



The University of British Columbia

DFP Newsletter: July 2021

Directors' Check-In

This summer closes a big DFP year: transformed leadership and operations, swelling demand for the CREATE, members' successes.

This tumultuous period is also exposing technology's impact in our world. In/exclusion, un/sustainability, un/wellness and dis/trust are playing out everywhere. Underlying design is often a major factor.

Our summer "offline retreat" is a chance for us to renew our focus on supporting complex issues by uniting diverse perspectives.

Personally, I'm looking forward to a sabbatical year where I step back from operations and help our Exec focus on DFP's strategic mission.

– **Karon MacLean** (DFP General Co-Director)

Coming back from a year of administrative leave, I am excited to be stepping into the role of DFP CREATE Co-Director and to be working with the DFP staff and leadership team. The CREATE has been growing steadily, and being involved more directly with DFP students is something that I find personally energizing and exciting. We have lots to keep us busy delivering the program and streamlining processes. I also hope we can spend time looking forward, envisioning and planning for DFP graduate training post CREATE. I will be happy to see colleagues and students IRL again. In the meantime, I am enjoying the relative calm of the summer months and spending time in my garden.

– **Luanne Sinnamon** (DFP CREATE Co-Director)

We have so many successes to celebrate for the first half of 2021.

Thank you to all who made them possible. Over the summer, we will be reaching out to you to help us know what's working for you in DFP and what new things we could be doing to support your research.

This information will help us prepare our GCRC renewal grant in the fall. We will continue refining our research challenges and our forward planning towards becoming an Institute. I hope that you are able to take some downtime over the summer to re-charge. I really look forward to working more closely with Luanne as the newest member of our Exec team and to being able to see each other in person in the fall. Stay well.

– **Liisa Holsti** (DFP Cluster Co-Director)

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**Thank you to our
CREATE Design Showcase
Sponsors:**

SPATIAL
research+design

mCloud

Faculty of Applied Science
Department of Mechanical Engineering

Patrick Campbell Chair

**DFP is social! Click the
icons below to follow us:**



Visit us online at dfp.ubc.ca

Announcements

A special thank you to our 2021 CREATE Design Showcase judges: Our friends at e@ubc: [Kari LaMotte](#), [Kyle Cheriton](#), [Chang Han](#), [Tiffany Hamilton](#), and DFP faculty member [Eric Meyers](#).

CREATE Grad Training Program

Student Interest: Applications to the CREATE have risen steadily since our start (11, 11, 16, and 20 students in C1-C4), but Cohort 5 really took off at 40 (23 and 17 for our two intakes in March and May). With so many exceptional students interested in our program, we have found a way to scale up to a 30-student C5. This year's applications came from CS, iSchool, OSOT, Rehab, Nursing, Psychology, SPPH, MECH, and BioEng.

Graduate Entrance Grant (GEG): Starting Fall 2021 with C5, all incoming DFP students will receive a \$5K GEG -- put in place as a recruitment tool.

Graduate Entrance Scholarship (GES): New as of December 2020, DFP faculty can now apply annually for a \$13K GES to help recruit outstanding students for the DFP program. 11 DFP faculty have been approved for GESs, and 8 have used them on C5 students.

DFP Retreat

DFP's annual Retreat (with scope of both Cluster and Grad Training) will be held online, with both an asynchronous component and small focus groups. If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact Jocelyn at dfp-facilitator@dfp.ubc.ca!

CPSC 554K: DFP Project



Our CREATE Program Manager, **Laura Ballay**, helped us pivot our usual 554K Project course model during the pandemic year. This pivot was much needed; the pandemic posed serious challenges to recruiting industry partners. The course moved online, and we substituted the external industry partners for internal faculty who provided students with compelling research challenges. This worked to our advantage as the gap between grad students and faculty is smaller than between grad students and industry partners, making communication smoother and research expectations a little more realistic.

2021 Seminars & Events

Jan 20	Tamara Munzner
Feb 10	Alexandra To
Mar 10	Joanna McGrenere
Mar 31	Tibor van Rooij
Apr 14	Tom Yeh
May 19	DFP Showcase
June 08	Ex Machina Q&A
June 09	Manon Ranger

Don't Miss Out!

