

# PETR SLOVÁK

## PERSONAL

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Birthplace: Brno, Czech Republic

Language: Czech (native), English (fluent), German (B2 and improving)

## EDUCATION

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### **Ph.D., Human Computer Interaction**

*Mar 2011 - summer 2016 (expected)*

Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

Topic: “*Supporting teaching and learning of social and emotional skills with technology*”

Supervisor: Prof. Geraldine Fitzpatrick

### **MSc., Parallel and Distributed Systems – with distinction**

*2008 – 2011*

Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Final exam/thesis grade: **A/A** (scale A-F)

### **BSc., Psychology & Sociology**

*2005 – 2009*

Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Final exam/thesis grade: **A/A** (scale A-F)

### **BSc., Theoretical Computer Science**

*2005 – 2008*

Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

Final exam/thesis grade: **B/A** (scale A-F)

## AWARDS AND HONOURS

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| 2012        | <b>DOC PhD Fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Sciences</b><br>3 years of funding, highly competitive national fellowship across all research fields<br>25 fellowships awarded yearly, less than 14% acceptance rate |
| 2011        | <b>Dean’s Award for Excellent Study Results</b> , Masaryk University   |
| 2011        | <b>Dean’s Award for Excellent Thesis</b> , Masaryk University  |
| 2006 – 2011 | <b>Faculty stipend in support of creative research</b> , Masaryk University<br>monthly stipend, awarded on the basis of active participation in two research labs  |
| 2005        | <b>100th percentile on the National General Academic Prerequisites exam</b><br>GRE analogue, used as a criterion for acceptance processes for major Czech universities   |

## RESEARCH STATEMENT

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<http://igw.tuwien.ac.at/hci/index.php/people/petr-slovak>

My research examines the potential of technology support for development of social-emotional skills. Drawing on my multi-disciplinary background, this focus lies at the intersection of technical and social sciences, with particular emphasis on (tech-supported) social interaction. I have a particular interest and experience with conducting mixed-methods studies in real-world setting, combining qualitative and quantitative to take advantage of the different types of questions they help answering.

Within my PhD research, I focused on examining these issues in two complementary settings: the training of student counsellors (as expert learners, developing complex interpersonal skills through in-depth training), and supporting social-emotional skills for young children (core skills development for general public, extending existing SEL programs).

As part of the PhD project, I have built collaborations with researchers from University of Nottingham (UK), Newcastle University (UK), Microsoft Research Seattle (US), Committee for Children (US), and Philips Research Eindhoven (NL).

## EMPLOYMENT/ACADEMIC CAREER PATH

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### **Vienna University of Technology**

*PhD candidate*

2011 – present  
*Vienna, Austria*

- Funded by the DOC Fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

### **Committee for Children**

*External Researcher/Consultant*

March 2015 – present  
*Seattle, USA*

- I advise the Director of New Mission Ventures on the potential of technology use in SEL, including recommendations on prospective projects.
- In addition, I am the Research Lead on two internal projects, looking at innovative use of technology complementing the Second Step program.

### **Cornell University – Information Science**

*External Researcher Collaborator*

April 2016 – present  
*Ithaca, USA*

- I have been invited by Dr. Malte Jung to support their project on conflict resolution mediation through robots.
- I support the transfer of evidence-based SEL knowledge into HCI & experiment design decisions.

### **Microsoft Research – VIBE group**

*Research Intern*

July 2014 – September 2014  
*Seattle, USA*

- A paid 3 months internship supervised by Dr. Mary Czerwinski. I interviewed Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) experts to explore opportunities for technology support of SEL in education; accepted for CHI'15.
- The internship developed into a joint project among VIBE, TU Wien, and a major SEL curriculum developer, Committee for Children (first phase of project results accepted for CSCW'16).
- As part of a parallel project, I was also responsible for finalising the design and development of a mobile app aimed to promote stress coping strategies for carers.

### **University of Nottingham – MRL & School of Education**

*Research Intern & Visiting Researcher*

2011 – present (intermittent)  
*Nottingham, UK*

- A paid 3 months internship supervised by Dr. Holger Schnadelbach. I designed and conducted a qualitative study exploring immersive feedback in an Adaptive Architecture prototype. Accepted for Pervasive and Mobile Computing.
- The internship developed into a long-term cooperation with other members of MRL. I designed and conducted a mixed methods study exploring a link between empathy and skin conductance synchronisation during an interaction; accepted for publication at NordiCHI'14.

### **Newcastle University – Open Lab**

*Visiting Researcher*

2013 – present (intermittent)  
*Newcastle, UK*

- An on-going cooperation with the Culture Lab on designing a system to support the learning process of counselling students, as part of my PhD research project.
- We designed the system using participatory methods, piloting it in early 2014 (resulted in CSCW'15 publication).
- The full system is deployed with the whole MA course student cohort from Autumn 2015.

