

# What Comes After Research? Exploring Alternative Research Outcomes in HCI

MinYoung Yoo  
School of Interactive Arts and  
Technology  
Simon Fraser University  
Surrey, British Columbia, Canada  
minyoungh\_yoo@sfu.ca

Hayoun Noh  
Department of Computer Science  
University of Oxford  
Oxford, United Kingdom  
hayoun.noh@cs.ox.ac.uk

Alexandra Teixeira Riggs  
Digital Media  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, Georgia, USA  
ariggs8@gatech.edu

Sophia Ppali  
CYENS Centre of Excellence  
Nicosia, Cyprus  
s.ppali@cyens.org.cy

Seung Hyeon Han  
Department of Industrial Design  
KAIST  
Daejeon, Republic of Korea  
hsh0908y@kaist.ac.kr

Nava Haghighi  
Computer Science  
Stanford University  
Stanford, California, USA  
navaha@stanford.edu

William Odom  
School of Interactive Arts and  
Technology  
Simon Fraser University  
Surrey, British Columbia, Canada  
wodom@sfu.ca

Catherine Wieczorek  
School of Interactive Computing  
Georgia Institute of Technology  
Atlanta, Georgia, USA  
cwieczor3@gatech.edu

Anna R. L. Carter  
Computer and Information Sciences  
Northumbria University  
Newcastle Upon Tyne, United  
Kingdom  
anna.r.l.carter@northumbria.ac.uk

Yvon Ruitenbunrg  
Industrial Design  
Eindhoven University of Technology  
Eindhoven, Netherlands  
y.ruitenbunrg@tue.nl

## Abstract

HCI researchers are increasingly producing outcomes that extend beyond academic papers - such as video and audio documentaries, zines, exhibitions, podcasts, DIY tutorials and many more. These *Alternative Research Outcomes (AROs)* open up new ways of communicating research insights, situate knowledge in specific contexts, and engage audiences outside of academic circles. While research work has positioned AROs as an emerging area of interest, open questions remain on ethics, ownership, evaluation and positionality. Our meet-up invites researchers, designers and practitioners who are interested in exploring alternative endpoints of HCI research. Rather than defining a single path forward, the meet-up serves as a collaborative space to share experiences, discuss challenges, and imagine how AROs might take shape in the future academic ecosystem. Attendees will leave with new connections, practical ideas,

and a clearer sense of how alternative endpoints can strengthen the impact of their research.

## CCS Concepts

• **Human-centered computing** → HCI design and evaluation methods.

## Keywords

Research Outcomes, Alternative Forms, Translational Resources, Knowledge Creation

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## 1 BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The HCI community has long explored creative ways of generating and sharing knowledge [2, 8, 10, 11] that meaningfully involve participants, collaborators, and wider communities (e.g., [4, 6, 14]).

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Yet, despite the emphasis on participation, inclusivity and reciprocity, research outcomes and disseminations have remained in conventional venues, including journals, books, papers, and conference presentations. Recently, however, there has been a growing recognition of research outcomes that are not limited to text-based publications [12], and a steady increase in momentum around creating alternative forms of research dissemination.

The concept of *Alternative Research Outcomes* (AROs) has been introduced to describe research activities or artifacts that act as new endpoints in the research timeline, translating and communicating insights in accessible and engaging forms tailored to specific audiences [15, 17]. Examples include audio and video documentaries (e.g., [9, 13, 16]), zines<sup>1</sup> (e.g., [1, 5, 7]), public workshops and exhibitions (e.g., [2, 14]), DIY tutorials (e.g., [3]) and many more. AROs foreground forms of knowledge that are embodied, situated, and relational, pursuing “unaligned” values, such as fluidity, community-focused values and objectives, and responsibility—dimensions that traditional knowledge-creation practices in academia often struggle to capture [17]. While prior work has shaped ARO as an emerging area of inquiry, important questions on ethics, ownership, evaluation and where AROs can be positioned within the academic communities remain unanswered.

