



Alessia M. Vlasceanu

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Profile

An ambitious and analytically rigorous PhD researcher in Computer Science with a research focus on Human–Computer Interaction and Human–AI Interaction. My work sits at the intersection of human cognition, ethical reasoning, and intelligent systems, with a particular interest in how human values, moral judgement, and social context can be meaningfully embedded into AI design and evaluation. I combine technical expertise in programming and data analysis with human-centred research methods to investigate how people understand, interact with, and are impacted by AI systems.

Professional Experience

- Co-founder, ECHO-AI** 04/2026 | Manchester, UK
- Connecting Romanian researchers and professionals in the UK with students, teachers, and organisations back home, for a future where artificial intelligence is used with skill, responsibility, and purpose.
 - Organising webinars for AI knowledge and application, including design, impact and ethics.
- Graduate Teaching Assistant** 01/2026 – Present | Manchester
Department of Computer Science, University of Manchester
- GTA for Data Science and Cognitive Robotics Y25/26 Sem 2 modules, supporting laboratory sessions, tutorials, and coursework by assisting students with technical concepts, programming tasks, and applied problem-solving.
 - Provided academic support and feedback to undergraduate students, facilitating understanding of data analysis methods and human-centred robotics concepts while fostering an inclusive and engaging learning environment.
- Data Analyst Supervisor, University of Manchester Students' Union** 10/2025 – Present | Manchester
- Leading and overseeing a team of six data analysts to ensure the timely delivery of accurate, actionable insights and dashboards that support business decision-making.
 - Responsible for setting analytical standards, prioritising workloads, reviewing outputs for quality, and mentoring team members.
 - Collaborating with stakeholders to define requirements, translates business needs into analytical tasks, and ensures data governance, reporting accuracy, and continuous improvement in analytical processes.
- Human-Computer Interaction Researcher** 10/2024 – 07/2025 | Manchester
Department of Computer Science, University of Manchester
- A **British Aerospace Engineering Systems** project that bridges the gap between **complex software functionalities and human understanding**.
 - Developing the framework for an **LLM tool** to aid with complex system understanding (**code comprehension, code documentation, requirement analysis, change impact analysis**).
 - Facilitated a more intuitive interaction with advanced software systems while fostering **trust in the explanations provided by AI-powered systems**.
- Research Assistant, Department of Computer Science, University of Manchester** 09/2024 – 04/2025 | Manchester
- Conducted **Python analysis** on a set of data exploring **user structures** in egocentric **visual lifelogging smart wearable devices** data organisation.
- AI Project Lead, 180 Degrees Consulting** 09/2024 – 12/2024 | Manchester
- Coordinated a team of consultants working on a project for a **medical AI software** based in the US for implementation in the UK healthcare.
 - Gained commercial and technological awareness while leveraging **big data sets** to inform recommendations and create meaningful and impactful action plans.
- IT and Data Analyst, Finyx** 06/2024 – 09/2024 | York
- Worked with IT research team to improve **workflow automation** and implement **new platforms** to enhance **cross-team collaboration** and **documentation transparency**.
 - Applied Power BI and DAX abilities to effectively **analyse** and **communicate data**, translating complex findings into clear, actionable insights for technical and non-technical audiences, including stakeholders and senior leading teams.
 - Conducted detailed research on various clients including top **IT firms**'s organizational processes, competitors, and technologies, identifying opportunities for **improvement and measurable outcomes**.

