Helena A. Haxvig

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ABOUT ME

Fourth-year PhD student at the University of Trento (Italy). With a background in Techno-Anthropology, I specialize in human-technology relations, focusing on Participatory Design and sustainable AI. My research is grounded in feminist and queer Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), critically examining the ethical and societal implications of biased (AI) systems.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/11/2022 – 30/06/2026 Trento, Italy
PHD IN INFORMATION ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE (CURRENTLY FINISHING) University of Trento

Supervisors: Associate Professor Vincenzo D'Andrea (University of Trento) and Associate Professor Maurizio Teli (Aalborg University).

The main objective of the doctoral studies is twofold: 1) Develop new approaches to evaluate the gender bias in generative AI (large language models), using Participatory Design techniques; 2) Developing tools, based on generative AI and community co-creation, to evaluate gender inclusion in the design of other information technology systems.

Courses and summer schools attended: AI ethics course (2023), Course on computing for sustainable socio-ecologies (2023), Designing Human Technologies summer school 9.0 (2023) and 10.0 (2024), EUSSET 8th International Summer School on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (2024), TECH4SDT course in sustainable and digital transformation (2024).

The visiting research period was spent at the Human-Centered Computing (HCC) research group at UCPH, working in collaboration with Professor Pernille Bjørn in the spring of 2025.

Website https://iecs.unitn.it/ ｜ **Field of study** Artificial Intelligence, Participatory Design, Human-Computer Interaction

31/08/2018 – 27/05/2021 Aalborg, Denmark
MASTER OF SCIENCE (MSC) IN TECHNO-ANTHROPOLOGY Aalborg University

General focus: To navigate in and work with complex socio-technical problems with multiple actors as well as combining technological change with empirical studies.
Course focus: Participatory Design, controversy mapping (digital methods), anthropology, ethics and philosophy of technology, STS, philosophy of science, project management etc.

Address Rendsburggade 14, Aalborg, Denmark ｜ **Website** https://www.en.aau.dk/education ｜ **Field of study** Techno-Anthropology ｜

Final grade 12 ｜ **Level in EQF** EQF level 7 ｜ **National classification** NQF level 7 ｜ **Type of credits** ECTS ｜ **Number of credits** 120 ｜

Thesis Epistemologies of AI: A techno-anthropological study of researchers' experience of differences in epistemic cultures between the fields of Civil Engineering and Artificial Intelligence in an interdisciplinary project at Aalborg University's research centre 'AI for the People'

31/08/2015 – 25/06/2018 Aalborg, Denmark
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (BSC) IN TECHNO-ANTHROPOLOGY Aalborg University

General focus: To understand and shape the interaction between human and technology as well as between technical experts and users of technology.
Course focus: anthropology, ethics, participatory design, STS, philosophy of science, technology on micro and macro scale etc.

Address Rendsburggade 14, Aalborg, Denmark ｜ **Website** https://www.en.aau.dk/education ｜ **Field of study** Techno-Anthropology ｜

Final grade 10 ｜ **Level in EQF** EQF level 6 ｜ **National classification** NQF level 6 ｜ **Type of credits** ECTS ｜ **Number of credits** 180

WORK EXPERIENCE

TEACHING ASSISTANT - PARTICIPATORY DESIGN COURSE – UNIVERSITY OF TRENTO – 18/09/2023 – 30/03/2026 – TRENTO, ITALY

For three years (three semesters), I have been the teaching assistant of a Participatory Design course for master's students joined mainly from two departments: 1) Information Engineering and Computer Science; 2) Psychology and Cognitive Science. The students had a variety of academic backgrounds, such as computer science, software engineering, psychology, sociology, HCI, (interaction) design, etc.

Activities and responsibilities included: Developing course material (including blended learning material), grading assignments, frontal lectures (theory and practice), supervision, and exam execution.

RESEARCH/TEACHING ASSISTANT – AALBORG UNIVERSITY – 31/07/2021 – 31/10/2022 – AALBORG, DENMARK

The main employment was with the Department of Sustainability and Planning as well as the cross-department research centre on Sustainable and Digital Transformations (TECH4SDT). Additionally, I took part in the Erasmus+ project titled "*The Post-Human Architect: A Methodology for Educating to Sustainable Social Innovation in Decentralized Areas*".
This position also involved teaching responsibilities for both bachelor's and master's students at the Techno-Anthropology education, including: First semester bachelor course in "Socio-technical technology understanding"; First semester bachelor course in "Problem-based learning", with lectures focused academic craftmanship, philosophy of science, along with technology assessments and sustainable technology development. Furthermore, I supervised multiple 10-15 ECTS student projects at both the bachelor's and master's level.

PUBLICATIONS

2025
"I've never seen a glass ceiling better represented": Bias and gendering in LLM-generated synthetic personas from a participatory design perspective

Authors: Helena A. Haxvig, Vincenzo D'Andrea, Maurizio Teli | **Journal Name**: International Journal of Human-Computer Studies

2025
Synthetic Dreams in Barbie Land: Speculative Queer Adventures with Feminist LLM-Generated Personas

Authors: Helena A. Haxvig, Vincenzo D'Andrea, Maurizio Teli | **Journal Name**: ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference 2025

2025
Covert DEI Design Techniques for Earthly Survival in Hostile Contexts

Authors: Helena A. Haxvig, Pernille Bjørn, Vincenzo D'Andrea, Maurizio Teli | **Journal Name**: 16th Biannual Conference of the Italian SIGCHI Chapter

2024
PluriCards: Engaging with the Pluriverse to Explore New Sustainability Research Directions

Authors: Petko Karadechev, Rikke Hagensby Jensen, Victor V. Jensen, Helena Amalie Haxvig, Maurizio Teli, and Markus Löchtefeld | **Journal Name**: 10th International Conference on ICT for Sustainability (ICT4S)

ACADEMIC SERVICE (PEER REVIEW)

Ad-hoc reviewer for peer-reviewed venues in human–computer interaction and human-centered AI (primarily ACM conferences and journals), as well as Participatory Design venues.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): **DANISH**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
ITALIAN	A2	A2	A1	A1	A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

SKILLS

Tools

LaTex | NVivo 12 | Gephi | MS Office (Word Excel PowerPoint) | Discord, Skype, Zoom

Competencies (research and teaching)

Participatory Design | Interdisciplinary research | Qualitative Research | Mixed Methods Research | Philosophy of Science | Communication | Collaboration | Project Management | Interdisciplinary Collaboration | Interviews, observation & other research methods | HCI | CSCW | Workshop planning and facilitation | apply blended learning | Ethics | disseminate results to the scientific community