

ALAYT ISSAK

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Research Areas

Ethics: AI Ethics for Creativity, Applied Ethics, Design Ethics

Human-AI Interaction: Human-AI Co-Creativity, Human-Centered AI, Human Values & AI

Design: Critical Design, Speculative Design, Civic Technology, Futures Research

Education

Sep. 2022 - May 2027	Northeastern University , College of Arts, Media and Design <i>Doctor of Philosophy in Interdisciplinary Design and Media</i> Dissertation: Designing Ethical Human-AI Systems for the Co-Creative Practice	Boston, MA
Aug. 2017 - May 2021	The College of Wooster , Department of Mathematics <i>Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and Studio Art (minor)</i> Thesis: Visualizing Concepts: Generative Adversarial Network (GAN) visuals synthesized from semantic vectors <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	Wooster, OH

Research Experience

May 2026 - Aug. 2026	Northeastern University , AI-Mediated Classrooms (AIMC) <i>Researcher on Creativity, Learning and AI for the creation of AI- enabled classrooms at the College of Arts, Media and Design (CAMD)</i> Funded by the Dean's Office AI Preparedness Plan at CAMD	Boston, MA
May 2025 - Aug. 2025	Northeastern University , Civic Data Theatre Collaborative <i>Ethnographer In-Residence</i> Publication: "Data Theatre as Input Visualization: Building Community Voice and Cohesion" Project funded by Mellon Foundation Grant	Boston, MA
Aug. 2021 - Aug. 2022	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign , Coordinated Science Laboratory <i>Predoctoral Fellowship in Visual Arts, Creativity, and AI</i> Publication: "Artistic Autonomy in AI Art" Advisor: Lav Varshney	Champaign, IL
Jun. 2021 - Aug. 2021	Stanford University , The David Harold Blackwell Summer Research Institute <i>Post-bacc in Applied Probability and Machine Learning</i> Autoregressive Linear Modeling of the Gastrointestinal System	Stanford, CA
Jun. 2020 - Aug. 2020	IBM Research , Scalable Knowledge Intelligence Group <i>AI Research Intern</i> Publication: "AutoText: An End-to-End AutoAI Framework for Text"	San Jose, CA

Publications

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- Issak***, A., Rezwana*, J., & Hartevelde, C. (2026). "Control Is a Trajectory, Not a Point": Conceptualizing Control in Human-AI Co-Creativity [In press]. *Accepted at the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, CHI '26, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2026), 25% acceptance rate.*
- Issak**, A., Rezwana, J., & Hartevelde, C. (2026). Gamification of Control in Co-Creativity through Design Cards. *Proceedings of the 17th International Conference on Computational Creativity, Coimbra, Portugal, June 28 - July 3, 2026. (ICCC 2026).*
- Issak**, A., Spivak, S., Srinivasan, R., & Hartevelde, C. (2026). Recognizing Creativity as a Right: Human and Cultural Rights for Creativity in the Age of AI. *Proceedings of the 2026 Conference on Creativity and Cognition. (C&C 2026), 20% acceptance rate.*
- Bhargava, R., Purdue, S., Perovich, L., Snyder-Young, D., **Issak**, A., Mages, M., Zellner, M., Massey, D., & Herrera, G. (2025). Data Theatre as Input Visualization: Building Community Voice and Cohesion. [Publisher: OSF]. *Proceedings of the Workshop on Envisioning a Research Agenda for Input Visualization. IEEE VIS 2025. <https://osf.io/xpqcf> (IEEE VIS 2025 workshop).*
- Issak**, A. (2025). A philosopher, an artist, and a HCI researcher write a dissertation: Designing Ethical Human-AI Systems for Co-Creativity. *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Creativity and Cognition Graduate Student Symposium*, 58–63. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3698061.3734420> **(C&C 2025 DC).**
- Issak**, A., Kakkar, S., Goetz, S., Brown, N., & Hartevelde, C. (2025). Mapping the Typographic Latent Space of Digits as a Matter of Responsible Design. *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Computational Creativity Computational Design and Computer-aided Creativity Workshop, Campinas, Brazil, June 23 - 27, 2025. <https://computationalcreativity.net/workshops/computational-design-iccc25/papers/issak2025a.pdf> (ICCC 2025 workshop).*
- Issak**, A., Narayan, U., Srinivasan, R., Kleinman, E., & Hartevelde, C. (2025). Kaleidoscope Gallery: Exploring Ethics and Generative AI Through Art. *Proceedings of the 2025 Conference on Creativity and Cognition*, 949–963. <https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3698061.3726929> **(C&C 2025), 20% acceptance rate.**
- Issak***, A., Rezwana*, J., & Hartevelde, C. (2025). MOSAIC: Managing Optimization towards Shared Autonomy, Authority, and Initiative in Co-creation. *Proceedings of the 16th International Conference on Computational Creativity, Campinas, Brazil, June 23 - 27, 2025. <https://computationalcreativity.net/iccc25/wp-content/uploads/papers/iccc25-issak2025mosaic.pdf> (ICCC 2025).*
- Issak**, A. (2024a). AI Ethics for Creativity. *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society Doctoral Consortium*, 7(2), 18–20. <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/AIES/article/view/31897> **(AIES 2024 DC).**
- Issak**, A. (2024b). Creativity as a Human Right: Design Considerations for Computational Creativity Systems. *Proceedings of the 15th International Conference on Computational Creativity, Jönköping, Sweden, June 17 - 21, 2024. https://computationalcreativity.net/iccc24/papers/ICCC24_paper_151.pdf (ICCC 2024).*
- Issak**, A. (2023). Stories Stay, Lessons Leave: Principles on AI Art from Photography. *Proceedings of the 14th International Conference on Computational Creativity, Waterloo, ON, Canada, June 19 - 23, 2023*, 458–462. <https://computationalcreativity.net/iccc23/ICCC-2023-Proceedings.pdf> **(ICCC 2023).**

