

Mina Zavary

zavarym@uw.edu | www.minazavary.com | 425-499-3865 | Seattle, WA

Qualitative UX researcher and usability instructor with industry UX design experience. Designs and leads independent studies using usability testing, semi-structured interviews, diary studies, field observation and ethnographic methods, adding surveys when the question calls for it. Translates findings into design recommendations for design, engineering and stakeholder audiences. Researches how people navigate measurement and AI systems, including AI in hiring and the future of work.

EDUCATION

PhD, Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington | 2023 – Present | *Anticipated graduation 06/2028*

MS, Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington | 2023 – 2025

BS, Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington | 2020 – 2023 | *Magna cum laude*

UX AND QUALITATIVE RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

AI Video Interviews and the Future of Work, Primary Researcher | Jun 2026 – Present | *In progress*

- Leading a qualitative study of how job seekers interpret and adapt to live AI video interviewers, analyzing first-hand Reddit and TikTok accounts.
- Designed a constructivist grounded theory protocol, trained an undergraduate co-coder, and set up negotiated-agreement coding in ATLAS.ti.

Critical Measurement Literacy with Undergraduate Student Grades, Primary Researcher | Apr 2024 – Present | *Under review*

- Led a 16-person research team (12 undergraduate co-researchers, 4 collaborators) through a quarter-long diary study and co-design sessions on how students interpret and act on grades.
- Conducted 7 semi-structured interviews and guided co-researchers through qualitative coding and synthesis.
- Interviewed creators and users of student-built grade-tracking tools to surface needs unmet by official systems; presented findings in a department talk (Mar 2026).

Inclusive Teaching Toolkit, Co-Lead | Jan 2023 – Jan 2026

- Interviewed instructors and marginalized students, translated insights into design values, and usability tested Figma prototypes across design iterations. Published at ASEE 2024.

AI-Assisted Coding Collaborative Autoethnography, Primary Researcher | Mar 2026 – Present | *Under review*

- Led an ethnographic study with 6 co-researchers building software with AI coding tools, documented through weekly structured reflection.

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

UX and Conversation Design Intern, Allstate | Jun 2022 – Sep 2022

- Redesigned the customer-facing purchase experience with user flows, wireframes, and high-fidelity prototypes.
- Designed AI chatbot conversation flows that redirected 50% of users to the correct paths.
- Led iterative UX/UI design on the Consumer Journey team, working with cross-disciplinary stakeholders to confirm feature feasibility.

Researcher and Program Assistant, Academic Support Programs, University of Washington | Sep 2021 – Sep 2023

- Conducted field observations and interviews with students and coaches to improve the coaching process.
- Designed and analyzed surveys of 250+ students per quarter and presented data-driven recommendations to stakeholders.

TEACHING

Instructor, HCDE 417: Usability Research | 5 quarters, Autumn 2024 – Autumn 2026

Co-Instructor and Teaching Assistant, HCDE 313: Introduction to User Research | Spring 2024, Spring 2025

PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

Zavary, M., Andrus, M., Dhawka, P., Sou, V., and Dasgupta, S. Critical measurement literacy with undergraduate student grades. Under review.

Zavary, M., Ali, M., and Dasgupta, S. Collaborative autoethnography of vibe coding with AI coding tools. Under review.

Zavary, M., Vorley, A., and Dasgupta, S. Job seekers' folk theories and strategies with AI video interviewers. In preparation.

Zavary, M. and Ghosh, S. 2024. Co-creating Inclusion: Designing an Inclusive Teaching Toolkit. ASEE.

Mejia, K. Z., Donaldson, C., Zavary, M., and Turns, J. 2021. Insights into Power Relations from the Co-designing of Classroom Norms between Students and Faculty. IEEE FIE.

SKILLS

Research methods: usability testing, semi-structured interviews, field observation, diary studies, ethnographic and autoethnographic methods, co-design, focus groups, survey design and analysis, grounded theory, thematic analysis

Design: user flows, wireframing, prototyping, conversation design

Tools: ATLAS.ti, Figma, FigJam, Miro, Tableau, R, Python

Honors: Husky 100 (2025); HCDE Award of Excellence for DEI (2023)