Owen Xingjian Zhang

Master's Student in Computer Science, Princeton University
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social Computing, Social Media, Mental Health, Human-AI Interaction, Decentralization, Computational Social Science

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ   2023 – 2025
Master of Science in Computer Science (Full Scholarship)   GPA: 3.93/4.00
Advisor: Dr. Andrés Monroy-Hernández

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC), Urbana, IL   2020 – 2023
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics & Computer Science   GPA: 3.89/4.00
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Karrie Karahalios

PUBLICATIONS

[P1] Yuhan Liu, **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Mariana Consuelo Fernandez, Vibhav Nanda, Ankhitha Manjunatha, Alexander Yang, Orestis Papakyriakopoulos, Andrés Monroy-Hernández. (2024). "Mapping out the Ecosystem of Independent Food Delivery Platforms." *CSCW 2024 Full paper.*

[P2] **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Shuyao Zhou, Jiayi Geng, Yuhan Liu, Sunny Xun Liu. "Dr. GPT in Campus Counseling: Understanding Higher Education Students' Opinions on LLM-assisted Mental Health Services." *CSCW 2024 Workshop.*

[P3] **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Tiffany Li, Karrie Karahalios. (2023). "The Change of Attitudes and Perceived Effectiveness in First-Time Online Instructors During COVID-19." Senior Thesis, UIUC.

[P4] Yi-Shyuan Chiang, Ho Shan Lam, **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Eshwar Chandrasekharan. (2022). "Crumbl: An Awareness-Enhancing Tool for Cookie Collection." *SOUPS 2022 Poster.*

[P5] Maggie Zhang, **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Ruisong Li. (2022). "Pictures Tell a Thousand Words: Using Computer Vision to Explore Trolls' Visual Strategies." *CVSS 2022 Workshop.*

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

[M1] **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Sunny Xun Liu, Ilana Shumsky, Jeffery Hancock. "Exploring AI-Assisted Patient-Provider Dynamics: A Comparative Study of AI Roles and Support Types in Digital Health." To be submitted to CHI 2026.

[M2] Allen Song, **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Elizebeth Murnane. "Design Technologies that Support School Psychologists in K-12 Education." To be submitted to CSCW 2025.

[M3] **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Andrés Monroy-Hernández. "Enhancing Moderation in Decentralized Social Media: A Comprehensive Approach to Blocklist Management and Customization on Mastodon." To be submitted to UIST 2025.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Stanford Social Media Lab   **Palo Alto, CA**
Summer Intern, Advisors: Dr. Sunny Liu & Dr. Jeff Hancock   *May 2024 – Present*

[M1] AI Chatbots in Doctor-Patient Dynamics: Designed 2x2 factorial experiments to study perceptions of AI chatbots. Developed LLM-powered chatbots in medical contexts. Created surveys using Qualtrics with embedded websites and randomized questions. **(Oral in PRISM 2024; Poster in Stanford Big Ideas in Medicine Conference)**

[P2] LLM Use in Mental Health Services for Asian College Students – Created "Aww" chatbot. Employed qualitative research methods, including semi-structured interviews and thematic analysis. Used Google Sheets for coding and analyzing interview transcripts.

Princeton HCI   **Princeton, NJ**
Graduate Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Andrés Monroy-Hernández   *May 2022 – Present*

[P1] Ecosystem of Local Food Delivery Platforms: Labeled 8000+ URLs based on location, business structure, and platform motivation. Applied qualitative methods to identify platform patterns. Created interactive visualizations using Seaborn.

[M3] Comprehensive Approach to Blocklist Management and Customization on Mastodon (Master's Thesis): Developed vocabulary to categorize types of blocked instances (e.g. CSAM, harassment). Collaborated with Mastodon moderators to build a crowdsourced labeled blocklist database. Designed a full-stack web application using React.js (frontend) and Node.js (backend) for customizing blocklists.

Social Spaces Lab @ UIUC — **Champaign, IL (Remote)**
Undergraduate Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Karrie Karahalios *Sep 2022 – May 2023*

[**P3**] Analyzed first-time online teaching attitudes during COVID-19: Applied Bayesian models and survey data. Utilized Directed Acyclic Graphs for statistical analysis. Worked on data transformation from survey results.

Social/Anti-Social Computing Projects @ UIUC — **Champaign, IL**
Undergraduate Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Eshwar Chandrasekharan *Jan 2022 – May 2022*

[**P4**] Crumbl, an awareness-enhancing tool for cookie collection: Cleaned and integrated cookie datasets. Implemented backend server and frontend interface. Conducted user study.

[**P5**] Applied computer vision techniques and CSS methods: Analyzed the posting patterns and strategies of Russian trolls, providing insights into online misinformation campaigns.

ORCHID Lab @ UIUC — **Champaign, IL**
Undergraduate Researcher, Advisor: Dr. Brian Bailey *Jan 2022 – May 2023*

Predicted peer evaluation performance: Analyzed Google Docs version history, conducted a pilot study, carried out experiments, and analyzed data using correlation matrices and various machine learning models.

VOLUNTEERING & ORGANIZING

CSCW (Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing) 2023, 2024
Student Volunteer: Supported Mental Health, Human-AI interaction sessions.
UIST (User Interface Software and Technology) 2022, 2024
Student Volunteer: Supported Sociotechnical system sessions.
Princeton Decentralized Social Media Workshop 2023
Organizer: Arranged panel session, hosted discussions, co-authored blog post.

MENTORING & TEACHING

Teaching Assistant, Princeton University Aug 2023 – Present
Intro to CS: Led 20-person, 50-minute sessions twice weekly, graded homework and managed weekly office hours.
CS Mentorship Program: Mentor, Princeton University Nov 2024 – Present
Helped 1st-year grad students in research, course selection, and acclimating to grad school.
Graduate Application Support Program: Mentor, Princeton University Nov 2023 – Present
Helped applicants with SOP polishing, CV advising, and program selection.
Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Aug 2021 – May 2023
Intro to HCI: Graded homework assignments, and took attendance.

HONORS & AWARDS

Princeton MSE student Full Scholarship + Stipend 2023 – 2025
Princeton SEAS Travel Grant Award 2023
Max Planck Institute Pre-Doctoral Research School Grant (Full Scholarship) 2023
UIUC Dean's Honors List 2021 – 2023
UIUC Study Abroad I4I Scholarships 2021

ENTREPRENUER & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Founder, MBaymax (start-up): Wellbeing Support Chatbot Dec 2023 – Present
Conducted market research, designed UI, implemented and deployed the web app. Selected for I-Corps Northeast Hub. $3000 in funding.
Vice President @ Operations, PMI Product Management @ Illinois Sep 2021 – Jul 2022
Invited guest speakers, organized 20+ info sessions about preparing for product manager positions, participated in Executive Council meetings, and arranged meeting agendas for 11 meetings per semester.
Organizer, "Love From Heart" NGO 2015 – Present
Providing mental health counseling training for elementary school teachers in rural China.

SKILLS

Languages: Python, Java, C++, SQL, R, JavaScript, HTML, CSS
Tools: Git, VSCode, Figma, Google Colab, Qualtrics, Google Cloud Platform
Frameworks: Flask, React, MongoDB, NumPy, Pandas, Docker, PyTorch