

Ramya Yerramilli

UX Researcher | AI Safety Researcher | Human-AI Interaction
Chicago, IL · (347) 386-5073 · ys.ramya@gmail.com · [Linkedin](#) · [Portfolio](#)

SUMMARY

Responsible AI & Trust and Safety UX Researcher. Human-AI Interaction Designer; mixed-methods research on AI safety and trust, including an IRB-approved study and a dark-pattern taxonomy that beat 10+ competing teams. Brings 6+ years of client- and revenue-facing ownership experience into research practice.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Human-AI Interaction (HAI) · Mixed-Methods Research · Responsible AI & AI Safety · Qualitative & Quantitative Research · Generative AI Research · User Behavior & Decision-Making Research · Product Discovery & Product Strategy Research · Research Operations · User Interviews · Contextual Inquiry · Usability Testing · Survey Design & Analysis · Participatory Design · Information Architecture · User Journey Mapping · Research Synthesis · Thematic Analysis · Stakeholder Management · Executive Communication · Cross-Functional Collaboration · Workshop Facilitation · IRB Protocols & Ethics Review · AI Governance · Trust & Safety Research · Data Visualization & Storytelling · Figma · Dovetail · Maze · Qualtrics · Power BI · Notion · WACG · WAI-ARIA · NIST AI RMF · AIUC-1

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

RAISE Lab, DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Sept 2025 - Jun 2026

- Conducting mixed-methods research on AI literacy and AI safe interfaces, informing curriculum design and public-facing AI communications.
- Built reusable recruitment pipelines and research infrastructure (templates, behavioral metrics, insight repositories) that let new researchers and cross-functional partners ramp into active studies with zero onboarding lag.
- Cut research cycle time 33% (30→20 days) by establishing methodology standards that allow non-researcher team members to scope, execute, and synthesize studies independently.

Graduate Student Assistant

International Admissions, DePaul University, Chicago, IL

Jun 2025 - Jun 2026

- Applied behavioral observation and UX research methods to identify friction patterns across 1,000+ student records; built a structured research repository replacing siloed data across 50+ markets.
- Reduced counselor follow-up volume by 20% and increased workflow throughput by 30%+ across 3 departmental functions by surfacing process bottlenecks and establishing reusable workflow standards.

UX Design Intern, Data Visualization

MainStreet Advisors, Chicago, IL

Jul - Sept 2025

- Conducted generative, evaluative research and designed a B2B financial dashboard; delivered 5+ research-backed product recommendations adopted by product, engineering, and design.
- Shortened release timeline by 2 sprint cycles by embedding research synthesis into cross-functional planning sessions at decision-making points.
- Applied spatial information architecture principles to improve visual hierarchy across Power BI dashboards; feedback cited clarity as the top improvement.

Senior Designer

Aedium Design, Hyderabad, India

Jan 2023 - Jul 2024

- Maintained 9/10 NPS across projects as the sole designer, owning discovery, research, client synthesis, concept development, and technical handover.
- Managed \$240K+ in high-stakes, irreversible physical design projects, developed irreversibility-first research habits now applied to UX and AI decision-making.
- Pioneered design practices within the studio: structured client and stakeholder interviews and post-occupancy studies informed design decisions on all projects.

Design Relationship Manager

HomeLane, Hyderabad, India

Apr 2021 - Dec 2022

- Top-performing designer at East Hyderabad branch: 80% KPI vs. 65% branch average; closed 5 projects/month vs. 2-3 peer average.
- Drove 15% lower design-to-build latency through structured client research, iterative design cycles, and multi-stakeholder delivery coordination across 10+ concurrent projects.

Design Partner

TheM Design Studios, Hyderabad, India	Jul 2019 - Jun 2021
• Delivered 15+ residential projects end-to-end; built client coordination and quality review protocols adopted across studio teams, reducing revision cycles by one round per project.	

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Miro × Kiro Hackathon, Medication Management Prototype for Dementia Care	June 2026 - Present
Winner · Hosted by Miro, New York City	
• Won the Miro × Kiro Hackathon in New York City, hosted by Miro, prototyping an AI-assisted medication-management app for dementia patients and caregivers, a safety-critical healthcare workflow. • Used Kiro, an agentic AI development tool, for rapid AI-assisted prototyping, and Miro for brainstorming, lo-fi wireframes, user journey mapping, and system architecture. • Currently extending the prototype into an open-source app so patients and caregivers can manage care more easily	

RAAHI, Dark Pattern Detection Tool & GenAI Research Study

Research Lead & PM · iD Lab, DePaul University, Shark Tank Winner	Mar 2025 - Present
• Won 1st place among 10+ teams at DePaul iD Lab Shark Tank pitch competition; converted prototype into a formal IRB research study running Summer 2026. • Identified and taxonomized 16 parent dark pattern categories in generative AI with subsections; the taxonomy now serves as the study's analytical framework. • Designed IRB-compliant recruiting protocols, consent documentation, and study procedures for research involving marginalized and vulnerable user populations. • Study currently in recruitment and data collection phase; target publication at CHI 2027.	

ASAP, AI Scaffolded Action Planner

Graduate Capstone · DePaul University	Jan 2026 - June 2026
• Built a human-in-the-loop AI task manager (decompose → user approves → Pomodoro timer) using agentic AI as both the dev tool and the product core. • Ran 6 usability sessions comparing synthetic AI personas vs. real users; found AI personas miss emotional and affective states, published findings, not just a class observation. • Stress-tested Figma Make to failure across iterative cycles, documenting real-world AI tooling constraints.	

Invisible Impacts: Digital Habit & Carbon Footprint Installation

Researcher · Summer Impact Grant, DePaul University	Jun - Sept 2025
• Translated behavioral data into interactive visual narratives for a public installation; increased participant engagement depth 30% across 10+ participants.	

ACTIVE PUBLICATIONS:

Making AI Infrastructure Visible: Interactive Art as a Public-Facing AI Ethics Interface	- Under Review, AIES 2026
Exposing and Mitigating Dark Patterns in Generative AI for Marginalized and Vulnerable Users	- Target: CHI 2027
Consciously Assigning Personality to AI: User Vulnerability, Social Presence, and Manipulation	- Target: CHI 2027

EDUCATION

MSc, Human-Computer Interaction · DePaul University, Chicago, IL	Sept 2024 - Jun 2026
Relevant coursework: Research Methods, Human Factors, AI Ethics, Interaction Design, Data Visualization, Accessible Design	
MA, Design Management & Entrepreneurship · De Montfort University, Leicester, UK	Sept 2017 - Oct 2018
B.Design, Interior Design · JNAFAU, Hyderabad, India	Aug 2012 - Jun 2016