

# Azin Semsar

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## EDUCATION

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### Ph.D., Human-Centered Computing

2016-2021

University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Baltimore, Maryland

Advisors: Dr. Helena Mentis, Dr. Andrea Kleinsmith

Dissertation: Understanding socio-technical aspects of telementoring in surgical training

### M.S., Information Technology Engineering

2013-2016

Sharif University of Technology

Tehran, Iran

Advisor: Dr. Aliasghar Nazari Shirehjini

Thesis: Investigating the effect of interaction conflicts on users' trust in mixed-initiative Ambient Intelligence Environments

### B.S., Information Technology Engineering

2007-2011

Final Project: Design and Implementation of the Availability and continuity plan of IT services for IT organization of Isfahan Municipality

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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### Graduate Research Assistant

Under: Dr. Andrea Kleinsmith

Under: Dr. Helena Mentis

Department of Information Systems, UMBC

Fall 2016 - Summer 2018

Fall 2018 - present

### Graduate Research Assistant

Under: Dr. Ali Asghar Nazari Shirehjini

Sharif University of Technology

Fall 2013 - Fall 2015

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

Department of Computer Engineering

Sharif University of Technology

Spring 2014 - Fall 2015

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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Ranked 3rd, the nationwide University Entrance Exam for M.Sc. among 20,000 participants 2013

Ranked 3rd, B.Sc students of IT Engineering among 60 people 2011

Ranked 3rd, M.Sc students of IT Engineering among 32 people 2016

Awarded member, National Elites Foundation (Society of prominent students of the country) 2013-2016

Student scholar, Grace Hopper Celebration Scholarship 2020

## PUBLICATIONS

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Note: Within my discipline, conference proceedings are perceived as having equal or higher impact than journal publications. Conference proceedings are highly selective, peer-reviewed, and archival publications. Paper acceptance rates are indicated wherever they are publicly available.

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL PAPERS.....

- Azin Semsar, Hannah McGowan, Yuanyuan Feng, Hamid Zahiri, Adrian Park, Andria Kleinsmith, and Helena Mentis. 2020. Quality of and Attention to Instructions in Telementoring. To appear in *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact. CSCW, Article 165 (November 2020)*. (CSCW2020).
- Azin Semsar, Hannah McGowan, Yuanyuan Feng, Hamid Zahiri, Adrian Park, Andria Kleinsmith, and

Helena Mentis. 2019. How Trainees Use the Information from Telepointers in Remote Instruction. In *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 3, CSCW, Article 93 (November 2019), 20 pages. (CSCW2019).

4. Yuanyuan Feng, Hannah McGowan, Azin Semsar, Hamid Zahiri, Ivan George, Adrian Park, Andria Kleinsmith, and Helena Mentis. Virtual Pointer for Gaze Guidance in Laparoscopic Surgery. *Surgical Endoscopy*, 2019.
3. Yuanyuan Feng, Hannah McGowan, Azin Semsar, Hamid Zahiri, Ivan George, Timothy Turner, Adrian Park, Andria Kleinsmith, and Helena Mentis. A Virtual Pointer to Support the Adoption of Professional Vision in Laparoscopic Training. *International Journal of Computer Assisted Radiology and Surgery*, 1-10, May 2018.
2. Azin Semsar, and Ali Asghar Shirehjini. Multimedia-supported virtual experiment for online user-system trust studies. *Multimedia Systems*, 23(5), 583-597, 2017.
1. Ali Asghar Shirehjini, and Azin Semsar. Human interaction with IoT-based smart environments. *Multimedia Tools and Applications*, 76(11), 13343-13365, 2017.

#### PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PAPERS.....

5. Helena Mentis, Yuanyuan Feng, Azin Semsar, and Todd Ponsky. 2019. Remotely Shaping the view. In *Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. 2020.
4. Azin Semsar, Hannah McGowan, Yuanyuan Feng, Hamid Zahiri, Ivan George, Timothy Turner, Adrian Park, Helena Mentis, and Andrea Kleinsmith. 2019. Effects of a Virtual Pointer on Trainees' Cognitive Load and Communication Efficiency in Surgical Training. *AMIA Annual Symposium Proceedings 2019. American Medical Informatics Association*. 2019.
3. Yuanyuan Feng, Katie Li, Azin Semsar, Hannah McGowan, Jacqueline Mun, Hamid Zahiri, Ivan George, Adrian Park, Andria Kleinsmith, and Helena Mentis. Communication Cost of Single User Gesturing Tool in Laparoscopic Surgical Training. In *Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 611. ACM, 2019.
2. Azin Semsar, Morteza Malekmakan, Ali Asghar Shirehjini, and Zahra Malekmohammadi. A virtual testbed for studying trust in Ambient Intelligence environments. In *International Conference on Human Aspects of IT for the Aged Population*, 101-111, July 2016.
1. Ali Asghar Shirehjini, Farideh Soltaninejad, Ghazaleh Saniee-Monfared, Azin Semsar, and Shervin Shirmohammadi. Mental Model Development Using Collaborative 3D Virtual Environments. In *International Conference on Distributed, Ambient, and Pervasive Interactions*, 279-290, July 2016.

