

YASEMIN VARDAR

Assistant Professor at the Delft University of Technology

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on leveraging the knowledge of the human touch sense to create natural, compelling, and personalized haptic interactions in virtual and remote environments. I investigate physical contact between our skin and natural surfaces/haptic interfaces, and perceptual experiences arising from this contact, as well as emulation of natural touch sensations via haptic interfaces. I am interested in using this knowledge in communication, medicine, education, and human-robot interaction applications.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering 09/2013 – 01/2018

Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey

Dissertation: Tactile Perception by Electrovibration

Advisors: Prof. Dr. Cagatay Basdogan and Prof. Dr. Burak Güçlü

M.Sc. in Systems and Control 09/2010 – 08/2012

Eindhoven University of Technology, Eindhoven, The Netherlands

Dissertation: Estimation of MIMO Closed-loop Poles using Transfer Function Data

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Marteen Steinbuch and Dr. Niels van Dijk

B.Sc. (Exchange Student) in Electrical Engineering 01/2009 – 05/2009

University of Surrey, Guildford, United Kingdom

B.Sc. in Mechatronics Engineering 09/2005 – 07/2010

Sabancı University, Istanbul, Turkey

Graduation Project: Design and Control of 6 DOF Robotic Arm for Pick and Place Applications

Advisor: Prof. Dr. Kemalettin Erbatur

POSITIONS HELD

Assistant Professor 09/2020 – Current

Haptic Interface Technology Lab (HITLab)

Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands

Faculty of 3ME, Cognitive Robotics Department

Guest Scientist 09/2020 – Current

Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany

Haptic Intelligence Department

Post Doctoral Researcher 02/2018 – 09/2020

Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany

Haptic Intelligence Department

Advisor: Dr. Katherine J. Kuchenbecker

Consultant 05/2019 – 05/2020

Tactai, Inc.

Research and Teaching Assistant Koç University, Istanbul, Turkey	09/2013 – 01/2018
Control Engineer TNO (Netherlands Organisation for Applied Scientific Research) Eindhoven, The Netherlands	10/2012 – 08/2013
Research Intern Philips Innovation Technologies, Eindhoven, The Netherlands	12/2011 – 08/2012
Research Intern ASML, Veldhoven, The Netherlands	09/2011 – 11/2012

PUBLICATIONS

Unpublished Publications (Submitted or under review)

- [U1]. **Yasemin Vardar** and Katherine J. Kuchenbecker. Finger motion and contact by a second finger influence the tactile perception of electrovibration, *Under Review for the Journal of the Royal Society Interface*.

Journal Papers

- [J1]. Saekwang Nam, **Yasemin Vardar**, David Gueorguiev, and Katherine J. Kuchenbecker. Physical Variables Underlying Tactile Stickiness During Fingerpad Detachment. *Frontiers in Neuroscience*, 14(235), 2020, doi:10.3389/fnins.2020.00235
- [J2]. Aykut İşleyen, **Yasemin Vardar**, and Cagatay Basdogan. Tactile Roughness Perception of Virtual Gratings by Electroevibration. *IEEE Transactions on Haptics*, 2019
- [J3]. **Yasemin Vardar**, Burak Güçlü, and Cagatay Basdogan. Tactile Masking by Electroevibration, *IEEE Transactions on Haptics*, 11(4):623–635, 2018
- [J4]. **Yasemin Vardar**, Burak Güçlü, and Cagatay Basdogan. Effect of Waveform on Tactile Perception of Electroevibration Displayed on Touchscreens, *IEEE Transactions on Haptics*, 10(4):488–499, 2017

Books

- [B1]. **Yasemin Vardar**. Tactile Perception by Electroevibration. 2020 *Springer Series on Touch and Haptic Systems*, Springer International Publishing.

