

Sarah Sterman

Assistant Professor
Siebel School of Computing and Data Science
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

ssterman@illinois.edu
ssterman.web.illinois.edu

*Human-Computer Interaction · Computer Science Education ·
Creative Process · Creativity Support Tools*

EDUCATION

2022	Ph.D.	Computer Science Designated Emphasis in New Media <i>Advisor:</i> Eric Paulos <i>Thesis:</i> Process-Sensitive Creativity Support Tools	University of California, Berkeley
2016	MS	Computer Science	Stanford University
2014	BS	Engineering: Product Design	Stanford University

RESEARCH

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Papers

TOCHI '25 **Sarah Sterman**, Miriam Sturdee, and Angela Miguel. 2025. [Sketching Snapshots: Reflecting on Human-Computer Interaction Education through Sketching](#). ACM Trans. Comput.-Hum. Interact. Just Accepted (October 2025).
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3771924>

acceptance rate: ~15%

C&C '25 **David Zhou**[§], John Gallagher, and **Sarah Sterman**. [Thoughtful, Confused, or Untrustworthy: Perceptions of Generative Writing Support are Influenced by How Text is Displayed](#). In Proceedings of the 17th Conference on Creativity & Cognition (C&C '25). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA.
<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3698061.3726907>

acceptance rate: 20%

** denotes equal contribution*

§ denotes graduate student advisee

- C&C '25 Katherine Lin*, Juna Kawai-Yue*, Adira Sklar, Lucy Hecht, **Sarah Sterman**, Tiffany Tseng. [Crafting a Personal Journaling Practice: Negotiating Ecosystems of Materials, Personal Context, and Community in Analog Journaling](#). In Proceedings of the 17th Conference on Creativity & Cognition (C&C '25). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA. *acceptance rate: 20%*
- C&C '24 **David Zhou**[§] and **Sarah Sterman**. 2024. [Ai.llude: Investigating Rewriting AI-Generated Text to Support Creative Expression](#). In Proceedings of the 16th Conference on Creativity & Cognition (C&C '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 241–254. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3635636.3656187> *acceptance rate: 21%*
- CHI '24 Mina Lee, Katy Ilonka Gero, John Joon Young Chung, Simon Buckingham Shum, Vipul Raheja, Hua Shen, Subhashini Venugopalan, Thiemo Wambsganss, **David Zhou**[§], Emad A. Alghamdi, Tal August, Avinash Bhat, Madiha Zahrah Choksi, Senjuti Dutta, Jin L.C. Guo, Md Naimul Hoque, Yewon Kim, Simon Knight, Seyed Parsa Neshaei, Antonette Shibani, Disha Shrivastava, Lila Shroff, Agnia Sergeyuk, Jessi Stark, **Sarah Sterman**, Sitong Wang, Antoine Bosselut, Daniel Buschek, Joseph Chee Chang, Sherol Chen, Max Kreminski, Joonsuk Park, Roy Pea, Eugenia Ha Rim Rho, Zejiang Shen, and Pao Siangliulue. 2024. [A Design Space for Intelligent and Interactive Writing Assistants](#). In Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 1054, 1–35. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3642697> *acceptance rate: 26%*
- CHI '23 **Sarah Sterman**, Molly Jane Nicholas, Janaki Vivrekar, Jessica R Mindel, and Eric Paulos.  **Best Paper** 2023. [Kaleidoscope: A Reflective Documentation Tool for a User Interface Design Course](#). In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 702, 1–19. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3581255> *acceptance rate: 27%*
- C&C '22 Molly Jane Nicholas*, **Sarah Sterman***, and Eric Paulos. 2022. [Creative and Motivational Strategies Used by Expert Creative Practitioners](#). In Proceedings of the 14th Conference on Creativity and Cognition (C&C '22). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 323–335. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3527927.3532870> *acceptance rate: 24%*
- CSCW '22 **Sarah Sterman***, Molly Jane Nicholas*, and Eric Paulos. 2022. [Towards Creative Version Control](#). Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact. 6, CSCW2, Article 336 (November 2022), 25 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3555756> *avg. acceptance rate: 26%*
- CHI '20 **Sarah Sterman**, Evey Huang, Vivian Liu, and Eric Paulos. 2020. [Interacting with Literary Style through Computational Tools](#). In Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '20). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3313831.3376730> *acceptance rate: 24%*