[Subscribe to our calendar here](#)

Our DFP Seminar Steering Committee is dedicated to selecting diverse speakers and topics. Have a suggestion? Email our Seminar Chair: yoona@cs.ubc.ca

Join our mailing list by sending a note to: dfp-admin@dfp.ubc.ca

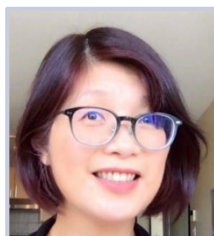
Welcome to our new DFP Affiliate Faculty!



Ben Mortenson
OSOT, UBC



Jennifer Boger
Systems Design Eng.
Waterloo



Lillian Hung
Nursing, UBC



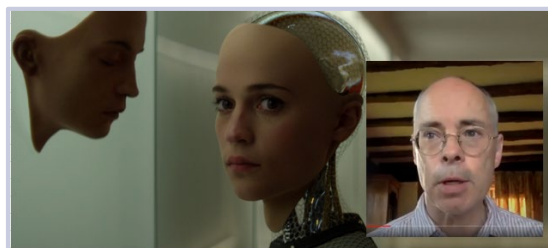
Mark Gilbert
BCCDC



Kristen Haase
Nursing, UBC

Cross-Cluster Collaborations: *Ex Machina* Q&A Event

DFP and the [Language Science Institute](#) co-hosted a free viewing of [Ex Machina](#), followed by a Q&A (June 09) with the film's scientific advisor [Dr. Murray Shanahan](#). DFP faculty **Joanna McGrenere** and **Dongwook Yoon** lead the conversation about AI agents, and whether consciousness can exist without interaction. The event was well attended (90 attendees), and was open to anyone interested in language, AI, natural language processing, robotics, HCI, voice and user interfaces, ethics, consciousness, cognitive science, computational neuroscience, neuroscience, etc.

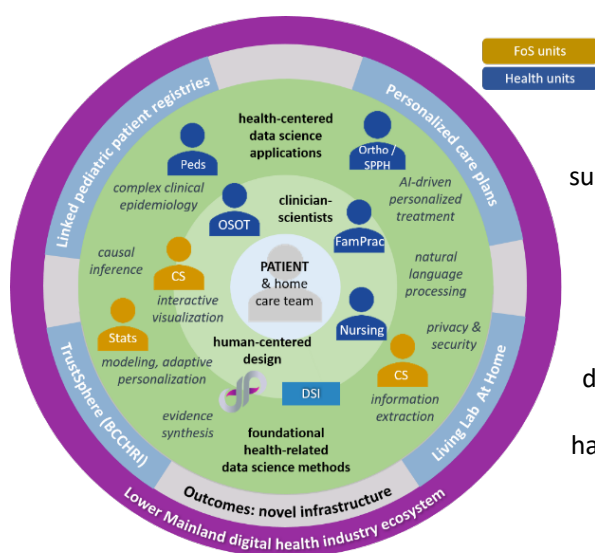


Dr. Murray Shanahan

Cross-Faculty Collaborations: FoS Cluster Hire Proposal

In May, DFP was joined by the [Data Science Institute](#) in submitting a Faculty Cluster Hire proposal to the Faculty of Science as a collaboration between Computer Science, Statistics and several Health departments. Its focus is on the support of health care information management for patients with health complexity, an intensive and ambitious topic requiring close collaboration among disciplines from clinicians to data science, bridged by HCI. The competition was again intense, but the partnership has been deepened, particularly in DFP/DSI, and several of the Health hires are proceeding. We look forward to finding additional ways to support this initiative.

Proposal by **Karon MacLean**, **Liisa Holsti**, **Jocelyn McKay**; with **Raymond Ng** (DSI)



DFP CREATE Design Showcase 2021

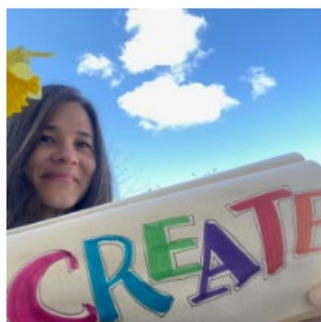
This year's CREATE Design Showcase was our largest yet, **with 108 participants (vs 78 in 2020)**! These submissions came from students from not just UBC, but also Centre for Digital Media, BC Children's Hospital Research Institute, Emily Carr University of Art and Design, Institut Polytechnique de Paris, University of Manitoba, Simon Fraser University, McGill University, University of Saskatchewan, Waterloo University, and University of Zurich. The students came from a variety of disciplines, most in Computer Science, but also in Electrical Computer Engineering, Systems Design Engineering, Informatics, iSchool, Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics, and Digital Media. The number of submissions we received increased from 3 posters & 10 demos in 2020 to 6 posters and 14 demos this year.

