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Mr. Shahpour Solomon <u>Akhavi</u>

Correspondence language: English
Sex: Male
Date of Birth: 6/15
Canadian Residency Status: Permanent Resident
Permanent Residency Start Date: 2019/08/20
Country of Citizenship: United States of America

Contact Information

The primary information is denoted by (*)

Address

<u>Home</u> (*)

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Mr. Shahpour <u>Akhavi</u>

Language Skills

Language	Read	Write	Speak	Understand	Peer Review
English	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Degrees

2022/9 (2027/8)	Doctorate, Ph.D., Science and Technology Studies, York University Degree Status: In Progress
	Supervisors: Melanie Baljko; Ganaele Langlois; Natasha Tusikov
1997/9	Master's non-Thesis, M.A., Multimedia Art, San Jose State University Degree Status: All But Degree
	Supervisors: Kathy Cohen
2021/9 - 2022/8	Master's Thesis, M.A., Science and Technology Studies, York University Degree Status: Completed Thesis Title: Decoding a Natural Philosophy of Software Practice
	Supervisors: Ganaele Langlois; Alison Harvey
1990/9 - 1995/5	Bachelor's Honours, A.B. Hons., History of Art and Architecture, Brown University Degree Status: Completed
	Supervisors: Dietrich Neumann
1990/9 - 1995/5	Bachelor's, Sc.B., Civil Engineering, Brown University Degree Status: Completed

Credentials

2020/4	Certified Agile Coach, ICAgile
2020/1	Certified Agile Facilitator, ICAgile
2014/1	Certified Scrum Master, Scrum Alliance

Recognitions

2017/4	Leadership Award IntelliResponse Prize / Award Awarded perk of year-long leadership training with Crestcom International

2017/4	President's Circle Award
	IntelliResponse
	Honor
	Selected for small group of employees to meet regularly with CEO for strategy discussion
1995/5	Top undergraduate honours thesis in Brown University History of Art & Architecture 1995 - 200 (United States dollar)
	Brown University
	Prize / Award
	Research Disciplines: Art History

User Profile

Fields of Application: Communication and Information Technologies

Areas of Research: Impacts of New Information Technologies

Research Specialization Keywords: consciousness, philosophy of technology, software, user experience

Research Disciplines: Philosophy, Computer Engineering and Software Engineering

Employment

2022/5 - 2025/5	Research Assistant
	York University
	Term
	Research Assistant under supervision of Ganaele Langlois (York U. PI) for Data Fluencies project. Stream 1 of the project develops tools and methodologies to study online mis- and disinformation. Funded by Mellon Foundation.
2023/4 - 2023/12	Research Assistant
	Simon Fraser University
	Term
	Research Assistant under supervision of Stephanie Dick for Data Fluencies project funded by Mellon Foundation. This work, under Stream 2 of the project, involves design and process management for the creation of the First Languages AI Reality (FLAIR) app to support the preservation and resurgence of Indigenous languages. My contribution to date is as UX designer and Scrum Master for the project. Funded by Mellon Foundation.
2023/4 - 2023/5	Research Assistant
	York University
	Term
	Research Assistant under supervision of Eric Kennedy for North American Fire Science Policy Blueprinting project. Funded by Natural Resources Canada
2021/2 - 2021/8	Scrum Master
	BIMM
	Full-time
	Led SAFe and Scrum Agile process for multiple teams. Trained broader organization in Agile.
2019/3 - 2020/3	Vice President, Product
	VetSuccess
	Full-time
	Led team of Product Managers and Business Analysts Defined product vision and roadmap for company Innovated agile process for product / development

2013/11 - 2019/3	UI Team Lead | Scrum Master [24]7.AI fka IntelliResponse Full-time Led Agile the process for a highly successful cross-disciplinary software team Designed and coded the User Interface and User Experience of flagship product Taught, managed & coached multiple teams in Scrum process
2012/5 - 2013/7	UI Lead SecureKey Technologies Full-time
2011/4 - 2012/3	UI Lead | Scrum Master VeloxSites fka Site Technologies Full-time
2009/6 - 2011/2	UI Lead rPath, Inc. Full-time
2009/1 - 2009/6	UI Lead Developer CSC Full-time
2004/11 - 2008/11	Sr. UI Engineer Peopleclick, Inc. Full-time
1998/9 - 2004/2	Web Developer | Production Technology Manager | Sr. Producer | Web Producer Adobe Systems, Inc. Full-time
1998/6 - 1998/7	Instructor, summer session CADRE, San Jose State University Full-time, Sessional, Lecturer Taught lecture / lab course in Interactive Multimedia

