

Diego Morra

Curriculum Vitae

Personal Information

Nationality	**Italian**
Mail	**diegomorra.dm@gmail.com**
Website/Portfolio	**diego-morra.com**

Education

Nov 2021 – Mar 2025
Ph.D. cum laude
Information Technology
DEIB – Dipartimento di Elettronica, Informazione e Bioingegneria
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Sep 2018 – Sep 2021
Master's Degree
Communication Design
Politecnico di Milano, Italy
Thesis: COBO: a phygital interactive toolkit for co-designing interactive outdoor experiences with people with intellectual disability.
Score: 110 cum laude (min. 66 max. 110)

Sep 2015 – Jun 2018
Bachelor Degree
Communication Design
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Academic Appointments

2025 – present
PostDoc
MIT Senseable City Lab
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA, USA

01/2026 – 03/2026
Lab Lead
Senseable City Seoul
Seoul, South Korea
Start-up and operational coordination of the lab's Seoul branch, including definition of research direction and development of institutional partnerships.

02/2023 – 12/2023 **Visiting Ph.D.**
MIT Senseable City Lab
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, MA, USA

Publications

Book Chapters

2026 **Morra, D.**
Engaging People with Intellectual Disabilities in IoT Prototyping: Design Guidelines for Accessible Making Toolkits
Special Topics in Information Technology. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-032-12359-6_2

Journal Articles

2026 **Morra, D.**, Andrao, M., Ai, Q., Mores, M., Matera, M., Treccani, B., Zancanaro, M.
"Triggering autonomy, not just automation": Design implications for LLM-based home automation assistants for people with intellectual disability
International Journal of Human-Computer Studies. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2026.103938

2024 **Morra, D.**, Caslini, G., Mores, M., Matera, M., Garzotto, F.
MakeNodes: Opening connected-IoT Making to People with Intellectual Disability
International Journal of Human-Computer Studies. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2024.103325

2024 Gennari, R., Matera, M., Melonio, A., Mores, M., **Morra, D.**, & Rizvi, M.
A Rapid-prototyping Toolkit for People with Intellectual Disabilities
International Journal of Human-Computer Studies. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2024.103347

2024 **Morra, D.**, Zhu, X., Liu, C., Fu, K., Duarte, F., Mora, S., He, Z., & Ratti, C.
Mapping sidewalks accessibility with smartphone imagery and visual AI: A participatory approach
Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society A: Mathematical, Physical and Engineering. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1098/rsta.2024.0106

2023 Gennari, R., Matera, M., **Morra, D.**, Melonio, A., & Rizvi, M.
Design for social digital well-being with young generations: Engage them and make them reflect
International Journal of Human-Computer Studies. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijhcs.2023.103006

2023 Caiola, V., Cusumano, E., Motta, M., Piro, L., Gelsomini, M., **Morra, D.**, Rizvi, M., & Matera, M.
Designing integrated physical-digital systems for children-nature interaction
International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijcci.2023.100582

Full Conference Papers

2026 **Morra, D.**, Mora, S., Woo, M., Lee, S., Kumar, A., Duarte, F., & Ratti, C.
Exploring Citizens' Perceptions of Urban Well-Being Through a Card-Based Game
CHI '26 – The ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3791611

2022 Gennari, R., Matera, M., **Morra, D.**, & Rizvi, M.
Phygital Toolkit for Rapidly Designing Smart Things at School
International Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3531073.3531119

2021 Cosentino, G., **Morra, D.**, Matera, M., Gelsomini, M., Mores, M.
COBO: A Card-based Toolkit for Co-designing Smart Outdoor Experiences with People with Intellectual Disability
18th IFIP TC13 International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (INTERACT). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-85623-6_11

Short Papers & Posters

2024 Andrao, M., **Morra, D.**, Paccosi, T., Matera, M., Treccani, B., Zancanaro, M.
"This Sounds Unclear": Evaluating ChatGPT capability in translating end-user prompts into ready-to-deploy Python Code
2024 International Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI '24). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3656650.3656693

2023 Gibelli, E. M., **Morra, D.**, Gelsomini, M., Matera, M.
Improving Swim Accessibility through VibroTactile Sensory Substitution: A Preliminary Study
Biannual Conference of the Italian SIGCHI Chapter (CHItaly). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3605390.3605418

2022 Gennari, R., Matera, M., Melonio, A., **Morra, D.**, & Rizvi, M.
Ready, Steady, Go: Playing and Rapidly Designing with IoTgo
2022 International Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces (AVI). DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3531073.3534463

Workshop Papers

2026 Prandi, C., Mora, S., **Morra, D.**, & Martinetti, A.
CIVICS 2026: Citizen scIence adVanced InterfaCes – From Sensing to Sensemaking
AVI '26 – 2026 International Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces, Venice, Italy. DOI: https://doi.org/10.1145/3811427.3811488

2022 **Morra, D.**, & Rizvi, M.
Enhancing Students' Critical Reflection on Smart Things Design Through an End-User Development Toolkit
International EMPATHY Workshop: Empowering People in Dealing with Internet of Things Ecosystems. CEUR Workshop Proceedings PDF

2021 **Morra, D.**, Cosentino, G., Gelsomini, M., Matera, M., & Mores, M.
Empowering Young Adults with Intellectual Disability to Design Smart Interactive Experiences
International EMPATHY Workshop: Empowering People in Dealing with Internet of Things Ecosystems. CEUR Workshop Proceedings PDF

2020 Matera, M., Cosentino, G., Mores, M., **Morra, D.**
A Card-based Toolkit for Co-Designing Smart Interactive Experiences with Subjects with Neurodevelopmental Disorders
International EMPATHY Workshop: Empowering People in Dealing with Internet of Things Ecosystems. CEUR Workshop Proceedings PDF

