VARSHA KOUSHIK

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EDUCATION

2017 – 2022	**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

EXPERIENCE

2022- present	**Colorado College**, Colorado Springs, CO *Assistant Professor*
2020	Accessibility Intern, Verizon Media *Manager:* Larry Goldberg
2018-2019	Coleman Fellow, Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities
2017-2018	Graduate Research Assistant, University of Colorado Boulder

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022	Commencement Student Speaker, Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder
2022	3rd Place, Colorado State 3MT Thesis Competition
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	Dean' Matching Travel Funds + Department Travel Grants, *University of Colorado Boulder*

GRANTS

2023	SEGway Seed Funding, Colorado College. Customizing Prompting Systems to Support Independence for People with Cognitive Disabilities. Varsha Koushik (PI). Total: $4400
2023	Dean of the Faculty Curriculum Development Grant Award, Colorado College. Total: $2000

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Conference Journals

[J1] **Varsha Koushik** and Shaun K. Kane. Towards AR Coaching for Daily Routines: Participatory Design with Individuals with Cognitive Disabilities and Their Caregivers, International Journal of Human-Centered Studies, 2022.

Peer-reviewed Conference Papers

[C1] **Varsha Koushik** and Shaun Kane. 2023. Ability + Motivation: Understanding Factors that Influence People with Cognitive Disabilities in Regularly Practicing Daily Activities. In Proceedings of the 20th International Web for All Conference (W4A '23). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 122–133. ***Best Technical Paper Candidate***.

[C2] Keke Wu, Michelle Ho Tran, Emma Petersen, **Varsha Koushik**, and Danielle Albers Szafir. 2023. Data, Data, Everywhere: Uncovering Everyday Data Experiences for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 804, 1–17.

[C3] **Varsha Koushik**, Shaun K. Kane. "It Broadens My Mind": Empowering People with Cognitive Disabilities through Computing Education. *Proceedings of the 2019* ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems *(CHI).* ACM, New York, NY, USA, 131-139. [23%]

[C4] **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%].***

[C5] Shaun K. Kane, **Varsha Koushik**, Annika Muehlbradt. Bonk: accessible programming for accessible audio games. In *Proceedings 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, 117120. 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.

Dissertation

[D] **Koushik, V. S.** 2022. Designing Customizable Smart Interfaces to Support People with Cognitive Disabilities in Daily Activities. *Doctoral dissertation, University of Colorado at Boulder*.

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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Colorado College (2022 - present)

Assistant Professor

Fall 2023 Block 4	CP 274 Software Design
Fall 2023 Block 2	CP 341: Human-Centered Computing
Fall 2023 Block 1	CP 115 Computational Thinking
Spring 2023 Block 8	CP 341: Human-Centered Computing
Spring 2023 Block 6	CP 274 Software Design
Fall 2022 Block 4	CP 499 Team Software Project
Fall 2022 Block 3	CP 122 Computer Science 1
Fall 2022 Block 1	CP 274 Software Design

University of Colorado Boulder (2015 - 2022)

Graduate Part-Time Instructor

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

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2020-2021	CSCI 3002: Foundations of Human-Centered Computing
Fall 2016-2019, Spring 2022	CSCI 1300: Fundamentals of 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*
2017	CSCI 1300: Fundaments to Computing 1, *Department of Computer Science, University of Colorado Boulder*

INVITED TALKS

2024	Inclusive Everyday Learning and Living, *Faculty Symposium and Math + CS Fearless Friday Seminar*, Colorado College
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

Conference Organization

2024	Associate Chair, Late-Breaking Work, Program Committee, ACM CHI 2024
2023	Program Committee Member, ACM ASSETS 2023, LBW, CHI 2024
2023	Session Chair, Usability and Research Methods, ACM ASSETS 2023

Academic Reviewer

2018 – present	SIGCSE'18-present, CHI'19-present, DIS'20 – present, TACESS'21- present, IJHCS'21 – present, ASSETS'22-present

Colorado College

2023 - present	Diversity and Equity, Advisory Board
2023 - present	Math & CS Summer Research Committee
2022 - present	Colorado College Career Center- consultation on student opportunities
2022	Math & CS Capstone Committee

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

Student Volunteer

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

PRESS

2023	CC Course Emphasizes Human-Computer Interaction through Hands-on Learning, 2023, *CC Stories*
2022	How on Earth Radio Show, CU Boulder Graduates, 2022
2022	Presenting tomorrow's leaders: The class of 2022, *CU Boulder Today*
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

Summer 2023	*Yael Homa, Vlad Palma, Eric Uerling,* B.S., *Colorado College*
Spring 2023	*Ellen Moore*, B.S., *Colorado College*
2021 – 2022	*Mary Yoder*, B.S., *University of Colorado Boulder*
2018-2022	*Vinitha Gadiraju*, Ph.D., *University of Colorado Boulder*
2018-2020	*Gabriella Johnson*, M.S, *University of Colorado Boulder*