# SARAH MORRISON-SMITH

Roman Family Teaching and Research Fellow • Computer Science
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September 25, 2021

Dear Hamilton College Faculty Search Committee,

I am responding to your advertisement for an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Hamilton College. I am currently a Roman Family Teaching and Research Fellow at Barnard College and founder of the BarnardHCI Research Lab. Prior to Barnard College, I received by Ph.D. in 2019 from the Human Centered Computing program at the University of Florida, where I worked with Dr. Jaime Ruiz.

As a human-computer interaction researcher, I focus on the interplay between people and technology. My research centers on developing systems to support multidisciplinary research teams that rely on computers, including life science research and remote work. My work has been published in top HCI venues including ACM's CHI, Mobile HCI, and ICMI conferences. I have taken an interdisciplinary and collaborative approach by including bioinformaticians and other life scientists in the design of technology created to support their research. I am excited by the possibility of continuing to pursue interdisciplinary research opportunities as a faculty member at Hamilton College with faculty such as Dr. Mark Bailey to expand my research focusing on access control and data sharing in the life sciences.

While at Barnard College and the University of Florida, I have developed curriculum and taught introductory and senior undergraduate courses in HCI, accessibility, and basic programming. My experience at Barnard, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, has shaped my teaching by reinforcing the importance of adaptability and flexibility in pedagogy. I have found that techniques that work in an in-person setting are not appropriate for online teaching. As a result, I have actively solicited feedback from students through periodic reflections on course material and pedagogical methods to tailor my courses to the needs of students, which I believe has made me a stronger teacher. In addition, I designed instructional material and taught high school girls design and coding skills through two-to-three-week virtual courses that covered the material of one-third of my college courses. This experience has crystalized my passion for introducing students to the wonders of computer science and has resulted in several students going on to pursue computer science at the college-level.

I am excited by the prospect of teaching Introduction to Computer Science and Computer Science for All due to my passion introducing students to computer science for the first time. I believe that my experience teaching students the fundamentals of programming makes me an excellent choice for instructing this class. I also look forward to the opportunity to develop courses extending my research interests in human-computer interaction and accessibility and could contribute to the learning landscape at Hamilton College

My passion for teaching has also been reflected through my service commitments. Over the course of my career, I have mentored twenty-two minority undergraduate students and co-founded the Colorado State University's Association for Computing Machinery–Women (CSU ACM-W) chapter to support women in computing. For these efforts, I received the *Graduate Student Excellence in Undergraduate Mentoring Award* from CSU's College of Natural Science. My extensive background in mentoring and supervising undergraduate students has prepared me for serving as faculty at primarily undergraduate institutions such as Hamilton College. I intend to continue to support students from underrepresented groups as an Assistant Professor at Hamilton College.

My application materials are available at the online application site. If you would like for me to provide additional information, please contact me at ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮ or by phone at ▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮▮.

Thank you for your consideration,

*[signature]*

**Sarah Morrison-Smith**