The Showcase was held over three days, with an asynchronous gallery May 17-18, and a live event on Zoom May 19. The live event included a **student poster and demo session**, a showing of this year's **554K DFP Project Videos** (see next page for highlights), and **multiple prizes and awards**. A new and popular element this year was "**DFP Alumni: Where are they now?**", in which DFP alumni who have moved on from UBC returned to share their journey, and to offer insights and advice to our current students.

Showcase Team 2021



Jocelyn McKay
DFP Research Facilitator
Showcase Co-Chair



Laura Ballay
CREATE Program Manager
Showcase Co-Chair



Zahra Fatemi
DFP Administrator
Registration Chair



Dongwook Yoon
DFP Core Faculty
Committee Chair



Unma Desai
DFP CREATE MSc Student
Partner Development Lead



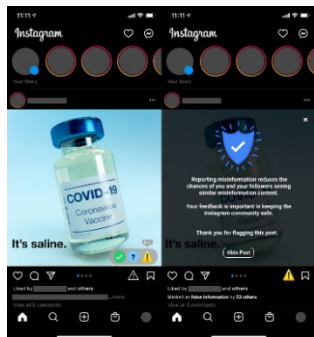
Abi Kuganesan
DFP CREATE MSc Student
Student Interest Lead



Atieh Razavi Yekta
DFP CREATE PhD Student
Engagement Lead

Design Showcase: DFP CREATE C4 Project Videos

1



Motivating COVID-19 Misinformation Acknowledgement on Instagram

[watch on YouTube](#)

Faculty Consultant: [Luanne Sinnamon](#) (iSchool)

Students:

[Abiramy Kuganesan](#) (CS)

[Hannah Elbaggari](#) (CS)

[Oloff Biermann](#) (CS)

[Eleanor Ren](#) (iSchool)

[Jin Wen](#) (Psychology)

2



Data Visualization for Teens with Chronic Pain

[watch on YouTube](#)

Faculty Consultants: [Tim Oberlander](#) (SPPH), [Katelynn Boerner](#) (Pediatrics) [Karon MacLean](#) (CS)

Students:

[Devarsh Bhonde](#) (Civil Eng)

[Haomiao Zhang](#) (MECH)

[Katra Farah](#) (Curriculum & Pedagogy)

[Unma Desai](#) (CS)

[Rubia Guerra](#) (CS)

3



Onboarding with Ease: A Tool for Settlement Organizations Onboarding New Employees

[watch on YouTube](#)

Faculty Consultants: [Suzanne Huot](#) (OSOT), [Alysha Baratta](#) (Options Community Services)

Students:

[Atieh Razavi Yekta](#) (OSOT)

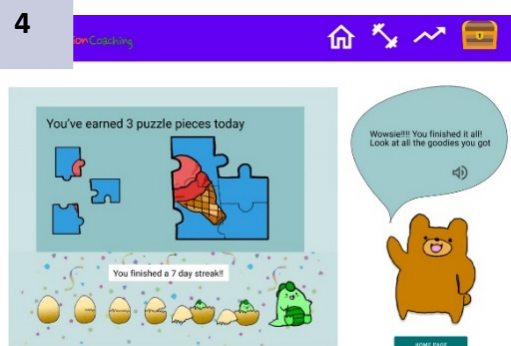
[Chelsea Palmer](#) (iSchool)

[Faqia Iqbal](#) (CS)

[Kim Correa](#) (iSchool)

[Michael Yin](#) (CS)

4



Digitizing KidsAction Coaching: A Web App to Support Home-Based Physical Activity for Children with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities

[watch on YouTube](#)

Faculty Consultants: [Stephanie Glegg](#) (OSOT) and [Liisa Holsti](#) (OSOT)

Students:

[Anika Sayara](#) (CS)

[Jane Jun](#) (iSchool)

[Jessica Wilkin](#) (iSchool)

[Kattie Sepehri](#) (CS)

[Preeti Vyas](#) (CS)

Design Showcase: Student Awards

Innovation Award

Criteria: The Innovation Award recognizes a project that demonstrates unique approaches or contributes improvements to an existing body of knowledge/practice. It responds to the problem in a way that is not only useful and usable, but desirable to its intended audience.

