

Catch me if you can...  
Manoeuvre the Competition  
with Your Unique Abilities

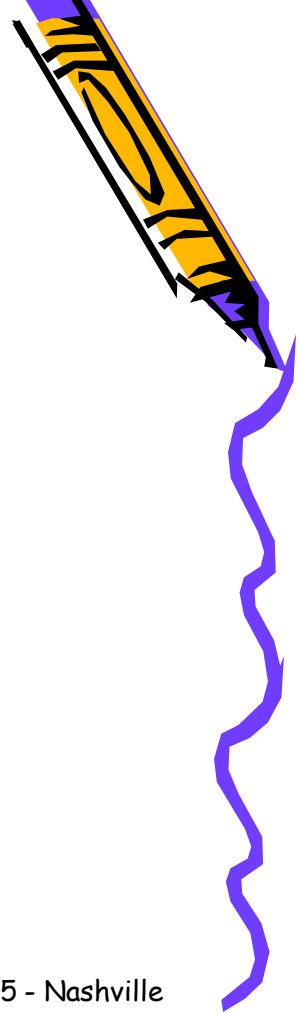
Dima Damen  
University of Bristol  
& Google DeepMind



CVPR 2025 Workshop  
How to Stand Out in the Crowd

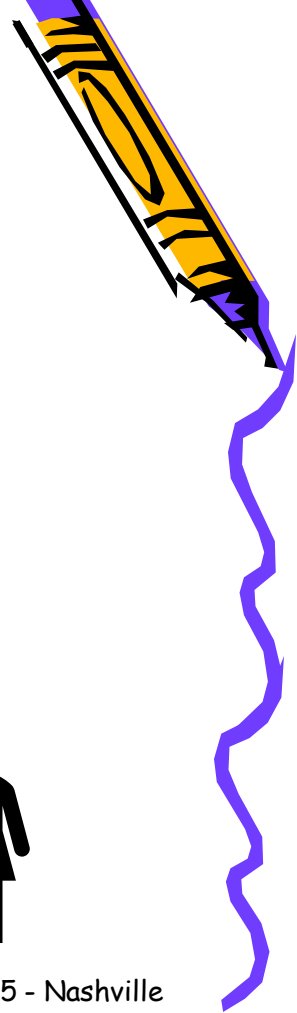
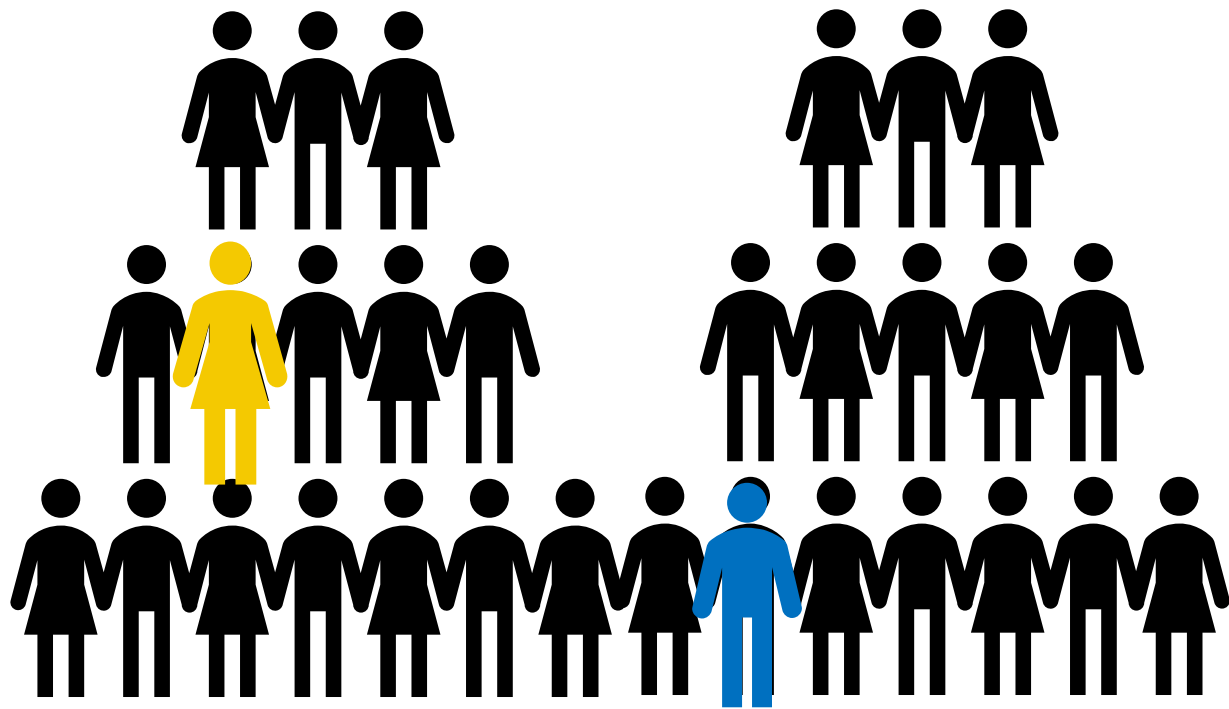
These views are my own and do not  
represent those of my affiliations

# Warning...



CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# What is **standing out**?



