VARSHA KOUSHIK

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EDUCATION

2017 – 2022 (expected)	**Ph.D. in Computer Science**
	University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA
	Advisor: Shaun K. Kane
2015 - 2017	**M.S. in Computer Science**
	University of Colorado Boulder, Boulder, CO, USA
2011 - 2015	**B.E. in Information Science**
	M S Ramaiah Institute of Technology, Bangalore, India

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022	Winner, 3MT Thesis Competition, University of Colorado Boulder
2022	Laughing Goat Library Student Employee Scholarship
2021-2022	Lead Teaching Assistant, *Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder*
2021	Carol B. Lynch Fellowship, *University of Colorado Boulder* (Graduate Assistantship for Fall 2021)
2021	Ph.D. Summer Research Fellowship, *Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder*
2021	Provost Fellowship of the University Libraries, *University of Colorado Boulder*
2021	Hope Schultz Jozsa Award, *University of Colorado Boulder*
2019	ACM SIGCHI Best Paper Honorable Mention [5%]
2019	SIGCHI Executive Committee Travel Grant
2018-2019	Coleman Fellow, *Coleman Institute of Cognitive Disabilities*
2016, 2017, 2019	Department Travel Grants, *Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder*
2016, 2017,2019	Dean's Matching Travel Grants, *College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, University of Colorado Boulder*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Part-Time Instructor

Summer 2019	CSCI 1300: Fundaments to Computing 1
Summer 2018	CSCI 3002: Foundations of Human-Centered Computing

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2020-2021	CSCI 3002: Foundations of Human-Centered Computing
Fall 2018, Fall 2019, 2016-17	CSCI 1300: Fundaments to Computing 1

Guest Lectures

2021	Empowering People with Disabilities through Technology, *University of Denver*
2018	Accessibility is becoming mainstream, *Haverford College*
2018	CSCI 3002: Foundations of Human-Centered Computing, *Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder*
2018	ICTD Masters Capstone Project, *ATLAS, University of Colorado Boulder*

2017	CSCI 1300: Fundaments to Computing 1, *Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder*

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Conference Papers

[C1] **Varsha Koushik**, Shaun K. Kane. "It Broadens My Mind": Empowering People with through Computing Education*. Proceedings of the 2019* ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems *(CHI).* ACM, New York, NY, USA, 131-139. [23%]

[C2] **Varsha Koushik**, Darren Guinness, Shaun K. Kane. StoryBlocks: A tangible programming game to create accessible audio stories *Proceedings of the 2019* ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems *(CHI).* ACM, New York, NY, USA, 131-139. [23%] **Best Paper Honorable Mention [5%].**

[C3] Shaun K. Kane, **Varsha Koushik**, Annika Muehlbradt. Bonk: accessible programming for accessible audio games. In *Prosceedings of the 17th ACM Conference on Interaction Design and Children* (IDC '18). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 132-142.

Demos and Posters

[D1] **Varsha Koushik**, Shaun K. Kane. 2017. Tangibles + Programming + Audio Stories = Fun. In *Proceedings of the 19th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility* (ASSETS '17). ACM, New York, NY, USA. Demo. [26%]

[P1] Annika Muehlbradt, **Varsha Koushik**, Shaun K. Kane. Goby: A Wearable Swimming Aid for Blind Athletes. 2017. In *Proceedings of the 19th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility* (ASSETS '17). ACM, New York, NY, USA. Poster.[26%]

[P2] **Varsha Koushik**, Alexandra Gendreau, Eugene Ho, Spencer Wilson, and Stephen Voida. 2017. Snappable sensors: empowering future scientists. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM International Joint Conference on Pervasive and Ubiquitous Computing and Proceedings of the 2017 ACM International Symposium on Wearable Computers* (UbiComp'17). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 117-120. Poster.

[P3] **Varsha Koushik,** Clayton Lewis. 2016. An Accessible Blocks Language: Work in Progress. In *Proceedings of the 18th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility* (ASSETS '16). ACM, New York, NY, USA. Poster. [26%]

[P4] **Varsha Koushik**, Clayton Lewis. 2016. Work in progress: A non-visual interface for a blocks language. Proceedings PPIG 2016 Psychology of Programming Annual Conference, Cambridge, UK, September 7–10.

Doctoral Consortium

[DC1] **Varsha Koushik**. 2020. Making block-based programming accessible to people with cognitive disabilities. SIGACCESS Access. Comput., 126, Article 5 (January 2020), 1 pages.

Book Chapters

[B1] S. Bhaduri, A. Gendreau, **V. S. Koushik**, T. Sumner, J. Ristvey, and R. Russell. (2018). Promoting Middle School Students' Motivation and Persistence in an After-School Engineering Program (J. Barnes-Johnson and J. M. Johnson, Eds.). In STEM21: Equity in teaching and learning to meet global challenges of standards, engagement, and transformation.

Manuscripts in Preparation

[M1] **Varsha Koushik** and Shaun K. Kane. Towards AR Coaching for Daily Routines: Participatory Design with Individuals with Cognitive Disabilities and Their Caregivers. **[under review]**

[M2]   **Varsha Koushik** and Shaun K. Kane. "First you feed the turtles, then let's watch": Understanding effective prompting strategies for people with cognitive disabilities to overcome accessibility barriers and regularly practice routines. **[under review]**

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2018-2019	Coleman Fellow, Coleman Institute of Cognitive Disabilities
2017-2018	Graduate Research Assistant

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summer 2020	Accessibility Intern, Verizon Media **Manager:** *Larry Goldberg*

INVITED TALKS

2021	Empowering People with Disabilities through Technology, *University of Denver*
2020	Embracing Accessibility Practices, *University of Colorado Boulder*
2019	Swimming into the Ocean, *Teen Science Café, University of Colorado Boulder*
2018	Accessible CS Education in the Smart Home, *Coleman Conference*
2017	Tangible + Programming = Audio Stories, *Accessible K-12 Symposium, SIGCSE*

SERVICE

University of Colorado Boulder

2021-2022	Lead TA, *Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder*
2021- 2022	International Student Advisory Board*, Graduate School, University of Colorado Boulder*
2020 - 2021	Graduate Committee Student Representative, *Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder*
2018 - 2019	Discovery Learning Assistant Peer Mentor
Fall 2018	Graduate Student Mentor
Fall 2018	International Student Peer Mentor

Academic Reviewer

2019 - present	SIGCSE'19, CHI'20, SIGCSE'20, DIS'20, CHI'21, SIGCSE'21, TACESS'21, DIS'21, IJHCCI'21

Student Volunteer

2018-2019	SIGCHI Executive Committee
2016	ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing (CHI)

PRESS

2021	"2021 Provost Fellow to present research findings", *CU Boulder Today*
2021	"Celebrating 2020-2021 Graduate School Award Recipients!" *CU Boulder Today*
2018	"CU Boulder's "Superhuman" Lab is making programming more accessible", *Science Buffs*
2017	"Inventions to look for at the ATLAS Expo May 3", *CU Boulder Today*

MENTORING

2021 – 2022	Mary Yoder, Undergraduate Student, *University of Colorado Boulder*
2018-2020	Gabriella Johnson, M.S, *University of Colorado Boulder*