### **Philips Research – Brain, Body, and Behaviour Department**

*Research Intern*

June 2011 - September 2011  
*Eindhoven, Netherlands*

- Designed and conducted a technology probe study analysing the effects of heartrate feedback technology in home deployment, as well as a series of laboratory experiments; resulted in a CHI'12 full paper.

### **RWTH Aachen – Software Modeling and Verification Group**

*Research Intern*

May 2008 – June 2008  
*Aachen, Germany*

- Developed algorithms for decidability of Race conditions in MSC formalism. Contributed to an ECEASST [10].

### **Masaryk University**

*Junior Researcher (stipend & part-time position)*

2006 - 2011  
*Brno, Czech Republic*

- Various research projects within the Laboratory of Advanced Networking Technologies (2006–2011), and the Institute for Theoretical Computer Science (2007–2011). Solely responsible for HCI issues.

## ACQUIRED RESEARCH FUNDING

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- 2016 **Marie Curie Training Network (led by Dublin University)** (EUR 4,041,771)  
co-author of the grant proposal (Prevention package)
- 2012 **DOC PhD Fellowship from the Austrian Academy of Sciences** (EUR 90,000)  
scholarly fellowship, main author of the proposal
- 2010 **Research grant: *Deploying GColl in academic environments*** – \$32 000  
co-author of the grant proposal, awarded by Czech National Network Association
- 2008 **Research grant: *Development of user-centric collaborative systems*** – \$8500  
co-author of the grant proposal, awarded by Czech National Network Association

## LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

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- 2014 **Workshop organiser**  
CHI'15 – P. Slovák et. al., “*Developing Skills for Social and Emotional Wellbeing*”.  
CHI'14 – A. Thieme et. al., “*Enabling Empathy in Health and Care: Design Methods and Challenges*”.
- 2010 – present **Reviewer for HCI conferences**  
CHI'15, CHI'14, CHI'13, CHI'12, CHI'11, TEI'14, TEI'13, TEI'12, DIS'14, DIS'12, DIS'10, OzCHI'13, CSCW'14, NordiCHI'14
- 2009 – 2011 **Elected member of the academic senate**  
one of the three student representatives, Faculty of Informatics, Masaryk University

## INVITED TALKS

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- 7th May 2015 **School of Electronic Engineering and Computer Science, Queen Mary, UK**
- 6th May 2015 **UCLIC, University College London, UK**
- 1st Oct 2014 **Microsoft Research, Redmond, USA**
- 8th Mar 2014 **Faculty of Psychology, Vienna University, AT**
- 31st Jan 2014 **Mixed Reality Lab, Nottingham, UK**
- 24th Jan 2014 **CultureLab, Newcastle, UK**
- 22nd Feb 2013 **Austrian Academy Sciences – new PhD fellows workshop**

## KEY INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION PARTNERS

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- VIBE group, Microsoft Research Seattle, USA
- Committee for Children, Seattle, US
- Mixed Reality Lab & School of Education, University of Nottingham, UK
- Open Lab (earlier called Culture Lab) Newcastle University, UK
- Brain, Body, and Behaviour Group, Philips Research, NL

## PUBLICATIONS

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*Note: In Computer Science, in particular HCI/CHI, CSCW and related areas, conference papers are based on submission of 4-10 page papers that are peer reviewed, with final acceptance rates in the range of 20-30% depending on conference; they are regarded by the community as archival publications with status relative to many journals.*

### *Peer-reviewed journal publications:*

- (1) **P. Slovák**, G. Fitzpatrick. Teaching and Developing Social and Emotional Skills with Technology. ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interactions (TOCHI), 22, 4, Article 19 (June 2015), 34 pages.
- (2) H. Schnadelbäch, **P. Slovák**, G. Fitzpatrick, N. Jäger. The immersive effect of adaptive architecture. Pervasive and Mobile Computing, 2014, Elsevier.

### *Peer-reviewed conference publications:*

- (3) **P. Slovák**, Rowan K., Fraunberger C., Gilad-Bachrach R., Doces M., Smith B., Kamb R., Fitzpatrick G. Scaffolding the scaffolding: Supporting childrens social-emotional learning at home. CSCW'16, pages 1751-1765, 2016, ACM.
- (4) **P. Slovák**, R. Gilad-Bachrach, G. Fitzpatrick. Designing Social and Emotional Skills Training: The Challenges and Opportunities for Technology Support. CHI'15, pages 2797-2800, 2015, ACM.
- (5) **P. Slovák**, A. Thieme, P. Tennent, P. Olivier, G. Fitzpatrick. On Becoming a Counsellor: Challenges and Opportunities to Support Interpersonal Skills Training. CSCW'15, pages 1336-1347, ACM.
- (6) **P. Slovák**, P. Tennent, S. Reeves, G. Fitzpatrick. Exploring Skin Conductance Synchronisation in Everyday Interactions. In NordiCHI'14, pages 511-520, 2014, ACM.
- (7) **P. Slovák**, J. Janssen, and G. Fitzpatrick. Understanding heart rate sharing: towards unpacking physiosocial space. In CHI'12, pages 859-868, 2012, ACM.
- (8) **P. Slovák**, P. Novák, V. Rusňák, P. Troubil, P. Holub, and E. Hofer. Exploring Collaboration in Group-to-Group Videoconferencing. In COOP'12, pages 229-244, 2012, Springer.
- (9) **P. Slovák**, P. Novák, P. Troubil, P. Holub, and E. Hofer. Exploring Trust in Group-to-Group Video-Conferencing. In CHI '11 EA, pages 1459-1464, 2011, ACM.