#### PEER-REVIEWED EXTENDED ABSTRACTS.....

4. Andrea Kleinsmith, Azin Semsar. Perception of Emotion in Body Expressions from Gaze Behavior. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, LBW2416. ACM, 2019
3. Hannah McGowan, Azin Semsar, Yuanyuan Feng, Hamid Zahiri, Ivan George, Timothy Turner, Adrian Park, Andria Kleinsmith, and Helena Mentis. Virtual Pointer for Clarity of Instruction in Telementoring. *Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons*. 2019.
2. Hannah McGowan, Yuanyuan Feng, Azin Semsar, Hamid Zahiri, Ivan George, Timothy Turner, Adrian Park, Andria Kleinsmith, and Helena Mentis. Virtual Pointer as a Telementoring Guidance Aid for Laparoscopic Surgical Training. *Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons*. 2019.
1. Yuanyuan Feng, Hannah McGowan, Azin Semsar, Hamid Zahiri, Ivan George, Timothy Turner, Adrian Park, Andria Kleinsmith, and Helena Mentis. Virtual Pointer for Gaze Guidance in Laparoscopic Surgery. *Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons*. 2018.

#### DOCTORAL CONSORTIUM.....

1. Azin Semsar. Training-the-trainer in tele-instruction on collaborative physical tasks. To appear in *Companion of the 2020 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing*. CSCW '20

## MEDIA COVERAGE

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1. "Communication support technology for training surgeons has promising results" *EurekAlert! Science News Releases*, 2019
2. "Communication support technology for training surgeons" *Medical Xpress - Medical and Research News*, 2019

## RESEARCH MENTORING

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### UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.....

Frances Watson, Computer Science, UMBC (class of 2021)	2019
Johnmuel Casilag, Computer Science, UMBC (class of 2020)	2019
Hannah McGowan, Biological Science, UMBC (class of 2019)	2017-2019
Gabriella Han, Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University	2018
Rojin Najmabadi, Computer Science, UMBC	2018
Aaleyah Lewis, Computer Science, UMBC	2018
Arjun Sharma, Biological Science, UMBC	2017-2018
Ghazaleh Saniee Monfared, Information Technology, Sharif University of Technology	2014-2016
Farideh Soltani Nejad, Information Technology, Sharif University of Technology	2014-2016
Zahra Malek Mohammadi, Information Technology, Sharif University of Technology	2014-2016

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### TEACHING ASSISTANT.....

Human Computer Interaction, Sharif University of Technology	Fall 2014, Spring 2014, Fall 2015
Statistics, Sharif University of Technology	Spring 2015, Fall 2015
Electronic Commerce course, Sharif University of Technology	Spring 2015
Ambient Intelligence, Sharif University of Technology	Fall 2014, Spring 2015

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### CONFERENCE REVIEWING.....

Papers, ACM Mobile CHI Conference	2017
Posters, ACM CSCW conference	2019

### JOURNAL REVIEWING.....

IEEE Transactions on Human-Machine Systems	2019
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### COMMITTEES.....

Organizing Committee: HCC FIKA (Coffee Hour), Department of IS, UMBC	2016-2017
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### OTHER SERVICES.....

Lab Manager assistant: User Studies lab, Department of IS, UMBC	2016-2017
Student volunteer, ACM CSCW Conference	2019
Exhibitor, ISRC User Studies Lab Showcase, Department of IS, UMBC	2019
Exhibitor, Prospective PhD students visit day, Department of IS, UMBC	2020

## EMPLOYMENT

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Front-end development intern Summer 2011  
*IT organization of Isfahan Municipality* *Isfahan, Iran*

## AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

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the American Medical Informatics Association (AMIA): Student Member 2019  
Association for Computing Machinery (ACM): Student Member 2016-2019  
ACM Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction (SIGCHI) 2016-2019  
Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES): Affiliate member 2019