

Alejandra Rodriguez Vega, Ph.D, UX Researcher

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WORK EXPERIENCE

UX Researcher - Study Coordinator March 2025 – Present

Apple • Contract

Sunnyvale, CA (Tactical Human-Computer Interaction Research – **Vision Pro Hardware**)

- Lead usability studies for **Apple Vision Pro's Persona feature**, a real-time 3D avatar system for immersive video communication.
- Conduct research to evaluate **Persona Enrollment workflows**, gathering **feedback and behavioral insights** to refine the end-user experience.
- Design and execute **surveys, in-depth user interviews, observational studies and A/B testing**, to assess **performance** and **user satisfaction** across diverse hardware environments and lighting conditions.
- **Collaborate with cross-functional teams**, including hardware **engineering, computer vision, and design**, to improve system-level performance and fidelity of Personas.
- Support data analysis pipelines and help translate findings into **actionable recommendations for refinement and product usability**.
- Contribute to ongoing **improvements in research operations to reduce human error**, including protocol documentation, testing setup efficiency, and multi-device study reliability.

User Experience Researcher 2018 — February 2025 (Foundational Research)

Starbucks (via ASU). Tempe, Arizona

- **Led user research for a strategic innovation** partnership between **Starbucks** and Arizona State University, supporting the development of new products and experiences for **Gen-Z consumers across food, beverage, and retail environments**.
- **Designed and executed mixed-method research** using **interviews (n=10–30), surveys (n=100+), usability testing, card sorting, diary studies, and co-creation workshops (10–50 participants)** to uncover user needs, **behavioral trends, and emerging expectations**.
- **Partnered with design, product, and marketing teams** to translate insights into **actionable product strategies**, driving alignment between customer needs and business objectives.
- **Delivered research findings** through clear, stakeholder-facing artifacts and presentations, **enabling data-informed decisions on product features**, service design, and future innovation planning.

Graduate Teacher Assistant Jan 2020 — May 2024

Arizona State University. Tempe, Arizona

- Taught and supported 120 undergraduate students across five introductory UX courses covering product design processes, principles, and web design.
- Co-led and defined course development, grading, and class facilitation, ensuring a structured and engaging learning experience alongside faculty.
- Fostered a collaborative and creative classroom environment, encouraging critical thinking and problem-solving in design.

SKILLS

Research Methods

Survey Design & Analysis, User Interviews, Usability Testing, Diary Studies, Ethnographic Field Studies, Cultural Probes, Focus Groups, Rapid Testing, Literature Reviews, Stakeholder Workshops, A/B Testing, Collaborative & Speculative Design, Design Fiction, Rapid Prototyping, Thematic Analysis, Affinity Diagrams, Card Sorting.

Research Tools

Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Excel

Additional Tools & Skills

Figma, Mural, Miro, Photoshop, Illustrator, Blender, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Python, Arduino, OptiTrack MOCAP

EDUCATION

Arizona State University

Ph.D in Human-Computer Interaction

2020 — 2024

Graduate Completion Fellowship

Arizona State University

MA in Media, Arts, and Sciences

2018 — 2019

Outstanding Graduating Student

North Carolina State University

BA in Communication Media

2012 — 2016

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Alejandra Rodriguez Vega, and Stacey Kuznetsov. 2025 Dream Drone: Crowd-based Storytelling as a Tool for Design Reflection. In Leonardo - MIT Press. 2025

Stacey Kuznetsov, Alejandra Rodriguez Vega, and Elenore Long. 2022. [A Study of Solar Cooking: Exploring Climate-Resilient Food Preparation and Opportunities for HCI](#). In Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22). New Orleans, Louisiana USA.

Heesun Kim, Kyle Hoefer, Alejandra Rodriguez Vega, and Stacey Kuznetsov. 2019. [Drogon, the Thermal-Sensing Drone: Exploring Aerial Imagery as a Tool for Citizen Science Research](#). In Companion Publication of the 2019 on Designing Interactive Systems Conference 2019 (DIS '19). San Diego, California USA.

DISSERTATION

Exploring Collaborative Design Through Storytelling and Ideation ([link](#))

Arizona State University

CONFERENCES CONTRIBUTIONS

Reviewer , [ACM CHI](#) (2023) Honolulu, Hawaii

Area chair, [ACM DIS](#) (2023) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Presenter: [A Study of Solar Cooking](#), [ACM CHI](#) (2022) New Orleans, Louisiana

Area Chair, [ACM DIS](#) (2021) Online

Works in Progress Chair, [TEI](#) (2019) Tempe, Arizona

Presenter: [Drogon, the Thermal- Sensing Drone](#) [ACM DIS](#)(2019) San Diego, California