

Taewook Kim

taewook@u.northwestern.edu • taewookkim.com • Google Scholar

Research Interests

Human-Computer Interaction, Human-AI Interaction, Creativity Support Tools, User Agency, Controllable AI Systems

Education

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL Sept. 2021 – Present
Ph.D., Computer Science and Communication Studies (GPA: 4.0/4.0) | Advisor: Matthew Kay

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR Sept. 2018 – Nov. 2020
M.Phil., Computer Science and Engineering | Advisor: Xiaojuan Ma

Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea Mar. 2012 – Feb. 2018
B.S., Business Administration
B.S., Computer Science and Engineering Military Service: 2013 – 2015

Industry Experience

HCI Research Intern at **Toyota Research Institute**, Los Altos, CA Jun. 2025 - Sep. 2025
Mentor(s): Matthew Hong and Matt Klenk

- Built *Personagram*, an end-to-end multimodal Vision-Language Model system for product design ideation.
- **Productization**: Currently being refactored for deployment to Toyota designers.
- **Patent**: Filed a patent for the underlying VLM architecture with the Toyota legal team.
- **Publication**: Submitted at *ACM CHI 2026*, a top-tier HCI academic conference.

Visiting Researcher at **Accenture Labs**, San Francisco, CA Jun. 2024 - Sept. 2024
Mentor(s): Manaswi Saha and Jordan Ackerman

- Developed *TranSlider*, an applied AI system for translating complex scientific text into personalized language.
- **Productization**: Currently being refactored by internal engineers for deployment to consultants and clients.
- **Publication**: Published at *ACM CSCW 2025*, a top-tier HCI academic conference.

Visiting Researcher at **Midjourney, Inc.**, San Francisco, CA Mar. 2024 - Sept. 2024
Mentor(s): John Joon Young Chung and Max Kreminski

- Developed *Reverger*, an end-to-end applied AI system for exploring story deviations.
- **Publication**: Submitted at *ACM CHI 2026*, a top-tier HCI academic conference.

Selected Publications

Personagram: Bridging Personas and Product Design to Support Creative Ideation

Taewook Kim, Matthew Kay, and Members of Toyota Research Institute. *Preprint*

Reverger: Scaffolding Creative Idea Exploration through Divergence and Convergence

Taewook Kim, Matthew Kay, and Members of Midjourney. *Preprint*

Steering AI-driven Personalization of Scientific Text for General Audiences

Taewook Kim, Dhruv Agarwal, Jordan Ackerman, Manaswi Saha. *ACM CSCW 2025*

Authors' Values and Attitudes Towards AI-bridged Scalable Personalization of Creative Language Arts

Taewook Kim, Hyomin Han, Eytan Adar, Matthew Kay, John Joon Young Chung. *ACM CHI 2024*

Best Paper Honorable Mention (top 5% among 4,028 submissions)

Opportunities in Mental Health Support for Informal Dementia Caregivers Suffering from Verbal Agitation

Taewook Kim, Hyeok Kim, Angela C. Roberts, Maia Jacobs, Matthew Kay. *ACM CSCW 2024*

Love in Lyrics: An Exploration of Supporting Textual Manifestation of Affection in Social Messaging

Taewook Kim, Jung Soo Lee, Zhenhui Peng, and Xiaojuan Ma. *ACM CSCW 2019*

Skills

Languages: Python, TypeScript, JavaScript

Web Development: React, Next.js, Node.js, Express, Flask, Django, Ngrok