

NILOOFAR SAYADI

PhD Student, University of Notre Dame (4th Year)

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-Computer Interaction, UX Research, Extended Reality (VR/MR), Social VR, Human-AI Collaboration

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame

Ph.D. student, Computer Science and Engineering (GPA: 3.92 / 4.0)

Research Focus: Collaborative Mixed Reality, Social VR, embodied teamwork, and Human-AI collaboration.

Notre Dame, IN

2028 (expected)

University of Guilan

M.Sc. in Software Engineering (GPA: 4.0 / 4.0)

Rasht, Iran

2020

University of Guilan

B.Sc. in Software Engineering

Rasht, Iran

2015

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Researcher

Design and develop **multi-user Mixed Reality systems** to study collaboration, coordination, parallel work, and conflict resolution in immersive environments.

Designed and developed **CoBranchMR**, a collaborative MR system supporting independently editable object versions and later convergence into a shared result; *the full paper is currently **under review at ACM CHI 2027***.

Led end-to-end execution of a dyadic MR user study with **28 participants across 14 dyads**, including study preparation, Qualtrics surveys, experimental sessions, interviews, and data collection.

Developed multiplayer MR applications for a **Sloan Foundation-funded study** comparing teamwork across in-person, Zoom, and Mixed Reality conditions.

Prototype conversational AI teammates in MR using **OpenAI's Realtime API** and voice-based interaction.

Notre Dame, IN

June 2023 – Present

Graduate Student Mentor

Mentoring high school and undergraduate students on **XR/HCI research projects**, teaching coding fundamentals, research design, and academic writing.

Guided students in **conducting user studies and qualitative analysis**.

Notre Dame, IN

Aug 2024 – Present

Teaching Assistant – Human-Computer Interaction & Neural Networks

Led class sessions and mentored ~30 students on UX research methods, usability testing, experimental design, and project development.

Notre Dame, IN

Sep 2023 – Dec 2024

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH OUTPUTS

- Sayadi, N.**, et al. "Feeling that I was Collaborating with Them." A 20-year Scoping Review of Social Virtual Reality Leveraging Collaboration. **ACM CSCW 2026 – Honorable Mention Award**.
- Sayadi, N.**, et al. CoBranchMR: Supporting Parallel Design and Conflict Resolution in Mixed Reality. **ACM CSCW 2026 Demonstrations Track** (1 of 9 demos selected from 22 complete submissions) and **AWE USA 2026 Research Poster Track** (1 of 15 interactive projects; presented as a live interactive MR demo).
- Sayadi, N.**, et al. CoBranchMR: Balancing Independent Exploration and Shared Coordination in Mixed Reality. Full paper **under review at ACM CHI 2027**.

AWARDS & ACADEMIC SERVICE

CSCW 2026 Honorable Mention – awarded to at most 3% of submissions |

University Nominee, Google PhD Fellowship | **Best Poster Award**, Notre Dame CSE | Scholarships: Tapia, XR Access, CRA Grad Cohort, VR Foundations

Reviewer: ACM CSCW/PACMHCI 2026 | AWE 2026 Research Poster Track (4 submissions)

SKILLS

Research: Experimental Design, Survey Design, Qualtrics, Interviews, Usability Testing, Thematic Analysis, Statistics, Python, R, SPSS

XR & Development: Unity3D, C#, Meta/Oculus SDK, XR Interaction Toolkit, Normcore, Photon

Prototyping & AI: Figma, OpenAI Realtime API, LLM Integration, Voice User Interfaces