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers (min. 6 pages)

- [C1]. **Yasemin Vardar**, Christian Wallraven, and Katherine J. Kuchenbecker. Fingertip interaction metrics correlate with visual and haptic perception of real surfaces. *In Proceedings of the IEEE World Haptics Conference (WHC)*, pages: 395-400, Tokyo, Japan, July 2019
- [C2]. Milad Jamalzadeh, Burak Güçlü, **Yasemin Vardar**, and Cagatay Basdogan. Effect of remote masking on detection of electroevibration. *In Proceedings of the IEEE World Haptics Conference (WHC)*, pages: 229-234, Tokyo, Japan, July 2019
- [C3]. Tamara Fiedler and **Yasemin Vardar**. A novel texture rendering approach for electrostatic displays. *In Proceedings of the International Workshop on Haptics and Audio Interaction Design (HAID)*, Lille, France, March 2019
- [C4]. **Yasemin Vardar***, Aykut İşleyen*, Khurram M. Saleem, and Cagatay Basdogan. Roughness perception of virtual textures generated via electroevibration on touchscreens. *In Proceedings of the IEEE World Haptics Conference (WHC)*, pages: 263-268, Munich, June 2017

[C5]. **Yasemin Vardar**, Burak Güçlü, and Cagatay Basdogan. Effect of waveform in haptic perception by electrovibration on touchscreens. *In Haptics: Perception, Devices, Control and Applications: 10th International Conference Eurohaptics 2016*, London, UK, July 4-7, Proceedings, Part I, 10(4):190-203, 2016

[C6]. Marceel F. Heertjes and **Yasemin Vardar**. Sliding mode control of high precision systems. *In IFAC Proceedings Volumes*, 46(5):13-19, 2013

Hands-on Demonstrations

[D1]. **Yasemin Vardar**, Bernard Javot, and Katherine J. Kuchenbecker. Do finger touch gestures affect how electrovibration feels? Hands-on demonstration at *Eurohaptics*, 2020

[D2]. **Yasemin Vardar** and Katherine J. Kuchenbecker. Do finger touch gestures affect how electrovibration feels? Accepted (cancelled due to COVID 2019) for hands-on demonstration at *IEEE Haptics Symposium*, 2020

[D3]. Tamara Fiedler, **Yasemin Vardar**, Matti Strese, Eckehard Steinbach, and Cagatay Basdogan. Reproduction of textures based on electrovibration: a frequency domain approach. *Hands-on demonstration presented in the IEEE World Haptics Conference*, 2017

[D4]. Senem Ezgi Emgin, Bushra Sadia, **Yasemin Vardar**, and Cagatay Basdogan. Enhancing human-computer interaction via electrovibration. *Hands-on demonstration presented in the IEEE World Haptics Conference*, 2017

Peer-Reviewed Abstracts and Work in Progress Papers

[A1]. Cara M. Nunez, **Yasemin Vardar**, and Katherine J. Kuchenbecker. Insights into human perception of asymmetric vibrations via dynamic modeling. Work in progress poster presented at the *Eurohaptics*, September 2020

[A2]. **Yasemin Vardar**, Christian Wallraven, and Katherine J. Kuchenbecker. Fingertip interaction metrics correlate with visual and haptic perception of real surfaces. *Abstract at the DyVito Bilkent Cappadocia Workshop*, November 2019

[A3]. **Yasemin Vardar**, Christian Wallraven, and Katherine J. Kuchenbecker. Fingertip interaction metrics correlate with visual and haptic perception of real surfaces. *Abstract at the Workshop Materials and Haptics*, February 2019

[A4]. **Yasemin Vardar**, Burak Güçlü, and Cagatay Basdogan. Tactile Masking by Electro vibration. *Extended abstract at the 2018 CSF Hand, Brain, and Technology Conference (HBT)*, August 2018

Student Reports and Theses

[R1]. Luka Peters, Gokhan Serhat, and **Yasemin Vardar**. Displaying Localized Thermal Feedback on a Transparent Surface, *Internship Report, Delft University of Technology*, January 2021

* These authors contributed equally.