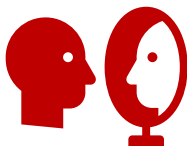
# Why do you need to **stand out**?



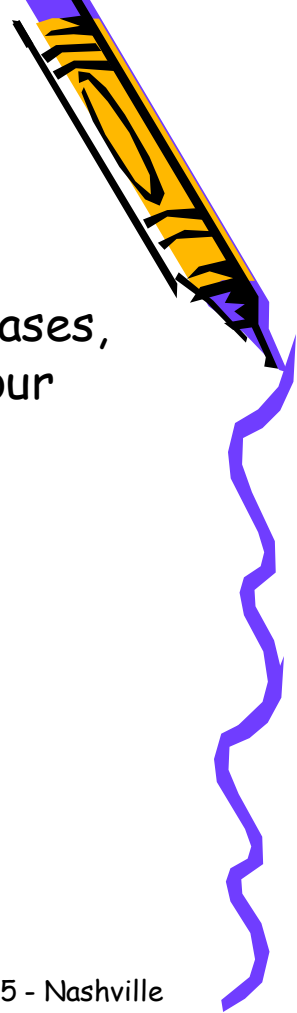
As the volume of published research increases, **standing out** can increase the chance of your research being picked up / read / ...



Opportunities (give talks, jobs, ...)

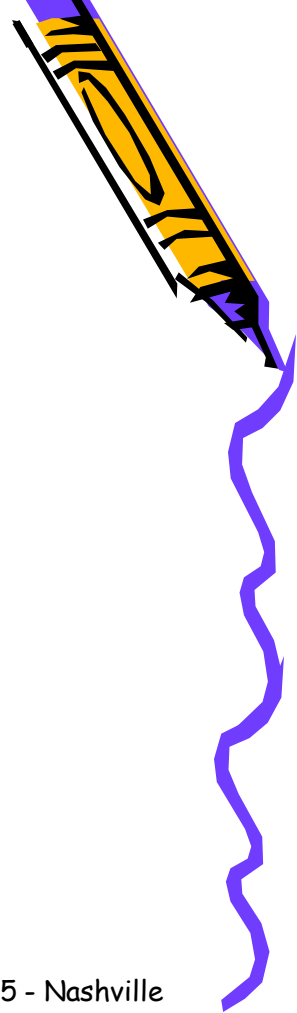


Improved self-image



# Many paths to standing out...

Research...



# Many paths to standing out...

Research...

- award-winning research

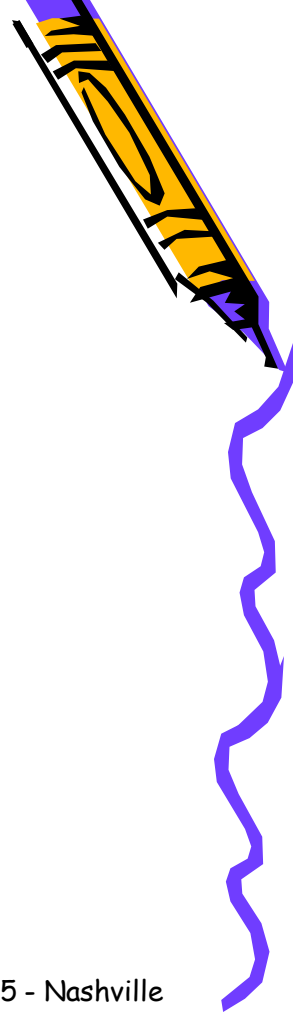


**Kaiming He 何恺明**

Associate Professor, EECS, MIT

Office: 45-701H, 51 Vassar St, Cambridge, MA 02139

kaiming@mit.edu



CVPR 2025 - Nashville

Dima Damen

'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# Many paths to standing out...

Research...

- award-winning research
- changed the field



CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# Many paths to standing out...

## Research...

- award-winning research
- changed the field
- different (path less tackled)

### Chelsea Finn

chfinn at cs dot stanford dot edu

I am an Assistant Professor in [Computer Science](#) and [Electrical Engineering](#) at [Stanford University](#) and co-founder of [FL](#). My lab, [IRIS](#), studies intelligence through robotic interaction at scale, and is affiliated with [SAIL](#) and the [ML Group](#).

