Kenya Z. Mejia

www.linkedin.com/in/kenyamejia/
kmejia@uw.edu

EDUCATION

2023 (expected) **University of Washington**, *Seattle, WA*
Ph.D., Human Centered Design and Engineering (HCDE)

2017 **University of Minnesota-Twin Cities,** *Minneapolis, MN*
M.S., Mechanical Engineering, minor in Product Design

2013 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology,** *Cambridge, MA*
B.S., Mechanical Engineering

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Jan 2019 - Present **University of Washington Center for Engineering Teaching & Learning**
Research Assistant

- Executed design sessions with multiple stakeholders; explored power dynamics situated in socio-historical and identity-based experiences
- Research on reflection in engineering education through survey design and development; Co-design of Exam Wrappers with faculty across 5 higher education institutions.
- Designed a semi-structured interview study, recruited participants, and conducted 12 interviews with faculty in engineering about their inclusive practices.Co-design of Exam Wrappers with Instructors across 5 institutions.
- Research with Seattle University and inclusive practices

June 2020- Present **ABET Accreditation Committee**
Graduate Assistant; Committee Member
Served as a student representative on my departments self-evaluation for applying for accreditation, aiding with research and assessment process develpment

April 2016 - June 2017 **University of Minnesota GroupLens Lab**
Research Assistant
Defined a new metric to evaluate the social value of mediated social touch technologies, the Social Disfordance metric, through a literature review, research and statistical analysis.

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Conference Proceedings

K. Mejia, D. Donaldson, M. Zavary, J. Turns. "Insights into Power Relations from the Co-designing of Classroom Norms between Students and Faculty." Annual Frontiers In Education Conference Oct. 2021.

Mejia, K., Han, JL., Turns, J. (2021). "Inclusivity Meter: Tracing How it Worked and What Was Learned." American Society for Engineering Education

Mejia, K., Flores, Y., Ritz, H., Liao, J., Chen, J., Yraguen, B., Turns, J. (2021). "Benefits of Codesigning with Educators as Faculty Development". American Society for Engineering Education

Mejia, K., Turns, J. (2021). "Creating Capacity to Explore what Students Learn from Reflection Activities: Validating the Knowledge-gain Survey". American Society for Engineering Education

Mejia, K., Turns, J. (2020). "A Look Into the Lived Experiences of Incorporating Inclusive Teaching Practices in Engineering Education". American Society for Engineering Education

Mejia, K., Roldan, W., Turns, J. (2020) "Four Complications in Designing a Validated Survey to Gather Information on Student Reactions to Reflection Activities". American Society for Engineering Education

Scalone, G., **Mejia. K.,** Twigg-Smith, H., Schroyer, K., Joya, A., Atman, C., (June 2019). Dealing with Ambiguity: Leveraging Different Types of Expertise to Guide Design Questioning. Clive L. Dym Mudd Design Workshop. Claremont, CA.

Kenya Mejia and Svetlana Yarosh. 2018. A Nine-Item Questionnaire for Measuring the Social Disfordance of Mediated Social Touch Technologies. PACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 1, 2, Article 77 (November 2017), 17 pages.

Svetlana Yarosh, **Kenya Mejia**, Baris Unver, Xizi Wang, Yuan Yao, Akin Campbell, and Brad T. Holschuh. 2018. SqueezeBands: Mediated Social Touch Using Shape Memory Alloy Actuation. PACM on Human-Computer Interation, 1,2, Article 116 (November 2017), 18 pages.

PRESENTATIONS

TALKS

Insights into Power Relations from the Co-designing of Classroom Norms between Students and Faculty. 2021. Annual Frontiers In Education Conference

Inclusivity Meter: Tracing How it Worked and What Was Learned. 2021. American Society for Engineering Education

Creating Capacity to Explore what Students Learn from Reflection Activities: Validating the Knowledge-gain Survey. 2021. American Society for Engineering Education

A Look into the Lived Experiences of Incorporating Inclusive Teaching Practices in Engineering Education. 2020. American Society for Engineering Education

Four Complications in Designing a Validated Survey to Gather Information on Student Reactions to Reflection Activities. 2020. American Society for Engineering Education

Dealing with Ambiguity: Leveraging Different Types of Expertise to Guide Design Questioning. 2019. Clive L. Dym Mudd Design Workshop. Claremont, CA.

A Nine-Item Questionnaire for Measuring the Social Disfordance of Mediated Social Touch Technologies. 2018. ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)

POSTERS
Subject Matter Expertise: Investigating Questioning. 2019. CRA URMD Grad Cohort Workshop.

Professional EXPERIENCE

Jan 2022-Present **Seattle University, Department of Mechanical Engineering**
Adjunct Lecturer
Senior Design & Integrated Design Projects

- Coordinated a 40-student course, working on eight different industry sponsored capstone projects
- Designed course materials on ethics and invited guest speakers to expand the course content to include relevant industry perspectives
- Taught one cohort of students and mentored multiple integrated design teams

June 2016 - Aug. 2016 **Target Corporation**
Technical Design Intern

- Developed a user research strategy to understand the guest's needs for kids' bathroom products. Collected information from over 40 families through interviews and short surveys.
- Lead a brainstorm session with 15 engineers and designers and to create concepts of nine developed product ideas for bath mats, toothbrush holders, and bath toy storage.
- Prototyped and refined concepts using SolidWorks and 3D printers for a bath toy storage and a toothbrush holder idea, detailing out product specifications for manufacturing.

