

Sean A. Munson

Leadership Curriculum Vitae

Human Centered Design & Engineering
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LEADERSHIP PROFILE

Sean Munson is a Professor of Human Centered Design & Engineering at the University of Washington whose leadership builds the infrastructure others rely on: the programs, proposal systems, review processes, and governance practices that raise the quality and equity of how faculty and students work. As HCDE's PhD Program Director (2019–2025), he redesigned admissions and launched a doctoral research grant program while completion rates rose and the program grew. He now serves as Associate Chair for Faculty & Research Development and co-directs the NIMH-funded ALACRITY Center, whose design methods are used by research teams beyond UW. Across the university, he serves on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the ad-hoc committee on strengthening UW's shared governance, and is a member of the 2026 Provost's Academy. He leads by turning intentions into durable systems, designing the details and following through so that programs, proposals, and policies work, and keep working after he steps away.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Washington, Human Centered Design & Engineering

- Professor (2023–present); Associate Professor (2018–2023); Assistant Professor (2012–2018).
- Adjunct Professor, Computer Science & Engineering (2023–present; adjunct appointments since 2014).

Education

- Ph.D., Information, University of Michigan, 2012 (adviser: Paul Resnick).
- B.S., Engineering, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering, 2006.

ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP & ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES

Associate Chair, Faculty & Research Development, HCDE

2024–present

- Built process for supporting 27 HCDE faculty and research scientists in developing proposals: funder-specific templates, shared boilerplate, and weekly work-in-progress review sessions for peer feedback.
- Produced HCDE's first department research impact report and relaunched the HCDE Research Showcase.
- Led HCDE's input into the UW Strategic Plan and the UW Computing, Data Science, and AI Task Force.

PhD Program Director, HCDE

2019–2025

- Completion rate rose from 63% to 71% and the program grew by 68% during my time as director.
- Redesigned recruiting and admissions to add applicant mentoring and reduce structural barriers in the application process, broadening the pool of strong applications and helping potential applicants evaluate whether the program could support their research goals.
- Launched HCDE Doctoral Research Grant Program and revised the curriculum for greater flexibility and legibility, adding methods courses unique to HCDE's strengths.

- Created a research master's degree that students earn en route to the PhD, offering a graceful exit from the program.
- Developed an HCDE-specific individual development planning (IDP) process for doctoral students, structuring regular goal-setting and progress conversations between students and advisers.
- Raised doctoral student pay above university-wide increases while managing program size and budget.

Co-Director, UW ALACRITY Center for Psychosocial Interventions Research (NIMH P50)

2023–present

- Co-direct the \$11.1M NIMH-funded research center as multiple-PI, leading interdisciplinary mental-health intervention research
- Co-directed the center's methods core (2018-2023), developing the center's design process, where I co-developed the Discover, Design/Build, Test (DDBT) framework for combining human-centered design and implementation science, and supported project teams in applying it. DDBT has been adopted by other NIMH-funded centers, including Stanford's CREATE center and the UW Suicide Care Research Center; seven NIH-funded projects at other institutions, across four NIH institutes, name it in their public abstracts.
- Supported more than 100 investigators through 23 pilot projects and annual grant-writing bootcamps.

Chair, Master of HCI + Design (MHCI+D), interdisciplinary master's program

2019–2021

- Led a five-year strategic planning process, updating the program's mission, vision, and leadership structure.
- Guided a tightly knit, studio-based program through the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Chaired the program director search (2021–2022).

University & College Governance

- Faculty Senate (2023–present), Senate Executive Committee (2024–2027), and Ad-hoc Committee on Strengthening Shared Governance (2026–present).
- HCDE Department Chair search committee (2019–2020); Chair-review and reappointment committees for HCDE (2025) and Chemical Engineering (2022).
- College of Engineering Strategic Planning Steering Committee (2020–2021); co-chaired the Innovative Engineering Education subcommittee.
- Assistant Professor search committees (2019–2020, 2022–2023 (chair))
- HCDE Strategic Planning Committee (chair, ad hoc 2018; core, 2025–2026); BS Program, Research, and Faculty Support committees.

DEVELOPING PEOPLE

- Chaired or co-chaired roughly 21 doctoral dissertations (10 in progress, 11 completed); graduates hold positions across academia, industry and consulting settings, including faculty appointments at UC Irvine, Northwestern University, UC Santa Cruz, University of Washington, and Santa Clara University. Co-advisee Kai Lukoff received the SIGCHI Outstanding Dissertation Award (2023).
- Mentor on 6 NIH career awards and fellowships (NIAAA, NIMH), supporting postdoctoral and early-career investigators.
- Serve on doctoral committees across HCDE, CSE, the iSchool, Nursing.