- Research Assistant, LifeLike Lab, Department of Psychology, University of York** 02/2024 – 03/2024 | York
- Conducted data transformation and analysis, including data cleaning and transfer to R to prepare it for further statistical analysis and conclusions, for a study on **decision-making** in threatening **Virtual Reality environments**.
 - Assisted with **UX design** for the official UoY website.
- Research Assistant, Action Perception Lab, Department of Psychology, University of York** 09/2022 – 09/2023 | York
- Independently learned **MATLAB** and designed a **tool** capable of **transforming** and **morphing** actions and movements in both **2D** and **3D** into realistic, human-like behaviour sequence.
 - Designed, conducted and analysed experiments aimed at investigating the Formidableness and Friendliness dimension of **action perception**, through motion discrimination and assessed impact of autistic traits.
- Course Representative, School of Health Sciences, University of Manchester** 10/2024 – 09/2025 | Manchester
- The primary bridge between students and academic staff, representing cohort concerns and contributing to course-level decision-making through monthly staff–student liaison meetings.
 - Proactively identified and supported the resolution of course-related issues, including assessment deadline conflicts, timetable clashes, and workload concerns, by coordinating with module leaders and programme administrators.
 - Consulted on the redesign of the degree structure for the 2025–2026 academic year, leading the creation and analysis of student surveys to gather structured feedback and ensure student voices informed curriculum development.
- Department Representative, Department of Psychology, University of York** 09/2023 – 06/2024 | York
- Developed **effective communication** to engage with diverse individuals, including internal and external academics and university staff, across technical and non-technical departments, to **facilitate collaboration** and minimise impact of semesterisation on students.
 - **Led 2 Student-Staff Forums** within department, **mediating open discussions**, promoting an **inclusive academic community** fostering engagement among students and staff, **emphasising peer learning** and **support**.
 - Analysed Annual Review Data regarding Degree Outcomes, Academic progressions and enrolment statistics using R to help write up University Report and draft up new Department Policy for Student Voice Teams.
- Content Creator, University of York** 11/2022 – 06/2024
- Consistently crafted engaging content tailored to various platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube.
 - Meticulous analysis of audience preferences and desires, coupled with a strategic utilisation of the University's key selling points and the unique charm of York.
 - Carefully planned and coordinated the whole shooting of a 60s vlog about My First Year at the University which got featured on the Official Youtube account.
 - Created a whole blog section on the support services at the University that got featured on the Official University Magazine for prospective students.
 - Created a short TikTok that got viral on the #foryoupage and on the University TikTok page about my accommodation.
 - Using a viral trend, I offered a glimpse into the activities my college offers and reached over 8000 views and over 3000 likes.
- International Dance Society, University of Manchester** 10/2024 – present
- Delivered energetic and inclusive dance classes to diverse groups, thoughtfully adapting routines to meet a wide range of skill levels and cultural backgrounds—creating a welcoming space for all participants.
 - Designed engaging, movement-based lesson plans that fostered collaboration, self-expression, and self-confidence, aligning with lululemon's commitment to well-being and personal growth.
 - Led community-centered performances that celebrated progress and built strong connections among participants, families, and local audiences.
 - Developed excellent communication and leadership skills by motivating students with varying needs and consistently adjusting teaching styles to ensure an empowering experience for everyone.
- International Summer Program (ISP) Scholar, Seoul National University** 06/2023 – 07/2023 | Seoul, South Korea
- Completed a fully-funded program in *Marketing Management* with a focus on *The Global Competitiveness of Korean Companies*.
 - Led an analysis of AmorePacific's successful entry into the Turkish market. Conducted a strategic evaluation, company visit, and management consultation. Presented data-driven recommendations at the company's headquarters based on in-depth research and survey findings.
 - *Study Case: "Analysing and Decoding Netflix's Pricing Strategy"* – Researched critical factors influencing pricing decisions and market competitiveness.
 - Developed a deep understanding of marketing strategy and its societal impact, including product design, distribution channels, advertising, promotion, and pricing. Specialised in evaluating and implementing strategies for complex, decision-driven business environments.

Education

- Doctor of Philosophy, University of Manchester** 09/2025 – Present | Manchester, UK
- **Recipient of the Dean's Doctoral Scholarship**
 - Areas of Research: **Human-AI Interaction, Software Engineering Practices, Workflows, Moral Agents, Ethical AI**
 - Primary Supervisor: **Prof. Caroline Jay**; Secondary Supervisor: **Dr. Emily C. Collins**

MRes Experimental Psychology with Data Science, University of Manchester09/2024 – 09/2025 | Manchester, UK

- Grade: **Distinction**
- Modules: Advanced Data Skills, Open Science and Reproducibility, Mixed Models, Hackathon and Bayesian Statistics Workshop, Scientific Programming, Computational Tools and Machine Learning, Qualitative Research Methods.
- Dissertation: **"AI-Assisted Reasoning: Evaluating Interactive versus Static Advice on the Wason Selection Task".**