June 2012 - Aug. 2012 **SIRVE Seismic Protection Technologies: Santiago, Chile**
Research and Development Intern

- Collaborated to explore copper energy dissipaters to find an innovative use of the surplus of copper and developed cost-effective options for seismic security of structures in an earthquake-laden area.
- Produced data sheets after comparing energy efficiencies of four different dissipaters, from both laboratory data and finite element models, to help make design decisions for future company projects.
- Developed design iterations of a displacement-measuring tool to monitor effectiveness of SIRVE's seismic protection systems that stabilize structures.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

March 2022-Present **Lead of Directed Research Group**

	Led group of 6 students through the study protocol development of a co-design session with students and faculty
Sept. 2021-Dec. 2021	**Instructor for Explorations in Human Centered Design** Taught 70 students the human centered design process through studio activities. Coordinated with four Teaching and Course assistants to support and teach studio sections.
Jan. 2021- June 2021	**Lead of Directed Research Group: Exploring Power Dynamics in Co-Design for Engineering Ed.** Led a group of 4 and 9 students through the research and design process of creating co-design sessions that highlight power dynamics between students and educators to work together in creating inclusive spaces.
April 2019 - June 2019 April 2020-June 2020* *Virtual Quarter	**TA for Explorations in Human Centered Design,** University of Washington Led Studio Design Sprint sessions for two 25-student sessions that introduced students to the human centered design process through various activities covering Interaction Design, Usability Testing, and Prototyping.
Jan. 2020 - Mar. 2020	**Co-Lead of Directed Research Group: A Mixed-Methods Understanding of Student Reflection in Engineering Education** Designed and lead content leading students through an understanding of reflection and student reactions to reflection In order to help students create visualizations of collected survey data.
June 2019-July 2019	**Instructor for User-Centered Design (8th -9th grade), Robinson Center** Created a User-Centered Design course for 15 highly gifted students who identified, researched, and prototype a solution for their community.
April 2019 - June 2019	**Co-Lead of Directed Research Group: Critical Design of HCI Ethical Guidelines, Tools, and Methods** Designed and led content for the research group that incorporated academic papers, ethical guidelines, and design methods to re-imagine an ethics toolset for researchers.
Jan. 2016 - May 2016 Jan. 2017 - May 2017	**TA for Toy Product Design,** University of Minnesota Mentored 80 students in the design process and with machine shop usage. Created new organizational systems and class materials to improve the efficiency of grading and other logistical tasks.
Jan. 2017- May 2017	**TA for Mechanical Engineering Senior Design,** University of Minnesota Mentored eight groups of six students in their senior capstone design class where they partnered with industry mentors to work on design projects. Also graded assignments and provided feedback on technical reports.
June 2016- July 2016	**Product Design Faculty Search Committee Member** Interviewed and reviewed seven candidates to find the most qualified to help grow and improved the Product Design major at the University of MN.
Sept 2015- Dec 2015	**TA for Introduction to Mechanical Engineering,** University of Minnesota

Taught lab sections for a group of 30 students in the introductory course that taught engineering through robot design using CAD and basic arduino controlled electronics. Held office hours for the class of 135 students.

Aug. 2013-June 2015 **Neighborhood Youth Association Mar Vista Learning Center**
Education Specialist, Grades 8-9
Developed an engineering design curriculum for 15 students that included basic mechanics, electronics, and design as way to increase curiosity in STEM fields, encouraging over 90% of students to pursue STEM school projects.

SERVICE

March 2022-Present **HCDE Teaching Faculty Search Committee**
Reviewed & interview candidates applying to be a Teaching Professor

Sept. 2020- Present **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee**
Created department-wide initiatives to support a more inclusive culture.

Jan 2022- Present **HCDE PhD Retreat Planning Committee**
Oct. 2019- Feb. 2020 With a team of five, planned a 3-day retreat attended by 27 students in order to build community and exchange knowledge and skills

Jan. 2019 – Feb. 2019 **UW HCDE Master's Application Review,** *Reviewer*
Assisted with reviewing 27 applications to HCDE's masters program.

Jan. 2018- May 2018 **UMN Toy Product Design**, *Lab Instructor*
Mentored a team of six students through the product design process helping them ideate, refine, and prototype an idea.

Sept. 2017-Dec. 2017 **UMN Creative Design Methods Course,** *Creativity Counselor*
Introductory class to early stage design methods including creativity and idea generation tools, with an emphasis on innovative concept development

Oct. 2015- May 2017 **Mechanical Engineering Graduate Council,** *President/Co-Founder*
The group works on providing academic and community support and advising the department on ways to improve the student experience.

June 2014-June 2016 **Latino Alumni/ae of MIT (LAMIT),** *President*
Alumni connect, give back, and get ahead with the aim of connecting alumni to MIT, current students, and incoming students and families.

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HONORS & AWARDS

2022 **University of Washington's Husky 100**
Recognition for students who connect what happens inside the classroom to make a difference on campus & in their communities

2009-2017 **Gates Millennium Scholar**
Full Scholarship for undergraduate and applicable graduate degrees

2013 **MIT's Perspectives Student Leader Award**
For demonstrating a strong commitment to diversity education and cultural celebration