Research Funding History

Awarded [n=3]

2022/9 - 2023/8	Ontario Graduate Scholarship, Scholarship
2021/9 - 2022/8	York Graduate Scholarship, Scholarship
2021/9 - 2022/8	Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Master's Scholarship (SSHRC), Scholarship

Courses Taught

1998/06/09	Instructor, Summer session, Art, San Jose State University Course Title: Interactive Multimedia Course Level: Undergraduate Number of Students: 15 Guest Lecture?: No

2023/09/06 - 2025/03/29	Teaching Assistant, Natural Sciences, York University Course Title: Science, Technology and Society Course Code: NATS 1760 Course Level: Undergraduate
2024/09/11 - 2024/12/31	Teaching Assistant, Science, Technology and Society, York University Course Title: Technology in the Modern World Academic Session: Fall
2024/09/11 - 2024/12/31	Teaching Assistant, Natural Sciences, York University Course Title: Mathematics of Politics Course Code: NATS 1590 Academic Session: Fall
2023/09/06 - 2023/12/30	Teaching Assistant, Science, Technology and Society, York University Course Title: The Global Information Society Course Code: STS3500 Academic Session: Fall
2023/01/11 - 2023/04/05	Teaching Assistant, Science and Technology Studies, York University Course Title: Technology in the Modern World Course Code: STS 2210 Course Level: Undergraduate Academic Session: Winter Number of Students: 85
2022/09/07 - 2023/04/05	Teaching Assistant, Natural Science, York University Course Title: Technology and Civilization Course Code: NATS 1775 Course Level: Undergraduate Number of Students: 230 Number of Credits: 6
2022/09/13 - 2023/04/04	Teaching Assistant, Natural Science, York University Course Title: Understanding Colour Course Code: NATS 1870 A Course Level: Undergraduate Number of Students: 370
2022/09/26 - 2022/09/26	Guest Lecturer, Integrated Design & Media, New York University Section: Usability Testing techniques Academic Session: Fall Guest Lecture?: Yes

Event Administration

2025/10	Conference Coordinator, Future Networks, Conference
2024/11	Technology Administrator, Frameworks: York University STS Graduate Student Conference 2024, Conference, York University STS Graduate Students Association

Event Participation

2025/8	, From Tech Lash to Tech Fash: Strategic Reflections on a Decade of Collective Organizing in Computing, Workshop

2023/5 - 2023/5	Participant, York University STS GSA Conference, Conference
2023/5 - 2023/5	Participant (as part of project team), Digital Reset: A Compendium of Creative and Speculative Approaches, Workshop Deconstruction and reconstruction exercises for intervening in algorithmic manipulation of affect when using social media. Included Image and Affect tool.
2023/4 - 2023/4	Participant, RCPS Methods Workshop: Digital Methodologies / Approaches, Workshop
2022/6 - 2022/6	Participant, York University STS GSA Conference, Conference
2022/2 - 2022/2	Participant, Critical UX, Conference Presentations by researchers and practitioners in Critical User Experience design
2021/11 - 2021/11	Participant, Critical UX, Conference Presentations by researchers and practitioners in critical User Experience design

Community and Volunteer Activities

2012/11	Volunteer Educator, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto Teach the Our Whole Lives Lifespan Sexuality Education curriculum to children in grades K-1, 4-6, 7-9 and 10-12
2022/5 - 2024/5	Committee Member, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto Nominating committee to determine and present nominations for Board, Ministerial Search Committee and Nominating Committee to the congregation
2018/3 - 2022/3	Real Estate Task Force member, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto Member and liaison to Board of Trustees for task force charged with overseeing the sale of congregation's existing building and search for new congregational home
2001/7 - 2019/11	Walker, Susan G. Komen 3-Day Six times between 2001 and 2018, I have walked twenty miles for each of three consecutive days and raised tens of thousands of dollars for Breast Cancer research, treatment and awareness.
2016/5 - 2019/5	Member, Board of Trustees, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto Policy Board for ~500-member, $400k/y budget organization. Liason to Real Estate Task Force charged with selling existing congregation building and achieving replacement home.
2015/9 - 2016/5	Invited participant, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto Invited to join First Unitarian's Spiritual Leadership Development group: Regular meetings for education and exploration / discussion of core spiritual themes with other leaders in congregation
1993/9 - 1995/5	Sexual Assault Peer Educator, Brown University Sexual Assault Peer Educators volunteer to teach high school and university students about consent, assault and related issues via dramatized performance and facilitated same-gender follow-up discussions
1991/1 - 1995/5	Volunteer, Students for Choice, Brown University Patient escort and clinic defence; education and outreach to student community
1991/9 - 1993/5	Leader / Organizer, Men Discussing Gender, Brown University MDG was a weekly group for gender-focused discussion among men in the university community.

