

MINJA AXELSSON

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EDUCATION

University of Cambridge (PhD, Computer Science) 2020-

- Conducted 5 real-world user studies (82 users), 4 design and ethics studies (52 participants)
- Published 10 peer-reviewed papers on robotics, AI, design and ethics; Cit.: 319, h-index: 11
- Received 5 awards and 5 significant grants (£10,000-£62,000), including EPSRC
- Supervised 6 interns; Taught 40 students on 2 undergraduate HCI courses
- Served as Equalities Officer at Clare Hall college and Media Chair at Women@CL Cambridge
- Visiting student at MIT Media Lab for 5 months (fully funded), presently authoring journal publication

Aalto University (M.Sc. Information Networks; B.Sc. Bioinformation Tech.) 2012-2018

- Received runner-up award for SIGCHI Finland's Master's thesis competition
- Completed competitive minor studies at Aalto ARTS
- Visiting student at National University of Singapore (4 months)

EXPERIENCE

Ekho Collective, Co-Founder and Artist 2019-

- Exhibited 2 artworks, with Finnish National Opera and Ballet, and Malva Museum
- Won FEDORA Digital Prize 2020 for Laila

GAIPS Lab at University of Lisbon, Junior Robotics Researcher 2019

- Co-authored 1 journal paper (IJSR 2021, Springer)
- Implemented multi-robot human-interactive application in C#

Futurice, Robotics Designer 2017-2019

- Led design in 3 robotics projects for 3 clients (YLE, Oodi Library, Satakunta Healthcare District)
- Implemented affect system for library guidance robot in Python
- Published 'Social Robot Co-Design Canvases', 3rd most read publication in THRI journal (ACM)
- Shortlisted for IxDA award with Satakunta Healthcare District
- Featured work in Fast Company, YLE radio and YLE TV

Futurice, Designer 2017

- Worked directly with 3 clients, finding user needs and designing socially responsible web&mobile apps
- Shortlisted for Grand One design award with client SaferGlobe

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Visiting lecture at Uni of Cam, 2024, "Affective Computing" course.
- Supervised 6 interns at Cambridge (4) and MIT (2).
- Visiting lectures, 2019-2024. 9 lectures on UX and robotics, at Tampere Uni and Haaga-Helia.
- "Further HCI" course (Uni of Cam), 2023. Supervised 11 students in small groups.
- "Interaction Design" course (Uni of Cam), 2022. Supervised 5 students in small groups.
- "Interaction Design" course (Uni of Cam), 2022 and 2021. Demonstrated for and graded 50 students.

SELECTED ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Working group member on IEEE P7014.1: Recommended Practice for Ethical Considerations of Emulated Empathy in Partner-based General-Purpose Artificial Intelligence Systems. From 2024.
- Videos and Demos Chair at HRI conf. 2024 (ACM/IEEE)
- Organised "Embodied voices" workshop at Robotics: Science and Systems conf. 2024
- Panel Chair at HRI Pioneers workshop 2024
- Publication Committee Member at RO-MAN HRI4Wellbeing workshop 2022
- Reviewing for THRI (2024, 23) IJSR (2024, 23), HRI (2024, 23, 22, 20), RO-MAN (2022), HAI (2020)

SELECTED GRANTS

- Clare Hall Doctoral Prize Studentship, 6 months. £10,000.
- Finnish Cultural Foundation: Grant for finalising PhD thesis, 6 months. £12,000.
- KAUTE Foundation: Grant for MIT Media Lab research visit, 5 months. £16,600.
- K. Albin Johansson Foundation: Project grant for PhD. £4,150.
- EPSRC: PhD DTA Studentship Award, 3 years. University fees (approx. £30,000).
- Osk. Huttunen Foundation: PhD Studentship, 3 years. £62,000.

SELECTED AWARDS

- **Clare Hall Doctoral Prize Studentship, 2024:** Follow-up funding for PhD students.
- **Uni of Cam, CompSci Dept., 2024:** Wiseman Prize. For teaching and outreach contributions.
- **Uni of Cam, 2024:** Hall of Fame 'Better Future' Award. For robotic coaches at workplace, with research team and collaborators.
- **Uni of Cam, 2023:** Vice-Chancellor's Research Impact and Engagement 'Collaboration' Award Runner-Up. For robotic well-being coaches, with research team and collaborators.
- **HRI Pioneers, 2023:** Selected for prestigious doctoral consortium.
- **FEDORA Platform, 2020:** Digital Prize. For immersive artwork 'Laila', with Ekho Collective.
- **SIGCHI Finland, 2019:** Master's Thesis Award runner-up.

SELECTED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

- Cambridge Science Festival: Public robot demonstration and ethics workshop, 2023.
- Women@CL: Media Chair, 2022-2023.
- Women@CL: Outreach Chair, 2021-2022.
- Clare Hall college at Uni of Cam: Equalities Officer, 2020-2021 & 2021-2022.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

ACII Conf. (IEEE), 2024	Invited talk on wellbeing robots, "From Lab to Life" workshop
Pint of Science Festival, 2024	Invited talk on wellbeing robots, 50 attendees.
HRI Conference, 2024	Conference presentation for publication
Uni of Cam, 2024	Invited talk on social robots, for Barclays HR Executives
HRI Conference, 2023	Invited talk on THRI journal paper, for 6 selected presenters
RO-MAN Conference, 2021	Conference presentation for publication
European Robotics Week, 2018	Invited talk on social robots, 300 attendees.

SELECTED PRESS

BBC Radio Cambridge, 2023.	Interview: Robotic coaches in the workplace.
Evening Standard Podcast, 2022.	Interview: Robots and well-being.
BBC Look East TV Program, 2021.	Feature: Robotic well-being coach.
BBC Radio Cambridge, 2021.	Interview: Robots for mindfulness.
YLE Radio Podcast, 2020.	Interview: Social robots.
YLE TV News, 2019.	Feature: Library guidance robot.
Fast Company, 2019.	Interview and feature: UX & library robot article.

SKILLS

Statistical Languages	Python (Numpy, Scipy, Pandas), R
Qualitative Analysis	NVivo, inductive & deductive analysis
Design	InDesign, Illustrator, prototyping, interviews, focus groups, workshops
Languages	English, Finnish (bilingual); Swedish, German (basic)