SELECTED HONORS

- Distinguished Member, ACM (2021).

- UbiComp 10-Year Impact Paper Award, Honorable Mention (2025).
- College of Engineering Faculty Award, Junior (2017); Faculty Teaching Award (2015).
- Faculty Appreciation for Career Education & Training, UW College of Engineering (2022, 2024).
- 8 best-paper awards and 11 best-paper nominations/honorable mentions across ACM CHI, CSCW, and other venues.
- Gary M. Olson Outstanding Ph.D. Student Award, University of Michigan (2010).

RESEARCH & SCHOLARSHIP

- 140 refereed publications; 15,786 Google Scholar citations; h-index 63 (October 2026).
- Research cited in 40+ government and NGO policy documents; glossary of user-centered design strategies for implementation researchers informed federal guidance on human-centered design in human services.
- Funded research totaling more than \$38M in project awards as PI or co-investigator, including the NIMH ALACRITY P50 center (multiple-PI) and an NSF CAREER award.

Selected Publications

- Lyon AR, Aung T, Bruzios K, Munson SA. (2025). Human-Centered Design to Enhance Implementation and Impact in Health. *Annual Review of Public Health*.
- Li R, Vutien P, Karkar R, Omer S, Yacoub M, Ioannou G, Munson SA, Fogarty JA. (2025). Deploying and Examining Beacon for At-Home Patient Self-Monitoring with Critical Flicker Frequency. *CHI 2025*. Best Paper Award.
- Slovak P, Munson SA. (2024). HCI Contributions in Mental Health: A Modular Framework to Guide Psychosocial Intervention Design. *CHI 2024*. Best Paper Honorable Mention.
- Sefidgar YS, Castillo CL, Chopra S, Jiang L, Jones T, Mittal A, Ryu H, Schroeder J, Cole A, Murinova N, Munson SA, Fogarty J. (2024). MigraineTracker: Examining Patient Experiences with Goal-Directed Self-Tracking for a Chronic Health Condition. *CHI 2024*. Best Paper Award.
- Epstein D, Lee NB, Kang J, Agapie E, Schroeder J, Pina LR, Fogarty J, Munson SA, Kientz JA. (2017). Examining Menstrual Tracking to Inform the Design of Personal Informatics Tools. *CHI 2017*. Best Paper Award.
- Chung CF, Dew K, Cole A, Zia J, Fogarty J, Kientz JA, Munson SA. (2016). Boundary Negotiating Artifacts in Personal Informatics: Patient-Provider Collaboration with Patient-Generated Data. *CSCW 2016*. Best Paper Award.
- Kay M, Matuszek C, Munson SA. (2015). Unequal Representation and Gender Stereotypes in Image Search Results for Occupations. *CHI 2015*. Best Paper Award.
- Epstein DA, Ping A, Fogarty J, Munson SA. (2015). A Lived Informatics Model of Personal Informatics. *UbiComp 2015*. 10-Year Impact Award, Honorable Mention.

TEACHING

- College of Engineering Faculty Teaching Award (2015); Yahoo! Innovative Teaching with Technology Award (2009); three-time nominee, UW Distinguished Teaching Award.
- Redesigned HCDE 310 (Interactive Systems Design & Technology) and developed graduate methods curriculum aligned with HCDE's strengths.
- Teach HCDE 517 (Usability Studies) as a client-sponsored course where master's student teams learn and conduct usability testing in a ten-week quarter, with clients frequently acting on recommendations. Iteratively developed and improved the client recruitment and onboarding process used across all sections for more than 12 years.

- Mentor undergraduate, professional master's, and doctoral researchers through directed research groups (HCDE 496/596) and the HCDE research seminar.

FIELD & PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

- Co-founder and Steering Committee member, ACM Interactive Health Conference (inaugural 2026); contributed to community surveys and town halls, designed the publication model for a new SIGCHI conference, organized community workshops at CHI 2025 & 2026 that convened the field ahead of the conference's launch. Awards co-chair and special issue editor (125 submissions) for the first conference.
- Program Co-Chair, Human Computer Interaction Consortium (2022); Program Co-Chair, Pervasive Health (2020).
- Editor, ACM CSCW (2019–2021); Associate Editor, ACM Transactions on Computing for Healthcare (2026–).
- Awards committees: SIGCHI Outstanding Dissertation (2024–); CSCW Lasting Impact (co-chair, 2026); CHI subcommittee co-chair (Health, 2019; Health, Accessibility & Aging, 2018).
- Guest editor of three journal special issues on human-centered computing in health and social media.
- Computing Community Consortium / Computing Innovation Fellows selection committee (2021)