- DIS '18 Cesar Torres, **Sarah Sterman**, Molly Nicholas, Richard Lin, Eric Pai, and Eric Paulos. 2018. [Guardians of Practice: A Contextual Inquiry of Failure-Mitigation Strategies within Creative Practices](#). In Proceedings of the 2018 Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS '18). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 1259–1267. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3196709.3196795>
- CHI '18 **🏆 Best Paper Honorable Mention** Rundong Tian, **Sarah Sterman**, Ethan Chiou, Jeremy Warner, and Eric Paulos. 2018. [MatchSticks: Woodworking through Improvisational Digital Fabrication](#). In Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Paper 149, 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3173574.3173723> *acceptance rate: 25%*
- TEI '18 Christine Dierk, **Sarah Sterman**, Molly Jane Pearce Nicholas, and Eric Paulos. 2018. [HäirIÖ: Human Hair as Interactive Material](#). In Proceedings of the Twelfth International Conference on Tangible, Embedded, and Embodied Interaction (TEI '18). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 148–157. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3173225.3173232> *acceptance rate: 28%*
- CSCW '17 Joy Kim, **Sarah Sterman**, Allegra Argent Beal Cohen, and Michael S. Bernstein. 2017. [Mechanical Novel: Crowdsourcing Complex Work through Reflection and Revision](#). In Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '17). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 233–245. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2998181.2998196> *acceptance rate: 35%*

Posters (Lightly Peer Reviewed)

- C&C '24 Poster **Mingyan Claire Tian[§]**, **James Eschrich[§]**, and **Sarah Sterman**. 2024. [Designing AI with Metaphors: Leveraging Ambiguity and Defamiliarization to Support Design Creativity](#). In Proceedings of the 16th Conference on Creativity & Cognition (C&C '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 537–541. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3635636.3664250>

Workshops Organized (Lightly Peer Reviewed)

- NAACL '25 Workshop [Fourth Workshop on Intelligent and Interactive Writing Assistants](#) John Chung*, Katy Gero*, Ting-Hao Kenneth Huang*, Vishakh Padmakumar*, **Sarah Sterman***, Thiemo Wambsganss*, and **David Zhou*[§]**. The 2025 Annual Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL 2025).

- DIS '24
Workshop Daragh Byrne*, Kayla Desportes*, Noura Howell*, Marti Louw*, **Sarah Sterman***, and Cesar Torres*. 2024. [Advancing Creative Physical Computing Education: Designing, Sharing, and Taxonomizing Instructional Interventions](#). In Companion Publication of the 2024 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS '24 Companion). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 385–388. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3656156.3658396>
- CHI '24
Workshop Minsuk Chang*, John Joon Young Chung*, Katy Ilonka Gero*, Ting-Hao Kenneth Huang*, Dongyeop Kang*, Vipul Raheja*, **Sarah Sterman***, and Thiemo Wambsganss*. 2024. [Dark Sides: Envisioning, Understanding, and Preventing Harmful Effects of Writing Assistants - The Third Workshop on Intelligent and Interactive Writing Assistants](#). In Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 464, 1–6. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613905.3636312>
- HASTAC '17
Workshop Stanfill, Mel, Jingyi Li, Josh Stenger, Tom Armstrong, and **Sarah Sterman**. 2017. [Digital Humanities Methods and Fan Studies](#). In the Conference of the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory (HASTAC '17).

