

Hannah Pelikan

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I study how humans interact with robots in the world, using video to empirically document emerging practices and design problems. My research contributes interactional theories about artificial agents and methods for designing human-centred robots.

EDUCATION

- 2018–2023 **Doctor of Philosophy in Language and Culture**
Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden
Supervisors: Prof. Leelo Keevallik, Prof. Mathias Broth
Visiting researcher at Cornell University, USA, mentored by Dr. Malte Jung
- 2016–2018 **MSc/Ir. (Engineer) *cum laude* in Interaction Technology**
University of Twente, Enschede, The Netherlands
Visiting researcher at Cornell University, USA
- 2012–2015 **BSc in Cognitive Science**
Osnabrück University, Osnabrück, Germany
Exchange student at Linköping University, Sweden

RESEARCH POSITIONS

- Since 07/2025 **Assistant Professor (tenure-track)**, Language and Culture
Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden
Pro Futura Scientia Fellow, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study, Uppsala
- 01/2025 **Visiting Researcher**, Mixed Reality Lab
Department of Computer Science, University of Nottingham
Funded by UK Research and Innovation Responsible AI partnership
“Understanding Robot Autonomy in Public”, PI: Dr. Stuart Reeves
- 07/2023–08/2025 **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Language, Culture and Interaction
Department of Culture and Society, Linköping University
Funded by the Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program – Humanity and Society (WASP-HS)
“AI in Motion” project, PIs: Prof. Barry Brown & Prof. Mathias Broth.
Researching how humans support mobile robots including cleaning robots and robotaxis, co-supervising PhD student Sergio Passero.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Wallenberg WASP-HS Research Group Leader. Autonomous Systems and Robotics in Society. With Airi Lampinen, Madeline Balaam and Katie Winkle. 2025-2030, 11 500 000 SEK.

Riksbankens Jubileumsfond Pro Futura Scientia XIX Fellow. The Humans Behind the Robots: Redesigning Mobile Autonomous Systems for Interaction in Public Places, 2025-2030, 5 750 000 SEK.

Sweden's Innovation Agency (Vinnova) Strategic innovation program Drive Sweden Grant.

When delivery robots enter public spaces: A longitudinal study of Starship robots in Stockholm. With the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI), Starship Technologies, City of Stockholm, the Swedish Transport Agency Transportstyrelsen & the Urban Robotics Foundation. 2025, 1 380 000 SEK.

Sustainability Award. ACM/IEEE HRI. Making sense of public space for robot design. With Bilge Mutlu & Stuart Reeves. 2025.

Sustainability Award. ACM/IEEE HRI. Beyond the User: Mapping Subject Positions for Robots in Public Spaces. With Anna Dobrosovetsnova & Franziska Babel. 2025.

Best Paper Award. ACM/IEEE HRI. Encountering Autonomous Robots on Public Streets. With Stuart Reeves & Marina Cantarutti. 2024.

Excellence Area Transport Collaboration Grant. Audio Communication for Autonomous Delivery Robots in Human Environments. With Franziska Babel, Ola Johansson & Erik Frisk. 2024-2025, 300 000 SEK.

Wallenberg WASP-HS Cross-Project Collaboration Grant. Critical and Interactional Perspectives to Autonomous Systems. With Airi Lampinen. 2024-2025, 100 000 SEK.

Responsible AI UK International Partnership Grant. Understanding Robot Autonomy in Public. With Stuart Reeves and the Swedish National Road and Transport Research Institute (VTI). 2024-2025, 43 000 GBP.

Nominated for ACM SIGCHI 2024 Outstanding Dissertation Award.

HRI Pioneer. ACM/IEEE HRI. PhD thesis proposal "Robot Sound-In-Interaction" selected for presentation at the HRI Pioneers Workshop for top students in the field. 2023.

Nominated for Best Paper Award, ACM/IEEE HRI. Designing Robot Sound-In-Interaction: The Case of Autonomous Public Transport Shuttle Buses with Malte Jung. 2023.

Student Volunteer Award, ACM CHI, for extraordinary work in supporting the organization of the hybrid conference. 2022.

Sweden's Innovation Agency (Vinnova) Mobility Grant. Staff exchange for applied AI-research: AI for Team Collaboration. With Leelo Keevallik, Malte Jung, Tsung-You Hou. 2022, 330 000 SEK.

Best Paper Award. ACM CSCW. Sensing (Co)operations: Articulation and Compensation in the Robotic Operating Room. With Amy Cheatle, Malte Jung, & Steve Jackson. 2019.

Graduation Award. University of Twente. Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mathematics and Computer Science. 2019. 1 000 EUR.

SUPERVISION & MENTORING

PhD Co-Supervision

Sergio Passero, planned graduation winter 2026/2027.

Mentoring

Eleonore Lumer, Bielefeld University, visiting PhD student at Linköping University, Feb 2024.

Lynn de Rijk, Radboud University, visiting PhD student at Linköping University, Feb 2026.

Master Theses

Karin Stendahl. Video analysis to explore the societal value of delivery robots, spring 2026.

Arad Jafari, 2025. Development of a Virtual Reality environment for Sound Design.

Bachelor Theses

Simon Ekman. Video analysis and design of legible robot motion, spring 2026.

Kacper Mateusz Sieklucki. Ethnographic study of pedestrian perspectives on robot fleet deployments, spring 2026.

Aline Otréus. Designing sound and lights for delivery robots, spring 2026.

Karin Stendahl. 2024. From Beeps to Melodies – Implementing and Evaluating Sound Design in Delivery Robots.

Rebecca Faleij. 2024. Användningen av Ljud för Gaffeltruckar i Industriell Miljö: En Etnografisk Studie.

Ida Allander. 2024. Motivationsfaktorer i rörelsespel: En undersökning av designelement inom rörelsespel för att motivera användare till fysisk aktivitet.

LEADERSHIP AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

Membership in Editorial Boards and Scientific Program Committees

ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction	2025-2028
ACM/IEEE HRI, Human-Robot Interaction	2024, 2026
ACM CHI, Human Factors in Computing Systems	2024, 2025
NordiCHI, Nordic Conference on Human-Computer Interaction	2024

Conference Organization

WASP-HS AI4HS Conference Chair	2026
ACM CUI Program Chair	2026
ACM CSCW Steering Committee student member	11/2021-11/2025
ACM/IEEE HRI Pioneers, Web & Publicity Chair	2024

Selected Workshop and Tutorial Organization (peer-reviewed)

3 rd Workshop on Designerly HRI: Articulating the Value of Design Research in HRI	HRI2026
Unpacking the Lived Experiences of Wizards of Oz, workshop	HRI2026
Designing Human-Robot Interactions: A StEER Tutorial	NORDICHI 2024
Interaction Prototyping with Video, course	CHI 2022

Leadership of Seminars and Networks

EMCA-AI international research network: co-founder and host	since summer 2020
AI in Society seminar, Linköping University: host	since 09/2020

Invited Talks 2025-2026

Communicating (with) non-humans conference, Frankfurt an der Oder, Germany. New developments in ethnomethodology colloquium, Sierre, Switzerland. Cornell University, USA. Aalborg University, Denmark. Nagoya University, Japan. Kyoto University, Japan. Design Retreat, Detroit, USA. WASP-HS Winter Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.