

Samangi Wadinambiarachchi

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

Williamstown 3016 VIC Australia
samangi.w@unimelb.edu.au | www.samangi.com
[linkedin.com/in/samangiwa](https://www.linkedin.com/in/samangiwa) | [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=0000-0002-0953-5306)
orcid.org/0000-0002-0953-5306

I am a design researcher in Human-Computer Interaction, with a PhD from the University of Melbourne. My thesis examined how professional designers work with AI-powered creativity support tools, drawing on controlled experiments, qualitative interviews, and design fiction. This work has been published at CHI, Creativity & Cognition, OzCHI, and in the International Journal of Human-Computer Studies. Alongside research, I have taught interaction design and HCI at universities in Australia and Sri Lanka, and practised as a UX designer in industry.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Human Computer Interaction June 2022 – Sep. 2026

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*)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant | Dept. of Mechanical Engineering, The University of Melbourne, Australia Aug. 2026 – present

Supervisor: Dr. Madhurima Das

- This project investigates how GenAI impacts the concepts generated during the initial ideation phase of the design process in human-AI co-ideation, and explore ways to leverage GenAI tools to maximise innovation.

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.
- Conducted a literature review on Diary studies and experience sampling for the DliveSnippets study, shadowing for the pilots of MicroAR learning project and completed storyboard and illustrations of the LiveSnippets paper.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Casual Academic Tutor and Marker | The University of Melbourne, Australia Feb. 2023 – July 2026

- 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 SUPERVISION

External Supervisor and Examiner | The University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka

Sep. 2026 – present

- Supervise a group thesis project for undergraduate honours students.
- Serve as an external examiner for undergraduate honours thesis projects.

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

2021

- **Rathnayake, R.M.A.T., Weerabahu, W.M.Y.N.B., Harasgama, H.D.R.E.M.** The use of virtual reality in the treatment of Acrophobia.
- **Sathsara S. Gamage, A. Kalhara, S.** Investigating the perceived user experience of students on Grade 3 educational websites.

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 brainstorming and conceptualisation of innovative digital products developed by Team HEX.

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH OUTPUT

Journal Articles & Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

- **Wadinambiarachchi, S., Waycott, J., & Wadley, G.** (2026). Asymmetric encounters with AI: Professional designers' perceptions and integration of AI tools. *International Journal of Human-Computer Studies*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2026.103891>
- **Wadinambiarachchi, S., Waycott, J., & Wadley, G.** (2026). Reviving reflection-in-action: Instilling designerly thinking in AI-supported ideation through multimodal prompting. In *Proceedings of the 2026 Conference on Creativity and*

- Cognition (C&C '26)*. Association for Computing Machinery, 359-376. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3803784.3807524>.
- **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. <http://dl.lib.uom.lk/handle/123/17352>

Technical Reports

- Dingler, T., Giaccardi, E., Rick, S., Shklovski, I., and **Wadinambiarachchi, S.** *Augmenting Human Creativity with AI (Dagstuhl Seminar 25442)*. In Dagstuhl Reports, Volume 15, Issue 10, pp. 155-172, Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik (2026) <https://doi.org/10.4230/DagRep.15.10.155>

Extended Abstracts, Workshop Papers & Posters

- **Wadinambiarachchi, S.,** Jung, H., Lupetti, M. L., Dingler, T., Murray-Rust, D., Dove, D., & Ali, E A. (2026). *Mapping the Landscape of AI in Design and Creative Education* Extended Abstract. In Creativity and Cognition (C&C '26), July 13–16, 2026, London, United Kingdom. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3803784.3804470>.
- Frau, V., **Wadinambiarachchi, S.,** & Frich, J. (2026). *Creative Activity Traces in Coding: A Proposed Methodology to Study Creativity of Novice Programmers Using GenAI* [Workshop paper]. Herding CATs: Making Sense of Creative Activity Traces Workshop, CHI 2026, Barcelona, Spain. [Link](#).
- **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. [Link](#).
- **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. [Link](#).
- 🦋 **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. [Link](#).
- 🏆 **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. [Link](#).

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. [Link](#).

Manuscripts in Revision, Under Review & in Preparation

- Ratnayake, T. S., **Wadinambiarachchi, S.,** Schombs, S., Eden, J., Oeteomo, D., & Johal, W. Grounding mindfulness in embodied tangibles: Review & framework for HCI design. [Manuscript under review].
- Ratnayake, T. S., Schombs, S., **Wadinambiarachchi, S.,** Eden, J., Oeteomo, D., & Johal, W. From words to sensations: How actuated tangibles support state mindfulness [Manuscript under review].

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Grants

- **The University of Cincinnati Office of Research Collaborative Research Projects: Pilot Program (International Track)** Speculative Infrastructure for Participatory AI Futures. Investigators: Heekyoung Jung (Role: PI), Maria Luce Lupetti, Tilman Dingler, **Samangi Wadinambiarachchi**. 2026 – 2028

Awards & 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

- Guest Lecture** | *Looking at AI with a Designer's Eye.* Aug. 2026
Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- Organising Committee Lead** | *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 Lecture** | *How to Think Like a Researcher: Design Research Simplified.* Jun. 2026
Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.
- 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.
- Guest Lecture** | *How Generative AI Reshape the UX/UI Design Landscape.* Jan. 2025
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 <i>AI Powered Creativity Support Tools in Design Work.</i>	Aug. 2024
Faculty of Engineering and IT, The University of Melbourne, Australia.	
Guest Lecture <i>The Effects of Generative AI on Design Fixation and Divergent Thinking.</i>	June 2024
User Interface Development Subject - The University of Melbourne, Australia	
Guest Lecture <i>Generative AI and the Future of Creativity Support Tools.</i>	Feb. 2024
Department of ICT Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.	
Panel <i>Study Abroad Postgraduate Discussion.</i>	June 2023
Career Guidance Unit (UG), Department of Integrated Design, University of Moratuwa, Sri Lanka.	
Webinar <i>Postgraduate Opportunities in Australia.</i>	May 2023
Research A Z organisation, Sri Lanka.	
Guest Lecture <i>The Creative Leap: How Generative AI enhance Creativity support.</i>	Feb. 2023
Department of ICT Faculty of Technology, University of Sri Jayewardenepura, Sri Lanka.	
Workshop <i>User Journey Mapping 101.</i>	Oct. 2020
Internal Training session conducted for Employees of Dialog Axiata PLC, Sri Lanka.	
Workshop <i>Visual Guidelines and Best Practices for Tableau Users.</i>	Oct. 2020
Internal Training session conducted for 400+ employees at Dialog Axiata PLC, Sri Lanka.	
Guest Lecture <i>How to Think Like a Designer.</i>	Mar. 2020
Academy of Design, Colombo, Sri Lanka	
Workshop <i>How to come up with Good Figures for Research Manuscripts.</i>	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) International Conference on Innovation and Emerging Technologies (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
• 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

TECHNICAL SKILLS

-
- **Generative AI & Integration:** Stable Diffusion ControlNet, OpenAI APIs Integration, Midjourney, Gemini, Claude
 - **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
--	---	---