

Shirley Zhang

PH.D. STUDENT · COMPUTER SCIENCES

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Research Interest

My research lies at the intersection of technical HCI, privacy, and AI-driven robotics. I focus on building trustworthy systems that model the complex social dynamics of multi-user environments. By incorporating qualitative methods and social science theories, I develop technologies that respect the complex dynamics of interpersonal relationships and security needs.

Education

University of Wisconsin, Madison

PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCES

- Advisor: Prof. Kassem Fawaz

Madison, WI, USA

Aug. 2023 - Current

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE

- James B. Angell Scholar, GPA 3.94/4.0

Ann Arbor, MI, USA

July. 2021 - May. 2023

University of Washington, Seattle

INFORMATICS

Seattle, WA, USA

Aug. 2018 - June. 2021

Publications

Zhang, S., Chung, P., Vervelde, J., Korapati, N., Chatterjee, R., & Fawaz, K. (2025). Abusability of Automation Apps in Intimate Partner Violence. In 34th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 25) (pp. 41-60).

Zhang, S., Li, J., Cagiltay, B., Kirkorian, H., Mutlu, B., Fawaz, K. (2025). A qualitative exploration of parents and their children's uses and gratifications of ChatGPT. *Family Relations*, 74(3), 1056-1071.

Zhang, S.*, Sullivan*, D. Li, J., Kirkorian, H., Mutlu, B., and Fawaz, K. (Submitted, Under Review, 2026) Benchmarking LLM Privacy Recognition for Social Robot Decision Making.

Zhang, S., Sullivan, D. Li, J., Cagiltay, B., Mutlu, B., Kirkorian, H., and Fawaz, K. (Submitted, Under Review, 2026) Exploring Risks and Opportunities for Families' (Co)-Use of Generative AI: A Multi-User Perspective.

Li, J., **Zhang, S.**, Sullivan, D., Kirkorian, H., Mutlu, B., and Fawaz, K. (Submitted, Under Review, 2026) "It's like a pet...but my pet doesn't collect data about m": Multi-person Households' Privacy Design Preferences for Household Robots.

Chen, S., **Zhang, H.**, & Austin, T. (2025). Zipper: Latency-Tolerant Optimizations for High-Performance Buses. In 30th Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASPDAC '25)

West, J., Cagiltay, B., **Zhang, S.**, Li, J., Fawaz, K., & Banerjee, S. (2025, April). "Impressively Scary: Exploring User Perceptions and Reactions to Unraveling Machine Learning Models in Social Media Applications. In Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-21).

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant – Wisconsin Privacy and Security Group

ADVISOR: PROF. KASSEM FAWAZ

- Build system and perform user study to achieve "privacy-aware" systems.
- Laboratory Website: <https://wiscprivacy.com/>

Madison, WI, USA

Aug 2023 – Ongoing

Undergraduate research – ADA lab of Umich

ADVISOR: PROF. TODD AUSTIN

- Project: Zipper: Latency-Tolerant Optimizations for High-Performance Buses

Ann Arbor, MI, USA

Aug 2022 – April 2023

Service and Outreach

2024-Cur **Tech Clinic**, Senior Consultant Volunteer. Provides free tech consultations to local IPV survivors

Madison, WI

2023-2024 **ACM's Women in Computing**, Peer Mentor Volunteer. Mentors undergraduate women and non-binary CS students.

Madison, WI