

Laleh Nourian

ln2293@rit.edu [LinkedIn](#) [My Website](#)

SUMMARY A detail-oriented doctoral researcher with four years of experience in user research at the [CAIR Lab, Rochester Institute of Technology](#). Experienced in conducting independent projects on cross-cultural topics, and collaborating on projects related to Deaf culture and Generative AI applications for American Sign Language (ASL) learning. Always eager to learn and expand my skills.

EDUCATION **Ph.D. in Computing and Information Sciences** 2021-expected 2026
[Rochester Institute of Technology](#), Rochester, NY, USA
B.Sc. in Computer Science 2015-2020
Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran, Iran

SKILLS

- **Research Methods:** Interviews, focus groups, diary studies, workshops, surveys, usability testing
- **Tools and Technologies:** ualtrics, Excel, Python, Figma, Miro, and Overleaf
- **End-to-end UX Research and Project Management:** Project design, leadership, recruiting, moderation, analysis, and reporting
- **Communication and Presentation:** Strong writing, verbal, and presentation skills, conducting workshops, training, and mentorship

EXPERIENCE **Doctoral Research Assistant**, Advised by [Dr. Garreth Tigwell](#) 2021–present
[Rochester Institute of Technology](#)

- Conduct literature reviews for project design, resulting in a database of over 200 articles.
- Design, lead, and execute user studies using diverse methods such as user interviews, focus groups, surveys, design studies, and usability testing.
- Conduct research with diverse user groups such as cross-cultural populations, people with disabilities, and educational communities to extract insights that promote inclusive design practices.
- Lead independent research projects by managing timelines, participant recruitment, reimbursements, and mentoring research assistants, to ensure the smooth execution of projects.
- Mentor research assistants, providing directions on tasks through the research process.
- Lead participant recruitment: managed over 80 participants.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams, translating research findings into practical recommendations for product design.
- Analyze research data and author publications in top-tier HCI venues showcasing thought leadership in the field such as CHI, ASSETS, etc.

FINISHED PROJECTS **AI and ASL Education**
Supervised interview and focus group studies with Deaf ASL teachers, providing findings on technical, ethical, and cultural considerations in the development of AI tools for ASL education.
Cultural Considerations in Design and Accessibility Education
Led surveys and interview studies with students to identify gaps in current design education. Articulated recommendations to enhance design curricula, helping future designers gain essential accessi-

bility knowledge and understanding of cross-cultural design practices.

Cultural Awareness in Design Teams

Conducted interview studies with designers of different cultures to uncover the challenges they face within their teams. Formulated recommendations for improving collaboration, communication, and inclusivity in design team dynamics.

Role of Cultural Differences in Accessible Design

Conducted design and interview studies with designers from different cultures, discovering their unique experiences and needs for accessible design. Identified strategies to enhance the effectiveness of accessible design guidelines and tools, promoting more inclusive outcomes.

AWARDS & HONORS

🏆 Honorable Mention Award for full paper (Top 5%) at ACM CHI 2024	Winter 2024
Special Recognition for Outstanding Reviews, ACM CHI 2024 full paper review	Fall 2023
🏆 Honorable Mention Award for full paper (Top 5%) at ACM CHI 2023	Winter 2023
Merit-based PhD scholarship, Rochester Institute of Technology	2021

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Full Papers

- **Laleh Nourian**, Vinaya Naikar, Kristen Shinohara, and Garreth W. Tigwell. 2025. “Investigating the Intersection of Cultural Design Preferences and Web Accessibility Guidelines with Designers from the Global South” (Pre-print). Recently accepted to *the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. 2025
- 🏆 Saad Hassan, Calua de Lacerda Patata, **Laleh Nourian**, Garreth W. Tigwell, Briana Davis, and Will Z. Silver Wagman. 2024. “Designing and Evaluating an Advanced Dance Video Comprehension Tool with In-situ Move Identification Capabilities”. In *Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. [Acceptance rate: 26.3%] (*Honorable Mention Award: Top 5%*) 2024
- Saad Hassan, Caluã de Lacerda Patata, Akhter Al Amin, **Laleh Nourian**, Diego Navarro, Sooyeon Lee, Alexis Gordon, Matthew Watkins, Garreth W Tigwell, and Matt Huenerfauth. 2023. “Exploring the Benefits and Applications of Video-Span Selection and Search for Real-Time Support in Sign Language Video Comprehension among ASL Learners”. *ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS journal)*. 2023
- 🏆 **Laleh Nourian**, Kristen Shinohara, and Garreth W. Tigwell. 2023. “Understanding Discussions Around Culture Within Courses Covering Topics on Accessibility and Disability at U.S. Universities”. In *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. [Acceptance rate: 28.39%] (*Honorable Mention Award: Top 5%*) 2023

Peer Reviewed Short Papers

- **Laleh Nourian**, Yulia Goldenberg, Muhammad Adamu, Vikram Kamath Cannanure, Catherine Holloway, Neha Kumar, Katharina Reinecke, Garreth W Tigwell. 2024. “Challenges and Considerations for Accessibility Research Across Cultures and Regions”. In *Proceedings of the 26th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '24)* 2024
- **Laleh Nourian**, Kristen Shinohara, and Garreth W. Tigwell. 2022. “Digital Accessibility in Iran: An Investigation Focusing on Iran’s National Policies on Accessibility and Disability Support”. In *Proceedings of the 24th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '22)*. [Acceptance rate: 59%] 2022
- **Laleh Nourian**. 2022. “Improving Web and Mobile Accessibility Resources for Iranian Designers”. In *Proceedings of the 24th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and*

<i>Accessibility (ASSETS '22)</i>	2022
• Garreth W. Tigwell, Kristen Shinohara, and Laleh Nourian . 2021. “Accessibility Across Borders”. CHI '21 Workshop: Decolonizing HCI Across Borders.	2021

TALKS AND WORKSHOPS

Lead Workshop Organizer at ASSETS'24 conference	Fall 2024
• Challenges and Considerations for Accessibility Research Across Cultures and Regions	
Guest Speaker at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County	Fall 2023
University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD	
• Presented my Ph.D. research on the role of cultural differences in accessible design and within design teams in the U.S. design industry	
Guest Lecturer Talk in ISTE-266 <i>Design For Accessibility</i> course	Spring 2023
Rochester Institute of Technology	
• Presented my project findings on insights to improve design training and accessibility education to promote better inclusive design	
Poster Presentation at CAIR Lab Open House event	Fall 2022
CAIR Lab, Rochester Institute of Technology	
• Presented my ASSETS '22 poster paper: Digital Accessibility in Iran: An Investigation Focusing on Iran's National Policies on Accessibility and Disability Support	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Paper Reviewing	
• ACM CHI 2025, Late Breaking Work	Winter 2025
• ACM CHI 2024, Full Papers	Fall 2023
• ACM CHI 2023, Late Breaking Work	Winter 2023
Student Volunteer	
• ASSETS 2021, Remote	Fall 2021
Recruiter and Mentor , Rochester Institute of Technology	Summer 2022 – Present
• Recruiting students as research assistants (RAs)	
• Overseeing and managing research assistants' tasks	

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lab Activity Organizer , Rochester Institute of Technology	2022 – Present
• Planning and execution of social events within our lab, providing a collaborative and engaging environment	
Design Experience , Shahid Beheshti University	2018 – 2019
• Designer of the website of the Computer Science Association	
• Graphic Designer of Pardazeh, the science magazines of the Computer Science Association	