

# Timothy Savas

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## EXPERIENCE

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HARMAN INTERNATIONAL Cambridge, MA

July 2019 - present

### **Manager, Technology Scouting | Research Affiliate, MIT Media Lab**

Resident Visiting Scientist and technology scout based at MIT Media Lab for Harman R&D.

- Scouted and managing joint research project, Hyperconnected Concerts, with Opera of the Future and Harman innovation team to meaningfully connect live performers and audiences in new ways.
- Scouted and launched \$100k/year sponsored research collaboration with eminent acoustics research lab at Penn State University to advance new spatial and AR audio devices and experiences.
- Acting as Visiting Scientist within Fluid Interfaces research group with focus on developing cutting-edge sensing and intervention technologies for wearables and the car.
- Managing and hosting regular innovation-focused engagements at MIT Media Lab with diverse stakeholders including international Harman business units, MIT faculty, Members, and start-ups.
- Projects: [Physics-123](#), [Analog & Digital Circuit Design](#).

MIT MEDIA LAB Cambridge, MA

May 2016 - June 2019

### **Special Projects Assistant**

Hardware designer and fabricator for future-of-food production research lab.

- Built mechanical systems for and co-authored group's most cited science journal publication.
- Led hardware prototyping and manufacturing operations in MIT digital fabrication lab for fast-paced team with firm deadlines and minimal oversight. First POC build debuted at White House, 2016.
- Collaborated with Media Lab Member, Welspun, and Stella McCartney to create proofs of concept for "future of cotton and denim" material production systems; led build-out in Anjar, India.
- Coordinated across a diverse group of collaborators including Media Lab Member, Ferrero, horticultural scientists, and mechatronics engineers to create custom Tree Computer mechanical infrastructure.
- Projects: [Tree Computer](#), [Cotton Computer](#), [Food Server](#), [PFC v3.0 Ice Cube](#).

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Cambridge, MA

Aug 2014 - May 2016

### **Research Assistant**

Lab technician and research assistant for climate change biology laboratory.

- Launched and co-authored meta-analysis study published in Nature Climate Change, 2020.
- Combined mechanical engineering with computational photography to create robotic camera systems and new media art featured by TEDx, Harvard University, and MIT.
- Oversaw a two-year international climate change study requiring meticulous data collection, project management, and communications between cross-functional lab groups.
- Projects: [Miniature Steam Engine](#), [Emma Camera Rail](#), [Radieye Camera Bot](#), [Morphology Rubric](#).

## Research Assistant

Lab technician and research assistant for leading environmental science laboratory.

- Designed and built custom robotic instrumentation to collect first-of-its-kind dataset.
- Machined, tested, and deployed instruments for two years of all-weather outdoor autonomous operation.
- Projects: [Mechanical Ecology](#).

## SELECTED EXHIBITIONS

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2019	<i>Nature—Cooper Hewitt Design Triennial</i> , Cooper Hewitt	New York
2019	<i>AI: More Than Human</i> , Barbican	London
2019	<i>Food: Bigger than the Plate</i> , Victoria & Albert	London
2017	<i>Decoding Plants: Using Art and Design as Powerful Scientific Tools</i> , TEDx Talk	Boston

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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A. K. Ettinger, Chamberlain, C.J., Morales-Castilla, I., D. M. Buonaiuto, D. F., B. Flynn, T. Savas, et al. (2020) Winter temperatures predominate in spring phenological responses to warming. *Nature Climate Change* 10, 1137–1142. [[link](#)]

Johnson AJ, Meyerson E, de la Parra J, Savas TL, Miikkulainen R, et al. (2019) Flavor-cyber-agriculture: Optimization of plant metabolites in an open-source control environment through surrogate modeling. *PLOS ONE* 14(4): e0213918. [[link](#)]

T. Savas, D. F. B. Flynn, and E M. Wolkovich. 2017. “A standardized photographic guide to woody plant spring phenology.” Knowledge Network for Biocomplexity. [[link](#)]

## SKILLS

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**Fabrication:** Digital, manual lathe and milling machine, 5-axis mill, ShopBot, 3D printer, water jet, vinyl cutter, laser cutter, pick and place; digital and analog circuit design; SolidWorks, Fusion 360, Adobe suite.

**Other Media:** Web development, Javascript, node.js, C++, photography, videography, audio production.

## EDUCATION

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**New York University** Bachelor of Arts 2009 | Honors in Environmental Studies

**Harvard University, MIT** postgraduate coursework: Analog & Digital Circuit Design, Design Across Scales, Creative Explorations in Physical Computing, Audio Product Design, Javascript, Fundamentals of Website Development, Harvard Machine Shop Certification, Video Lighting, Experiments in Art and Augmentation