Underlining marks individuals whom I officially supervised for the published research.

AWARDS AND HONORS

Eurohaptics Society Best Ph.D. Thesis Award 2018	2018
Sign Up! Career Building Program for Excellent Postdocs in the Max Planck Society	2018 – 2019
Best Poster Presentation Award, IEEE World Haptics Conference (with co-authors)	2018
Ph.D. Scholarship, Koç University	2013 – 2018
Ph.D. Scholarship, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey	2013 – 2017
Travel Grant, Koç University	2015 – 2017
Travel Grant, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey	2016

M.Sc. Scholarship, Eindhoven University of Technology	2010 – 2012
M.Sc. Scholarship, The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey (waived)	2010 – 2012
B.Sc. Prime Minister Scholarship, Turkish Prime Minister Foundation	2005 – 2010
Erasmus Scholarship, Socrates Program	2009
B.Sc. Honor Scholarship, Sabancı University	2005 – 2010
Graduation with honors, Sabancı University	2012

GRANTS

- MPI Grassroots 2020 Project Funding** 01/2020 – 01/2021
 Development of a Surface Haptic Display using Liquid Crystal Elastomers for Softness Sensation Rendering
 Role: PI at Haptic Intelligence Department
 PI's at Physical Intelligence Department: Hamed Shahsavan and Amirreza Aghakhani
 Grant Amount: 24000 Euro

ADVISING

Postdocs

Rebecca Fenton Friesen, Ph.D. 11/2020
 Postdoctoral Researcher at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

Master Thesis Students

Valerie de Vlam (co-advised with Michael Wiertlewski) 01/2021 – Current
 M.Sc. student at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

Luka Peters 01/2021 – Current
 M.Sc. student at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

Bence Levente Kodak 01/2021 – Current
 M.Sc. student at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

Yves Onnink (co-advised with Laura Marchal Crespo) 11/2020 – Current
 M.Sc. student at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

Part-time Working Students

Kota Sanjeev Vishal 06/2020 – 12/2020
 M.Sc. student in Micro and Nano Systems at Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany

Luzia Knoedler 10/2019 – 01/2020
 Was a M.Sc. student in Engineering Cybernetics at University of Stuttgart, Germany
 Did her master thesis at Robert Bosch GmbH, Germany

Shao Wen Wu 02/2019 – 08/2019
 Was a M.Sc. student in Information Technology at University of Stuttgart, Germany
 Now an IT specialist at ING Bank, Amsterdam, Netherlands

Interns

Luka Peters (co-advised with Gokhan Serhat) 09/2020 – 01/2021
 M.Sc. student at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands
 Project: Displaying Localized Thermal Feedback on a Transparent Surface

Bence Levente Kodak 09/2020 – 01/2021
 M.Sc. student at Delft University of Technology, Netherlands

Elisa Loffler Was a high-school student in Stuttgart, Germany	11/2018 – 02/2019
Tamara Fiedler Was a M.Sc. student at Munich University of Technology Now Technology Portfolio Manager at BSH Home Appliances Group, Germany	06/2016 – 08/2016

Graduation Project Students

Batuhan Özer Was a B.Sc. student at Koc University, Turkey Now a Senior Management Consultant at Ernst&Young	01/2015 – 06/2015
Batu Berke Özdemir Was a B.Sc. student at Koc University, Turkey Now a Senior Assistant Brand Manager at Unilever	01/2015 – 06/2015
Nihat İskender Was a B.Sc. student at Koc University, Turkey	01/2015 – 06/2015

Mentored Students at Specific Projects (not as an official advisor)