*I am interested in the capability of robots and other agents to develop broadly intelligent behavior through learning and interaction.*

Previously, I completed my Ph.D. in computer science at [UC Berkeley](#) and my B.S. in electrical engineering and computer science at [MIT](#). I also spent time at Google as part of the [Google Brain](#) team.



CVPR 2025 - Nashville

Dima Damen

'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'



# Many paths to standing out...

## Research...

- award-winning research
- changed the field
- different (path less tackled)

## Opinions...

- controversial

Gary Bradski

American engineer and entrepreneur



CVPR 2025 - Nashville

Dima Damen

'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# Many paths to standing out...

## Research...

- award-winning research
- changed the field
- different (path less tackled)

## Opinions...

- controversial
- sharing



**Jia-Bin Huang**

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR, COMPUTER VISION

Jia-Bin Huang is an associate professor of computer science with an appointment in the University of Maryland Institute for Advanced Computer Studies.

His research focuses on advancing computers to perceive images and videos the same way humans do. More specifically, Huang develops computational methods for recognizing and reconstructing the underlying dynamic 3D scenes in images and videos.

Contact

CVPR 2025 - Nashville

Dima Damen

'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# Many paths to standing out...

## Research...

- award-winning research
- changed the field
- different (path less tackled)

## Opinions...

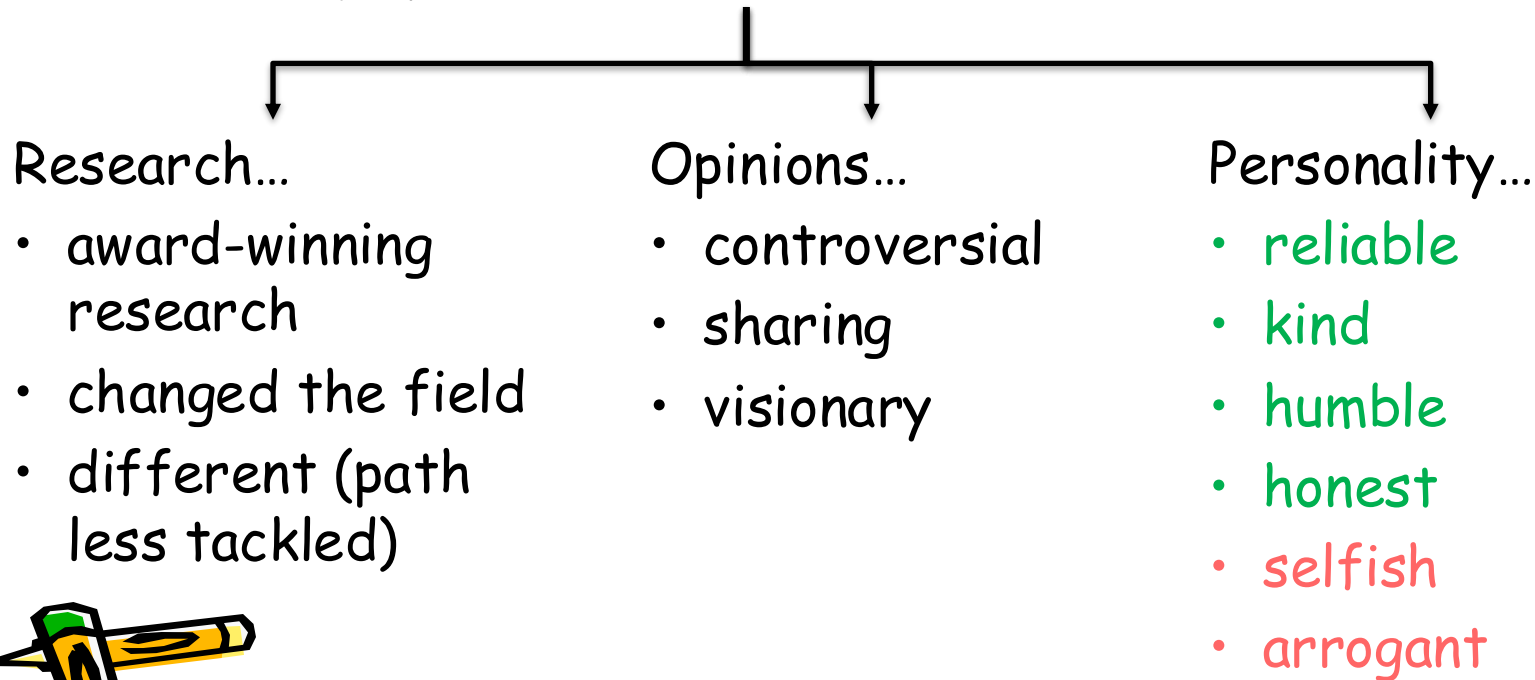
- controversial
- sharing
- visionary

Michael J. Black

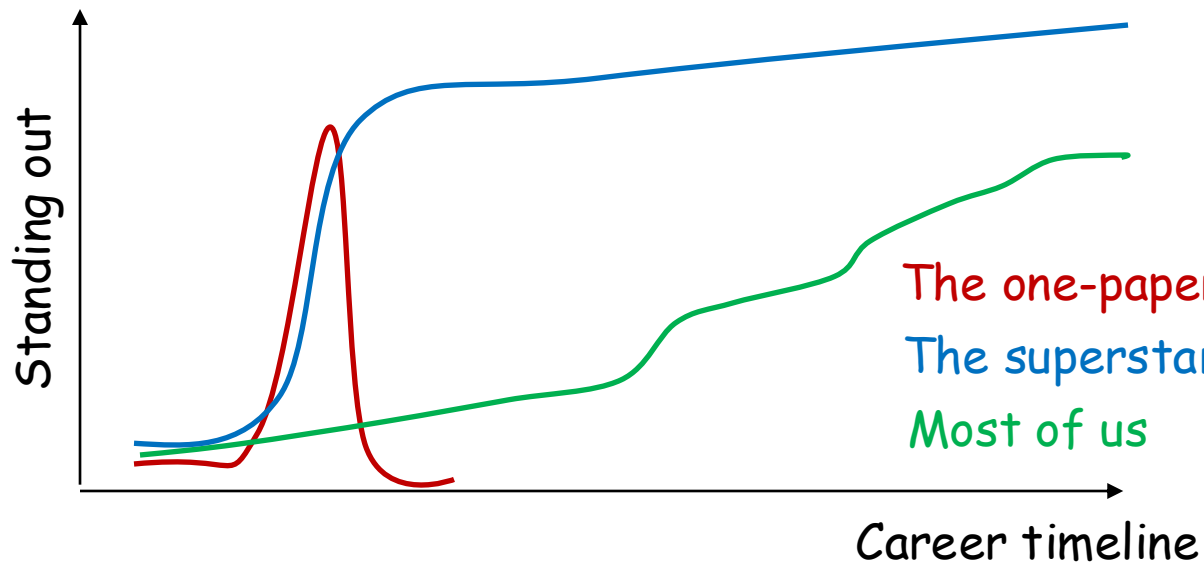


Michael J. Black  
Director, Max Planck Institute for Intelligent  
Systems in Tübingen, Germany

# Many paths to standing out...

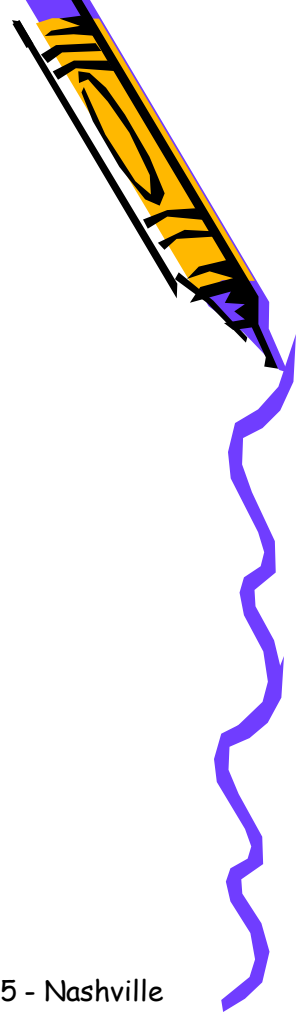


# The 'standing out' timeline



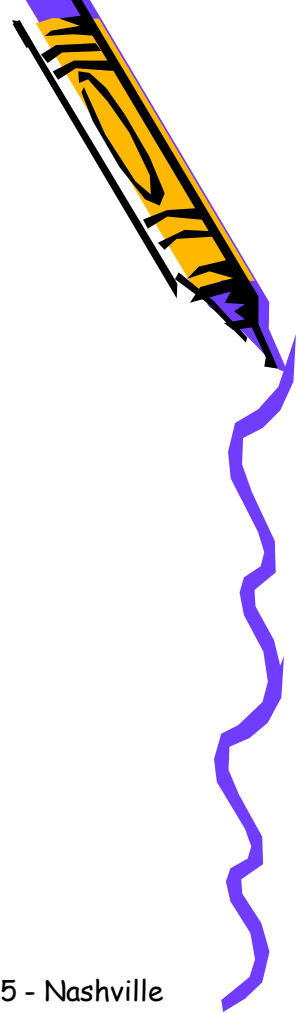
# So we talked about...