Refereed Workshop Papers (Lightly Peer Reviewed)

- CHI '25
Position paper [Speculative Design in Spiraling Time: Methods and Indigenous HCI](#). In CHI workshop *Weaving Indigeneity and Culture into the Fabric of HCI Futures*. **James Eschrich**[§], Cole McMullen, **Sarah Sterman**
- DIS '24
Position paper [The aLANa Cooperative: Using Speculative Design to Imagine Alternative Futures for Generative AI](#). In DIS workshop *Mapping Futures and Futuring in HCI and Design*. **James Eschrich**[§], Andrea Watkins, Bhavana Bheem, and **Sarah Sterman**.
- CHI '24
Position paper [Writing Process Graphs as Endpoints for AI Writing Assistance](#). In CHI workshop *Intelligent and Interactive Writing Assistants*. **David Zhou**[§], **Andrew Chen**[§], and **Sarah Sterman**.
- CHI '24
Position paper [A Framework For Discussing LLMs as Tools for Qualitative Analysis](#). In CHI workshop *LLMs as Research Tools: Applications and Evaluations in HCI Data Work*. **James Eschrich**[§] and **Sarah Sterman**.
- CHI '23
Position paper [Perceptions of Process Influence Creativity Support Tool Adoption](#) In CHI workshop *Digital Skills for the Creative Practitioner: Supporting Informal Learning of Technologies for Creativity*. **Sarah Sterman**.
- CHI '23
Position paper [Creative Struggle: Arguing for the Value of Difficulty in Supporting Ownership and Self-Expression in Creative Writing](#). In CHI workshop *Intelligent and Interactive Writing Assistants*. **David Zhou**[§] and **Sarah Sterman**.
- C&C '22
Position talk [Creative Reflection through Interpretive Style Analysis](#). In C&C workshop *Augmenting Personal Creativity with AI*. **Sarah Sterman**.

CHI '18
Position paper Between Technology and Nature: Blurring Boundaries in Outdoor HCI. In CHI workshop *HCI Outdoors: Understanding Human-Computer Interaction in the Outdoors*. Molly Nicholas and **Sarah Sterman**.

GRANTS

Awarded

2024	PI	<u>Teaching Debugging Skills in an Age of LLMs: Version control for process as a “material to think with”</u> <i>Google Academic Research Award</i> <i>\$100,000; Sole PI</i>
2024	Co-PI	<u>BioFoundry: NSF iBioFoundry for Basic and Applied Biology</u> <i>NSF DBI #2400058</i> <i>\$15 million; PI Huimin Zhao, Co-PIs Jonathan Sweedler, Geir Dullerud</i>
2023	PI	<u>Reflective Methods Modules: Growing Reflective Practice among Graduate Students</u> <i>UIUC Provost’s Faculty Retreat Grant</i> <i>\$4000; Sole PI</i>
2017	Awardee	<u>Crowdsourcing Human Judgments of Literary Style</u> <i>Figure Eight’s AI for Everyone Challenge</i> <i>\$25,000; Solo Awardee</i>

INVITED TALKS

2024	Invited Panelist	UIUC Illinois Scholars Undergraduate Research Program <i>Faculty Panel</i>
2024	Invited Panelist	UIUC Reflections Projections: Student Technology Conference <i>HCI Panel</i>
2024	Invited Talk	University of Washington, Machine Agency Lab <i>Talking about ‘Process’ in HCI</i>
2024	Invited Talk	University of California San Diego, The Design Lab <i>Sketching Snapshots: Reflective Sketching for Understanding HCI and Design Education</i>
2023	Invited Panelist	CHI 2023 In2Writing Workshop <i>Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Writing Assistants</i>
2023	Invited Talk	Siebel Center for Design, UIUC <i>Engaging Design in Human Computer Interaction Research</i>
2022	Invited Talk	University of California, Santa Barbara <i>Designing for Process in Computational Creativity Support Tools</i>
2022	Invited Talk	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

2022	Invited Talk	Purdue University <i>Designing for Process in Computational Creativity Support Tools</i>
2022	Invited Talk	Olin College of Engineering <i>Teaching and Learning Process in Computer Science and Design</i> <i>Designing for Process Values in Computational Creativity Support Tools</i>

AWARDS

2024	Google Academic Research Award
2023	Best Paper Award – ACM CHI <i>Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems</i>
2022	Best Paper Award – ACM C&C <i>Conference on Creativity & Cognition</i>
2018	Best Paper Honorable Mention – ACM CHI <i>Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems</i>
2017	Figure Eight “AI for Everyone” Challenge Winner
2016-2018	Berkeley Chancellor’s Fellowship
2016	Berkeley EECS Excellence Award
2016	NSF GRFP Honorable Mention

