

# Brian Anthony Smith

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## Research Goal

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My research aims to enable a tighter collaboration between people and computers so that our AI advancements are not just giving computers new abilities but giving people new abilities as well. I hope to make it possible for people to sense what computers can sense and understand what computers can understand in a manner as rich and intuitive as using their own senses. My work is interdisciplinary and incorporates AI, sensing, vision, design, accessibility, and games.

## Education

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**Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences**, New York, NY

**Ph.D.** in Computer Science, Oct. 2018

Dissertation: *Unmediated Interaction: Communicating with Computers and Embedded Devices as If They Are Not There*

Advisors: Prof. Shree K. Nayar and Prof. Steven K. Feiner

**M.Phil.**, Computer Science, Feb. 2015

Candidacy Exam: *Human Computation and Crowd-Powered Vision*

**Columbia University, The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science**, New York, NY

**M.S.**, Computer Science, Feb. 2011

**B.S.**, *summa cum laude*, May 2009 Major: Computer Science Minor: Economics

## Employment

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- 2019–Present **Columbia University**, New York, NY  
*Assistant Professor of Computer Science*  
*Director, Computer-Enabled Abilities Laboratory (CEAL)*  
*Affiliate Member, Smart Cities Center + Data, Media, & Society Center, Data Science Institute*
- 2018–2022 **Snap Research (Snap, Inc.)**, New York, NY & Santa Monica, CA  
*Research Scientist, Human–Computer Interaction (HCI) Group*
- Led multi-year research programs understanding how smartglasses and AR can enrich communication between friends. Published six papers at top-tier HCI venues, filed over 20 patents, and built a partnership between Snap Research and Snap’s hardware team.
- 2008–2020 **van Biema Value Partners, LLC**, New York, NY  
*Webmaster*
- Create, update, and maintain a Web site for the value-only fund of funds.
- 2009–2018 **Columbia University**, New York, NY  
*Graduate Research Assistant, Computer Vision Laboratory & Computer Graphics and User Interfaces Laboratory*
- Performed human–computer interaction, assistive technologies, and data mining research.
- 2014 **Google Research**, Mountain View, CA  
*Software Engineering Intern, Ph.D., Mobile Interaction Research Group (MIRG)*
- Computationally optimized touchscreen keyboards for gesture typing. Published paper at CHI 2015.
- 2012 **Google Inc.**, New York, NY  
*Software Engineering Intern, Ph.D., Local Identity Team*
- Designed a new method for aggregating business listings in Google Maps and Google+ Local. An estimated 2 billion listings were improved in testing.
- 2009–2012 **Kimera, LLC** (non-profit Columbia-based startup), New York, NY  
*Designer, Producer, and Developer*
- Co-developed the Google-funded Bigshot camera and educational Web site ([bigshotcamera.org](http://bigshotcamera.org)).
  - Designed and produced Bigshot Connect, a now-defunct photo-sharing Web site for kids.
  - Co-instructed educational workshops with kids in New York, India, Vietnam, and Japan.
- 2010 **Funtank, LLC**, New York, NY

- Game Design and Development Intern
- Helped design and prototype a Facebook social game based on fellowship and travel.
- 2007 **Banc of America Securities** (now **Bank of America Merrill Lynch**), New York, NY  
*Sophomore Summer Analyst (Rotational Program)*
- Created client-side analytics tools in the Global Structured Products: Technology Group.
  - Performed market research and company analysis in the Financial Institutions Group.
- 2007 **Red Monsoon**, New York, NY  
*Web Development & Graphic Design Intern*
- Designed and created a Web site for the non-profit performing arts collaborative.

