

Samangi Wadinambiarachchi

Human-AI Interaction | Design Thinking
Design Education | HCI | Creativity Support Tools

Williamstown 3016 VIC Australia
samangi.w@unimelb.edu.au | www.samangi.com
linkedin.com/in/samangiwa | Google Scholar
orcid.org/0000-0002-0953-5306

My research investigates the impact of AI-powered design tools on design workflows, with a focus on design fixation and divergent thinking, offering empirical insights into Human-AI co-creativity. I bring a blend of academic and industrial experience spanning the full design lifecycle, from user research and ideation to high-fidelity prototyping and developer guidance. I am a passionate educator committed to inspiring the next generation of designers to craft meaningful, human-centred experiences. I have taught interaction design, user interface development, and emerging technologies at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels across institutions in Sri Lanka and Australia. My teaching practice integrates academic theory with industry-standard UX practices, and I have experience designing and delivering curricula, including lecture modules, practical workshops, and assessment materials. I specialise in mixed-methods research, including interviews, lab-based experiments, design fiction, and experience sampling methods (ESM). Through my research and teaching, I aim to prepare students to critically engage with emerging technologies and design responsibly for human needs.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Human Computer Interaction June 2022 – Present

Thesis submitted April 2026; under examination

School of Computing and Information Systems, The University of Melbourne, Australia

Thesis title: *AI-Powered Creativity Support Tools in Visual Design Work.*

Supervisors: Dr. Greg Wadley and Prof. Jenny Waycott

Bachelor of Design (Hons) (First Class) | Overall GPA: 3.94/4.2 Oct. 2014 – Feb. 2019

Department of Integrated Design, The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka

Class Rank: 1st (*Highest OGPA of the Media and Com. Design Field*)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Casual Academic Tutor and Marker | The University of Melbourne, Australia Feb. 2023 – present

- INFO30005 | Advanced Interface Prototyping (Semester 1 | 2026)
- INFO20005 | User Interface Development (Semester 1 | 2023, 2024, 2026)
- INFO10003 | Fundamentals of Interaction Design (Semester 2 | 2023, 2024, 2025)
- Casual Marker - INFO90006 | Fieldwork for Design (Semester 2 | 2024)

Lecturer (on contract) | The University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka June 2021 – May 2022

Designed and developed curricula, including lecture modules, practical workshops, and assessment materials. Managed course delivery by aligning academic theory with industry-standard UX practices.

- ITC3023 **Human-Computer Interaction** (3 Credits) | 3rd Year Undergraduates
- ITM4213 **Immersive Technologies** (3 Credits) | 4th Year Multimedia Technology Students
- ITM3142 **Digital Marketing** (2 Credits) | 3rd Year Multimedia Technology Students
- EGT2191 **Fundamentals of ICT** (1 Credit, Non-GPA) | 2nd Year Non-ICT Students

Institutional Leadership & Service:

- Served as **2nd Year Academic Coordinator, Committee Member:** Faculty Web Committee; Faculty Prospectus Committee; New Curriculum Development Committee., Team supervisor and a co-coordinator – ITC3561 ICT Project.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Visiting PhD Student | University College London Interaction Center, UK June 2024 – July 2024

Supervisor: Prof. Yvonne Rogers

- Investigated how professional visual designers envision interacting with Agentic AI systems through Design Fiction.

Research Assistant | The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka Jan. 2020 – June 2020

Supervisor: Dr. Anishka Hettiarachchi

- Developed a conceptual framework by synthesising interdisciplinary literature on multisensory stimuli integration within interactive environments to augment the creative expression of design students.

Research Intern | National University of Singapore, HCI Lab Mar. 2019 – July 2019

Supervisor: Prof. Shengdong Zhao

- Created "Good figure guideline", a standardised visual communication protocol to enhance publication quality, and conducted Wacom drawing tablet training sessions for NUS-HCI lab members.
- Completed storyboard and illustrations of the LiveSnippets paper.
- Conducted a literature surveys on Diary studies and experience sampling for the DliveSnippets study, and shadowing for the pilots of MicroAR learning project.