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

ACADEMIC SERVICE

2026	Associate Chair C&C ’26
2024	Associate Chair CHI ’25 <i>Understanding People (Mixed Methods) subcommittee</i>
2024	NSF Panel Reviewer
2024	Associate Chair DIS ’24 <i>Artefacts and Systems subcommittee</i>
2023-2024	Workshops and Tutorials Co-Chair C&C ’24
2023	NSF Panel Reviewer
2023	Associate Chair DIS ’23 <i>Experiences, Artefacts, and Technology subcommittee</i>
2018	Student Volunteer TEI ’18
2017-2024	ACM Reviewer DIS ’19-24, CHI ’19-24, CHI Play ’17, C&C ’19, CSCW ’19-’21, UIST ’23/’25, ToCHI ’23-25, IJHCS ’24, ToCE ’24 <i>Special Recognitions for Outstanding Reviews: DIS ’20, CHI ’23, DIS ’23, UIST ’23, DIS ’24</i>

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2024-2025	Teaching Improvement and Evaluation Committee
2024-2025	Interactive Computing Seminar Organizer
2023-2025	Graduate Admissions Committee

OUTREACH AND DEI

2023-2024	External Mentor: Hybrid Design and Fabrication REU <i>NSF REU at University of Texas at Arlington</i>
2023	Invited Panelist: NSF CSGrad4US Fellows Mentoring Program Panel <i>new PhD students returning from the workforce</i>
2020-2022	UC Berkeley HCI Research Undergraduate Reading Group – Coordinator <i>undergraduates seeking to get started in research</i>
2017-2021	Bay Area Scientists in Schools – Elementary School Science Outreach Instructor <i>4th and 5th grade classes</i>
2020	Tech and Social Impact – Invited Speaker <i>high school and undergraduate girls interested in STEM</i>
2019	Center for Cyber Education at Mississippi State University, Summer Camp – Invited Author Talk: <i>The Code Witch</i> <i>40 middle schoolers and 40 high schoolers in high poverty areas of Mississippi</i>
2017	Skype a Scientist – Virtual Visit Host <i>high school classes</i>
2016	UC Berkeley Invention Lab Elementary School Outreach – Paper Robots Facilitator <i>elementary school children</i>
2016	UC Berkeley Invention Lab Athena Outreach – Paper Lanterns Facilitator <i>middle school girls</i>
2016	Girls Teaching Girls to Code – Arduino Instructor <i>high school girls</i>
2014	Girls Teaching Girls to Code – Web Development Instructor <i>high school girls</i>
2013	Girls in Tech Minneapolis – Invited Author Talk: <i>The Code Witch</i>

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

TEACHING

UIUC

2025	Instructor	CS 598 MPL: Methodological Pluralism
2024	Instructor	CS 598 SPH/SMC: Methodological Pluralism <i>ICES: 4.67/5 (88% departmental rank by type)</i>
2023	Instructor	CS 598 SPH/SMC: Research Methods in HCI <i>Developed new course</i> <i>ICES: 4.74/5 (90% departmental rank by type)</i>

UC Berkeley

2019	Lecturer	CS160: User Interface Design and Development
2019	Graduate Student Instructor	NWMEDIA 203: Critical Making
2018	Graduate Student Instructor	CS61B: Data Structures

Stanford University

2016	Teaching Assistant	CS101: Introduction to Computing Principles
2016	Teaching Assistant	CS247: Human-Computer Interaction Design Studio
2015	Head Teaching Assistant	CS105: Introduction to Computers
2014	Teaching Assistant	CS122: Artificial Intelligence: Philosophy, Ethics & Impact
2014	Teaching Assistant	CS142: Web Applications
2014	Teaching Assistant	CS181: Computers, Ethics, and Public Policy
2013	Teaching Assistant	CS181: Computers, Ethics, and Public Policy
2013	Teaching Assistant	CS103: Mathematical Foundations of Computing
2012	Section Leader	CS106A: Programming Methodology
2012	Section Instructor	CS2C: Introduction to Multimedia Production
2011	Section Instructor	CS1C: Introduction to Computing