## Awards & Honors

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- 2023 **Janette and Armen Avanesians Diversity Award**, *Columbia Engineering*  
Awarded annually to a professor whose actions encourage people from diverse backgrounds to become part of the academic community of engineering education.
- 2022 **Google Award for Inclusion Research (AIR)**, *Google, Inc.*  
Supports computing research that addresses historically marginalized groups' needs. Joint award with Prof. Shiri Azenkot, Cornell Tech.
- 2021 **Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award**, *Columbia Engineering Alumni Association (CEAA)*  
Awarded annually to two faculty. I am the most junior awardee in the school's history.
- 2019 **Kavli Fellow**, *National Academy of Sciences*  
Awarded to distinguished young scientists in the US and abroad.
- 2015–2017 **"From Data to Solutions" Integrative Graduate Education & Research Traineeship (IGERT)**, *NSF*  
A 2-year interdisciplinary data science training program. Covers full tuition, fees, and travel expenses.
- 2013, 2015 **Computer Science Service Award (×2)**, *Dept. of Computer Science, Columbia University*  
Awarded to the Ph.D. students whose service contributions to the department are in the top 10%.
- 2012 **Extraordinary Teaching Assistant Award**, *Columbia Engineering*  
Awarded to the 19 TAs throughout the school with the highest Fall 2011 student evaluations (\$500).
- 2011–2014 **National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship**, *U.S. Dept. of Defense*  
\$31,000/year + tuition + fees for 3 years. There were 200 awardees from over 2,900 applications.
- 2009–2010 **Center for Technology, Innovation, & Community Engagement Fellowship**, *Columbia Engineering*  
Covers half-tuition for a year for 10 PhD students each year. I was the first and only MS student awardee.
- 2009 **Computer Science Scholarship Award (Departmental Award)**, *Columbia Engineering*  
Awarded to the top computer science graduate each year.
- 2009 **Costantino Colombo Outstanding Leadership Service Award**, *Columbia Engineering*  
Awarded to a graduating student for enhancing undergraduate student life. I was the inaugural awardee.
- 2007–2009 **Benjamin A. Tarver, Jr. Memorial Scholar**, *Columbia Engineering*  
An endowed grant that covered full undergraduate tuition and fees for 2 years.
- 2005–2009 **C. Prescott Davis Scholar**, *Columbia Engineering*  
A 4-year co-curricular program awarded to the top 2% of applicants to Columbia Engineering.

## Conference Publications (Fully Refereed)

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- [C10] Nair, V., Zhu, H., and **Smith, B. A.** (2023). ImageAssist: Tools for Enhancing Touchscreen-Based Image Exploration Systems for Blind and Low Vision Users. *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2023)*. pp. 1–17. [Acceptance Rate: 28.4%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3581302> Talk: <https://youtu.be/IBZTTTrO7HQs>
- [C9] Mack, K., Hsu, R. C. L., Monroy-Hernández, A., **Smith, B. A.**, and Liu, F. (2023). Towards Inclusive Avatars: Disability Representation in Avatar Platforms. To appear at *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2023)*. pp. 1–13. [Acceptance Rate: 28.4%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3581481> Talk: <https://youtu.be/UmWe4Q0qrcl>

- [C8] Reig, S., Cruz, E. P., Powers, M., He, J., Chong, T., Tham, Y. J., Kratz, S., Robinson, A., **Smith, B. A.**, Vaish, R., and Monroy-Hernández, A. (2023). Supporting Piggybacked Co-Located Leisure Activities via Augmented Reality. To appear at *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2023)*. pp. 1–15. [Acceptance Rate: 28.4%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3580833> Talk: [https://youtu.be/4Lbk\\_fysRjM](https://youtu.be/4Lbk_fysRjM)
- [C7] Nair, V., Ma, B., Gonzalez, R., He, Y., Lin, K., Hayes, M., Huddleston, H., Donnelly, M., and **Smith, B. A.** (2022). Uncovering Visually Impaired Gamers' Preferences for Spatial Awareness Tools Within Video Games. *Proc. ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS 2022)*. pp. 1–16. [Acceptance Rate: 26.5%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3517428.3544802>
- [C6] Surale, H., **Smith, B. A.**<sup>†</sup>, and Vaish, R.<sup>†</sup>. (2022). ARcall: Exploring Augmented Reality-Based Real-Time Communication. *Proc. Augmented Humans International Conference (AHs 2022)*. pp. 1–10.  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3519391.3519398>  
<sup>†</sup> Co-Principal Investigators
- [C5] Nair, V., Karp, J., Silverman, S., Kalra, M., Lehv, H., Jamil, F., and **Smith, B. A.** (2021). NavStick: Making Video-Games Blind-Accessible via the Ability to Look Around. *Proceedings of the 34th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST 2021)*. 14 pages. [Acceptance Rate: 21%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3472749.3474768> Talk: [https://youtu.be/oAu\\_Q\\_2YU\\_E](https://youtu.be/oAu_Q_2YU_E)
- [C4] **Smith, B. A.** & Nayar, S. K. (2018). The RAD: Making Racing Games Equivalently Accessible to People Who Are Blind. *Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2018)*. Paper 516, pp. 1–12. [Acceptance Rate: 25.7%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3173574.3174090> Talk: <https://youtu.be/pwI7IGywICA>
- [C3] **Smith, B. A.** & Nayar, S. K. (2016). Mining Controller Inputs to Understand Gameplay. *Proceedings of the 29th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST 2016)*. pp. 157–168. [Acceptance Rate: 20.6%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2984511.2984543> Talk: [https://youtu.be/\\_a03zlXoTYU](https://youtu.be/_a03zlXoTYU)
- [C2] **Smith, B. A.**, Bi, X., & Zhai, S. (2015). Optimizing Touchscreen Keyboards for Gesture Typing. *Proceedings of the 2015 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2015)*. pp. 3365–3374. [Acceptance Rate: 22.9%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2702123.2702357> Talk: <https://youtu.be/0PHjN4GjSi8>
- [C1] **Smith, B. A.**, Yin, Q., Feiner, S. K., & Nayar, S. K. (2013). Gaze Locking: Passive Eye Contact Detection for Human–Object Interaction. *Proceedings of the 26th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST 2013)*. pp. 271–280. [Acceptance Rate: 19.6%]  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/2501988.2501994>

