Beyond Academic Publication: Alternative Outcomes of HCI Research

Position Paper

My name is Evangeline Mensah-Agyekum I am a Product Engineer and Research Associate at Carnegie Mellon University in the Electrical and Computer Engineering department. I graduated from Carnegie Mellon University with a Student-Defined Major in Product Innovation and Applied Entrepreneurial Studies from the College of Engineering which focused on engineering, design, and entrepreneurship. I am also an artist primarily creating through photography, film, and fashion and have been in various galleries, film festivals, and artist residencies.

Although I have not formally worked on alternative forms of research outcomes, I am currently working on a documentary film that explores aging amongst Black women and how societal pressures and standards impact us and the various aspects of our lives, such as our health. This is a personal project inspired by my own personal experiences and conversations I've had with those around me, but further research has been done for historical and scientific support. My research work at CMU is centered on making EEG systems more compatible for those with coarse and curly hair, especially Black people. My plan down the line is to create a photography and short film project based on the work that we do to highlight these challenges and the solutions that we have put together as a way to further educate both patients and clinicians/researchers. What makes me interested and so excited about this workshop is that I never thought of this way of creatively sharing this work as a research outcome in an official capacity. Which is interesting in itself. I am also someone that does not like to write so to have an alternative to writing that makes use of my strengths and is still validated would be a catalyst in my own journey as a researcher, engineer, and creative. I look forward to expanding my world and learning about how my various interests and skill sets can be brought together in a way that aligns with how I operate, while still being able to share information with others.

Overall, I exist and create at the intersection of several worlds. This diverse background allows me to contribute to alternative research outcomes from a unique perspective in regards to how various tools and platforms can be used to share information.