STEM Education Conference (Workshop), Princeton University. IEEE.
3. **Y. Iwamoto**, C. Beaton, and A. Roberts. 2025. Importance of Diverse Role Models in Education. In the IEEE Integrated STEM Education Conference (Full Paper), Princeton University. IEEE.
4. C. Beaton, E. Weeden, A. Roberts, and **Y. Iwamoto**. 2024. Being Included: Institute Benefits in Supporting Inclusivity for Disabled Faculty in Higher Education. In ICERI2024 Proceedings, 5648–5654.
5. **Y. Iwamoto** and M. Raees. 2025. A1ly: Improving Alt-Text for Science Figures with GenAI. In the Graduate Showcase (Poster & Oral Presentation), Rochester Institute of Technology.

Professional Experience

Graduate Assistant – Disability Services Office, Rochester Institute of Technology**Jan 2024 – Aug 2024 | Rochester, NY**

- Provided accessibility support and assistive technology solutions for students with disabilities.
- Ensured equitable access by coordinating academic accommodations across various disciplines.
- Supported exam proctoring, technical troubleshooting, and content conversion for screen reader compatibility.

Communications & Student Experience Coordinator – RIT School of Information**Jan 2022 – Dec 2022 | Rochester, NY**

- Led digital content strategy and social media; supervised student ambassadors.
- Managed web projects, content creation, and user-centered site enhancements.
- Support research publication promotion

Communications Intern – Gates Chili Central School District**Jan 2021 – Jun 2021 | Rochester, NY**

- Created multilingual and accessible digital content for community engagement.
- Updated and maintained web presence with a focus on inclusive design.
- Supported communication across cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Receptionist – Woodcliff Hotel and Spa**Aug 2021 – Dec 2021 | Fairport, NY**

- Handled guest services, events, and hospitality logistics.
- Supported banquet team for weddings and special events as a server, people mover driver, and assisting servers
- Supported revenue management from a guest service standpoint.

Purser, High-Speed Rail Attendant – Japan Rail Central Passengers**May 2018 – Aug 2020 | Osaka, Japan**

- Delivered bilingual customer service and coordinated on-board operations.
- Assisting passengers with special needs and improving the experience of the trip.
- Ensured efficient, safe, and punctual operation of bullet train services.

Leadership & Community Engagement

1. **International Orientation Leader** – SUNY Brockport, 2018–2020
2. **President of the International Student Organization** – SUNY Brockport, 2018-2021
3. **Global Ambassador for Study Abroad Programs** – SUNY Brockport, 2019–2020

Achievements, Honors & Awards

1. **Graduate Research Assistant Scholarship** (2024–2025)

2. **Dean's List Honors** – SUNY Brockport (2019–2021)
3. **International Transfer Student Merit-Based Scholarship** (2018-2020)
4. **GCCSD Pride Award** – Gates Chili Central School District (2021)

Academic/ Research Reference

1. Dr. Jamison Heard (jrheee@rit.edu) – Supervisor for NSF AWARE AI Traineeship
2. Dr. Catherine Beaton (ciiics@rit.edu) – Supervisor for Graduate Research Assistant
3. Dr. Tae Oh (thoics@rit.edu) – Committee Chair for MS Capstone Project
4. Dr. Michael McQuaid (micmcquaid@gmail.com) – Committee Member