

ATHER SHARIF



Software Engineer. Accessibility Researcher, Disability Advocate.
Technology Consultant.

Founder of [EvoXLabs](#) and [SCI Video Blog](#)

Creator of [evoHaX](#), [The Accessible World Conference](#), and [UnlockedMaps](#)

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science, Paul G. Allen School, University of Washington (2018 - 2024)

Human-Computer Interaction, Accessibility, Visualization, and Personalization. GPA: 3.91

Title: "Improving the Accessibility of Online Data Visualizations for Screen-Reader Users and Visualization Creators"

Skills: React, Java, Postgres, Natural Language Processing, Generative AI, Machine Learning, Neural Networks, Crowdsourcing, NodeJS, Quantitative, Qualitative, and Subjective Analyses, User Studies, Geographic Information Systems, Visualizations, Open-source Repository Management, Leadership.

M.S. Computer Science, Paul G. Allen School, University of Washington (2018 - 2021)

Human-Computer Interaction and Accessibility. GPA: 3.92

Title: "The Reliability of Fitts' Law as a Movement Model for People with and without Limited Fine Motor Function"

M.S. Computer Science, Saint Joseph's University (2014 - 2016)

Human-Computer Interaction, Accessibility, Visualization. GPA: 4.0

B.S. Software Engineering, GIK Institute of Science and Technology, Pakistan (2007 - 2011)

Software Engineering. Position 2/38

EXPERIENCE

Senior Fullstack Software Engineer, Team Lead

Comcast

May'16 – Jan'24

Development and support for API authentication and load balancing gateway for Comcast's services, and risk assessment of users accessing Comcast's services to identify risky users through development of microservices. Role involved backend, frontend, DevOps, and Ops, conversion of OKRs into technical requirements, communicating those requirements to the engineers, and mentoring junior developers.

Skills: React, JavaScript, Python, Jest, Mocha, EcmaScript, TypeScript, NodeJS, Express, Lua, GraphQL, Ansible, Terraform, AWS (RDS, EC2, SQS, SNS, Lambda, Route53, etc.), Azure, Jenkins, Concourse CI, Docker, Nginx, Elastic Search, Grafana, Postgres.

Disability Empowerment Center
Oct'20 – Present

Chairman of the Executive Board

Azavea
Aug'15 – Dec'15

UX/UI Research Specialist

OPEN-SOURCE/OPEN-DATA PROJECTS

UnlockedMaps	unlockedmaps.com	Jun'18 – Present
Metis	github.com/athersharif/metis	Dec'19 – Present
VoxLens	github.com/athersharif/voxLens	Feb'22 – Present

SELECT RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (Full list at athersharif.me/publications)

Understanding and Reducing the Challenges Faced by Creators of Accessible Online Data Visualizations. Published at *ACM ASSETS'24*.

Understanding and Improving Drilled-Down Information Extraction from Online Data Visualizations for Screen-Reader Users (Best Technical Paper). Published at *ACM W4A'23*.

UnlockedMaps: A Web-Based Map for Visualizing the Real-Time Accessibility of Urban Rail Transit Stations (Best Artifact Award). Published at *ACM W4A'23*.

VoxLens: Making Online Data Visualizations Accessible With an Interactive JavaScript Plug-In. Published at *ACM CHI'22*.

Understanding Screen-Reader Users' Experiences with Online Data Visualizations. Published at *ACM ASSETS'21*.

SELECT SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS (Full list at athersharif.me/awards)

- **Digital Accessibility Award (Individual Category),** *University of Washington*, 2024
- **Bonderman Fellowship,** *University of Washington*, 2024
- **Husky 100,** *University of Washington*, 2022
- **Dissertation Fellowship,** *Google CMD-IT*, 2022
- **Excellence in Entrepreneurial Leadership Award,** *ADA 25 Advancing Leadership*, 2021
- **Trailblazer Award,** *DO-IT*, 2020
- **Outstanding Graduate Computer Science Award,** *Saint Joseph's University*, 2016
- **Oliver H.M. Jordan Scholarship,** *Mayor's Commission on People with Disabilities*, 2015
- **Geek of the Year,** *Philadelphia Geek Awards*, 2015
- **Lime Scholarship,** *Google*, 2015
- **People with Disabilities Award,** *IBM*, 2015

SERVICE

- User Advisory Board, Office of the ADA Coordinator, UW (2021-2024)
- Graduate Student Volunteers Coordinator, UW CSE (2018-2023)
- Reviewer ([CHI](#), [ASSETS](#), [ToCHI](#), [VIS](#), [CSCW](#), [EuroVIS](#), [UIST](#))
- Program Committee ([SAC](#) 2025, [ASSETS](#) 2023-2024, [UIST](#) 2023)