Exhibitions

2026 **Re-Leaf – Vedere la Città attraverso i suoi alberi**
Palazzo delle Esposizioni, Rome, Italy
Co-author

2025 **Data Clouds**
Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective,
19th International Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy
Co-author

2025 **Re-Leaf**
Intelligens. Natural. Artificial. Collective,
19th International Architecture Biennale, Venice, Italy
Co-author

2023 **Mapping the [in]visible**
MIT Museum
Cambridge, MA, USA
Co-author

Awards & Honors

2025 **Springer Award**
Doctoral Consortium, PhD course in Information Technology
Politecnico di Milano

2023 **Roberto Rocca Doctoral Fellowship**
12 months fellowship supporting doctoral research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) through the joint MIT–Politecnico di Milano Progetto Rocca program
Politecnico di Milano & MIT

Talks & Seminars

2026 **Guest Lecture – "Sensing Cities: Methods and Tools from MIT Senseable City Lab"**
SUSTech School of Design, Shenzhen, China

2026 **Speaker – "AI to evaluate, monitor and improve accessibility of sidewalks"**
Accademy Sondotécnica – Webinar

2026 **Speaker – MIT Future Fest**
School of Architecture and Planning, MIT, Cambridge (MA)

2026 **Guest Lecture and Tutor – ENHANCE Alliance Summer School Designing Regenerative Neighbourhoods: New European Bauhaus and Technological Competitiveness**
Faculty of Architecture and Design, NTNU, Norway

2026 **Speaker – "Make Cities Talk Back"**
DO IMPACT: Dati e AI per l'economia sociale
School of Management, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

2026 **Speaker – "Giving Sense to Sensing"**
Department of Industrial Design, KAIST, South Korea

2025 **Speaker – "Make Cities Talk Back"**
Data Science for Common Good international webinar

2025 **Guest Lecturer – "Giving Sense to Sensing"**
Human–Computer Interaction for Business
Informatics and Management of Digital Business programme, Libera Università di Bolzano, Italy

2024 **Speaker**
Social Entrepreneurship
Master degree in Management Engineering, Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Teaching

2 years **Teaching Assistant**
Inclusive Digital Technologies
Master degree in Industrial and Information Engineering, Politecnico di Milano

2 years **Teaching Assistant**
Design for complexity (Workshop)
Master degree in Product-Service System Design, Politecnico di Milano

2 years **Tutoring**
MSc Students
Master degree in Communication Design, School of Design, Politecnico di Milano

4 years **Teaching Assistant**
Interaction Design Lab
Master degree in Communication Design, School of Design, Politecnico di Milano

5 years **Teaching Assistant**
Il Fotografo e il progetto
Bachelor degree in Communication Design, School of Design, Politecnico di Milano

Academic Service

Workshop Organization

CIVICS 2026
Co-organizer – workshop co-located with AVI 2026, Venice, Italy

Program Committee

AVI 2026
International Conference on Advanced Visual Interfaces

ASSETS 2026
International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility

ECSCW 2026
EUSSET Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work

Paper review

IJHCS (2026)
International Journal of Human-Computer Studies

CHI (2026, 2023)
The ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems

DIS 2026
ACM Designing Interactive Systems

INTERACT (2025, 2023, 2021)
IFIP TC13 International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction

CSCW (2025, 2024)
The ACM SIGCHI Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing

IJGI 2024
ISPRS International Journal of Geo-Information

IJCCI (2026, 2025, 2024, 2023)
International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction

MobileHCI (2024, 2023)
The ACM International Conference on Mobile Human-Computer Interaction

IDC 2022
ACM Interaction Design and Children (IDC) Conference

Iternational Research Projects

2022 – 2023

EIT Digital 2022 Innovation Activity

Development of the next generation of a senior monitoring solution, tested and evaluated in two pilot projects – one in Finland and one in Italy. The main objectives were to evaluate usability and functionality and to obtain valuable input for further improvements.
Project partners:

- Forum Virium Helsinki
- Politecnico di Milano
- T.net S.p.A.

Relevant Professional Experience

01/2021 – 06/2025 **Freelance UX/UI Designer & Front-End Developer**

UX/UI, graphic design and consulting for a variety of clients and brands:

- SYEN electronics;
- ALMA Agency;
- Politecnico di Milano (*Mission Bambini Onlus*);
- Poste Italiane S.p.A.;
- Fondazione Politecnico di Milano;
- DM Company SRL (*UBS Bank, Absolute, Jameson, Malfy*);
- MantovaArchitettura;
- Assessorato alle Politiche Giovanili del Comune di Modena:

01/2021 – 03/2021 **UX/UI & Data Visualization**
Politecnico di Milano

Designer for a visual analytics tool to support decisions in the environmental field. The main goal was to design a multidimensional data visualization system geared toward decision support in environmental management.

11/2019 – 02/2021 **Designer & Front-End Developer**
Politecnico di Milano

Graphic support for the definition and ideation of artifacts and communication material for the Communication Office of the Department of Electronics, Information and Bioengineering (DEIB).

05/2020 – 09/2020 **Stage – Interaction Design**
TIS Lab

Design of an interactive toolkit and visual app to support a co-design method of interactive services for subjects with cognitive disorders, within the TIS Laboratory (DEIB). Carried out preliminary research: defining project stakeholders, conducting co-design workshops and questionnaire surveys to evaluate the system and define the interactive technologies needed for an advanced version.

Languages

Native language Italian
Foreign language English

TOEFL iBT: 89/120 – July 2021
TOEIC: C2 (940/990) – June 2018
TONG: 27/30 – August 2015