Dr. Muhammad Zahid Iqbal is a Lecturer/Assistant Professor in Immersive Technologies at Teesside University, United Kingdom. He has a rich academic background and experience in digital transformation, artificial intelligence, human-computer interaction, immersive technologies (virtual and augmented reality), and metaverse. Dr. Zahid is deeply interested in using technology for peace and developing technologies that have a positive social impact. He aims to explore how immersive technologies and AI can be used to foster understanding, empathy, and collaboration across different cultures and communities. By creating virtual environments that simulate real-world scenarios, he hopes to promote conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. In terms of policy, Dr. Zahid works on the responsible and ethical use of emerging technologies. He is involved in discussions around the ethical implications of these technologies and works towards establishing guidelines and policies that ensure their safe and beneficial use. He believes that collaboration between technologists, policymakers, and society is crucial to harnessing the full potential of immersive technologies for the greater good. He completed his PhD in Computer Science from University College Dublin, Ireland, where his research focused on real-time touchless hand interaction and machine learning agents in immersive learning environments. His thesis was titled “Investigating Real-time Touchless Hand Interaction and Machine Learning Agents in Immersive Learning Environments.” Before joining Teesside University, Dr. Zahid worked as an associate faculty member at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and the National College of Ireland. He is currently a co-investigator on an Innovate UK-funded AI Feasibility project. His research

interests are diverse and include human-computer interaction, digital twins, metaverse, and educational technology. He is particularly interested in exploring the convergence of immersive technology, digital twins, and the metaverse, aiming to develop novel methods and frameworks for creating, managing, and interacting with digital twins of real-world objects and environments using AR, VR, and MR. His work seeks to enable seamless and immersive experiences across physical and virtual spaces and supports data-driven decision-making and innovation. Dr. Zahid teaches various courses related to immersive technologies at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, including Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality, and Cyber-Physical Systems & Digital Twinning. He has published his research in several prestigious journals and conferences, such as ISMAR, Technology in Society, Digital Chemical Engineering, and Frontiers in Virtual Reality. He is also a reviewer for various academic journals and conferences, including ACM SIGCHI and the American Educational Research Association. Dr. Zahid's future research vision includes investigating the potential of the metaverse as a new immersive technology paradigm and its implications for learning, collaboration, entertainment, and expression. He is passionate about developing technologies that address social challenges and improve quality of life. He is particularly focused on using AR, VR, and MR to enhance education, healthcare, and accessibility for marginalized communities. His goal is to create inclusive and equitable technological solutions that empower individuals and communities.