Committee Memberships

Group Chair, York University Science and Technology Studies Graduate Student Association, York University
Social Events Co-Chair

2021/9 - 2022/8   Committee Member, Science and Technology Studies Graduate Students Association, York University
Liaison from STS GSA to York University GSA

Other Memberships

2023/5   member, Society for the Social Studies of Science

2023/3   member, Canadian Communication Association

Presentations

1. Langlois, G.; Sharp, R.; Racho, M.; Canute, M.; Burton, A.Image and Affect. The New Centre for Research and Practice,
   Invited?: Yes

   Funding Sources: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

2. (2025). More Sustainable Than Sustainable. ACM-COMPASS, Toronto, Canada
   Main Audience: Researcher
   Invited?: Yes

3. (2025). More Sustainable Than Sustainable: AI-determinist vs. assemblage-tending versions of abundance in software production. STS-HUB, Berlin, Germany
   Main Audience: Researcher
   Invited?: Yes, Keynote?: No

4. Ganaele Langlois Rory Sharp. (2024). Speculative Research Persona Method workshop. Speculative Research Persona Method workshop, Toronto, Canada
   Main Audience: Researcher
   Invited?: Yes, Keynote?: No, Competitive?: No
   Description / Contribution Value: Presented method and techniques for preparation to visiting scholars from Re.Climate centre at Carleton University

5. (2024). Radical Pluralism. Sermon, First Unitarian Congregation of Toronto, Toronto, Canada
   Main Audience: General Public
   Invited?: Yes
   Description / Contribution Value: Drawing on STS sources (Haraway, Costanza-Chock, Damien P. Williams), this sermon focused on what science studies tells us about the possibilities of relating to radical others (humans, nonhuman animals, and mechanical beings).

6. (2023). Imaginary Friends for Unfriendly Imaginaries: User Personas, Research Personas, and Technical Persons as Methods of Sociotechnical Investigation and Influence. Canadian Communication Association 2023, Toronto, Canada
Main Audience: Researcher, Competitive?: Yes
Description / Contribution Value: Presented as part of the panel "Performances of authenticity and the spread of mis/disinformation online." Research Personas are a new online research methodology based in the creation of an imaginary character. As such, persona-based research shares much with the industry practice of working with user personas to design products, and with imaginary-friend play of various types in childhood and adulthood. This paper traces the "lives" of one research persona and one user persona, found points of comparison and contrast and located them within the larger pantheon of imaginary-friend play that expands the perspective and / or agency of the humans doing the playing.

    Funding Sources: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

7. (2023). 3X3X3. York University Institute for Research on Digital Literacies (IRDL) 3X3X3, Toronto, Canada
Main Audience: Researcher
Invited?: Yes
Description / Contribution Value: Update to local digital-media research community on current studies (Software team value systems, Research Persona method, Software production as knowledge production)

8. Ganaele Langlois, Matt Canute, Mel Racho, Rory Sharp, Anthony Burton, Craigh Fahner. (2023). Image Analysis Workshop. Association of Internet Researchers, Philadelphia, United States of America
Main Audience: Researcher, Competitive?: Yes
Description / Contribution Value: Full-day pre-conference workshop covering several of the tools and methods created for the Data Fluencies project: ImageAffect, Affective Landscape, zeeschuimer, imageflow.

    Funding Sources: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

9. Dayna Jeffrey. (2023). Discussant: Fieldwork and Methodology, presentation by Dayna Jeffrey. York University STS Colloquium, Toronto, Canada
Main Audience: Researcher
Invited?: Yes

10. (2023). Decoding a Natural Philosophy of Software Practice. 4S, Honolulu, United States of America
Main Audience: Researcher, Competitive?: Yes
Description / Contribution Value: Presented as part of closed panel "Counter-hegemonic Technocultures," this talk communicates the findings of my Master's work studying the values systems of conventional software teams, and how they combine with those teams' empirical practices to form a natural philosophy (consonant combination of science and metaphysics).

11. (2022). Image and Affect User Testing. Full meeting, Data Fluencies team,
Main Audience: Researcher
Invited?: Yes
Description / Contribution Value: Introduced researcher community to practice and value of user testing. Report on user test procedures and results for Image and Affect tool.