Dissertation – B.Des (Hons) | The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka May 2018 – Sept. 2018

Supervisor: Dr. Sumanthri Samarawickrama

- Title: *Sinhala Traditional Music for Stress Relief: An Interaction Design Intervention.*

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Undergraduate Honours Thesis (Co-supervision) | The University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

- **Rathnayake, R.M.A.T., Weerabahu, W.M.Y.N.B., Harasgama, H.D.R.E.M.** 2021
The Use of Virtual Reality in the Treatment of Acrophobia
- **Sathsara S. Gamage, A. Kalhara, S.** 2021
Investigating the Perceived User Experience of Students on Grade 3 Educational Websites

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH OUTPUT

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.,** Waycott, J., Rogers, Y., & Wadley, G. (2025). Imagining design workflows in agentic AI futures. In *Proceedings of the 37th Australian Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (OzCHI '25)* (pp. 19–35). Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3764687.3764719>.
- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.,** Kelly, R. M., Pareek, S., Zhou, Q., & Velloso, E. (2024). The effects of generative AI on design fixation and divergent thinking. In *Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24)* (Article 380, pp. 1–18). Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3642919>.
- **Wadinambi Arachchi, S.,** & Samarawickrama, S. (2018). Sinhala traditional music of Sri Lanka for stress relief: An interaction design intervention. In *Proceedings of FARU 2018 – "Sustainability for People" Envisaging Multi-disciplinary Solutions* (pp. 431–439). The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.

Manuscripts Under Review

- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.,** Waycott, J., & Wadley, G. (2026). *Reviving Reflection-in-Action: Instilling Designerly Thinking in AI-Supported Ideation through Multimodal Prompting* [Conditionally accepted].
- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.,** Waycott, J., & Wadley, G. (2025). *Asymmetric Encounters with AI: Professional Designers' Perceptions and Integration of AI tools* [Manuscript in revision following peer review]. Submitted to International

Journal of Human-Computer Studies (IJHCS) special issue on user perspectives on AI.

- T S Ratnayake, **S Wadinambiarachchi**, S Schombs, J Eden, D Oeteomo, W Johal, *Grounding Mindfulness in Embodied Tangibles: Review & Framework for HCI Design* [Manuscript under review].
- T S Ratnayake, S Schombs, **S Wadinambiarachchi**, J Eden, D Oeteomo, W Johal, *From Words to Sensations: How Actuated Tangibles Support State Mindfulness* [Manuscript under review].

Workshop Papers & Posters

- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.**, Waycott, J., Kelly, R. M., Rogers, Y., Velloso, E., & Wadley, G. (2024, October). *From ideas to pixels: How GenAI affects UX/UI design* [Doctoral colloquium poster contribution]. School of Computing and Information Systems, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.
- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.**, Waycott, J., Kelly, R. M., Velloso, E., & Wadley, G. (2024, May). *How generative AI affects design work* [Poster presentation]. Generative AI and HCI Workshop, CHI 2024, Honolulu, HI, United States.
- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.**, Waycott, J., Kelly, R. M., Velloso, E., & Wadley, G. (2024, September). *How can GenAI affect design work?* [Poster presentation]. Faculty of Engineering and Information Technology Graduate Research Showcase, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.
- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.**, Kelly, R. M., & Velloso, E. (2022, October). *Can AI-generated images break design fixation?* [Doctoral colloquium poster contribution]. School of Computing and Information Systems, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.

Doctoral Consortium

- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.** (2024, December). *Exploring AI-powered creativity support tools in design work* [Doctoral consortium contribution]. The 36th Australian Conference on Human-Computer Interaction 2024 (OzCHI'24), Brisbane, QLD, Australia.

INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE

Senior Executive UX Designer | Dialog Axiata PLC, Sri Lanka July 2020 – June 2021

- Collaborated on designing user experience strategy for Dialog's digital products by developing information architectures and user journeys; utilised usability testing to refine visual designs and presented product iterations to stakeholders.
- Facilitated workshops for a cohort of 400+ non-designer employees, contributing to the expansion of user-centred design awareness across the company's various departments.