- Why to stand out?
- How to stand out?
- When can one stand out?
- ....



# In this talk....

- personal experience...



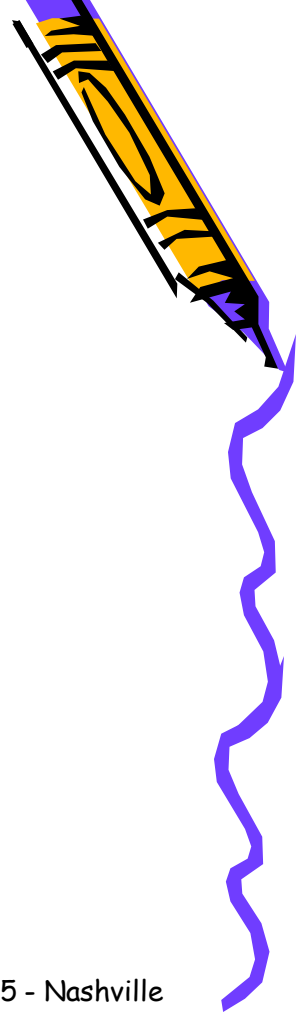


CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'



# How to outmaneuver the competition??

- How to stay ahead of the game?
- My 10 pieces of wisdom



# 1. Build on your strengths

SIGNATURE IN FULL

STATE

R

SE

ATOR

DATE OF BIRTH 3/13/38

SEX M

NAME FRANK JR.

FEE 3.00

EXPIRES 12/31/69

IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1 85723

TAYLOR

ADDRESS 44 HOLLISTE RD. #4

EASTCHESTER, N

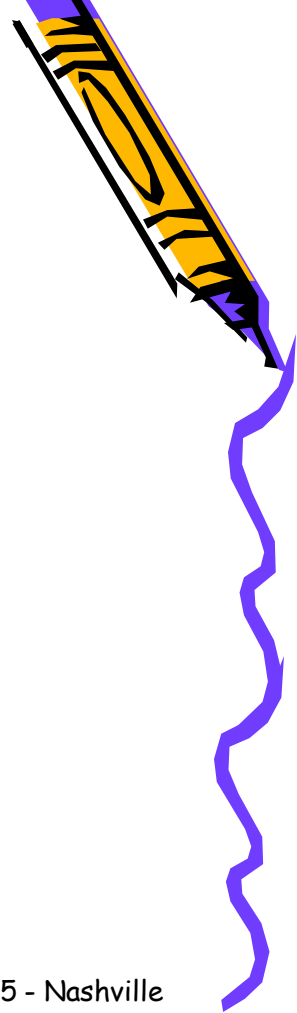
06 1964

OF

# 1. Building on your strengths...

What am I good at?

- Well-written papers
- Accurately Annotated Datasets
- Innovative directions/ideas
- Excellent demos/videos
- Good presentations



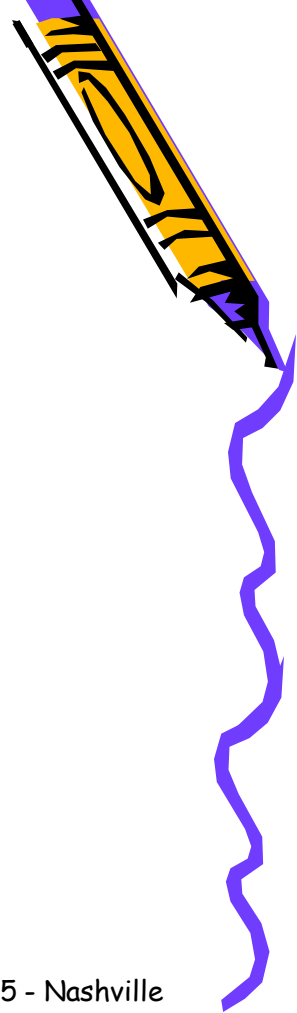
## 2. Observe the trends



CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# Observe the trends

- Read papers
- Review papers
- *AC / SAC*



## 2. Observe the trends...



How to Make a Tofu Salad?



How to Make a Calzone?