Ben Richardson (Ph.D. student) Ph.D. student at International Max Planck Research School for Intelligent Systems, Germany	01/2020 – Current
Maria Paola Forte (Ph.D. student) Ph.D. student at International Max Planck Research School for Intelligent Systems, Germany	01/2020 – Current
Cara Nunez (Ph.D. student) Ph.D. student at Stanford University, USA	01/2020 – Current
Saekwang Nam (Ph.D. student) Ph.D. student at International Max Planck Research School for Intelligent Systems, Germany	05/2019 – 10/2019
Milad Jamalzadeh (M.Sc. student) Was a M.Sc. student at Koc University in Biomedical Engineering Now a Ph.D. student at Koc University	09/2017 – 04/2019
Aykut İşleyen (M.Sc. student) Was a M.Sc. student in Mechanical Engineering at Koc University Now a Ph.D. student in Mechanical Engineering at Eindhoven University of Technology	09/2016 – 01/2019

Thesis Committees

2020: Ph.D. Go/No Go Committee, Padmaja Kulkarni (supervised by Robert Babuska, Jens Kober, and Cosimo Della Santina)

INSTRUCTION AND COURSE DEVELOPMENT

Invited Lecture

Tactile Interfaces for Human-Robot Interaction & Human Tactile Sensation, *Human-Robot Interaction Course*, Delft University of Technology, January 2021

University Teaching Qualification - TU Delft

Supervise

Teaching Assistant

Mechanical Engineering Design (Fall 2013 – 2015, 2017), Dynamic Modelling and Control (Spring 2014 – 2017), and Natural Sciences (Fall 2016), Koç University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Institutional Services

Member of the Demo Team, Haptic Intelligence Department, MPI-IS	2018 – 2020
Human Subjects Coordinator, Haptic Intelligence Department, MPI-IS	2019
Member of the IT Community, MPI-IS	2018

Organizational Help

Student Volunteer Co-Chair, IEEE World Haptics Conference 2021	2020–2021
Organization Team Member, Networking Event for Tenure Trackers of 3ME Faculty	2020
Staff Meeting Co-Chair, TU Delft Cognitive Robotics Department, 2020	2020
Session chair, IMPRS-IS Symposium	2020
Designer of sponsorship page and proceedings cover pages, IEEE Haptics Symposium	2018
Organization Team, Athena Meet and Greet Event for International Women in Science Day	2018
Student volunteer, IEEE World Haptics Conference	2017

Editorial Services

Review Editor, Frontiers in Virtual Reality,	2020 – Current
Program Committee Member of IEEE Haptics Symposium,	2020 – 2022

Reviews

Journal Paper Reviews

IEEE Transactions on Mechatronics, IEEE Transactions on Haptics, The Computer Journal, International Journal of Automation and Computing, International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction, Robotics and Automation Letters, International Journal of Human-Computer Studies, Applied Perception, Neuroscience Letters, Scientific Reports, Human Factors and Ergonomics Society

Conference Paper Reviews

Eurohaptics 2018-2020, IEEE World Haptics 2017-2019, TORK 2017, ICRA 2019, IROS 2019, IEEE Haptics Symposium 2018-2020, HRI 2019

Grant Proposal Reviews

MPI Grassroots 2020

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Seminars

The Journey Towards Realistic Haptic Displays, Koc University, Istanbul, Turkey, November, 2020 (virtual seminar)

The Journey Towards Realistic Haptic Displays, Carnegie Mellon University, The Robotics Institute, Pittsburgh, February, 2020

The Journey Towards Realistic Haptic Displays, Delft University of Technology, Delft, The Netherlands, February, 2020

The Journey Towards Realistic Haptic Displays, Texas A&M University, College Station, USA, January, 2020

The Journey Towards Realistic Haptic Displays, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, USA, December, 2019

The Journey Towards Realistic Haptic Displays, Washington State University, Pullman, USA, December, 2019

Tactile Perception of Electrovibration Displayed on Touchscreens, Max Planck Institute for Cognitive and Brain Sciences, Leipzig, Germany, November, 2019