## Journal Articles

- [J5] Leong, J., Teng, Y., Liu, X., Jun, H., Kratz, S., Tham, Y. J., Monroy-Hernández, A., **Smith, B. A.**<sup>†</sup>, and Vaish, R.<sup>†</sup>. (2023). Social Wormholes: Exploring Preferences and Opportunities for Distributed and Physically Grounded Social Connections. To appear at *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 7, CSCW2 (Nov 2023). 26 pages.  
Paper Preprint: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.09252>  
<sup>†</sup> Co-Principal Investigators
- [J4] Lee, K., Li, H., Wellyanto, M. R., Tham, Y. J., Monroy-Hernández, A., Liu, F., **Smith, B. A.**<sup>†</sup>, and Vaish, R.<sup>†</sup>. (2023). Exploring Immersive Interpersonal Communication via AR. To appear at *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 7, CSCW1 (April 2023). 25 pages.  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3579483>  
<sup>†</sup> Co-Principal Investigators
- [J3] Jain, G., Teng, Y., Cho, D. H., Xing, Y., Aziz, M., and **Smith, B. A.** (2023). “I Want to Figure Things Out”: Supporting Exploration in Navigation for People with Visual Impairments. To appear at *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 7, CSCW1 (April 2023). 28 pages.  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3579496>
- [J2] Liu, S.-Y., **Smith, B. A.**, Vaish, R.<sup>†</sup>, and Monroy-Hernández, A.<sup>†</sup> (2022). Understanding the Role of Context in Making Co-Located Interactions Enjoyable. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 6, CSCW1, Article 131 (April 2022). 26 pages.  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3512978>  
<sup>†</sup> Co-Principal Investigators

- [J1] Nicholas, M., **Smith, B. A.**<sup>†</sup>, and Vaish, R.<sup>†</sup>. (2022). Friendscope: Exploring In-the-Moment Experience Sharing on Camera Glasses via a Shared Camera. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 6, CSCWI, Article 56 (April 2022). 25 pages.  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3512903>  
<sup>†</sup> Co-Principal Investigators

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## Misc. Publications (Demos, Workshops, Extended Abstracts, and Technical Reports)

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- [EA2] Jain, G., Hindi, B., Courtien, C., Wyrick, C., Xu, X. Y. T., Malcolm, M. C., & **Smith, B. A.** (2023). Towards Accessible Sports Broadcasts for Blind and Low-Vision Viewers. *Extended Abstracts of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '22)*. 7 pages.  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544549.3585610> Talk: <https://youtu.be/kYDdWOqo76o>
- [EA1] Liu, Y., Ritchie, J., Kratz, S., Sra, M., **Smith, B. A.**, Monroy-Hernández, A., & Vaish, R. (2021). Memento Player: Shared Multi-Perspective Playback of Volumetrically-Captured Moments in Augmented Reality. *Extended Abstracts of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '22)*. 9 pages.  
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544549.3585588> Talk: <https://youtu.be/AloAWqEy0Po>
- [TR1] **Smith, B. A.**<sup>\*</sup> and Vaish, R.<sup>\*</sup> (2022). The Future of Moments in AR: Takeaways from the 2021 Snap Creative Challenge. *Technical Report, Snap Creative Challenge*.  
Article: <https://www.snapcreativechallenge.com/takeaways2021/>  
<sup>\*</sup> Equal contribution
- [D2] Nair, V., Ma, B., Huddleston, H., Lin, K., Hayes, M., Donnelly, M., Gonzalez, R., He, Y., & **Smith, B. A.** (2021). Towards a Generalized Acoustic Minimap for Visually-Impaired Gamers. *Proceedings of the Adjunct Publication of the 34th Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '21 Adjunct)*. 3 pages.
- [D1] Nair, V. & **Smith, B. A.** (2020). Toward Self-Directed Navigation for People with Visual Impairments. *Proceedings of the Adjunct Publication of the 33rd Annual ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST '20 Adjunct)*. pp. 139–141.
- [W1] Bi, X., **Smith, B. A.**, & Zhai, S. (2015). Keyboard Layout Optimization. *Proceedings of the CHI 2015 Workshop on Principles, Techniques, and Perspectives on Optimization and HCI*.

