

VANESSA UTZ

Phone: [redacted]

Address: [redacted]

EDUCATION

PhD	School of Interactive Arts & Technology Simon Fraser University	Sept 2019 - present
MSc	Brain & Cognitive Sciences University of Amsterdam, Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies Graduated Cum Laude	June 2019
BA	Cognitive Science Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences Graduated With Distinction	June 2017

HONORS AND AWARDS

Travel & Research Award	Simon Fraser University - School of Interactive Arts & Technology	2023
Travel & Research Award	Simon Fraser University - School of Interactive Arts & Technology	2022
Backwater Industries/Eduard Jost Sr & Jr Graduate Scholarship	Simon Fraser University - Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies: Donor Funded Awards	2022
Century 21 Charlwood Family Graduate Scholarship	Simon Fraser University - Graduate & Postdoctoral Studies: Donor Funded Awards	2022
Graduate Fellowship	Simon Fraser University - School of Interactive Arts & Technology	2021
Travel & Research Award	Simon Fraser University - School of Interactive Arts & Technology	2021
Graduate Fellowship	Simon Fraser University - School of Interactive Arts & Technology	2020
Graduate Dean's Entrance Scholarship	Simon Fraser University - Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Major Entrance Scholarship: 4-Year Research Funding	2019

Most Innovative Research Award 2019
Biologically Inspired Cognitive Architectures (BICA) Society
Awarded at 2019 BICA Conference

International Entrance Scholarship 2012
Simon Fraser University - Undergraduate Financial Aid & Awards
Major Entrance Scholarship: 2-Term Tuition Coverage

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant – Syllabus Development, SFU, Surrey Summer 2023 - present
Supervisor: Steve DiPaola, PhD (iViz Lab)

- Project: Aiding in the development of a new syllabus for a graduate level course titled Foundations of Research Design for Human-Centered Design of Interactive Technologies

Graduate Research Assistant, SFU, Surrey Sept 2019 - present
Supervisor: Steve DiPaola, PhD (iViz Lab)

- Project: Investigating the social and environmental implications of generative AI systems

Visiting Graduate Researcher, SFU, Surrey Sept 2018 – Aug 2019
Supervisors: Steve DiPaola, PhD (iViz Lab) & Timo Stein, PhD (Brain & Cognition Group)

- Project: Exploring how aesthetic experiences are processed along the brain's perceptual neural pathways using AI creativity systems

Graduate Research Intern, UvA, Amsterdam Jan 2018 – Jun 2018
Supervisor: Timo Stein, PhD (Brain & Cognition Group)

- Project: Investigating the extent of unconscious processing of semantic information

Undergraduate Research Assistant, SFU, Surrey Jan 2018 – Jun 2018
Supervisor: Steve DiPaola, PhD (iViz Lab)

- Supporting graduate students with their research, including conducting literature reviews, assisting with study design (quantitative & qualitative) and data collection

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Simon Fraser University, Surrey September 2022 - present
Sessional Instructor, School of Interactive Arts and Technology

- Course: IAT 309W – Writing Methods for Research, an undergraduate course averaging 80 students per semester, covering critical source evaluation, literature reviewing and writing strategies for professional written communication in design, media arts & technology fields

- Responsibilities:
 - Delivering course material on a weekly basis
 - Designing deliverables/assignments (quizzes, workshops, midterm examinations, writing assignments)
 - Assessing student work and providing focused feedback (midterm and participation in writing workshops)
 - Training & coordinating a team of 2 Teaching Assistants in the assessment of diverse writing assignments (media analyses, research papers, portfolios)

Simon Fraser University, Surrey

May 2020 – September 2022

Teaching Assistant, School of Interactive Arts and Technology

- Course: IAT 309W – Writing Methods for Research, an undergraduate course averaging 80 students per semester, covering critical source evaluation, literature reviewing and writing strategies for professional written communication in design, media arts & technology fields
- Responsibilities:
 - Providing administrative support to instructors
 - Assessing student work (quizzes, short assignments, and research papers)
 - Running workshops/tutorials & taking over lecturing duties as needed
 - Training new Teaching Assistants on how to assess writing assignments and provide adequate feedback