Trainee UX Engineer | 99X Technology, Sri Lanka Nov. 2017 – Mar. 2018

- Designed a bespoke online sales application from the ground up for a prominent apparel brand, enabling the seamless configuration and purchase of customised products using image recognition.
- Delivered high-quality UI development for an enterprise ERP system across Web and Android platforms, ensuring a consistent and intuitive interface for complex business workflows.
- Contributed to the cross-functional brainstorming and conceptualisation phases for innovative digital products developed by Team HEX.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Research & Peer Recognition

- **Special Recognitions for Outstanding Reviews:** CHI 2025 (2 awards), C&C 2025, and C&C 2026 2025 – 2026
- **3-FEIT Minute Thesis (3MT) Finalist:** Faculty of Engineering and IT, The University of Melbourne 2024
- **Third Place:** FEIT Graduate Research Showcase Poster Competition, The University of Melbourne 2024
- **Best Poster Winner:** CIS Doctoral Colloquium, The University of Melbourne 2022
- **Best Speaker:** Dialog Toastmasters Club Speakerthon 2020

Major Scholarships & Funding

- **Diane Lemaire Scholarship:** The University of Melbourne (\$ 4500) 2024
- **ENG&IT Conference Travel Grant and CIS Match Amount:** The University of Melbourne (\$ 4000) 2024
- **Rowden White Scholarship:** The University of Melbourne (\$ 6500) 2022
- **Melbourne Welcome Grant:** The University of Melbourne (\$ 4000) 2022
- **Melbourne Research Scholarship:** PhD Fellowship, The University of Melbourne 2022

National & International Honors

- **Ranked 1st in Field:** Highest OGPA, Media and Com. Design, The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka 2019
- **Dean's List (Semesters 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8):** The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka 2014–2019
- **Special Recognition Award:** National Level Achievements, The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka 2017
- **Selected Student Representative of Sri Lanka:** Roger Hatchuel Academy, Cannes Lions Festival, France 2017

TALKS, WORKSHOPS & DEMOS

- Member of the Organising Committee** | *Mapping the Landscape of AI in Design and Creative Education.* July. 2026
Workshop is held in conjunction with the ACM Creativity and Cognition Conference 2026, London, UK.
- Guest Talk** | *AI-powered Creativity Support Tools in Visual Design.* Nov. 2025
IxD Research group meeting - Aarhus University, Denmark
- Invited participant** | - *Dagstuhl Seminar 25442 Augmenting Human Creativity with AI.* Oct. 2025
Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, Germany.
- FEIT 3MT 2025** | *How AI Tools Can Guide or Misguide Design Thinking.* July 2025
Faculty of Engineering and IT, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Invited talk** | *Where Creativity Meets Technology: HCI Research and Academic Pathways.* Jan. 2025
Next Click 2.0 ICT Society, The University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka Department of ICT| Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- Lightning talk** | *From Ideas to Pixels: How AI affect UX/UI Design.* Oct. 2024
Doctoral colloquium, School of Computing and Information Systems, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Demo** | *How can GenAI affect design work?* Sept. 2024
Cremorne Tech Week Innovation Showcase 2024, Melbourne, Australia
- FEIT 3MT 2024** | *AI Powered Creativity Support Tools in Design Work.* Aug. 2024
Faculty of Engineering and IT, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- Guest Lecture** | *Generative AI and the Future of Creativity Support Tools.* Feb. 2024
Department of ICT| Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- Panel** | *Study Abroad | Postgraduate Discussion.* June 2023
Career Guidance Unit (UG), Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka
- Webinar** | *Postgraduate Opportunities in Australia.* May 2023
Research A|Z organisation, Sri Lanka
- Guest Lecture** | *The Creative Leap: How Generative AI enhance Creativity support.* Feb. 2023
Department of ICT| Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka
- Workshop** | *User Journey Mapping 101.* Oct. 2020
Internal Training session conducted for Employees of Dialog Axiata PLC, Sri Lanka
- Workshop** | *Visual Guidelines and Best Practices for Tableau Users.* Oct. 2020
Internal Training session conducted for 400+ employees at Dialog Axiata PLC, Sri Lanka
- Workshop** | *How to come up with Good Figures for Research Manuscripts.* Apr. 2019
National University of Singapore, Human Computer Interaction Lab, Singapore