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## Book Chapters

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- [BC1] Bi, X., **Smith, B. A.**, Ouyang, T., & Zhai, S. (2018). Soft keyboard performance optimization. In A. Oulasvirta, P. O. Kristensson, X. Bi, & A. Howes (Eds.), *Computational interaction* (pp. 121–152). Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780198799610

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## Patents

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- [P2] US 10,897,564: SHARED CONTROL OF CAMERA DEVICE BY MULTIPLE DEVICES (2021).  
[P1] US 9,96,743: METHODS, SYSTEMS, AND MEDIA FOR DETECTING GAZE LOCKING (2018).

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## Leadership & Professional Service

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- 2019–Present **Steering Committee, Summer School on Computational Interaction**
- 2023 **Program Committee, ACM CHI 2023**
- 2022 **Program Committee, ACM CHI 2022**
- 2020–2022 **Program Committee, Snap AR Creative Challenge**
- An annual challenge funded by Snap Inc. We convene and mentor university teams from around the world to help solve the biggest challenges around AR.
- 2021 **Program Committee, ACM UIST 2021**

- 2019–2020 **Reviewer, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)**
- 2019 **Co-Organizer, 5<sup>th</sup> Summer School on Computational Interaction**
- Co-organized weeklong event w/ Prof. Xiaojun Bi of Stony Brook U. and hosted it at Columbia.
  - Featured 8 faculty and 29 students (many international), whose median review score was 5/5.
- 2019 **Program Committee, ACM ETRA 2019**
- 2019 **Reviewer, National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate (NDSEG) Fellowship Program**
- 2014–Present **Peer Reviewer for Academic Conferences & Journals**
- Conferences:*
- ACM UIST 2014, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021
  - ★ *Special Recognition for Exceptional Reviewing* ×2 (UIST 2015, UIST 2016) ★
  - ACM CHI 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022
  - ★ *Special Recognition for Exceptional Reviewing* ×2 (CHI 2016, CHI 2022) ★
  - ACM VRST 2017
- Journals:*
- PACM Interact. Mob. Wearable Ubiquitous Technol. (2017, 2019)
  - Elsevier Int. J. Hum. Comp. Stud. (2016)
- 2012 **Columbia University Department of Computer Science, New York, NY**
- MS Admissions Committee Volunteer*
- Reviewed ~150 applications and conducted phone interviews for the department's MS Program.
- 2006–2009 **Columbia University Undergraduate Recruitment Committee, New York, NY**
- SEAS and Scholars Chair, Advisory Board (2007–2009)*
- Helped recruit, select, train, and manage Undergraduate Recruitment Committee volunteers.
  - ★ *Most Likely to Convince Someone to Come to Columbia Award* ★
- Senior Interviewer (2007–2009)*
- Conducted regional interviews of high school applicants to Columbia from underserved areas.
- 2005–2008 **Columbia University Scholar's Program (CUSP) Alliance, New York, NY**
- Vice President of Operations (2006–2008)*
- Developed policies and structures of governance for the 24 officers and 7 committees.

