Ha-Kyung (Hidy) **Kong**

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Rochester Institute of Technology   *Rochester, NY*

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR   *Fall 2023 -*

Education

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign   *Champaign, IL*

PHD IN COMPUTER SCIENCE   *Aug 2019*

Advisor: Dr. Karrie Karahalios

Calvin College   *Grand Rapids, MI*

B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE (WITH HONORS DISTINCTION)   *May 2013*

B.A. IN MUSIC (WITH HONORS DISTINCTION)

Research Interests

My research in Human-Computer Interaction aims to facilitate communication through visualizations. I design, build, and evaluate interactive systems to study people's perceptions and usage of data visualization in various domains including healthcare and the media.

Research and Professional Experience

Assistant Professor   *Seattle, WA*

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY   *Fall 2019 - Spring 2023*

- Taught courses including data structures, discrete math, UX design, and visual analytics
- Advised individual students and capstone groups, served on various committees
- Conducted research on infographics with master and undergraduate students

Research Assistant   *Champaign, IL*

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA CHAMPAIGN   *Fall 2016 - Spring 2019*

- Iteratively developed the design for a Family Behavior Support app (FBSapp) and implemented the app in Swift
- Held bi-weekly meetings with special education professors and graduate students to develop the FBSapp

Research Intern   *San Francisco, CA*

ADOBE CREATIVE TECHNOLOGIES LAB   *Summer 2016, 2017*

- Studied presenters' preferences and uses of visual cues that guide the audience's attention to a particular area of a visualization. Developed a visual cue taxonomy and a visual cue webtool (VisualQ).
- Studied frames and slants in visualization titles and how they affect visualization interpretation.

Website Developer   *Grand Rapids, MI*

CALVIN COLLEGE   *Summer 2012 - Spring 2013*

- Designed and implemented the parsing of a hymn database website
- Worked with different types of XML files and published books on Amazon and iBook

Publications

Journal articles (peer-reviewed)

[J.8] **Kong, H. K.**, Zainab, F., Turner, A., Bekemeier, B., & Backonja U. (2025). "Trends in and effectiveness of infographics for health communication: A scoping review." Health Communication. (18% acceptance rate)

[J.7] Cullen, R., Heitkemper, E., Backonja, U., Bekemeier, B., & **Kong, H. K.** (2024). "Designing an infographic webtool for public health." In Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA).

[J.6] Do, H., **Kong, H. K.**, Tetali, P., Karahalios, K., & Bailey, B. (2023). "Inform, Explain, or Control: Techniques to Adjust End-User Performance Expectations for a Conversational Agent Facilitating Group Chat Discussions." In Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact, 1(CSCW).

[J.5] Do, H., **Kong, H. K.**, Tetali, P., Lee, J. & Bailey, B. (2022). "To Err is AI: Imperfect Interventions and Repair in a Conversational Agent Facilitating Group Chat Discussions." In Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact, 1(CSCW).

[J.4] Do, H., **Kong, H. K.**, Lee, J. & Bailey, B. (2022). "How Should the Agent Communicate to the Group? Communication Strategies of a Conversational Agent in Group Chat Discussions." In Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact, 1(CSCW).

[J.3] **Kong, H. K.***, Lee, J.*, & Karahalios, K. (2017). "A Comparative Study of Visualizations with Different Granularities of Behavior for Communicating about Autism." In Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact, 1(CSCW), 59-1. (27% acceptance rate)
*Both authors contributed equally to this work

[J.2] Rahman, S., Aliakbarpour, M., **Kong, H. K.**, Blais, E., Karahalios, K., Parameswaran, A., & Rubinfield, R. (2017). "I've seen enough: incrementally improving visualizations to support rapid decision making." In Proceedings of the VLDB Endowment, 10(11), 1262-1273.

