

# Priya Dhawka

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## Research Interests

**Human Computer Interaction:** Information Visualization, Data Justice, Equity, Anthropographics & Data Storytelling.

## Education

- 2023–2028 **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA  
PhD in Human-Centered Design and Engineering  
Advised by Dr. Sayamindu Dasgupta
- 2021–2023 **University of Calgary**, Calgary, Canada  
MSc in Computer Science  
Thesis: *Demographically Diverse Anthropographics: Exploring Equitable Visual Representations of Diversity*  
Advised by Dr. Wesley Willett
- 2015 – 2019 **Colgate University**, Hamilton, NY  
BA in Computer Science

## Publications

### CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AND JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [C.3] **Priya Dhawka** and Sayamindu Dasgupta. The Social Construction of Visualizations: Practitioner Challenges and Experiences of Visualizing Race and Gender Demographic Data. *Submitted and Under Review*.
- [C.2] **Priya Dhawka**, Lauren Perera and Wesley Willett. [Better Little People Pictures: Generative Creation of Demographically Diverse Anthropographics](#). In *Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI'24)*. Honolulu, Hawai'i. May 2024. [26.4% acceptance rate].
- [C.1] **Priya Dhawka**, Helen Ai He and Wesley Willett. [We are the Data: Challenges and Opportunities for Creating Demographically Diverse Anthropographics](#). In *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23)*. Hamburg, Germany. April 2023. [28.4% acceptance rate].

#### WORKSHOP PAPERS

- [W.4] Noëlle Rakotondravony, **Priya Dhawka** and Melanie Bancilhon. [Beyond English: Centering Multilingualism in Visualization](#). In *IEEE VIS 2023 Workshop on Visualization for Social Good*. Melbourne, Australia. October 2023.
- [W.3] **Priya Dhawka**, Helen Ai He and Wesley Willett. [Representing Marginalized Populations: Challenges in Anthropographics](#). In *IEEE VIS 2022 Workshop on Visualization for Social Good*. Remote. October 2022.
- [W.2] KJ Ross, **Priya Dhawka** and Wesley Willett. [People Count—Counting People: Centering the Uncounted and Misrepresented](#). In *CHI 2022 Human-Centered Data Science Workshop*. May 2022.
- [W.1] **Priya Dhawka**, Wesley Willett and Helen Ai He. [Observations of Data Resistance: Challenges of Communicating Demographic Data at Private Institutions](#). In *IEEE VIS 2021 Human-Data Interaction Workshop*. Remote. October 2021.

#### THESES AND NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- [N.1] **Priya Dhawka** and Wesley Willett. Humanizing Data Using Demographically Diverse Anthropographics. In *Do No Harm Guide: Crafting Equitable Data Narratives*. Urban Institute. February 2024.
- [T.1] **Priya Dhawka**. Demographically Diverse Anthropographics: Exploring Equitable Visual Representations of Diversity. *University of Calgary Faculty of Graduate Studies*. Calgary, Canada. July 2023.

### Research Experience

- 2024 – **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Washington  
Ongoing research investigating the impact of practitioner positionalities and politics on the production of visualizations of race and other protected demographic data.  
Advisor: Dr. Sayamindu Dasgupta
- 2021 – 2023 **Graduate Research Assistant**, University of Calgary  
Equitable visualization approaches for representing demographic diversity in anthropographics with a focus on generative AI for rapid prototyping and data storytelling.  
Advisor: Dr. Wesley Willett
- 2018 **Summer Research Student**, Colgate University  
Leveraging NLP techniques to detect allergens in restaurant menus.  
Advisor: Dr. Joel Sommers
- 2016 – 2018 **Research Assistant**, New York Six Upstate Global Collective  
Experiences of multilingual international students at English-speaking liberal arts institutions.

## Awards & Honors

- 2024 UW Herbold Fellowship (\$9500)
- 2023 Faculty of Science Graduate Teaching Award (\$1500), University of Calgary
- 2022 Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship (\$11,000), Province of Alberta
- 2022 Departmental Research Award (\$11,000), University of Calgary
- 2021 – 2023 International Graduate Tuition Award (\$3000/yr), University of Calgary
- 2019 Alumni Memorial Scholar (\$6000), Colgate University
- 2018 Lampert Institute Research Fellowship (\$4500), Colgate University
- 2017 New York Six Upstate Global Collective (\$3600), New York Six Consortium

## Service

- 2021 – **Reviewing:** CHI2025, CHI 2024, VIS 2023 (Vis4Good)  
**Student Volunteer:** VIS 2023, CHI 2023, VIS 2022

## Mentoring

- 2023– **Lauren Perera**, UCalgary CS BS, working on generative text-to-image creation of demographically diverse anthropographics (published at CHI'24).

## Work Experience

- 2019 – 2021 **Office of Equity and Diversity Data Analyst**, Colgate University  
Created visualizations and EEO/AA reports of institutional demographic data on faculty recruitment and retention for decision-makers to implement equity-focused hiring policies.

## Teaching Experience

- 2024 **Instructor of Record: HCDE 524**, University of Washington  
Taught **HCDE 524: Intro to Programming Concepts** in the MS program with 20 students.
- 2024 **Graduate Teaching Assistant: HCDE 418**, University of Washington  
Evaluated assignments for **HCDE 418: Critical Technical Practice** on critical theory and methods towards a liberatory practice of technology.
- 2024 **Instructor: HCDE 596/496**, University of Washington  
Led a Directed Research Group on Food, Caste and Technology in Seattle.
- 2023 **Graduate Teaching Assistant: DATA 605**, University of Calgary  
Designed assignments for Master of Data Science and Analytics program course, **DATA 605: Actionable Visualization and Analytics** on tools such as Tableau and PyData (Pandas, NumPy, Altair, etc) for 80 students.

2022

**Graduate Teaching Assistant: CPSC 599.87**, University of Calgary

Evaluated assignments for **CPSC 599.87: Visualization and Analytics** on tools including Tableau, PyData (Pandas, NumPy, Altair, etc) and Gephi for 30 students.

2021 **Graduate Teaching Assistant: CPSC 583**, University of Calgary

Designed assignments for **CPSC 583: Introduction to Visualization** on tools such as Tableau, Jupyter, and Processing for 52 students.

2018 – 2019 **Teaching Assistant**, Colgate University

Taught tutorial sections for **COSC 101 & COSC 102: Introduction to Programming** in Java and Python averaging 50 students.

## **Skills**

**Technical:** Python, JavaScript, Java, SQL, Latex, Ruby, Processing, C.

**Other:** Tableau, D3.js, Adobe Creative Suite, quantitative and qualitative research methods.