

Karim Benharraq

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Ph.D. Student
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Sciences
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

I build and evaluate interactive tools that embed generative AI into how people author text, images, audio, and video. My systems let creators direct AI at the level they think about their work, preserve their own style, and draw on their creative process. Generative AI has made content creation accessible to anyone, but novices are often left with producing low-quality content, while experts use the same tools to create outstanding work. My long-term goal is to close this gap.

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley
Ph.D. in Computer Science
Advisor: Amy Pavel

Berkeley, CA
Jan 2026 – May 2028

The University of Texas at Austin
M.S. in Computer Science (enrolled in Ph.D. program, then transferred)
Advisor: Amy Pavel

Austin, TX
Aug 2023 – Dec 2025

University of Bayreuth
B.S. in Computer Science
Advisor: Daniel Buschek

Bayreuth, Germany
Oct 2019 – Jun 2023

San Jose State University
Semester Abroad

San Jose, CA
Aug 2021 – Dec 2021

WORK EXPERIENCE

Adobe Research, *Research Intern*
Mentors: Valentina Shin, Mira Dontcheva

Cambridge, MA
May 2026 – Oct 2026

University of California, Berkeley, *Ph.D. Student*
Advisor: Amy Pavel

Berkeley, CA
Jan 2026 – Present

Adobe Research, Research Intern

Mentors: Zeyu Jin, Bryan Wang

San Francisco, CA

May 2025 – Apr 2026

The University of Texas at Austin, Ph.D. Student

Advisor: Amy Pavel

Austin, TX

Aug 2023 – Dec 2025

Carnegie Mellon University, Research Intern

Advisors: David Lindlbauer, Dominik Moritz

Pittsburgh, PA

Nov 2022 – May 2023

University of Bayreuth, Research Assistant

Advisor: Daniel Buschek

Bayreuth, Germany

Nov 2020 – Aug 2023

TeamViewer, Software Engineer**Goeppingen, Germany**

May 2022 – Oct 2022

Simsa, Co-Founder & CTO

B2B individualized e-learning services for construction companies

Bayreuth, Germany

Nov 2020 – Jan 2022

Legmon, Co-Founder & CTO

Social startup supporting underrepresented students in Germany

Langen, Germany

Dec 2019 – Nov 2021

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS

CHI and UIST are the top-tier venues in Human-Computer Interaction. An asterisk (*) denotes equal contribution.

Karim Benharrak, Oriol Nieto, Bryan Wang, Zeyu Jin, Amy Pavel. “Dramarrator: Object-Based Audio Editing for Audio Drama Production from Books” *UIST 2026* Nov 2026

Karim Benharrak, Amy Pavel. “HistoryPalette: Supporting Exploration and Reuse of Past Alternatives in Image Generation and Editing” *CHI 2026* Apr 2026

Karim Benharrak, Puyuan Peng, Amy Pavel. “TalkLess: Blending Extractive and Abstractive Speech Summarization for Editing Speech to Preserve Content and Style” *UIST 2025* Oct 2025

Aadit Barua*, **Karim Benharrak***, Meng Chen, Mina Huh, Amy Pavel. “Lotus: Creating Short Videos From Long Videos With Abstractive and Extractive Summarization” *IUI 2025* Mar 2025

Karim Benharrak, Tim Zindulka, Florian Lehmann, Hendrik Heuer, Daniel Buschek. “Writer-Defined AI Personas for On-Demand Feedback Generation” *CHI 2024* May 2024

Hai Dang, **Karim Benharrak**, Florian Lehmann, Daniel Buschek. “Beyond Text Generation: Supporting Writers with Continuous Automatic Text Summaries” *UIST 2022* Oct 2022

WORKSHOP PAPERS AND POSTERS

- Karim Benharrak**, Tim Zindulka, Daniel Buschek. “Deceptive Patterns of Intelligent and Interactive Writing Assistants” *In2Writing @ CHI 2024* May 2024
- Karim Benharrak**, Florian Lehmann, Hai Dang, Daniel Buschek. “SummaryLens - A Smartphone App for Exploring Interactive Use of Automated Text Summarization in Everyday Life” *IUI 2022* Mar 2022

THESES

- Karim Benharrak**. “Blending Reuse and Synthesis for Automatic Speech Editing” *M.S. Thesis, The University of Texas at Austin* Dec 2025
- Karim Benharrak**. “OptiPhys: Optimization-based Creation of Data Physicalizations using Everyday Objects” *B.S. Thesis, University of Bayreuth* Apr 2023

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Special Recognition for Outstanding Reviews, *UIST'24, CHI'25, DIS'25, CHI'26 (x2)* 2024 – 2026
- Dean's Research Fellow, *College of Computing, Data Science, and Society @ UC Berkeley* 2026
- Gary Marsden Travel Award, *Travel award to attend CHI'24* 2024
- German Academic Scholarship Foundation Scholarship (awarded to < 0.5%), *Merit-based scholarship* 2021
- Friedrich Ebert Foundation Scholarship (awarded to < 13%), *Merit-based scholarship (declined)* 2021
- Entrepreneurial Skills Program for High Potentials, *Institute for Entrepreneurship & Innovation Bayreuth* 2020
- Bavarian State Prize (Bayerischer Landespreis), *European Competition* 2019

INVITED TALKS

- “Blending Reuse and Synthesis for Automatic Speech Editing” *Adobe Research*. Jul 2025
- “Django Unchained: How a Learning Experience Platform Powered Digitalization in the Construction Industry using Django” *University of Bayreuth*. Feb 2021
- “Legmon: How to Get Started? - Insights into an App Startup” *University of Bayreuth*. Nov 2020

TEACHING

- CS 260B: Human-Computer Interaction Research** – Teaching Assistant UC Berkeley Fall 2026

ADV 391K: Emotion and Persuasive Message Design – Guest Lecture
UT Austin

Fall 2025

CS 378: Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction – Teaching Assistant
UT Austin

Spring 2024

SERVICE

Reviewer

CHI, UIST, IUI, DIS, Mensch & Computer

2023 – Present

Student Volunteer

ACM UIST

2023, 2024

ACM CHI

2024

Co-Organizer

Berkeley Institute of Design Seminar Series

2026 – Present

Founder & Lead

Google Developer Student Club, University of Bayreuth

2022 – 2023

Co-Initiator

Instrumentheroes.de

2020 – 2023

SKILLS

Research Methods: HCI systems research, mixed-methods user studies, interviews, Grounded Theory

Programming: Python, TypeScript, React, CSS, Flask, Java, Swift, Android Studio, Xcode, LLM tooling

REFERENCES

Amy Pavel

Professor at the Department of
Electrical Engineering and
Computer Sciences
University of California, Berkeley
amypavel.com

Mira Dontcheva

Senior Principal Scientist
Adobe Research
research.adobe.com

Zeyu Jin

Principal Scientist
Adobe Research
research.adobe.com

Daniel Buschek

Professor of Mobile Intelligent
User Interfaces
University of Bayreuth
daniel-buschek.de

David Lindlbauer

Professor at the Human-Computer
Interaction Institute
Carnegie Mellon University
davidlindlbauer.com

Dominik Moritz

Professor at the Human-Computer
Interaction Institute
Carnegie Mellon University
domoritz.de