[J.1] **Kong, H. K.**, Liu, Z., & Karahalios, K. (2017, June). "Internal and external visual cue preferences for visualizations in presentations." In Computer Graphics Forum (Vol. 36, No. 3, pp. 515-525). (27% acceptance rate)

Conference proceedings (peer-reviewed)

[C.14] **Kong, H. K.**, Lowy, R., Choi, Y., & Kim, J. G. "Working Together Toward Interdependence: Chatbot-Based Support for Balanced Social Interactions Between Neurodivergent and Neurotypical Individuals." In Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. ACM. (24.9% acceptance rate)

[C.13] **Kong, H. K.**, Xie, D., Chandra, A., Lowy, R., Maignan, A.F., Ha, S., Park, C.H., & Kim, J. G. "Co-designing Robot Dogs with and for Neurodivergent Individuals: Opportunities and Challenges." In The 26th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '24). (30.0% acceptance rate)

[C.12] **Kong, H. K.**, Yadav, S., Lowy, R., Ruzinov, D. & Kim, J. G. "Understanding web search practices of neurodiverse young adults to support their independence." In Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. ACM. (26.3% acceptance rate)

[C.11] Jung G., Oh J., Jung Y., Sun J., **Kong, H. K.**, & Lee U. "Good Enough!": Flexible Goal Achievement with Margin-based Outcome Evaluation." In Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. ACM. (26.3% acceptance rate)

[C.10] Kim, J. G., **Kong, H. K.**, Hong, H, & Karahalios, K. "Enriched Social Translucence in Medical Crowdfunding." In Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Designing Interactive Systems (DIS). ACM. (24% acceptance rate)

[C.9] **Kong, H. K.** & Karahalios, K. "Addressing Cognitive and Emotional Barriers in Parent-Clinician Communication through Behavioral Visualization Webtools." In Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. ACM. (24.3% acceptance rate)

[C.8] **Kong, H. K.**, Liu, Z., & Karahalios, K. "Trust and Recall of Information across Varying Degrees of Title-Visualization Misalignment." In Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (p. 346). ACM. (23.8% acceptance rate)

[C.7] **Kong, H. K.**, Zhu, W., Liu, Z., & Karahalios, K. "Understanding Visual Cues in Visualizations Accompanied by Audio Narrations." In Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (p. 50). ACM. (23.8% acceptance rate)

[C.6]   **Kong, H. K.**, Liu, Z., & Karahalios, K. "Frames and Slants in Titles of Visualizations on Controversial Topics." In Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (p. 438). ACM. (25.7% acceptance rate)

[C.5]   **Kong, H. K.**, & Karahalios, K. "Parental Perceptions, Experiences, and Desires of Music Therapy." In AMIA Annual Symposium Proceedings (Vol. 2016, p. 1870). American Medical Informatics Association.

[C.4]   Lee, J., **Kong, H. K.**, Lin, S., & Karahalios, K. "Plexlines: Tracking Socio-communicative Behaviors Using Timeline Visualizations." In AMIA Annual Symposium Proceedings (Vol. 2016, p. 1890). American Medical Informatics Association.

[C.3]   **Kong, H. K.***, Lee, J.*, Ding, J., & Karahalios, K. "EnGaze: Designing Behavior Visualizations with and for Behavioral Scientists." In Proceedings of the 2016 ACM Conference on Designing Interactive Systems (DIS, pp. 1185-1196). ACM. (26% acceptance rate)

[C.2]   Kim, J. G., **Kong, H. K.**, Karahalios, K., Fu, W. T., & Hong, H. "The power of collective endorsements: credibility factors in medical crowdfunding campaigns." In Proceedings of the 2016 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 4538-4549). ACM. (23.4% acceptance rate)

[C.1]   **Kong, H. K.**, Wu, Y. W., Bailey, B., & Karahalios, K. (2015). "Culture, Imagined Audience, and Language Choices of Multilingual Chinese and Korean Students on Facebook." In International Conference on Social Informatics (pp. 1-16). Springer, Cham.

Short Papers, Workshops, and Posters (peer-reviewed)

La, H., Li, Z., **Kong, H. K.**, & Peiris, R. L. "Exploring the Efficacy of a Chatbot Training Application in Alleviating Graduate Students' Public-Speaking Anxiety During Q&A." In Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (2025, April, pp. 1-7). (32.8% acceptance rate)

Kong, H. K., Zhu, R., Lu, A. Z., He, M., & Yuwen, W. "The Effects of Data Visualization on User Perceptions of a Health Chatbot." 13th workshop on Visual Analytics in Healthcare 2022.