## Mentoring & Advising

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- 2019–Present **Ph.D. Students, Columbia University**
- Vishnu Nair (Fall 2019–present)
  - Gaurav Jain (Fall 2020–present)
  - Ricardo Gonzales [visiting] (Cornell Tech; Summer 2021)
  - Vivian Liu [co-advising] (Fall 2020–present)
- 2019–Present **Ph.D. Dissertation Committee memberships, Columbia University**
- Jen Shuo Liu, *Eye Tracking for Collaborative VR and AR* (Date TBD)
    - Advisor: Steven K. Feiner
  - Katy Gero, *AI and the Writer: How Language Models Support Creative Writers* (Nov 2022)
    - Advisor: Lydia B. Chilton
  - Savvas Petridis, *Designing Exploratory Search Systems that Stimulate Memory and Reduce Cognitive Load* (Oct 2022)
    - Advisor: Lydia B. Chilton
  - Daniel Li, *Enabling Structured Navigation of Longform Spoken Dialog with Automatic Summarization* (Sept 2022)
    - Advisor: Lydia B. Chilton
  - Chang Xiao, *Extending the Boundary of Mobile Interactions* (May 2021)
    - Advisor: Changxi Zheng
  - Carmine Elvezio, *XR Development with the Relay and Responder Pattern* (May 2021)

- Advisor: Steven K. Feiner

2019–Present **M.S. Thesis Advisees**, Columbia University

- Basel Hindi, *Computer Vision Techniques for Blind and Low Vision Accessibility* (Date TBD)
- Yuanyang (YY) Teng, *Understanding Spatial Awareness and Design Implications for Assistive and Social Technologies Situated in Space* (Feb 2023)
- Arnavi Chheda, *Examining Techniques for Equivalent Access of Web User Interfaces for Blind and Low Vision People* (Dec 2022)
- Jay Karp, *Understanding Motivations Behind Co-Located Stranger Interactions* (May 2022)

2021–Present **M.S. Thesis Committee memberships**, Columbia University

- Taeahn (Terry) Kwon, *Interfaces for Personalized Language Learning with Generative Language Models* (Dec 2022)
  - Advisor: Lydia Chilton
- Hui (Abby) Lu, *Private Multiparty Perception for Navigation* (August 2022)
  - Advisor: Carl Vondrick
- Ruoyu Xue, *Rope Structure Construction Based on Combining Robot Perception and Interaction* (May 2022)
  - Advisor: Shuran Song

2011–Present **M.S. Students**, Columbia University

- Aditi Patil (Fall 2022 – present)
- Maximillian Tseng (Spring 2023 – present)
- Peize Song (Spring 2023 – present)
- Uttam Gurram (Spring 2023 – present)
- Lindsey Weiskopf (Fall 2022)
- Arjun Nichani (Fall 2022)
- Maryam Aziz (Fall 2022)
- Jacqueline Gibson (Summer 2022)
- Logan Wang (Spring 2022)
- David Cho (Spring 2021 – Summer 2021)
- Yunhao Xing (Spring 2021 – Summer 2021)
- Hollis Lehv (Fall 2020 – Spring 2021)
- Samuel Silverman (Fall 2019 – Summer 2020)
- Aditi Hudli (Fall 2019)
- Julie Chien (Spring 2017)
- Ray Tsai (Spring 2017)
- Sophia Erbo Lee (Fall 2011 – Spring 2012)
- Vu Xuan Linh (Spring 2011)

2011–Present **Undergraduate Students**, including visiting students

- Hazel Zhu (Spring 2022 – present)
- David Rios (Summer 2022 – present)
- Alex Rupp-Coppi (Spring 2023 – present)
- Kynneddy Simone Smith (Spring 2023 – present)
- Michael Malcolm (SUNY Albany; Summer 2021 – Summer 2022)
- Avery Reyna (U. Central Florida; Summer 2022)
- Cecilia Zhang (Bryn Mawr College; Summer 2022)
- Connor Courtien (CUNY Hunter College; Summer 2022)
- Conrad Wyrick (U. Florida; Summer 2022)
- Jazmyn Jenkins (Tuskegee U.; Summer 2022)
- Xinyi Xu (Pomona College; Summer 2022)
- Carl Dobrović (Spring 2020 – Spring 2022)
- Brian Ma (Fall 2020 – Fall 2021)
- Maryam Aziz (U. Conn; Summer 2021)
- Matthew Donnelly (Bowdoin; Summer 2021)
- Mason Hayes (RIT; Summer 2021)
- Yicheng He (Spring–Summer 2021)

- Hannah Huddleston (Stanford U.; Summer 2021)
- Karen Lin (Summer 2021)
- Michael Malcolm (U Albany; Summer 2021)
- Sebastian Mercado (Fordham; Summer 2021)
- Emily Li (Spring 2021)
- Monica Lin (Fall 2020 – Spring 2021)
- Jessica Peng (Spring 2021)
- Ivy Cao (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)
- Seok Jun Jeon (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)
- Annie Kim (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)
- Thé Ngo (Fall 2019 – Spring 2020)
- António Câmara (Spring 2020)
- Yiwon Gao (Spring 2020)
- Sarah Leventhal (Spring 2020)
- Benjamin Most (Spring 2020)
- Carlos Rosas (Spring 2020)
- Kenny Yuan (Spring 2020)
- Jake Bullock (Spring 2016)

2011–Present **Egleston Scholars Enhanced Advising Committee**, Center for Student Advising, Columbia Univ.

