

Humphrey Curtis

humphreycurtis@gmail.com | humphreycurtis.github.io | github.com/HumphreyCurtis | linkedin.com/in/humphreycurtis1
London, UK · Open to relocation

ABOUT

I am a Research Associate at King's College London and completed my PhD within the Human-Centred Computing Research Group under Timothy Neate and Rita Borgo. My PhD research focused on wearable and discreet augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) technologies for people with aphasia following stroke. Through participatory design across disadvantaged London communities, I explored how smartwatches and smart badges can serve as wearable communication safety nets during moments of stress and breakdown, while identifying limitations of smartglasses due to cognitive load. More recently, my work has engaged with the growing role of generative AI in accessibility. During an internship at Microsoft Research, I worked on remote meeting agents for Microsoft Teams to support chronically ill people in maintaining employment and social connection. I am now developing Advokit, an inclusive GenAI-enhanced toolkit co-designed with people with aphasia to support access to public services, including benefit navigation, community stories and language assistance tools.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Microsoft Research Ability Team; Research Intern Mentored by Dr Martez Mott	Seattle, USA 06/2024–09/2024
Lucky Beans Childcare Limited Freelance Web Development	London, UK 06/2019–09/2019
Plenum Group Interim Executive Search	London, UK 06/2018–09/2018
Santander Work Experience; Corporate Finance (Healthcare)	London, UK 06/2016–09/2016
EuroABS Work Experience	London, UK 06/2015–09/2015
Bank of America Merrill Lynch Insight Week	London, UK 02/2015

EDUCATION

King's College London Research Associate, Department of Informatics, Human-Centered Computing Group Supervised by Dr Filip Bircanin and Dr Timothy Neate Advokit research project: Envisioning and building inclusive AI-enhanced digital access to public services	London, UK 11/2025–Present
King's College London PhD in Computer Science, Department of Informatics (Awarded 2026) Supervised by Dr Timothy Neate and Dr Rita Borgo Departmental profile: www.kcl.ac.uk/people/humphrey-curtis	London, UK 09/2021–2026
King's College London MSc Advanced Computer Science; Distinction	London, UK 09/2020–09/2021
University of Bristol MSc Computer Science; Merit	Bristol, UK 09/2019–09/2020
Institut d'Études Politiques de Grenoble Year Abroad; Distinction	Grenoble, France 09/2017–09/2018
University of Exeter BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics; First Class	Exeter, UK 2015–2019
Dulwich College Secondary Education	London, UK 2009–2015

AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 2026 ACM SIGCHI Outstanding Dissertation Award** – Top doctoral thesis in human–computer interaction.
- 2025 Ken Rothman Award** – Health Research From Home.
- 2025 King’s Doctoral College Fund** – Awarded funds to travel and present at CHI 2025.
- 2024 Best Paper Nomination, ACM ASSETS** – Premier assistive tech venue (top 5 of ~220 submissions).
- 2024 NMES PhD Research Competition Award** – Faculty NMES PhD competition.
- 2023 Best Student Paper Award, ACM ASSETS** – Premier assistive tech venue (top 2 of ~180 submissions).
- 2023 Best Paper Award, ACM CHI** – Premier venue in HCI (top 1% of ~3,500 submissions).
- 2022 SIGACCESS Travel Scholarship** – Funds to travel and present at ASSETS 2022.
- 2021 KCL PhD Studentship** – Departmental scholarship to cover PhD, expenses and living costs.
- 2021 Academic Prize** – Best overall performance on MSc Advanced Computing program.

TECHNICAL SKILLS



Programming: Python; Swift; TypeScript/JavaScript (Next.js, React); HTML; CSS; C; SQL
Web & Infrastructure: HTML; CSS; Git; REST APIs; MongoDB; Firebase; Vercel
AI: LLM integration and prompting; evaluation and monitoring pipelines; safety and guardrail design
Systems & Tooling: Linux; Git; Emacs; Vim
Research & Authoring: LaTeX; Microsoft Office
Media & Design: Figma; DaVinci Resolve; Shotcut; Affinity Suite

PUBLICATIONS

ORCID | Google Scholar

Journal Articles



- J1** Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2025). **Making smartglasses accessible: perspectives and prototypes from co-design with people with aphasia.** *Scientific Reports*, 15, 38309. DOI: 10.1038/s41598-025-22253-2

Technology Reports

- TR1** Beneteau, E., *et al.* (2026). **Adults Using AAC to Inform the Design of Mimetic Agentic AI.** *Microsoft Research Tech Report*. Link. (Second author; contributed participatory design insights to agentic AI systems).

Conference Papers

- C1** Curtis, H., Jenkins, A., Gentry, A., Zacharek, S., McVicker, S., Bircanin, F., & Neate, T. (2026). **”Computer Says No”: Disabled Welfare Experiences and Envisioned Futures Under AI Governance.** Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI ’26), Barcelona, Spain. DOI: 10.1145/3772318.3791025
- C2** Curtis, H., Bircanin, F., & Neate, T. (2025). **”An Old Bastard in Bright Orange Satin!”: Zuzenna’s Aphasia Diary and Lessons Learned from DIY Augmentative and Alternative Communication.** Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS ’25), Denver, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3663547.3746369
- C3** Mo, T., Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2025). **Life as an International Computer Science PhD Student with Cerebral Palsy.** Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS ’25), Denver, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3663547.3749835
- C4** Curtis, H., Beneteau, E., Cutrell, E., Ford, D., Junuzovic, S., Paradiso, A., Tang, J., & Mott, M. (2025). **”I use video calling in all areas of my life”: Understanding the Video Calling Experiences of Chronically Ill People.** Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI ’25), Yokohama, Japan. DOI: 10.1145/3706598.3713193
- C5** Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2024). **Looking Past Screens: Exploring Mixed Reality and Discreet AAC Devices.** Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS ’24), St John’s, Canada. DOI: 10.1145/3663548.3675655