GUEST LECTURES

2025	Guest Lecture	iCAN – Excursions in Computing
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2024	Guest Lecture	<i>Engaging Design in Human-Computer Interaction Research</i> iCAN – Excursions in Computing
2022	Workshop	<i>Engaging Design in Human-Computer Interaction Research</i> Teaching Conference for First-Time Graduate Student Instructors <i>Teaching Computer Science</i>
2021	Guest Lecture	Augmenting Human Dexterity (graduate level) <i>Interviewing and Needfinding</i>
2020	Workshop (2 day)	Berkeley Masters in Design (graduate level) <i>Encountering Programming: Hands-On with Foundational Software Tools</i>
2020	Guest Lecture	Augmenting Human Dexterity (graduate level) <i>Interviewing and Needfinding</i>
2019	Guest Lecture	The Beauty and Joy of Computing (undergraduate level) <i>Human Computer Interaction</i>
2019	Guest Lecture	Introduction to Data Visualization (graduate level) <i>Heuristic Evaluation in Data Visualization</i>

TEACHING AWARDS

2020	Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley
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TEACHING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024	Collins Scholar Program, Academy for Excellence in Engineering Education at UIUC
2023	Tufts Listening Project – <i>listening to students' disciplinary thinking</i>
2021	Certificate of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education at UC Berkeley

RESEARCH MENTORSHIP

UIUC - Advising

2023-present	David Zhou	PhD	<i>Advisor</i>
2023-present	Mingyan Claire Tian	PhD	<i>Advisor</i>
2023-present	James Eschrich	PhD	<i>Advisor</i>
2024-present	William Goss	PhD	<i>Co-Advisor</i>
2023-2025	Andrew Chen	MS	<i>Advisor</i>

Next position: Logitech

UIUC - PhD Committees

2023	Wendy Shi	PhD	<i>PhD Committee</i>
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UIUC - Mentorship

2025-present	Hannah Kim	iCAN / MCS	<i>Independent Study</i>
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2024-present	Mayumi Suzue-Pan	Undergraduate	<i>CS STARS</i>
2024-present	Janine Leong	Undergraduate	<i>CS STARS</i>
2024	Arif Demirtas	PhD	<i>Independent Study</i>
2024-present	Jina Hur	PhD	<i>Independent Study</i>
2024	Carl Guo	PhD	<i>Independent Study</i>
2024	Parisa Rabbani	PhD	<i>Independent Study</i>
2023	Shon Shtern	iCAN	<i>Summer Research</i> <i>Next position: MS Columbia</i>
2023	Chenyang Zhang	MCS	<i>Independent Study</i> <i>Next position: PhD Georgia Tech</i>
2023	Zhuoru Li	MCS	<i>Independent Study</i>
2023	Yasmin Isa	PhD	<i>Research Project</i>

UC Berkeley - Mentorship

2020-2021	Jessie Mindel	Undergraduate	<i>Next position:</i> <i>BCNM Fellowship</i> MS MIT Media Lab
2019-2020	Angel Ibarra	Undergraduate	
2020	Michelle Gantos	Undergraduate	<i>Jacobs Design Scholar</i>
2020	Ryan Qiao	Undergraduate	<i>Next Position:</i> MS Berkeley ISchool
2019	Alyse Jones	Undergraduate	<i>Next position:</i> <i>SUPERB REU</i> PhD Virginia Tech
2019	Junghyun Choy	Undergraduate	
2019	Debbie Yuen	Undergraduate	
2019	Resham Khanna	Undergraduate	
2018	Shayna Kothari	Undergraduate	
2018	Tiffany Chien	Undergraduate	
2018	Weiwei Zhang	Undergraduate	
2016-2018	Vivian Liu	Undergraduate	<i>Next position:</i> PhD Columbia
2016-2018	Evey Huang	Undergraduate	<i>Next Position:</i> PhD Northwestern

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2026 - present	Assistant Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2023 - 2025	Research Assistant Professor, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
2023 - present	PI and founder of Process, Interaction, and Creativity Lab (PICL)
2021 - 2022	Student Researcher, Google

