

Curriculum Vitae

Name: Thomas Mildner

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Citizenship: German

Education.

- 2021-2024: University of Bremen – PhD student in Computer Science, Advisor: Prof. Dr. Rainer Malaka
 - 2018-2020: University College Dublin – M.Sc. in Computer Science, Thesis title: Scéalability - Assessing Multi-Agent Storytelling Performances With Amazon's Alexa, Advisor: Prof. Dr. Tony Veale
 - 2014-2017: University of Arts, Bremen – B.A. in Digital Media, Thesis title: Anwendung von Style Transfer Algorithmen auf die Generierung geographischer Karten, Advisor: Prof. Peter von Maydell and Prof. Dr. Johannes Schöning
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Research.

- Researcher at the University of Bremen in the Digital Media Lab led by Prof. Dr. Rainer Malaka
 - Researcher at the University College Dublin in the Creative Language Systems group led by Prof. Dr. Tony Veale
 - Erasmus+ Internship at the University College Dublin in the Creative Language Systems group led by Prof. Dr. Tony Veale
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Academic activities.

I was a student volunteer at the following conferences:

- CHI 2022
- CHI 2023

I presented my research at the following venues:

- AI IN HEALTH Bremen (2023) — “Auf der Schattenseite von Sozialen Medien - Wie Dark Patterns unsere Entscheidungen beeinflussen”
- Portugal Digital Wellbeing Week (2023) — “How Dark Patterns Influence Our Decision Making”

- M-EPLI Talks (2023) — “Uncovering Dark Patterns In Social Media”
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Teaching activities.

I successfully supervised 5 bachelor theses and 1 master thesis.

Teaching at the University of Bremen

- Lecturer for the Seminar “Information Security, Data Protection, and How Dark Patterns Navigate Johnny’s Behaviour”: (2021)

Teaching at the University College Dublin

- TA - Formal Foundations (2019)
 - TA - Software Engineering Project (2019)
 - TA - Computational Creativity (2018)
 - TA - Introduction to Relational Databases and SQL Programming (2018)
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Active memberships in scientific societies, fellowships in renowned academies.

- I am an active member of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), contributing to conferences associated with ACM and serving as an active reviewer in the ACM community and beyond.
 - Moreover, I am an associated researcher of the Early Career Research Academy (ECRA) of the Leibniz Science Campus (LSC) Digital Public Health (DiPH).
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Awards.

- ACM Honourable Mention Award - CHI 2023 in Hamburg, Germany for my paper *About Engaging and Governing Strategies: A Thematic Analysis of Dark Patterns in Social Networking Services*
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Major scientific achievements

I have contributed to and presented my research at many relevant conferences in HCI, such as ACM CHI, ACM DIS, ACM CUI, and MuC. I have published peer-reviewed full articles as a first author and have contributed to other work as a co-author. Furthermore, I co-organised workshops and special interest groups (SIG) at high-ranking conferences in the field:

Scientific Publications.

