

RESEARCH THEME

XLI Cycle – a.y. 2025/2026

Title of the doctoral research Exploit Smart Technologies to Design for Gender Inclusivity

Proponent professor Venere Ferraro

Abstract

Gender inclusivity in Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) is a growing focus in third-wave HCI research, emphasizing diversity and representation in technology design. Historically, HCI has defaulted to binary and cisnormative perspectives, leaving gaps in addressing trans and non-binary needs.

Researchers like Ahmed, Haimson, and Baeza advocate for participatory design methods that challenge gender binaries, while Spiel et al. highlight how technology reinforces these norms. The concept of "Trans Technology" encompasses interventions supporting trans individuals. Haimson et al. argue that gender-inclusive HCI must resist harmful stereotypes while empowering trans users with new agency.

Despite progress, little research explores the well-being of trans and non-binary individuals. Gender inclusivity in HCI aligns with feminist and queer perspectives challenging power structures. Taylor et al. emphasize queer theory's role in disrupting normative gender assumptions and advocating for transformative design.

This research seeks to advance trans-inclusive HCI by examining how smart products can support gender, identity, and well-being.

It posits that inclusive HCI practices can significantly contribute to the design of trans and non-binary well-being products by leveraging human-centered methodologies that foreground the experiences and voices of these communities.

Keywords HCI, Gender Inclusivity, Smart products