- Advised current students, recruited prospective students, and helped shape pedagogy for this comprehensive advising program for top 1% of Columbia Engineering undergraduate admits.

*Students Advised (in alphabetical order):*

- Eshan Agarwal, Arvind Chava, Jessica Cheng, Campbell Donnelly, Haris Durrani, Drew Feldman, Fei-Tzin Lee, Kai-Zhan Lee, Sang Jun Park, Lucas Schuermann, Steven Shao, SonYon Song, Kui Tang (Next Stop: Ph.D. student at Columbia), Morgan Thompson, James Xu, Kevin Zeng, Alek Zieba

2007–Present **Career and Professional Advising**

- Su Ji Park (B.S.; Fall 2017)
- Ian Huang (B.S.; Summer–Fall 2017; Next Stop: Intel internship)
- Daniel Sims (Research Staff; Spring–Summer 2017)
- Sam Cohen (B.S.; Spring 2016–Fall 2017)
- Chun-Yu Tsai (Ph.D.; Fall 2015; Next Stop: Facebook Research)
- Jiongxin Liu (PhD; Spring 2015; Next Stop: Google)
- Sean Pagaduan (M.F.A.; Fall 2014 & Fall 2015; Next Stop: Union Theological Seminary)
- Fiamma van Biema (B.S.; Fall 2013; Next Stop: Teachers College, Columbia U. M.A. graduate)
- Hua Papoj Thamjaroenporn (B.S.; Fall 2011; Next Stop: Ph.D. student at Columbia)
- Babawande Afolabi (B.S.; Fall 2007; Next Stops: Goldman Sachs internship, Stanford M.B.A. graduate)
- Kwesi Thomas (B.S.; Fall 2007; Next Stop: Deloitte Consulting)

## Teaching Experience

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2019–Present **Instructor**, Columbia University

*Graduate Level Courses:*

- COMS E6178: Human–Computer Interaction (Spring 2023)  
32 students Instructor eval.: Mean: 5.00 / 5 (SD: 0.00)
- COMS W4170: User Interface Design (Fall 2022)  
125 students Instructor eval.: Mean: 4.76 / 5 (SD: 0.61)
- COMS E6178: Human–Computer Interaction (Spring 2022)  
30 students Instructor eval.: Mean: 4.91 / 5 (SD: 0.30)
- COMS W4170: User Interface Design (Fall 2021)  
150 students Instructor eval.: Mean: 4.67 / 5 (SD: 0.65)
- COMS E6998: Human–Computer Interaction (Spring 2021)  
30 students Instructor eval.: Mean: 4.82 / 5 (SD: 0.60)

