

Yara Hartenstein

Computer science master's student · TU Darmstadt

Email LinkedIn

ABOUT

Hi, I'm Yara, a computer science student in Darmstadt working at the intersection of human–computer interaction and AI, in particular on how technology can cause harm and on the psychological effects it has on the people using it. Away from the screen I'm usually making something with my hands: knitting, crocheting, crafting, painting, or cooking and baking. I go bouldering in the gym, climb on real rock when on holiday, and enjoy playing co-op games on the PC with my husband and friends.

EDUCATION

2024 — now
M.Sc. Computer Science · TU Darmstadt
Thesis (in progress): *Computational Deceptive Design: Personalising Dark Patterns at Runtime with Large Language Models*

2020 — 2024
B.Sc. Computer Science · TU Darmstadt
Thesis: *Measuring the Sense of Presence in Virtual Reality by Analysing Skin Conductance Data While Inducing Fear*

RESEARCH PROJECTS

2026
Redirection in Extended Reality: A Systematic Literature Review of Imperceptible Perceptual Manipulations
Seminar paper

2025
AI Agents with Personality in Augmented Reality
University project
Built the first prototype of an AI agent with its own character, appearing via text, audio or a user-chosen avatar.

2023
Fear in Virtual Reality
Seminar paper
Literature review on fear in VR, forming the related work for my bachelor's thesis.

EXPERIENCE

2022 — now
Tutor & Teaching Assistant · Computer Science, TU Darmstadt
Teaching assistant for Interactions in Virtual and Augmented Realities and Human–Computer Interaction; tutor for Software Engineering.

2024
Student Research Assistant · HCI Lab, TU Darmstadt
Planned and conducted a user study.

2021 — 2022
Mentor · Computer Science, TU Darmstadt
Mentor for first-semester students, including my own workshops.

OTHER PROJECTS

2024 — **Language Server for a New Programming Language**
University project

2023 — **Web Application for Digital Product Passports**
Team project
Python web app with role management; I built the dashboard in JavaScript.

SKILLS

Research	Human–Computer Interaction · Augmented & Virtual Reality · user studies · prototyping · physiological measures (skin conductance) · deceptive design · systematic literature reviews
Programming	C# / Unity · Python · Java · JavaScript
Teaching	Tutoring · workshop design · mentoring
Languages	German (native) · English (fluent)

CERTIFICATIONS

2026 — **Mental Health First Aider (MHFA)**
Central Institute of Mental Health, Mannheim
12-hour course on recognizing mental health crises and guiding people toward support.

VOLUNTEERING

2026 — **Demo Volunteer · CHI 2026**
Helped present the live demo of ShadAR (CHI EA '26).

2021 — 2023 — **Youth Group Leader**
Group leader for children aged 9 to 15.

2017 — 2022 — **Private Tutor**
Tutoring for students aged 12 to 15.