# Yotam Sechayk

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Profile:

Currently a first year Creative Informatics Ph.D. candidate at The University of Tokyo, under the guidance of Prof. Igarashi Takeo and Prof. Shamir Ariel (Reichman University).

My research interests lie in Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and AI for education and accessibility. I design and develop tools using AI for **accessibility in online education**, with personalization, adaptation and design transparency as guiding principles.

Education:

**2024-pres.**    The University of Tokyo – Ph.D. in Dep. of Creative Informatics
*Accessibility tools to provide visual access for low-vision people, enhancing and not replacing existing visual strategies.*

2022-2024    The University of Tokyo – M.Sc. in Dep. of Creative Informatics
*Accessibility tools to enhance online learning, with new HCI methods for users to interact with online learning video content.*

2014-2018    Tel Aviv University – B.Sc. in Computer Science and Film & Television. Graduated with honors (GPA 93/100).

Selected Publications:

2025    **Yotam Sechayk**, Ariel Shamir, Amy Pavel, and Takeo Igarashi. "VeasyGuide: Personalized Visual Guidance for Low-vision Learners on Instructor Actions in Presentation Videos". In Proceedings of the 27th International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '25), 2025

2024    **Yotam Sechayk**, Ariel Shamir, and Takeo Igarashi. "ShowMe: 対話的な強調表示と拡大表示によるプレゼンテーションビデオの視覚的アクセシビリティの改善". The 32th Workshop on Interactive Systems and Software (WISS), 2024.

2024    **Yotam Sechayk**\*, Cruz, Christian Arzate\*, Takeo Igarashi, and Randy Gomez. "Data Augmentation for 3DMM-based Arousal-Valence Prediction for HRI." IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN), 2024. \*equal contribution.

2024    **Yotam Sechayk**, Ariel Shamir, Takeo Igarashi. "SmartLearn: Visual-Temporal Accessibility for Slide-based e-learning Videos". In Extended Abstracts of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24). Association for Computing Machinery. USA.

2023    **Yotam Sechayk**, Ariel Shamir, and Takeo Igarashi. "Smart Replay: eラーニング動画における視覚的・時間的アクセシビリティの向上". The 31th Workshop on Interactive Systems and Software (WISS), 2023.

Employment:

| 2023-2024 | **Honda Research Int.** Research Internship | Human understanding project for HRI applications. On arousal-valence based emotional understanding. |
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| 2018-2020 | **Cadence Design Sys.** Software engineer | Multicore engine team. Developing semiconductor verification tools that utilize parallel computing. |
| 2015-2017 | **Tel Aviv University** Head of Technology | Investigate software and hardware solutions to assist students with disabilities, while helping them use these. |

Volunteer and Service:
➢ Reviewer UIST 2025
➢ Reviewer CHI 2025
➢ Reviewer UIST 2024
➢ Reviewer CHI 2024

Selected Awards and Honors:
➢ Softbank Beyond AI grant, 2025.
➢ MEXT Scholarship, Ph.D. program 2024-present.
➢ Google Accessibility in Research Grand, 2023.
➢ MEXT Scholarship, M.Sc. program 2022-2024.
➢ Helpfeel industry paper award. WISS 2023.
➢ Tel-Aviv University, graduation with honors (magna cum laude).

Invited Talks and Visits:
➢ Research visit, the University of Washington, Prof. Jon Froehlich. September 15 to November 14, 2025.
➢ "Awareness-(less) based Accessibility", University of Texas at Austin. October 9, 2024.
➢ Research visit, the University of Texas at Austin, Prof. Amy Pavel. August 2 to October 25, 2024.

Mentoring:
➢ Riccardo Drago, Master student, Polytechnic University of Turin, 2024-2025.
➢ Nayoung Kim, Undergraduate, DGIST, 2024.