Tactile Perception by Electro-vibration, Eurohaptics Society Best Ph.D. Thesis Award talk, IEEE World Haptics Conference, Tokyo, Japan, July, 2019

Generation of haptic feedback on touchscreens via electro-vibration, Facebook Reality Labs, Seattle, USA, June, 2019

Fingertip interaction metrics correlate with visual and haptic perception of real surfaces, Material Science and Haptics Workshop, Saarbrücken, Germany, February, 2019

Understanding the physics behind electro-adhesion, University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany, 2018

Effect of waveform on tactile perception of electro-vibration displayed on touchscreens, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany, July, 2017

Educational Talks, Workshops, and Panel Discussions

Tactile Perception of Electro-vibration Displayed on Touchscreens, Affiliated Talk for Tactile Research Group, Psychonomic Society Annual Meeting, November, 2020 (virtual seminar)

Paper reviewing techniques, Panel Discussion in the Haptic Intelligence Department, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany, 2019

Tips for faculty job search, Panel Discussion in the Haptic Intelligence Department, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany, 2019

Career Building Strategies for Postdocs and Ph.D. Students, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Stuttgart, Germany, 2019

Tactile perception by electro-vibration, Workshop Presentation at the IEEE World Haptics Conference 2017, Munich, Germany, June, 2017

Technical Paper Presentations

Fingertip interaction metrics correlate with visual and haptic perception of real surfaces, MPI-IS Retreat, 2019

Fingertip interaction metrics correlate with visual and haptic perception of real surfaces, IEEE World Haptics Conference 2019, Tokyo, Japan, July, 2019

Effect of remote masking on detection of electro-vibration, IEEE World Haptics Conference 2019, Tokyo, Japan, July, 2019

A novel texture rendering approach for electrostatic displays, International Workshop on Haptics and Audio Interaction Design 2019, Lille, France, March, 2019

Effect of waveform in haptic perception of electro-vibration, IEEE World Haptics Conference 2016, London, UK, June, 2016

Poster Presentations

Fingertip interaction metrics correlate with visual and haptic perception of real surfaces, DyVito Workshop, Cappadocia, Turkey, November, 2019

Tactile masking by electro-vibration, IEEE World Haptics Conference 2019, Tokyo, Japan, July, 2019

Visual and Haptic Perception of Real Surfaces, MPI-IS Scientific Advisory Board Poster Presentation, 2019, Tübingen, Germany

Technical paper presentation, Tactile masking by electro-vibration, Hand Brain and Technology Conference 2018, Ascona, Switzerland

Effect of waveform on tactile perception of electrovibration displayed on touchscreens, Haptics Symposium 2018, San Francisco, USA

Roughness perception of virtual textures displayed by electrovibration on touchscreens, IEEE World Haptics Conference 2017, Munich, Germany

SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE), Robotics and Automation Society (2015 – Current)

Eurohaptics Society (2018 – Current)

Tactile Research Group (2020 – Current)

DEWIS, The Women Network of Scientists at the TU Delft (2020 – Current)

ATHENA, Society of Female Scientists at Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems (2018 – 2020)

Society of Women Engineers at Koç University (2013 - 2018)

OUTREACH

Panel discussion, *Career paths for mechatronics engineers*, Fethiye Science High School, Mugla, Turkey, March, 2020

Panel discussion, *Career paths for mechatronics engineers*, Mehmet Erdogan Anatolian High School, Mugla, Turkey, 2012

Civic Involvement Project, Sabanci University, 2005

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Press release documented by Linda Behringer: Yasemin Vardar wins the Eurohaptics Society Best Ph.D. Award 2018, July 2019, <https://hi.is.mpg.de/news/yasemin-var-dar-wins-eurohaptics-society-best-ph-d-thesis-award-2018>

Press release documented by Hande Sarantopoulos: Yasemin Vardar received the Eurohaptics Society Best Ph.D. Award 2018, July 2019