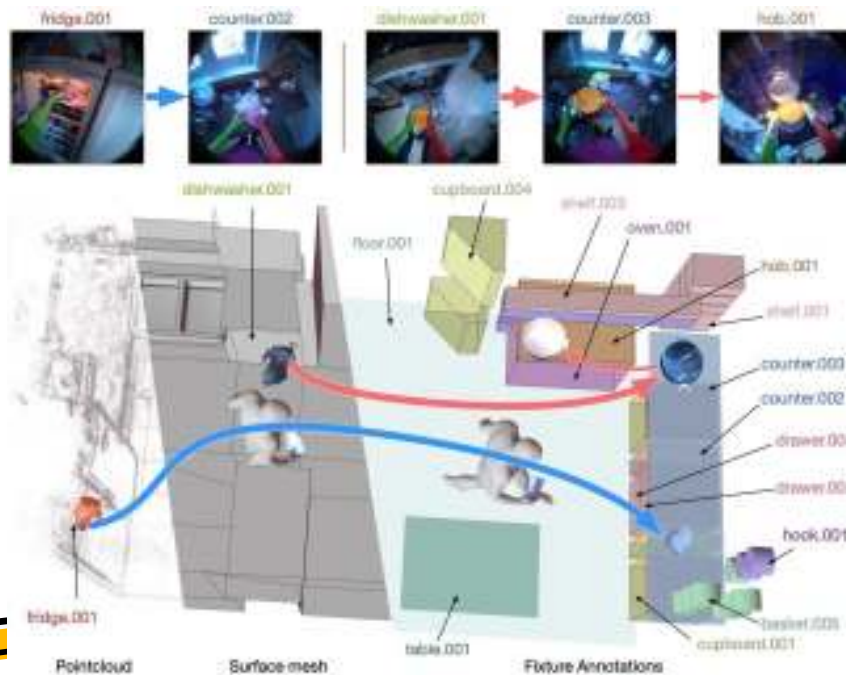
How to Make Eggs Benedict?

ShowHowTo (CVPR 2025) - Poster Session 6

CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'



## 2. Observe the trends...



HD-EPIC (CVPR 2025) -  
Demo in Poster Session 2  
Paper in Poster Session 5



3. Know what others are  
doing

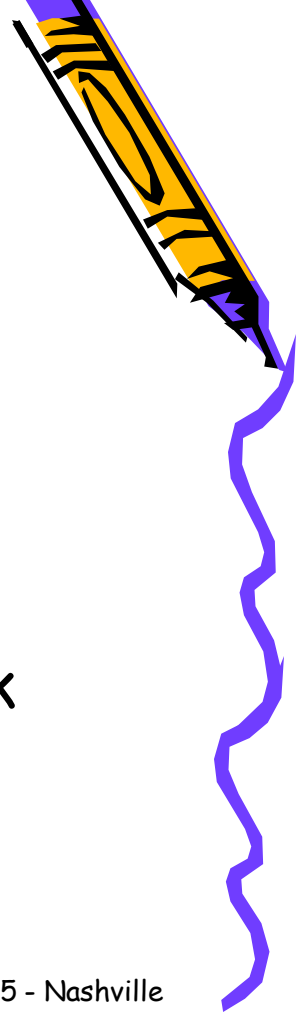
shville

Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'



### 3. Know what others are doing

- Organise workshops and symposiums
- Visit other groups
- Attend conferences & speak to researchers
- Invite local and international speakers (and ask them questions!)





4. Collaborate wisely...

CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# 4. Collaborate wisely...

## EPIC-KITCHENS VISOR

We are proud to announce the EPIC-KITCHENS VISOR, a new dataset of pixel annotations and a benchmark suite for segmenting hands and active objects in egocentric video. VISOR annotates videos from EPIC-KITCHENS, which comes with a new set of challenges not encountered in current video segmentation datasets. Specifically, we need to ensure both short- and long-term consistency of pixel-level annotations as objects undergo transformative interactions, e.g. an onion is peeled, sliced and cooked - where we aim to obtain accurate pixel-level annotations of the peel, onion pieces, chopping board, knife, pan, as well as the acting hands. VISOR introduces an annotation pipeline, AI-powered in parts, for scalability and quality, and introduces:

### Sparse Annotations



273K masks covering 30 hours of untrimmed video

### Dense Annotations



14.5M high quality automatic interpolations



**Sanja Fidler**  
University of  
Toronto



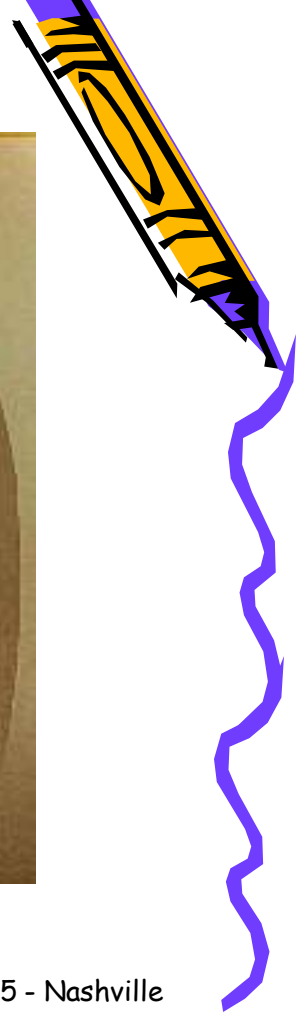
**David Fouhey**  
University of  
Michigan