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer CHI (2024–2026), OzCHI (2025), C&C (2025–2026), DIS (2025,2023), AI&S (2024), INTERACT (2023)	
Associate Chair – Late-Breaking Work ACM CHI 2023, CHI 2024	2023 – 2024
Primary responsibility for managing the peer-review process for short-form research submissions.	
External Examiner Bachelor of Design (Hons) Dissertation (DC 4007)	2022 – 2023
Department of Integrated Design, The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka	
Consultant National Curriculum Development (Grades 6, 8, 9)	2021
Technology for Life subject, National Institute of Education, Sri Lanka	
Mentor Comprehensive Design Project (Media and Communication Design)	2021
Department of Integrated Design, The University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka	

VOLUNTEERING & LEADERSHIP

Event Co-coordinator Melbourne ACM SIGCHI Chapter	Dec. 2025 – present
Organising Committee Member OceaniaCHI 2025	Mar. 2025 – Apr. 2025
Seminar Coordinator – HCI Group School of Computing and Information Systems	Jan. 2025 – Aug. 2025
Co-President Sri Lankan Graduates' Society (SLGS)	Sept. 2023 – Sept. 2024
Student Volunteer ACM CSCW'22 Conference	Nov. 2022
Media and Communications Organiser Unimelb Sri Lankan Graduates' Society (SLGS)	Sept. 2022 – Sept. 2023
Mentor Sustainable Education Foundation, Sri Lanka. ScholarX'22	2022
Conference Leadership: Co-Chair, Special Interest Groups (2021) and Web Team (2022) for the International Conference on Information and Education Technology (ICIET)	
Chapter Chair Colombo ACM SIGCHI Chapter	Dec. 2021 – May. 2022
Member of the Judging Panel BestWeb 2021 Organised by the LK Domain Registry	2021

CERTIFICATIONS

- **University Teaching** | The University of Hong Kong (via Coursera) 2021
- **Human-Computer Interaction - HCI** | Interaction Design Foundation (online) 2021
- **Innovation Through Design: Think, Make, Break, Repeat** | The University of Sydney (via Coursera) 2021
- **Learn to Program: The Fundamentals** | University of Toronto (via Coursera) 2021
- **VR and 360 Video Production** | Google AR & VR (via Coursera) 2021
- **Introduction to User Experience Design** | Georgia Institute of Technology (via Coursera) 2019
- **CEP Course on Expo Info Design** | Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay, India (in-person) 2017
- **Roger Hatchuel Academy Graduate** | The Cannes Lions School, Cannes, France (in-person) 2017
- **Web Application Architectures** | University of New Mexico (via Coursera) 2014

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Generative AI & Integration:** Stable Diffusion ControlNet, OpenAI APIs Integration, Midjourney, Gemini
- **Visual Design:** Figma, Miro, Adobe CS(Illustrator, Photoshop, InDesign, Premiere Pro, After Effects), Sketch
- **Web Development:** HTML/CSS, JavaScript, Next.js, Chakra UI, Tailwind CSS
- **Data Analysis & Visualisation:** Quantitative: R, SPSS; Qualitative: NVivo
- **Programming & Platforms:** Python, Unity, Git/GitHub

LANGUAGES

Sinhala (Native) | English (Fluent)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- Member, Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) SIGCHI
- Member, Design Research Society (DRS)
- Member, Women Techmakers

REFERENCES

Dr. Greg Wadley

Senior Lecturer

School of Computing and Info. Systems

The University of Melbourne.

greg.wadley@unimelb.edu.au

Prof. Jenny Waycott

Professor

School of Computing and Info. Systems

The University of Melbourne.

jwaycott@unimelb.edu.au

Dr. Nalaka Lankasena

Senior Lecturer

Department of ICT, Faculty of Tech.

University of Sri Jayewardenepura.

nalaka@sjp.ac.lk