This CHI 2026 meet-up aims to build on this trajectory by convening a growing community of researchers and practitioners who share the same interest in creating alternative endpoints for HCI research. Our main goals are to (i) **create an opportunity for attendees to share stories of successes and failures of AROs**, (ii) **bring in ARO examples from different contexts, and explore directions for future collaborations**. The meet-up also aims to (iii) **provide a platform for attendees to reflect on and discuss open questions around AROs**, including: current forms of AROs within and outside the HCI community, a proper way of acknowledging shared authorship of AROs, the validity and impact of AROs, the adaptation of AROs in an academic ecosystem that prioritizes traditional academic processes, authorship, peer review, citation count or impact factors, and the role of collaboration in working with AROs. These topics could lead to deeper conversations about the power and incentive structures that lead to a prioritization of conventional academic contributions, despite interest and pathways for moving beyond the status quo. Designed as an informal conversational space for networking and community building, the meet-up is well-suited to support dialogue on AROs, which thrive on openness, diversity, and plurality. By asking “What comes after research?”, we invite the CHI community to collectively envision more creative, situated, and reciprocal futures where research outcomes are not defined solely by publication.

## 2 ORGANIZERS

We are a group of emerging and experienced HCI researchers with different ethical, cultural and geographical backgrounds, who are practicing or are interested in AROs. *MinYoung*, *Sophia* and *William* have been leading the conceptualization and ongoing discussion of AROs. *Catherine*, *Alexandra* and *Nava* have extensive experience in creating and hosting alternative knowledge and outcomes through making and sharing zines, for example, hosting

various zine libraries at conferences such as the ACM DIS. *Hayoun* and *Yvon* are working with marginalized communities, including North Korean defectors and people with dementia, looking for accessible ways to share research findings with these groups. *Anna* is exploring playful, interactive ways of engaging with communities, public space and higher education, and co-created KaraokAI at CHI 2025. *Seung Hyeon* is interested in making research resources and outcomes public through open source and deployments beyond academic boundaries.

## 3 Meet-Up Activities

Following the informal nature of the newly introduced meet-up track, this session will be organized as an **open, interactive environment with multiple activity stations** running simultaneously. This flexible format will invite the CHI attendees to drop in briefly between other commitments or have deeper conversations with organizers or other attendees.

- **Story Wall: What Comes After Research?** — Share your own experience of working with alternative research outcomes or your aspirations for what research could become. Add your own success or failure stories to our growing Story Wall. See how other CHI attendees are dedicated to or envisioning the alternative endpoints of HCI research.
- **ARO Map: Connecting People & Practices** — Place your research topics, region, and ARO interests on a large collaborative map. The map will create a visual overview of practices across CHI, making visible where different approaches are emerging and helping attendees spot others working in similar or adjacent areas.
- **DIY ARO Making: Creative Expression** — Take a break from the busy conference schedule and make a first draft of your own ARO from your most recent work in a zine, collage or a quick sketch of your possible ARO. Discuss your concept and connect with others to further develop your ideas. Materials will be provided, and all pages will be compiled into a collective digital archive that will be shared publicly after the conference.

## 4 Intended Communities And Relevance

Our intended audience ranges from early-career researchers and students to senior researchers and practitioners who are seeking new dissemination formats for their work in creative ways, or who experiment with non-traditional research outputs such as public exhibitions, creative pieces, and performances. The relevance of this meet-up to CHI attendees is twofold: First, it speaks to the growing interest in engaging audiences beyond academia and offers a critical pathway for exploring the value of outcomes beyond written publications. Second, it facilitates connections among CHI attendees and helps establish an ARO network, encourages collaboration, and shares advocacy of pursuing alternative forms of research outcomes within the HCI community. The meet-up will strengthen the identity of ARO as a growing area in HCI and support attendees in imagining how alternative outcomes might reshape what counts as impact, contribution, and success in the field.

<sup>1</sup>The Zine Festival at 4S 2025 Seattle ([https://www.4sonline.org/reflections\\_seattle.php](https://www.4sonline.org/reflections_seattle.php))

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