Simon Fraser University, Surrey

January 2020 – April 2020

Teaching Assistant, Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences

- Course: COGS 100 – Introduction to Cognitive Science, an undergraduate course averaging 100 students per semester, covering an overview of the theories and methods of psychology, neuroscience, linguistics, computing science and philosophy, that are used in the interdisciplinary field of Cognitive Science
- Responsibilities:
 - Providing administrative support to instructors
 - Assessing student work (quizzes, short assignments, and research papers)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications (peer-reviewed)

Utz, V. & DiPaola, S. (2020). Using an AI creativity system to explore how aesthetic experiences are processed along the brain's perceptual neural pathways. *Cognitive Systems Research*, 59, pp.63-72

Stein, T., **Utz, V.** & van Opstal, F. (2020). Unconscious semantic priming from pictures under backward masking and continuous flash suppression. *Consciousness & Cognition*, 78: 102864

Conference Papers (peer-reviewed)

Utz, V. & DiPaola, S. (in press). Climate Implications of Diffusion-based Generative Visual AI Systems and their Mass Adoption. *International Conference on Computational Creativity (ICCC) 2023* [8 pages]

Utz, V. & DiPaola, S. (2021). Exploring the Application of AI-generated Artworks for the Study of Aesthetic Processing. *Proceedings of the IEEE Fourth international Conference on Multimedia Information Processing and Retrieval (MIPR2021)*, pp.393-398

Utz, V. & DiPaola, S. (2020). Aesthetic Judgments, Movement Perception and the Neural Architecture of the Visual System. In: Samsonovich A. (eds) *Biologically Inspired Cognitive Architectures 2019 - Proceedings of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the BICA Society. Advances in Intelligent Systems and Computing, Vol 948*. New York: Springer

Conference Papers in Review

Yalcin, O. N., **Utz, V.** & DiPaola, S. (in review). AI Stylization for Empathic Visual Anonymization of Interview Videos. *Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction 2023* [9 pages]

Workshop Papers

Utz, V. & DiPaola, S. (in press). Digital Overconsumption and Waste: A Closer Look at the Impacts of Generative AI. *Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR) 2023 – Third Workshop on Ethical Consideration in Creative Applications of Computer Vision (EC3V)* [3 pages]

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Utz, V. (2021, September 01). Computational Creativity (CC) Systems and their Application in Empirical Aesthetics [Poster Presentation]. *International Association of Empirical Aesthetics (IAEA) 2021 Congress*. London, United Kingdom

Utz, V. (2021, September 10). Exploring the Application of AI-Art for the Study of Aesthetic Processing [Conference Presentation]. *IEEE 4th International Conference on Multimedia Information Processing and Retrieval (IEEE MIPR) 2021. AIArt21 Workshop*. Tokyo, Japan

Utz, V. (2019, August 17). Aesthetic Judgments, Movement Perception and the Neural Architecture of the Visual System [Conference Presentation]. Biologically Inspired Cognitive Architectures (BICA) 2019 Conference. Seattle, WA, United States

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

ABC (Amsterdam Brain & Cognition) Summer School

University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, NL, June 2018

Description: annual 2-week international bootcamp on topics in research fields related to “Brain and Cognition”. Topic in 2018: Social Cognition and the Brain

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer-Reviewed Articles for:

- Cognitive Systems Research
- The Journal of Creative Behaviour

Editor & Contributor

Amsterdam Brain & Cognition Journal, October 2017 – July 2018 (Issue 7)

Current and past issues: <http://student.uva.nl/bcs/content/az/abc-journal/abc-journal.html>

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Letters to a Pre-Scientist (LPS)

STEM Professional Pen Pal, September 2020 - present

LANGUAGES

German: Native Language

English: Bilingual Proficiency (9/9 IELTS score for Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Programming: Python (Intermediate), C (Elementary), SQL (Elementary)

Applications: Adobe Creative Suit, SPSS, JMP

REFERENCES

Dr. Steve DiPaola, Professor
School of Interactive Arts & Technology
Simon Fraser University
Email: sdipaola@sfu.ca

Dr. Ozge Nilay Yalcin, Assistant Professor
School of Interactive Arts & Technology
Simon Fraser University
Email: oyalcin@sfu.ca