

# Priya Dhawka

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## Research Interests

**Human Computer Interaction:** Data Visualization, Anthropographics, Challenges of Visualizing Open Demographic Data, Visualization Designers & The Role of Visualizations in Misinformation.

## Education

- 2023– **University of Washington**, Seattle, WA  
PhD in Human-Centered Design and Engineering [expected 2028]  
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 AND JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS <sup>1</sup>

\* denotes equal contribution.

- [C.4] **Priya Dhawka\***, Nina Lutz\*, and Kate Starbird. Data Visualizations as Propaganda: Tracing Lineages, Provenance, and Political Framings in Online Anti-Immigrant Discourse. Conditionally accepted to **CSCW 2025**.
- [C.3] **Priya Dhawka** and Sayamindu Dasgupta. [The Social Construction of Visualizations: Practitioner Challenges and Experiences of Visualizing Race and Gender Demographic Data](#). In Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (**CHI'25**). Yokohama, Japan. April 2025. [24.9% acceptance rate]. *Honorable Mention*.
- [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

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<sup>1</sup>Within computer science, HCI, and related fields, conferences are the primary venue for academic work. Papers published at these conferences undergo rigorous review comparable to journal submissions in other fields. Students are typically named first and faculty/senior authors last in computer science and HCI research.

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 Un-counted 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 – 2025 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:** DIS 2025, CHI 2025, 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.