1. **Mildner, T.**, Savino, G.-L., Schöning, J., and Malaka, R. (2024). Dark Patterns: Manipulative Designstrategien in digitalen Gesundheitsanwendungen. Bundesgesundheitsblatt - Gesundheitsforschung - Gesundheitsschutz. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00103-024-03840-6>
2. Gray, C. M., **Mildner, T.** and Bielova, N. (2023). Temporal Analysis of Dark Patterns: A Case Study of a User's Odyssey to Conquer Prime Membership Cancellation through the 'Iliad Flow' (arXiv:2309.09635). arXiv. <http://arxiv.org/abs/2309.09635>
3. Gray, C. M., Santos, C., Bielova, N. and **Mildner, T.** (2023). An Ontology of Dark Patterns Knowledge: Foundations, Definitions, and a Pathway for Shared Knowledge-Building (arXiv:2309.09640). arXiv. <http://arxiv.org/abs/2309.09640>
4. **Mildner, T.**, Cooney, O., Meck, A.-M., Bartl, M., Savino, G.-L., Doyle, P. R., Garaialde, D., Clark, L., Sloan, J., Wenig, N., Malaka, R. and Niess, J. (2024). Listening to the Voices: Describing Ethical Caveats of Conversational User Interfaces According to Experts and Frequent Users. Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3642542>
5. Zargham, N., Alexandrovsky, D., **Mildner, T.**, Porzel, R., and Malaka, R. (2023). "Let's Face It": Investigating User Preferences for Virtual Humanoid Home Assistants". International Conference on Human-Agent Interaction, 246–256. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3623809.3623821>
6. **Mildner, T.**, Freye, M., Savino, G.-L., Doyle, P. R., Cowan, B. R. and Malaka, R. (2023). Defending Against the Dark Arts: Recognising Dark Patterns in Social Media. Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference, 2362–2374. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3563657.3595964>
7. **Mildner, T.**, Savino, G.-L., Doyle, P. R., Cowan, B. R. and Malaka, R. (2023). About Engaging and Governing Strategies: A Thematic Analysis of Dark Patterns in Social Networking Services. Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 1–15. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3580695>
8. Stefanidi, E., Bentvelzen, M., Woźniak, P. W., Kosch, T., Woźniak, M. P., **Mildner, T.**, Schneegass, S., Müller, H. and Niess, J. (2023). Literature Reviews in HCI: A Review of Reviews. Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 1–24. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3581332>
9. Wagener, N., Reicherts, L., Zargham, N., Bartłomiejczyk, N., Scott, A. E., Wang, K., Bentvelzen, M., Stefanidi, E., **Mildner, T.**, Rogers, Y. and Niess, J. (2023). SelVReflect: A Guided VR Experience Fostering Reflection on Personal Challenges. Proceedings

of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 1–17.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3580763>

10. **Mildner, T.**, Doyle, P., Savino, G.-L. and Malaka, R. (2022). Rules Of Engagement: Levelling Up To Combat Unethical CUI Design. 4th Conference on Conversational User Interfaces, 1–5. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3543829.3544528>
11. **Mildner, T.** and Savino, G.-L. (2021). Ethical User Interfaces: Exploring the Effects of Dark Patterns on Facebook. In Extended Abstracts of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1–7). Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3411763.3451659>
12. Veale, T., Wicke, P. and **Mildner, T.** (2020). Duets Ex Machina: On The Performative Aspects of “ Double Acts ” in Computational Creativity.
13. Reinschluessel, A. V., Teuber, J., Herrlich, M., Bissel, J., Van Eikeren, M., Ganser, J., Koeller, F., Kollasch, F., **Mildner, T.**, Raimondo, L., Reisig, L., Ruedel, M., Thieme, D., Vahl, T., Zachmann, G. and Malaka, R. (2017). Virtual Reality for User-Centered Design and Evaluation of Touch-free Interaction Techniques for Navigating Medical Images in the Operating Room. Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2001–2009.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3027063.3053173>

Workshops, Symposia, and SIGs.

- Gray, C. M., Gunawan, J., Schäfer, R., Bielova, N., Chamorro, L. S., Seaborn, K., **Mildner, T.**, and Sandhaus, H. (2024). Mobilizing Research and Regulatory Action on Dark Patterns and Deceptive Design Practices. Extended Abstracts of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 1–6.
- Gray, C. M., Santos, C. T., Tong, N., **Mildner, T.**, Rossi, A., Gunawan, J. T., and Sindors, C. (2023). Dark Patterns and the Emerging Threats of Deceptive Design Practices. Extended Abstracts of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544549.3583173>
- Avanesi, V., Rockstroh, J., **Mildner, T.**, Zargham, N., Reicherts, L., Friehs, M. A., Kontogiorgos, D., Wenig, N. and Malaka, R. (2023). From C-3PO to HAL: Opening The Discourse About The Dark Side of Multi-Modal Social Agents. Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Conversational User Interfaces, 1–7. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3571884.3597441>