

Delara Forghani

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-Computer Interaction

Designing Interactive Interfaces

Experimental Design

Human-centered AI

Machine Learning

Deep Learning

Intelligent Interactive Agents

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, at the [University of Waterloo, SIRRL lab](#)

Waterloo, Canada

Sept 2021 –Present

Thesis Topic: Evaluating a Social Robot and a Voice Assistant Agent as Public Speaking Coaches

- Human-Agent Interaction
- Python Programming
- Experimental Design/ User Research
- Applied Machine Learning
- Data Analysis
- Presentation Skills
- Project Management

Supervisors: Prof. Kerstin Dautenhahn – Prof. Chrystopher Nehaniv

Undergraduate Research Assistant

New York, USA

[Martinez-Conde Laboratory](#) (Remote), and [IPM Brain Engineering Center](#)

Sept 2019 –2021

- Human Vision and Visual Gaze Analysis
- Working with Eye-tracking Devices
- Data Analysis

Supervisors: Dr. Susana Martinez-Conde – Dr. Reza Lashgari

Research Intern, [Cognitive Robotics Lab](#)

Tehran, Iran

Amirkabir University of Technology

Fall 2017-Summer 2018

- RoboCup IranOpen 2018, Rescue Simulation League (Team SOS VR)
- FIRA RoboWorld Cup 2018, Simurosot - RoboChallenge League (Team MCS)

Supervisor: Dr. Saeed Shiry Ghidary

EDUCATION

2021 - 2023 MSc in Electrical and Computer Engineering at [University of Waterloo](#) (GPA: 90.60/100)

2016 - 2020 B.Sc in Computer Engineering at [Amirkabir University of Technology](#) (GPA: 18.19/20.00)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles:

Delara Forghani*, Moojan Ghafurian, Samira Rasouli, Chrystopher L. Nehaniv, and Kerstin Dautenhahn(Under review)

Evaluating People's Perceptions of an Agent as a Public Speaking Coach

Paladyne Journal of Behavioural Robotics

Conferences Proceedings:

Delara Forghani*, Moojan Ghafurian, Samira Rasouli, Chrystopher L. Nehaniv, and Kerstin Dautenhahn **What do People Think of Social Robots and Voice Agents as Public Speaking Coaches?**

The 32nd IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication, IEEE RO-MAN 2023

SKILLS

Programming skills	Python, Java, C++, Go, Javascript, HTML, CSS, C#
Data Analysis	R, Matlab
Database Systems	MySQL, MongoDB
Frameworks	PyTorch, Tensorflow, OpenGL, Praat, ROS, Laravel
Libraries	Numpy, Keras, Pandas, Scikit-learn, Matplotlib, Seaborn, OpenCV, jQuery
TypeSetting	LATEX, Microsoft Word
Operating Systems	macOS, Linux, Windows
Simulation Environments	Gazebo, Webots, Rviz, Choregraphe

HONORS AND AWARDS

International Master's Award of Excellence (IMAE) based on academic excellence <i>University of Waterloo</i>	2021
2nd Place - Generative AI Challenge <i>Waterloo AI Institute, Velocity Health at the University of Waterloo (Team "eurikai!")</i>	2023
1st Place - RoboCup IranOpen 2018 <i>Team SOS VR, Rescue Simulation Virtual Robot League, Tehran, Iran</i>	April 2018
3rd Place - FIRA RoboWorld Cup 2018 <i>Team MCS, Simurosot - RoboChallenge, Taichung, Taiwan</i>	August 2018
Ranked top 0.2% - National University Entrance Exam of Mathematical and Technical Sciences	2016

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

ECE 606 - Algorithm Design and Analysis	University of Waterloo <i>Sept 2022 - Dec 2022</i>
ECE 750 - Special Topics in Computer Software (Social Robotics)	<i>Jan 2023 - Apr 2023</i>
ECE 606 - Algorithm Design and Analysis	<i>Sept 2023 - Dec 2023</i>

RELATED COURSEWORK

ECE 606 - Algorithm Design and Analysis	University of Waterloo <i>Sept 2021 - Dec 2021</i>
ECE 750 - Embodied Intelligence and Social Robotics	<i>Jan 2022 - Apr 2022</i>
ECE 750 - Experimental Design	<i>Apr 2022 - Aug 2022</i>
ECE 657A - Data and Knowledge Modeling and Analysis	<i>Jan 2023 - Apr 2023</i>

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Unsupervised Learning, Recommenders, Reinforcement Learning	Offered by Coursera, August 2022
Advanced Learning Algorithms	Offered by Coursera, August 2022
Machine Learning Specialization	Offered by Coursera, August 2022
Supervised Machine Learning: Regression and Classification	Offered by Coursera, July 2022
Convolution Neural Networks	Offered by Coursera, August 2020
Neural Networks and Deep Learning	Offered by Coursera, August 2019

REFERENCES

- Prof. Kerstin Dautenhahn kerstin.dautenhahn@uwaterloo.ca
Prof. Chrystopher L. Nehaniv chrystopher.nehaniv@uwaterloo.ca
Prof. Moojan Ghafurian moojan@uwaterloo.ca