Winner: "VizSnippets: Compressing Visualization Bundles Into Representative Previews for Browsing Visualization Collections"

Michael Oppermann (PhD, Computer Science, UBC); Tamara Munzner (Professor, Computer Science, UBC)

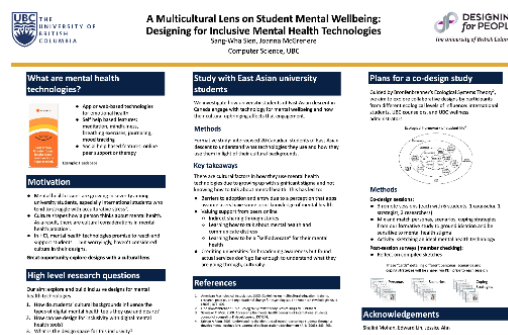


Best Poster

Criteria: The "Best of" poster recognizes the poster that best exemplifies the principles of human-centered design, and inspires others to learn more about the problem space.

Winner: "A Multicultural Lens on Student Mental Wellbeing: Designing for Inclusive Mental Health Technologies"

Sang-Wha Sien (PhD, Computer Science, UBC); Joanna McGrenere (Professor, Computer Science, UBC)



Impact Award

Criteria: The Impact Award recognizes a project that exemplifies the power of human-centered design to create a better world. It puts people and/or concern for the environment at the center of its focus. While it does not have to present a complete solution, it should demonstrate the potential to have a positive impact on society, meaning that it improves the quality of life for people (either collectively or specific communities), our planet and/or helps contribute to a better world.

Winner: "Enhanced Learning Through Virtual Digital Training: Designing Simulations for Fire Investigators"

G. Choi, A. Mehta, T. Hackett, A. Kaldavar, K. Qian, C. Whatley (MDM, CDM); E. Brown (UBC visiting student, MDM program, CDM); Dr. R. Ralph (PhD faculty supervisor, MDM program, CDM)

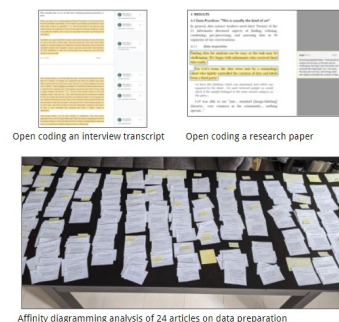


Crowd Favourite Award

Criteria: The “Crowd Favourite” is voted on by attendees during the Live Showcase event. All posters and demos are eligible. Those in attendance cast their vote for whichever project was their personal favourite!

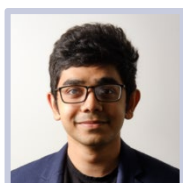
Winner: “Data Wrangling in Journalism: An Interview Study”

Stephen Kasica (PhD, Computer Science, UBC); Tamara Munzner (Professor, Computer Science, UBC); Charles Berret (Professor, Journalism, UBC)



DFP Alumni: Where are they now?

Thank you to our DFP alumni who shared their post-graduation experiences and offered advice to current DFP students.



Mohi Reza

DFP Cohort 2, MSc, CS
PhD Student, University of Toronto
GRA, Intelligent Adaptive Interventions Group
[email](#) | [website](#)

“Attend all the talks and seminars and engage with the community.” (MR)



Hanieh Shakeri

DFP Cohort 2, MSc, CS
PhD Student, SFU
[email](#)

“Connect with others in your cohort. For me the most valuable part of DFP was being part of a community of students from a broad range of disciplines with lots of brilliant ideas and perspectives” (HS)



Billy Augustine

DFP Cohort 2, MLIS, iSchool
Librarian, Coquitlam College
[email](#) | [website](#)

“I learned [at DFP] the art of empathizing with the users. Find solutions that are beneficial for them, not at a superficial level.” (BA)



Yelim Kim

DFP Cohort 1, MSc, CS
UX Researcher, Ubisoft
[email](#) | [website](#)

“Don’t get discouraged in applying to UX research jobs – all the things I learned from my Masters and the DFP course really worked well for my job.” (YK)



Taslim Arefin Khan

DFP Cohort 1, MSc, CS
Research Software Engineer,
Huawei Canada Research
[website](#)

“It helps to showcase works beyond school works, it helps to build a great profile. You need to plan ahead... things get really messy.” (TK)