- Issak, A., Kakkar, S., Goetz, S., Brown, N. B., & Hartevelde, C.** (2023). Mapping the Typographic Latent Space of Digits. *The First Tiny Papers Track at the Eleventh International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*. <https://openreview.net/forum?id=ufA2FuCGyz> (**ICLR Tiny Papers 2023**).
- Issak, A., & Varshney, L. R.** (2023). Prompt Programming for the Visual Domain. *The First Tiny Papers Track at the Eleventh International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*. <https://openreview.net/forum?id=hBz5h3C9Sq> (**ICLR Tiny Papers 2023**).
- Issak, A., & Varshney, L.** (2022). Artistic Autonomy in AI Art. *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Computational Creativity, Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, June 27 - July 1, 2022*, 170–174. http://computationalcreativity.net/iccc22/papers/ICCC-2022%5C_paper%5C_144.pdf (**ICCC 2022**).
- Chaudhary, A., **Issak, A.**, Kate, K., Katsis, Y., Valente, A., Wang, D., Evfimievski, A., Gurajada, S., Kawas, B., Malossi, C., Popa, L., Pedapati, T., Samulowitz, H., Wistuba, M., & Li, Y. (2021). AutoText: An End-to-End AutoAI Framework for Text. *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, 35(18), 16001–16003. <https://ojs.aaai.org/index.php/AAAI/article/view/17993> (**AAAI 2025**).

Creative Work

- Farr*, J., **Issak***, A., Menon*, G., O’Neill*, E., & Rosas*, N. (2026). CANVUS (Computationally Arranged Network of Visual-Auditory Uncontrolled Synthesis) [Multi-media Interactive Installation]. <https://nemo.rosas.studio/portfolio/canvus/>
- Issak, A., & Varshney, L.** (2021). *Young McDonald Had a Botanical Farm* [AI-Illustrated children’s story book]. Kindle Direct Publishing. <https://www.amazon.com/Young-McDonald-Had-Botanical-Farm/dp/B09RM3RC75>

Conference & Workshop Presentations

Oct. 2024	Kaleidoscope Gallery: Immersion of Flux Conference on Images and Imaginaries of Artificial Intelligence Interamerican Open University, Buenos Aires, Argentina [virtual]
May 2023	AI Ethics for Creativity MIT x Northeastern x Harvard Tech Ethics eXchange NorthEast (teχnē) Conference Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Dec. 2021	Artistic Autonomy in AI Art Workshop on Machine Learning For Creativity and Design (ML4C&D) Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS) 2021 [virtual]