**Dima Damen**  
University of Bristol

CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

## 5. Go where no one is going...



CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# 5. Go where no one is looking

- Audio-visual in egocentric videos

**Outstanding paper award at ICASSP 2021!**

## EPIC-SOUNDS: A Large-Scale Dataset of Actions that Sound

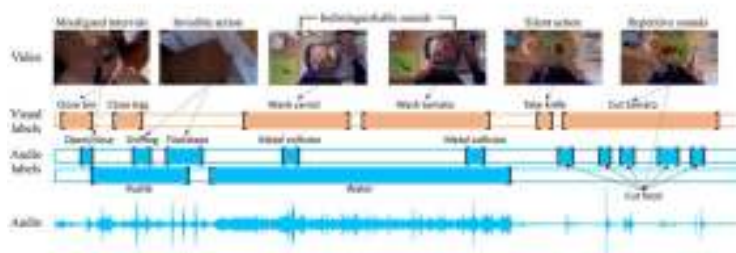
Junsang Huh<sup>1\*</sup>, Jacob Chaffin<sup>2\*</sup>, Ehsanuko Karakas<sup>1</sup>, Dima Damen<sup>1</sup>, Andrew Senior<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Mixed Reality Group, Department of Engineering Science, University of Oxford, UK

<sup>2</sup>Department of Computer Science, University of Bristol, UK

<sup>3</sup>CMIC, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic

<https://epic-kitchens.github.io/epic-sounds/>



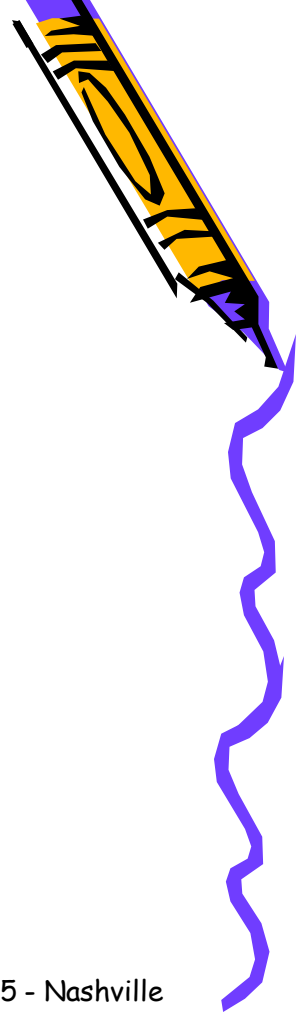
CVPR 2025 - Nashville

Dima Damen

'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'



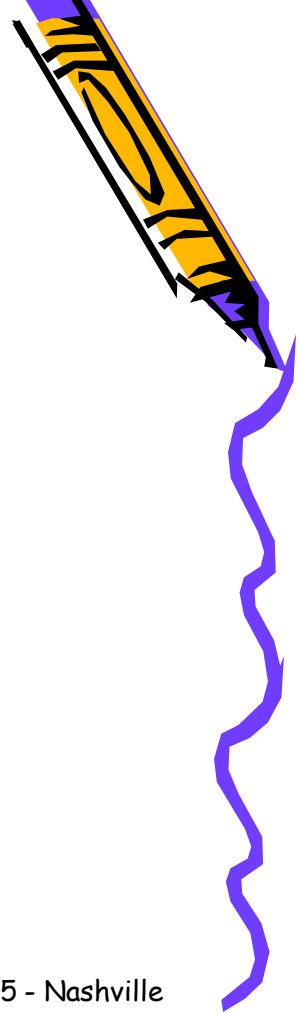
## 6. Act Fast



CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

## 6. Act Fast

- Our field is moving very fast.
- You can take a break [that's fine]
- You can't work 'slowly'



## 7. Don't share too early



CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'



## 7. Don't share too early...

- You learn this one in a painful manner,
- Important to share and get feedback
- Share with those who you trust & those who share back,