- C6** Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2024). **Beyond Repairing with Electronic Speech: Towards Embodied Communication and Assistive Technology**. Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24), Honolulu, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3613904.3642274
- C7** Curtis, H., Lau, Y., & Neate, T. (2024). **Breaking Badge: Augmenting Communication with Wearable AAC Smartbadges and Displays**. Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24), Honolulu, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3613904.3642327
- C8**  Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2023). **Watch Your Language: Using Smartwatches to Support Communication**. Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '23), New York, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3597638.3608379
- C9**  Curtis, H., You, Z., Deary, W., Tudoreanu, M., & Neate, T. (2023). **Envisioning the (In)Visibility of Discreet and Wearable AAC Devices**. Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23), Hamburg, Germany. DOI: 10.1145/3544548.3580936
- C10** Curtis, H., Neate, T., & Vazquez Gonzalez, C. (2022). **State of the Art in AAC: A Systematic Review and Taxonomy**. Proceedings of the ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '22), Athens, Greece. DOI: 10.1145/3517428.3544810

Book Chapters

- B1** Curtis, H. & Neate, T. (2026). **Future Directions of AAC: Co-design of Wearable Communication Technologies with Users with Aphasia**. In A. Caute & A. Roper (Eds.), *Augmentative and Alternative Communication in Aphasia*. Routledge (Taylor & Francis).

Late-Breaking Work

- L1** Sattar, S., Curtis, H., & Neate, T. (2024). **Public Assistive Displays: Employing Public Interactive Displays to Improve Public Transport Access 4All**. Late-Breaking Work, ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24), Honolulu, USA. DOI: 10.1145/3613905.3650890

Workshop Papers

- W1** Neate, T., Vincenzi, B., Barros Pena, B., Nevsky, A., Lewthwaite, S., Desai, S., Loizides, F., Curtis, H., & Bircanin, F. (2025). **Accessibility in Austerity: Formulating Strategies for Accessibility Research in Constrained Times**. Proceedings of the 38th International BCS Human-Computer Interaction Conference (BCS HCI '25). DOI: 10.14236/ewic/BCSHCI2025.4

Doctoral Consortium

- D1** Curtis, H. (2022). **Wearable, Discreet, Augmentative and Alternative Communication**. Doctoral Consortium, BCS Human-Computer Interaction (BCS HCI '22), Keele University, UK. DOI: 10.14236/ewic/HCI2022.54

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

6CCS3HCI: Human-Computer Interaction, King's College London	London, UK
Teaching assistant for labs and marker under Dr Timothy Neate, Dr Georgia Panagiotidou & Dr Petr Slovak	2021–2026
7CCSMSDV: Simulation and Data Visualization, King's College London	London, UK
Teaching assistant for labs and marker under Dr Rita Borgo	2022–2025
King's Undergraduate Research Fellowship	London, UK
Research Mentor for Master's and Undergraduate summer thesis projects	05/2023–08/2023

SERVICE & VOLUNTEERING

Aphasia Re-Connect, Roberta Williams Speech and Language Therapy Centre Weekly Charity Volunteer (under Dr Sally McVicker)	London, UK 2021–Present
British Computer Society (BCS) Human-Computer Interaction Conference Associate Chair	Cardiff, Wales 2025
Cockney CHAI Web Chair; designed and maintained the conference website	London, UK 2025
ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS) Student Volunteer (2022–2023); Student Volunteer Chair and Research Mentor (2024)	Athens; New York; St John's 2022–2024
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Student Volunteer	New Orleans, USA 05/2022

REVIEWING EXPERIENCE

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)	2023–Present
ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST)	2023–Present
ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS)	2025–Present
ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS)	2025–Present
BCS Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (BCS HCI)	2025
Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC Journal)	2024
ACM Transactions on Graphics (TOG)	2023, 2024
European Journal of Special Needs Education	2023
ACM Nordic Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (NordiCHI)	2023, 2024
ACM CHI Conference on Play (CHI PLAY)	2023

INVITED TALKS & MEDIA

<i>The Importance of Ethics in HCI, AI, and Assistive Technology</i> University of Oklahoma , HCI module guest lecture	March 2025
<i>Wearable and Discreet AAC Devices to Support Communication</i> Health Research From Home Showcase , Google HQ, King's Cross	February 2025
<i>Participatory Design & AAC: Looking Beyond Prominent Tech for Speech</i> Aphasia Summit , City, University of London	September 2024
<i>Not Everyone Needs a Device Like Stephen Hawking: Looking Beyond Prominent Technologies for Speech</i> HCID Day , City, University of London	September 2024
<i>Interview on UK Disability History Month and Personal Research</i> Enabled in Academia	December 2023
<i>Improving the Accessibility of London Transport</i> Transport for London (TfL)	November 2023
<i>Interview on Wearable AAC Devices</i> Electronic Specifier Magazine	August 2023

INTERESTS

Reading and Film: I am interested in literature, philosophy, history and cinema. Find me at: Goodreads and Letterboxd.
Sport: I have yet to find a sport I do not enjoy and golf remains the primary one. Represented King's College London and the University of Exeter in BUCS golf. Represented Spencer CC in cricket (4th nationally, 2012) and coached at Battersea Ironsides CC.

Societies and Leadership: Member of the University of Bristol Computer Science Society (2019–20). Former member of PPE Society and Exeter Entrepreneurs Society; served as a Study Abroad Mentor. Completed Excode (2018) and participated in the International Student Initiative at Sciences Po Grenoble (2017–18).

Challenges and Awards: Duke of Edinburgh Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards. Completed National Citizen Service (The Challenge, 2014).