- COMS W4170: User Interface Design (Fall 2020)  
125 students      Instructor eval.: Mean: 4.79 / 5 (SD: 0.59)  
★ *Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award (Columbia Engineering)* ★
  - COMS W4170: User Interface Design (Fall 2019)  
80 students      Instructor eval.: Mean: 4.79 / 5 (SD: 0.47)
- 2009–2013      **Teaching Assistant**, Columbia University  
*Graduate Level Courses:*
- COMS W6732: Computational Imaging (Fall 2013)  
Instructor: Prof. Shree K. Nayar
  - COMS W4731: Computer Vision (Fall 2011)  
Instructor: Prof. Shree K. Nayar  
★ *Extraordinary Teaching Assistant Award* ★
  - COMS E6998: Advanced Game Development (Spring 2011)  
Instructor: Prof. Bernard Yee
  - COMS W4995: Game Design and Production (Fall 2010)  
Instructor: Prof. Bernard Yee
  - COMS E6998: Advanced Game Development (Spring 2010)  
Instructor: Prof. Bernard Yee
- Undergraduate Level Courses:*
- ENGI E1102: Design Fundamentals using Advanced Computer Technologies (Spring 2010)  
Instructor: Prof. Jack McGourty
  - ENGI E1102: Design Fundamentals using Advanced Computer Technologies (Fall 2009)  
Instructor: Prof. Jack McGourty
- 2010–2012      **Co-Instructor**, Kimera, Inc. (non-profit Columbia-based startup)
- Co-instructed Bigshot Camera STEM workshops with kids in New York, India, Vietnam, and Japan.
- 2010      **Co-Instructor**, Center for Technology, Innovation, and Community Engagement (CTICE) STEM Club
- A hands-on afterschool program at IS 195 targeted for fifth grade students struggling in science.
  - Designed curriculum and hands-on projects. Co-instructed with Guru Krishnan.
- 2006–2015      **Private Tutor**, New York, NY  
*College Level Subjects:*
- COMS W4731: Computer Vision (Columbia University; Fall 2017)
  - MATH 101: Concepts of Mathematics [Logic and set theory] (Nassau Commun. Col.; Summer 2017)
  - MATH 125: Precalculus (Hunter College, City University of New York; Fall 2015)
  - COMS W1004: Introduction to Computer Science and Programming in Java (Columbia; Spring 2014)
  - ECON W1105: Principles of Economics (Columbia University; Fall 2013)
  - SCNC C1000: Frontiers of Science (Columbia University; Fall 2013)
  - URBS UN3200: Spatial Analysis: GIS Methods and Case Studies (Barnard College; Spring 2013)
  - URBS V3562: The City in Beta: Public Participation in the Design Process (Barnard College; Fall 2012)
  - MATH V1201: Calculus III (Columbia University; Fall 2012)
  - SCPP BC 3335: Environmental Leadership, Ethics, and Action (Barnard College; Fall 2011)
  - EESC BC1002: Environmental Science II (Barnard College; Spring 2011)
  - EESC BC3014: Field Methods in Environmental Science (Barnard College; Fall 2010)
  - MATH V1101: Calculus I (Columbia University; Fall 2009)
  - GRE Math Prep
- High School Level Subjects:*
- Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus I, Physics I, Chemistry I, SAT Prep
  - Tutored for both English- and French-speaking high schools

## Invited Talks and Panel Appearances

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- Oct. 2021      **“AI and New Abilities”**  
Moody’s Corporation, New York, NY



- Sept. 2021 **“AI and New Abilities: Video Games for Blind Players”**  
XR Access Research Network, New York, NY  
Recording: [https://youtu.be/NLMgPp\\_yMaY](https://youtu.be/NLMgPp_yMaY)
- Feb. 2021 **“Designing Assistive Technologies for Agency: Blind-Accessible Video Games and Audio Navigation Tools”**  
Stanford University, Stanford, CA
- Nov. 2020 **“Toward Self-Directed Navigation for People with Visual Impairments”**  
Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA
- 2018 (x6) **“Analyzing Human Behavior to Make HCI More Useful”**
- Yale University, New Haven, CT (Apr. 2018)
  - Cornell University, Ithaca, NY (Apr. 2018)
  - Fordham University, New York, NY (Mar. 2018)
  - Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD (Mar. 2018)
  - Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (Mar. 2018)
  - Columbia University, New York, NY (Feb. 2018)
- Feb. 2018 **“Solving ‘Last Mile’ Computing Problems in HCI”**  
Snap, Inc., Los Angeles, CA
- Jun. 2017 **“The Bigshot Camera: A Case Study in Making Technology Educational”**  
Engineering for Humanity strategic discussion forum of faculty. Columbia University, New York, NY
- Sep. 2014 **“Game Design: An Introduction”**  
d:Tech NYC seminar at Cornell Tech, New York, NY.
- Aug. 2010 **“The Potential and Pitfalls of Tutoring/Mentoring and Service-Learning”**  
New York Metro Area Partnership for Service Learning (NYMAPS) panel, New York, NY.
- Jul. 2010 **“Composting”**  
Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) lecture. NYC Dept. Parks and Recreation, New York, NY.
- Jul. 2010 **“Alternative Fuel Vehicles”**  
Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) lecture. NYC Dept. Parks and Recreation, New York, NY.
- Jul. 2010 **“Static Forces”**  
WINgineering (Women in Engineering) summit. NYC Dept. Parks and Recreation, New York, NY.
- Jul. 2010 **“Youth and Cybersecurity”**  
Moderated focus group in partnership with NGO. East West Institute, New York, NY.