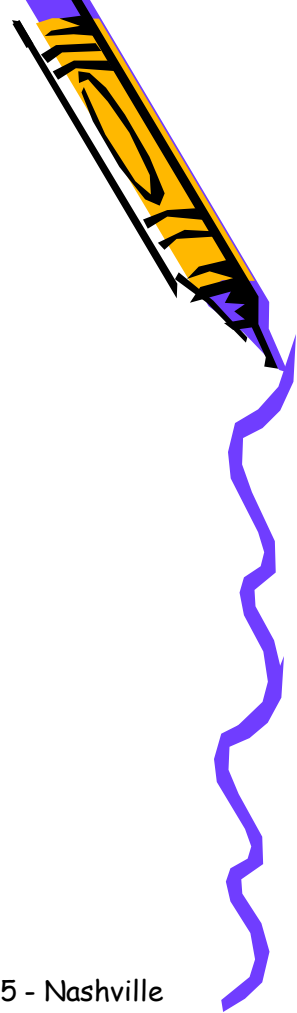
## 8. Convince yourself first

Nashville

Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

## 8. Convince yourself first...

- The hardest step...
- Be yourself's devil advocate
- Be the worst critique...



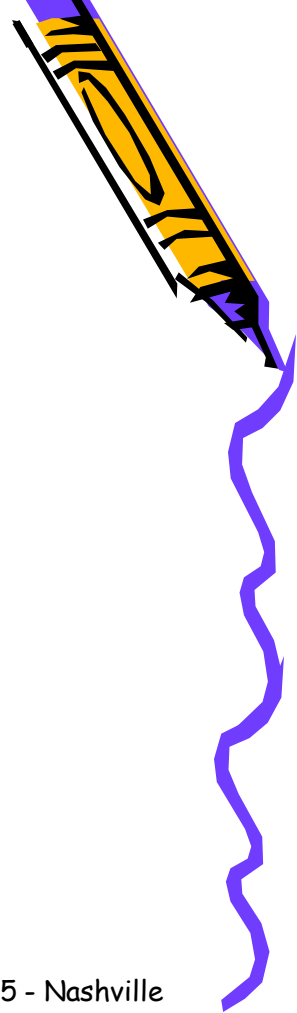
## 9. Announce over the roof-tops



CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

## 9. Announce over the rooftops...

- More than pushing to ArXiv...
- Webpage
- Social media
- Send to relevant groups
- Mention in conferences
- Celebrate the achievement...



10. Grow your human impact...



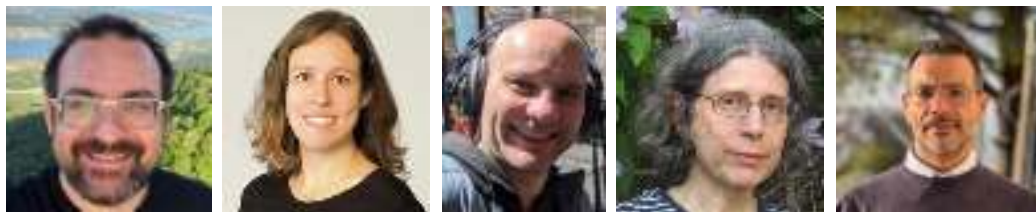
CVPR 2025 - Nashville  
Dima Damen  
'How to Stand Out in the Crowd?'

# 10. Grow your human impact

- Success of your students / alumni,



- Make friends...





# Catch me if you can - the summary

1. Build on your strengths



4. Collaborate wisely...



7. Don't share too early



2. Observe the trends



5. Go where no one is going...



8. Convince yourself first



10. Grow your human impact



3. Know what others are doing



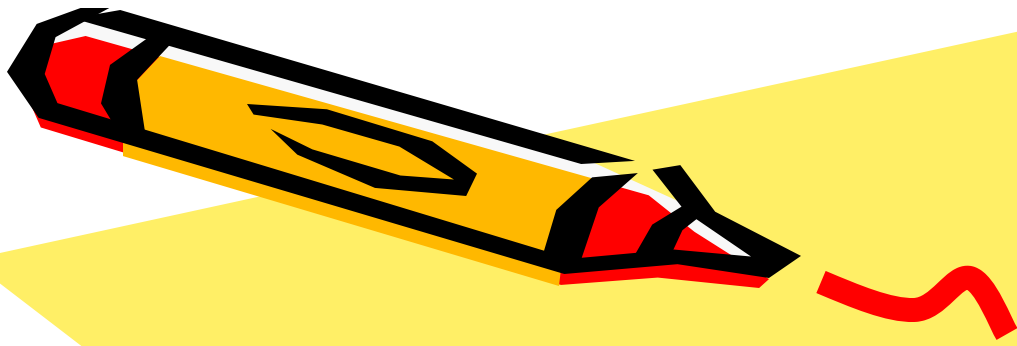
6. Act Fast



9. Announce over the roof-tops







Take everything I said...

with a pinch of salt...