### *Accepted workshop proposals:*

- (10) **P. Slovák**, G. Wadley, D. Coyle, A. Thieme, N. Yamashita, R. Lederman, S. Schutt, M. Doces, G. Fitzpatrick. Developing Skills for Social and Emotional Wellbeing. Workshop at CHI'15 in Seoul.
- (11) A. Thieme, J. Vines, J. Wallace, R. Clarke, **P. Slovák**, J. McCarthy, M. Massimi, A. Parker. Enabling Empathy In Health And Care: Design Methods And Challenges. Workshop at CHI'14 in Toronto.

### *Peer-reviewed workshop submissions:*

- (12) **P. Slovák**, R. Gilad-Bachrach, M. Doces, G. Fitzpatrick. Intervening for Wellbeing: Developing Social-Emotional Competencies with Technology. In CHI'16 Workshop on Computing and Mental Health Workshop (selected for presentation – acceptance rate 20%, i.e., 12 out of 60 submissions).
- (13) **P. Slovák**. Supporting Teaching And Learning Of Situational Empathy By Technology In CHI'14 Doctoral Consortium.
- (14) **P. Slovák**, P. Tennent, G. Fitzpatrick. Supporting Empathetic Interactions Between Doctors and Patients. In CHI'13 Workshop on Patient-Clinician Communication.
- (15) **P. Slovák**, P. Tennent, G. Fitzpatrick. Do Lab Effects Transfer into the Real-world? And Should We Care? In CHI'13 RepliCHI Workshop.
- (16) **P. Slovák**, J. Janssen, and G. Fitzpatrick. Improving Social Connectedness: Sharing Physiological Signals. In CHI'12 Workshop on Interaction Design and Emotional Wellbeing.

- (1) **P. Slovák**, Rowan K., Fraunberger C., Gilad-Bachrach R., Doces M., Smith B., Kamb R., Fitzpatrick G. Scaffolding the scaffolding: Supporting childrens social-emotional learning at home. CSCW'16, pages 1751-1765, 2016, ACM.
- (2) **P. Slovák**, G. Fitzpatrick. Teaching and Developing Social and Emotional Skills with Technology. ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interactions (TOCHI), 22, 4, Article 19 (June 2015), 34 pages.
- (3) **P. Slovák**, R. Gilad-Bachrach, G. Fitzpatrick. Designing Social and Emotional Skills Training: The Challenges and Opportunities for Technology Support. CHI'15, pages 2797-2800, 2015, ACM.
- (4) **P. Slovák**, A. Thieme, P. Tennent, P. Olivier, G. Fitzpatrick. On Becoming a Counsellor: Challenges and Opportunities to Support Interpersonal Skills Training. CSCW'15, pages 1336-1347, ACM.
- (5) H. Schnadelbäch, **P. Slovák**, G. Fitzpatrick, N. Jäger. The immersive effect of adaptive architecture. Pervasive and Mobile Computing, 2014, Elsevier.
- (6) **P. Slovák**, P. Tennent, S. Reeves, G. Fitzpatrick. Exploring Skin Conductance Synchronisation in Everyday Interactions. In NordiCHI'14, pages 511-520, 2014, ACM.
- (7) **P. Slovák**, J. Janssen, and G. Fitzpatrick. Understanding heart rate sharing: towards unpacking physiosocial space. In CHI'12, pages 859-868, 2012, ACM.
- (8) **P. Slovák**, P. Novák, V. Rusňák, P. Troubil, P. Holub, and E. Hofer. Exploring Collaboration in Group-to-Group Videoconferencing. In COOP'12, pages 229-244, 2012, Springer.
- (9) **P. Slovák**, P. Troubil, and P. Holub. GColl: A flexible videoconferencing system for group-to-group interaction. In INTERACT'09, pages 165-168, 2009, Springer.
- (10) **P. Slovák**, P. Troubil, and P. Holub. GColl – Group-to-Group Videoconferencing System: Design and First experiences. In CollaborateCom'09, 2009, IEEE.