    Funding Sources: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Broadcast Interviews

| 2024/02/06 | Agile Sustainability Manifesto with Sasha Akhavi, Agile Sustainability Initiative, LinkedIn, Ines Garcia
https://www.linkedin.com/events/7155957331267096576/comments/
Description / Contribution Value: My perspectives on the Agile Sustainability Manifesto, how it relates to my research, and how I think agile fits into a critical practitioner movement. |

Publications

Journal Articles

1. Shahpour Akhavi. Software Heterodoxy and Assemblage Tending: A Natural Philosophy of Software Practice. Computational Culture.
Submitted,

2. Akhavi, S.; Sharp, R.; Langlois, G.Portraits of Mis/Disinformation through the Research Persona Method. International Journal of Communication.
Revision Requested,
Number of Contributors: 3
Description / Contribution Value: Research using the research persona method to study algorithmic recommendation of mis/disinformation content. data collection and analysis completed.

3. (2025). More Sustainable than Sustainable: AI-determinist vs. assemblage-tending versions of abundance in software practice. Proceedings of the ACM SIGCAS/SIGCHI Conference on Computing and Sustainable Societies. (July 2025): 432-439.
http://dx.doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1145/3715335.3735481
First Listed Author
Published, ACM (Association for Computing Machinery),
Refereed?: Yes, Open Access?: Yes
Number of Contributors: 1
Contribution Percentage: 91-100

Book Reviews

1. Scaling the Heights — and the Depths: Zooming Out and In to Gain Perspective on Sociality and Science. Science as Culture. (2023).
http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/09505431.2023.2240849
Published,
Joshua DiCaglio. 2021. Scale Theory: A Nondisciplinary Inquiry.
Refereed?: Yes
Contribution Percentage: 91-100
Description of Contribution Role: sole author

Thesis/Dissertation

1. Decoding a Natural Philosophy of Software Practice. York University. Master's Thesis.
Number of Pages: 131
Contribution Percentage: 91-100
Description of Contribution Role: sole author
Description / Contribution Value: Described the system of metaphysical values and empirical practices (which together make a natural philosophy) enacted by the conventional practices of software teams (Programmers, UX designers and Agile practitioners).

2. A Byzantine Web. (1998). San Jose State University. Master's non-Thesis. Supervisor: Kathy Cohen
Contribution Percentage: 31-40
Description of Contribution Role: With one other graduate student and one undergraduate student, researched, designed and coded multi-section interactive CD-ROM
Description / Contribution Value: Interactive multimedia introduction to Byzantine art, architecture and iconography.

3. Building in Nothingness. (1995). Brown University. Bachelor's Honours.
    Number of Pages: 132
    Contribution Percentage: 91-100
    Description / Contribution Value: Examined the role of 3D digital simulation for History of Architecture.
    Awarded Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis.

Newspaper Articles

1. First Listed Author. (2023). "I am now a faithful subject to King Charles III — but I do not wish to be".
    Toronto Star.
    Toronto, Canada
    Contribution Percentage: 91-100
    Description of Contribution Role: sole author

2. First Listed Author. (2022). "Elon Musk could be our catalyst to dispense with the myth of the lone tech genius". The Globe and Mail. (Opinion): p. A13. , Canada
    Number of Contributors: 1
    Contribution Percentage: 91-100

Online Resources

1. Co-Author. Michael Running Wolf Caroline Running Wolf Shawn Tsosie Conor Quinn Dane Malefant Faith Baca Gigi Davidson Kyran Romero Ryan Conti Mason Grimshaw Cheyenne La Vallee Andrea Delgado Olson Ian Her Many Horses Sen Canute. First Languages AI Reality (FLAIR) app.
    Contribution Percentage: 0-10
    Description of Contribution Role: UX (user experience) design, scrum mastering (agile process facilitation)
    Description / Contribution Value: FLAIR enables the rapid creation of an Automated Speech Recognition model for endangered Indigenous languages, greatly contributing to their preservation and ongoing use

2. Co-Author. Ganaele Langlois Matt Canute Craig Fahner Mel Racho Anthony Burton Rory Sharp. Image and Affect.
    Number of Contributors: 7
    Contribution Percentage: 11-20
    Description of Contribution Role: UX design, UX testing, process management (agile process methodology)
    Description / Contribution Value: Image and Affect is an anti-sentiment analysis tool that allows users to focus on images in their social media feeds and assess their own multi-layered (potentially contradictory) affect, in contrast to the unidimensional "likes" and extractive facial-recognition methods of Big Tech

    Funding Sources: Andrew W. Mellon Foundation