Organized Workshops

Jul. 2026 (upcoming)	Into the Hidden Layers: Creative Futures with the Mechanistic Material of AI Imke Grabe, Gabrielle Benabdallah, Alayt Issak , Ginevra Petrozzi, James Pierce, Troy Nachtigall, Tom Jenkins, Jesse Josua Benjamin Co-located at ACM C&C 2026
Jun. 2026 (upcoming)	The Not So Secret Workshop: Role-Playing Control in the Co-creative System Design Alayt Issak , Jeba Rezwana, Casper Hartevelde Co-located at ICC 2026

Invited Talks

Jun. 2026	AI Ethics for Creativity Department of Art Education The Pennsylvania State University, PA, USA
Mar. 2026	Control Is a Trajectory, Not a Point Human Interactivity and Language Lab (HILL) Seminar University of Warsaw, Warsaw, Poland
Jan. 2026	Creativity as a Human Right Creativity, AI, and the Human Cluster The University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, Scotland
Jan. 2026	Conceptualizing Control in Human-AI Co-creativity Human Factors Engineering (HFE) Seminar Tufts University, MA, USA

Teaching Experience and Training

Spring 2026	ARTG 1002: Design Perspectives Instructor of Record
Spring 2024 - Fall 2025	INAM 2000: Ethics in Creativity Teaching Assistant

Pedagogical Training

May 2025 - Apr. 2026	Post-Secondary Teaching Certificate
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Student Mentorship

Sep. 2022 - May 2023	Sarthak Kakkar *co-authored a publication (ICLR Tiny papers)
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Honors and Awards

Jun. 2026	International Conference on Computational Creativity (ICCC) Doctoral Consortium
Apr. 2026	CAMD Research Dissemination Grant
Apr. 2026	CHI Student Mentoring Program
Jun. 2025	ACM Creativity and Cognition (C&C) Graduate Student Symposium
Dec. 2024	Kaaysá Art Residency (Brazil)
Oct. 2024	AAAI/ACM AI, Ethics and Society (AIES) Doctoral Consortium
Jun. 2023	International Conference on Computational Creativity (ICCC) Doctoral Consortium
Sep. 2022	AJC Graduate Fellowship (Two-Year Fellowship)
Sep. 2022	Young Researcher, 9th Heidelberg Laureate Forum (HLF)

Academic Service and Leadership

Publications Chair	<i>Association for Computational Creativity</i>
Supporting Chair	<i>ACM Creativity and Cognition (C&C) Demos and Posters 2025, 2026</i>
Reviewer	<i>Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2025, 2026</i> <i>IEEE Conference on Games (IEEE CoG) 2025</i>
Program Committee	<i>Computational Design and Computer-aided Creativity, ICCC 2025</i> <i>Ph.D. Consortium, Design Research Society (DRS) 2024</i>

Professional Memberships

External Member	Autotelic Interaction Research (AIR) Group, Aalto University, Finland (Summer 2026 - ongoing)
External Researcher	Creativity, AI, and the Human Cluster, Edinburgh Futures Institute (Fall 2026 - ongoing)
Mentee	All Tech is Human (ATIH) (Spring 2025 - ongoing)
Affiliated Researcher	Human-Centered Computing Lab (HCC), Towson University (Fall 2024 - ongoing)
TechEthics Colloquium	Edmond & Lily Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University (Fall 2024 - Spring 2025)

Media Coverage

Jul. 2022	"Six researchers recognized in 2022 Beckman Institute Research Image Contest" <i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology</i>
Feb. 2022	"New children's book on botanical farming features AI-generated art" <i>University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Coordinated Science Lab</i>

Research Skills & Methods

Human-Centered Design · Qualitative Research and Analysis · User Interviews · Usability Studies · Survey Design · Contextual Inquiry · Design Research Methods for AI · Research Through Design · Participatory and Co-Design

References

Casper Hartevelde – *Committee Chair*
Professor of Game Design
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Lav Varshney – *Committee*
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Vance Ricks – *Committee*
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