Selected Honors, Awards & Grants

2025-2026	**Connect Grant - AdvanceRIT:** Mini Program for Emerging Women Researchers on Improving VRI. **PI**: Ha-Kyung Kong **Total**: $2,990 (USD)
2025	**Special Recognition for Outstanding Review** CHI 2025x2, 2023x2, 2021; CHI LBW 2025; DIS 2025; CSCW 2024
2022-2026	**NSF CISE CRII Award:** Visualization-Based Multimodal Data Analysis for Qualitative Research. **PI**: Ha-Kyung Kong **Total**: $174,734 (USD)
2020,2021	**Undergraduate Student/Faculty Research Support Award (Seattle University)** **Total**: $12,447 (USD)
2018-2019	**Marion Morse Wood Fellowship** **Total**: $12,000 (USD) stipend with full-tuition coverage
2017	**Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing (GHC) Student Scholarship**
Fall 2014	**Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**
2013	**CCA Computing Award** Awarded to the top graduating senior in computer science
2009-2013	**Trustee Scholarship** Awarded to top 3% of first-year students accepted

Teaching Experience

Instructor   *Rochester*, NY
Rochester Institute of Technology   *Fall 2023 – present*
- HCIN 610 —Foundations of Human-Computer Interaction (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)
- HCIN 620 —Information and Interaction Design (Fall 2025)
- HCIN 630 —Usability Testing (Fall 2024)

Instructor

Seattle, WA

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY

Fall 2019 – Spring 2023

- CPSC 2430 —Data Structures (Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Winter 2021, Fall 2021)
- CPSC 2600 —Foundations of Computer Science (Fall 2021, Winter 2022)
- CPSC 3400 —Languages and Computation (Winter 2023)
- CPSC 4220/5220 —User Experience Design (Spring 2021, Spring 2022)
- CPSC 5320 —Visual Analytics (Winter 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

Teaching Assistant

Champaign, IL

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA CHAMPAIGN

Fall 2013 – Spring 2016

- INFO103 (≈ 40 students) – Created and graded a machine problem, led weekly lab sections
- CS101 (≈ 700 students) - Led two weekly lab sections of 40 students
- CS467 - Social Visualizations (≈ 90 students) - Reviewed the weekly paper critiques & mentored and evaluated design projects

Invited Talks

ROCHESTER INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- GCCIS PhD Colloquium Series - Trust and Bias: Guiding Communication through Visualizations - 9/20/2024
- iSchool Insights Seminar - Trust and Bias: Guiding Communication through Visualizations - 2/29/2024

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
- BIME 533 [Public Health and Informatics] - Public Health Infographics - 02/02/2021, 02/01/2022, 02/14/2023

KOREA MILITARY ACADEMY
- Seminar - Addressing Cognitive and Emotional Barriers in Parent-Clinician Communication through Visualization Webtools - 09/28/2021

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
- CS 4803 [Personal Health Informatics] - Guiding Communication through Data Visualizations - 02/17/2021

KOREA ADVANCED INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
- IE481 [Data Visualization] - Guiding Communication through Data Visualizations - 06/18/2020

SEATTLE UNIVERSITY
- CPSC 5890 [Seminar] - Guiding Communication through Data Visualizations - 05/20/2020

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA CHAMPAIGN
- CS598KGK [Social Spaces] - Misinformation and Consequences - 9/13/2018
- CS598KGK - Public Displays and Performance - 9/12/2017
- CS467 [Social Visualization] - NLP, Sentiment Analysis, Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition - 03/29/2016
- CS467 - Ethics and Privacy - 11/18/2014
- CS467 - NLP, Sentiment Analysis, Machine Learning and Pattern Recognition - 10/28/2014
- CS467 - Audio-Video Systems - 10/21/2014
- CS105 [Intro Computing]- Recursion - 11/11/2013

Academic and Community Services

Associate Chair	CHI 2022-2026
Program Committee	COMPSAC 2019
Funding Reviewer	NSF Proposal Review Panel 2021, The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) 2021
Reviewer	CSCW 2022, 2024 & 2025, PacificVis 2025, Digital Health 2025, TiiS 2025, IJHCI 2025, DIS 2023-2024, Health Communication 2024, VIS 2018 & 2020-2023, TVCG 2022, CHI 2018-2022, SIGGRAPH 2021, CGA 2020, C&C 2019, AMIA 2017 & 2019, JAMIA 2018
Mentor	Girls who Code, San Francisco, U.S.A., Summer 2016
Student Volunteer	2018 ACM CSCW, Jersey City, U.S.A., Nov 2018
RIT - University Committee	Institutional Review Board Member, Outstanding Educator Committee, iSchool Staff and Faculty Development Committee
SU - University Committee	Office of Sponsored Projects Advisory Committee, CS Professionalism and DEI Committee, Boeing Diversity Committee