

Andrew Blair

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-Robot Interaction in Real-world Settings, Participatory Design & Co-Design, Qualitative and Ethnographic Methods, Organisational Contexts, Stakeholder Perspectives on Future of Work

EDUCATION

University of Glasgow

Doctor of Philosophy in Computing Science

Glasgow, UK

Oct. 2023 – Jul. 2027

- **Thesis:** Organisational Design and Integration of Social Robots

University of Glasgow

Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Software Engineering, 1:1 First Class

Glasgow, UK

Oct. 2019 – May 2023

- **Dissertation:** Real world evaluation of a university guidance and information robot

EXPERIENCE

PhD Researcher

University of Glasgow

Oct 2023 – Present

Glasgow, UK

- Conduct fieldwork on HRI across sensitive organisational contexts
- Design and execute semi-structured interviews for use with diverse stakeholders
- Hold co-design workshops with stakeholders to develop aligned robot tasks
- Conduct organisational ethnography by shadowing front-line workers *in situ*
- Design and distribute surveys to stakeholders and users about perceived robot interaction performance
- Apply reflexive thematic analysis to interpret data and inform actionable outcomes
- Engage with interdisciplinary literature and transdisciplinary methods
- Research aims to develop a framework and taxonomy for organisational HRI research

Project Support Officer

AAB

May. 2026 – Aug. 2026

Edinburgh, UK

- Developed agentic workflows for M&A and Business transformation team
- Researched and developed business case for new corporate engagement platform, aligned for business growth
- Assisted in Mergers & Acquisitions of 4 new businesses across Wealth and Financial Services sectors

Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Glasgow

Oct. 2023 – Jun. 2026

Glasgow, UK

- Develop material and manage tutorials for undergraduate and masters courses
- Independently mark and assess a large variety of coursework
- Lectured in Software Engineering for Widening Participation Programme 2025

Visiting Researcher

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Oct. 2025 – Dec. 2025

Amsterdam, NL

- Designed and executed qualitative research exploring commercial robot adoption by organisations
- Conducted semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders in robot development companies and client organisations
- Undertook empirical organisational ethnography of *in situ* robot deployments in a range of settings

Graduate Apprentice Analyst/Developer

University of Glasgow

Oct 2019 – Oct 2023

Glasgow, UK

- Led student and staff-facing projects such as mobile app, digital signage and campus mapping
- Liaised with academics, senior management, and stakeholders to deliver business requirements
- Translated quantitative and qualitative user insights into functional improvements
- Worked with UX designers to integrate designs into systems accounting for technical and organisational constraints
- Mentored new apprentices, supporting and integrating them into development team

PUBLICATIONS

Green, E., **Blair, A.**, and Foster, M. E. (2026) Does Embodiment Matter? Evaluating Social Presence, Comfort and Authenticity in Robot-Guided Meditation. In: 2026 ACM International Conference on Conversational User Interfaces (CUI 2026), Bremen, Germany, 21-24 Jul 2026. (Accepted)

Blair, A., Gregory, P, Foster, M. E., and Hindriks, K. (2026) Where are they? The absence of social robots in real-world environments. In: 21st Annual ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human Robot Interaction (HRI 2026), Edinburgh, UK, 16-19 March 2026.

Blair, A., Gregory, P. and Foster, M.E (2025) A Blessing or a Burden? Exploring Worker Perspectives of Using a Social Robot in a Church. In: 2025 IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN 2025), Eindhoven, The Netherlands, 25-29 Aug 2025.

Blair, A. and Foster, M. E. (2023) Real-World Evaluation of a University Guidance and Information Robot. In: 15th International Conference on Social Robotics (ICSR 2023), Doha, Qatar, 3–7 December 2023.

Blair, A. and Foster, M. E. (2023) Development of a University Guidance and Information Robot. In: 18th Annual ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human Robot Interaction (HRI 2023), Stockholm, Sweden, 13-16 March 2023.

Workshop Items

Blair, A., Gregory, P. and Foster, Mary Ellen (2025) Observations of Atypical Users from a Pilot Deployment of a Public-Space Social Robot in a Church. In: PubRob-Fails: Workshop, 34th IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication (RO-MAN), Eindhoven, The Netherlands, 25-29 Aug 2025.

Blair, A., Foster, M.E., Gregory, P. (2024) Human-Centered Design of Social Robots: Addressing Stakeholder Involvement to Enhance Long-Term Interaction Success. In: Socially Intelligent Agent Applications, Glasgow, UK, 19 Sep 2024.

Foster, M. E., Ashkenazi, S., **Blair, A.**, Ramirez-Duque, A., Ali, S., Candelaria, P., . . . & Zeller, F. (2024) Including Front-Line Workers as Primary Stakeholders in Public-Space HRI. 1st International Workshop on WRRs - Exploring Transdisciplinary Perspectives on Robotic Futures, Boulder, CO, USA, 11 Mar 2024.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Lead Systems Administrator	Jul 2024 – Present
<i>Glasgow Interactive Systems, University of Glasgow</i>	<i>Glasgow, UK</i>

- Manage and maintain GPU cluster
- Assist other researchers with deployment and creation of services and programs

Graduate Representative, Strategic Advisory Board	Jul 2024 – Present
<i>College of Science and Engineering, University of Glasgow</i>	<i>Glasgow, UK</i>

Reviews: ACM/IEEE HRI, IEEE ICRA, ACM HAI, ACM ICMI, IEEE RO-MAN, IJSR, ICSR

AWARDS

Engineering, Technology and Industry Award Lecture, British Science Association, Apr 2026
Mobility Grant, University of Glasgow, Feb 2025
Rewarding Contribution for Tutoring, University of Glasgow, 2024
Finalist, GRASS Robot Design Competition, ICSR 2023, Doha, Qatar, Dec 2023
Papin Prize for University Technicians Nomination, Jul 2023
Most Outstanding Student (Highest GPA), Level 4 Honours, Software Engineering, Jun 2023
Winner, Glasgow University Tech Society Hackathon, Oct 2022
Most Outstanding Student (Highest GPA), Level 3 Honours, Software Engineering, Jun 2022

OUTREACH

Student Volunteer, Human-Robot Interaction Conference 2026
Organiser, Pint of Science, Dec 2025-Present
Media Interview, “AI In Religion”, Popular Mechanics, October 2025
Invited Talk, “Holy Mother(board): When Tech Meets Tradition”, Pint of Science, May 2025
Invited Talk, “Exploring social robots in the real-world”, Tech Meetup Glasgow, April 2025
Workshop, Introduction to Social Robotics, smartStems, January 2025
Invited Talk “AI and You: Partners not Enemies”, University of Glasgow HR, December 2024
Demonstration Booth, Social Robotics, Worldcon 2024, August 2024
Workshop, Introduction to Computing Science, smartStems, December 2023