BSc Psychology, University of York09/2021 – 06/2024 | York, UK

- Grade: **First-Class Honours**
- Advanced Modules: Advanced Research Methods; Human Risk; Cognitive Anomalies, Decision-Making, & Democracy.
- Dissertation: **"Perceptions of Student Feedback Quality: A comparative study of AI-generated and Human-generated content".**
- Literature Review: **"Exploring the Relationship Between Social Media and Body Dissatisfaction in South Koreans: A Literature Review".**

International Summer Program (ISP), Seoul National University06/2023 – 07/2023 | Seoul, South Korea

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- Led an analysis of AmorePacific’s successful entry into the Turkish market. Conducted a strategic evaluation, company visit, and management consultation. Presented data-driven recommendations at the company’s headquarters based on in-depth research and survey findings.
- Study Case: *"Analysing and Decoding Netflix’s Pricing Strategy"* – Developed a deep understanding of marketing strategy and its societal impact, including product design, distribution channels, advertising, promotion, and pricing. Specialised in evaluating and implementing strategies for complex, decision-driven business environments.

Languages

ItalianRomanianEnglishNativeNativeNative-obtained Level

Abilities

Leadership • Interpersonal Skills • Organisational Skills • Effective Communication and Listening • Creativity • Problem Solving • Attention to Detail • Relationship Building • Time Management • Flexibility • Resilience • Analytical and critical thinking • Data Capture and Analysis • Collaboration • Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI) Awareness

Skills

SoftwaresR, Python, DAX, SPSS, MATLAB, PowerBI, NVivo 14, Gorilla, Qualtrics, Microsoft OfficeToolsProject Management, Experimental Design, Qualitative Analysis, Behavioural Data Collection and Statistical Analysis, Analytical and Innovative Thinking, Scientific Writing.

Awards

STELLIFY Award09/2025York Award05/2024

- Exemplary 2024 Graduate Year Student

Laidlaw Undergraduate Research and Leadership ⓘ06/2022

- University of York’s Best Scholar Project Award
- A highly prestigious program offering funding of up to £7000 for independent research.

Publications

Perceptual discrimination of action formidableness and friendliness and the impact of autistic traits ⓘ10/2024Nature (Scientific Reports)Vlasceanu, A.M., de la Rosa, S. & Barraclough, N.E.Perception of human actions on the four fundamental dimensions of formidableness, friendliness, intentionality and abduction ⓘ09/2024Journal of VisionBarraclough N.E, Vinton L.C, Vlasceanu A.M, Mackie G., De La Rosa S., Preston C., Tipper S.P.Perceptions of Student Feedback Quality: A comparative study of AI-generated and Human-generated content, [In preparation for Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education]Vlasceanu, A.M., Jenkins, R., Quinn, S. (in progress)

AI-Assisted Reasoning: Evaluating Interactive versus Static Advice on the Wason Selection Task, <i>[In preparation for Cognitive Processing]</i> Vlasceanu, A.M., Farmer, G. (in progress)	
Beyond the Honest Explainer: Systematising Security and Ethical Risks and Evaluation Criteria for Explanations in AI Systems <i>Transparent and Interpretable Robots (TRAIL) Conference Presentation</i> Vlasceanu, A.M, Collins, E.C., Jay, C.	04/2026
When Transparency Deceives: Risks and Ethical Safeguards in XAI, <i>[ICRES 2026 Proceedings]</i> Vlasceanu, A.M., Collins, E.C., Jay, C.	06/2026

Conference Presentations	
International Conference on Robot Ethics and Standards (ICRES)	09/2026 Cranfield, UK
Transparent and Interpretable Robots (TRAIL) Conference Presentation	04/2026 Catania, Italy
Human-AI Teaming Workshop	04/2026 Sheffield, UK
Student Spring Symposium	05/2024 Thessaloniki, Greece
YUSU Community Conference	02/2024 York, England
Harvard National Collegiate Research Conference	01/2024 Cambridge, US
Global PhD Network in Education Innovation Forum 2026 Invited Pannel Speaker to discuss AI, data, and EdTec	06/2026 Manchester, UK

Interests		
• Human Computer Interaction	• LLM and NLP	• Health and Wellbeing
• Yoga and Pilates	• Dance	• Beauty and Skincare
• Volunteering	• Chinese Studies	• Computational Modelling
• Technology Advancements		