

Research Engineer at the Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems in Tübingen, working on 3D digital humans in the team of Michael J. Black. My research centers on parametric body models (SMPL-X, MANO, and FLAME) and their use in human-object interaction, video diffusion models, and face reconstruction. Day-to-day, I work with PyTorch, building data and rendering pipelines, then fine-tuning and evaluating models.

References: [Michael J. Black](#) & [Victoria Fernández Abrevaya](#)

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Pre-doctoral Researcher

Max Planck Institute for Intelligent Systems, Perceiving Systems

02/2024 – Present
Tübingen, Germany

- [Active projects]: 3D Face Reconstruction — Human Avatar Navigation using VLMs
- **InterDyn: Controllable Interactive Dynamics with Video Diffusion Models.** [Paper](#) — [Website](#)
R. Akkerman, H. Feng, M. J. Black, D. Tzionas, V. Fernández Abrevaya
in Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2025
- **OFER: Occluded Face Expression Reconstruction.** [Paper](#) — [Website](#)
P. Selvaraju, V. Fernández Abrevaya, T. Bolkart, R. Akkerman, T. Ding, F. Amjadi, I. Zharkov
in Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), 2025

EDUCATION

University of Amsterdam, Master in Artificial Intelligence

09/2021 – 08/2024

- [Grade]: 3.8/4.0 GPA (7.63/10 weighted average)
- [[Rescience C](#) — Co-author]: [Re] Explaining in Style: Training a GAN to Explain a Classifier in StyleSpace
- [Master thesis]: Synthesizing Object Dynamics from Human Motion with a Video Generative Prior (8/10)

University of Twente, Honours Bachelor's in Technology and Liberal Arts & Sciences

09/2018 – 08/2021

- [Grade]: 4.0/4.0 GPA — [Focus]: Data science and machine learning
- [Minor]: Artificial Intelligence at the University of Amsterdam
- [Honours Programme]: Processes of Change (additional 30 ECs)
- [Bachelor thesis]: Non-functional Requirements, Solutions and Interdependencies in Cross-Silo Horizontal Federated Learning

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Fellow / External Affairs

University Innovation Fellows (Stanford d.school), University of Twente

03/2019 – 04/2024
Enschede, The Netherlands

- [**Leadership & Strategy**]: Directed a multidisciplinary team of 12 students, overseeing strategic campus initiatives and co-managing an annual operating budget of €60,000.
- [**Project Management**]: Organized a 24-hour flagship innovation event attracting 300+ attendees, securing high-profile speakers from the Stanford d.school, KLM, and FH Salzburg.
- [**Mentorship**]: Mentored later Fellows cohorts (Hamburg University of Technology, Erasmus University Rotterdam) through their Stanford-based design-thinking training.

Working Student, Technology & Innovation

Loyens & Loeff

06/2023 – 08/2023
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- [**Legal Tech Adoption**]: Supported the implementation and adoption of AI-powered legal-tech applications at a leading law firm, including automated drafting tools.
- [**Market Analysis**]: Researched developments in the legal-AI market and advised on the selection of AI and legal-tech solutions for specific business cases.

Communication Manager

Innovation Centre for Artificial Intelligence

08/2022 – 03/2023
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

- **[Scientific Communication]**: Spearheaded interview campaigns with leading AI researchers across the Netherlands, translating complex technical concepts into accessible public insights.
- **[Content & Events]**: Created and published content across the website and social channels, and co-directed cross-disciplinary events bridging AI research and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Design Science Internship

05/2021 – 08/2021

Tembo Group

Kampen, The Netherlands

- **[Research]**: Investigated the quality trade-offs of cross-silo horizontal federated learning for industrial machinery manufacturers through a systematic literature review of non-functional requirements.
- **[Framework Design]**: Designed and validated a framework for navigating competing requirements (privacy, communication efficiency) via a case study using the UTAUT model.

Grants & Contracts Support Officer

02/2021 – 08/2021

DIH-HERO (Horizon 2020), University of Twente

Enschede, The Netherlands

- **[Programme Support]**: Supported coordination of a €16M Horizon 2020 Innovation Action building a pan-European network of healthcare-robotics Digital Innovation Hubs across a 17-partner consortium.
- **[Operations]**: Contributed to communications, events, and operations as the project distributed over €8M in innovation funding to SMEs, healthcare providers, and research institutes.

Machine Learning Internship

02/2021 – 05/2021

Perron038

Zwolle, The Netherlands

- **[Computer Vision]**: Built an MVP to classify leakage in sealed detergent-pod containers using active thermography, tuning the capture setup and heating process to maximise leakage/container separability.
- **[Modelling]**: Collected and labelled a graded thermal-image dataset and trained classifiers (SVM, Random Forest, ResNet), demonstrating how precision and recall could be tuned.

Customer Service Representative

07/2018 – 03/2019

LIDL Netherlands Headquarters

Huizen, The Netherlands

- Handled 100+ customer requests per day by phone and email, resolving complaints and service issues at LIDL's national headquarters.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

- Peer review for top conferences in Graphics and Computer Vision: Eurographics and CVPR (2025-2026)
- Coached an international student team (Netherlands, Italy, Sweden) for the Autumn Challenge, developing a Care Hotel concept (2020)
- Co-established the youth wing of the Huizer Botters Foundation to facilitate transfer of Botter craftsmanship (2017-2019)

SKILLS

- **Technical**: Python, Bash, PyTorch, Hugging Face Transformers, PyTorch3D (differentiable rendering), PyRender/EGL (headless cluster rendering), NumPy, OpenCV, smplx & SMPL-family body models, project-aria; distributed multi-GPU training on A100/H100 clusters via HTCondor
- **Languages**: English (proficient), Dutch (native), German (intermediate), Spanish (learning)