Owen Xingjian Zhang

Ph.D. Student in Computer Science, Georgia Tech
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

EDUCATION

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA — 2025 -
Ph.D. student in Computer Science — GPA: 4.00/4.00
Advisor: **Dr. Munmun De Choudhury**

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

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

PUBLICATIONS

[P1] **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Shuyao Zhou, Jiayi Geng, Yuhan Liu, Sunny Xun Liu. (2024). "Dr. GPT in Campus Counseling: Understanding Higher Education Students' Opinions on LLM-assisted Mental Health Services." *CSCW 2024 Workshop*.

[P2] **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Sohyeon Hwang, Yuhan Liu, Manoel Horta Ribeiro, Andrés Monroy-Hernández. (2026). "Understanding Community-Level Blocklists in Decentralized Social Media." *CSCW 2026 Full paper*.

[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] Yuhan Liu, Emmy Song, **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Jewel Merriman, Lei Zhang, Andrés Monroy-Hernández. (2025). "Understanding Decentralized Social Feed Curation on Mastodon." *CSCW 2025 Full paper*.

[P5] 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*.

[P6] Maggie Zhang, **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Ruisong Li. (2022). "Pictures Tell a Thousand Words: Using Computer Vision to Explore Trolls' Visual Strategies." *CVSS 2022 Workshop*.

[P7] Yi-Shyuan Chiang, Ho Shan Lam, **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Eshwar Chandrasekharan. (2022). "Crumbl: An Awareness-Enhancing Tool for Cookie Collection." *SOUPS 2022 Poster*.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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

[M2] **Owen Xingjian Zhang**, Munmun De Choudhury. "Designing a Chatbot for Adolescent Mental Health Support: An Iterative Participatory Design Approach."

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Social Dynamics and Wellbeing Lab — **Atlanta, GA**

Graduate Research Assistant, Advisor: Dr. Munmun De Choudhury — *August 2025–Present*

[M2] Working on a participatory design workshop project. These workshops will involve clinicians, teenagers, and parents to understand their perspectives and collaboratively design, develop, and refine a chatbot that supports adolescent mental health.

Stanford Social Media Lab — **Palo Alto, CA**

Summer Intern, Advisors: Dr. Sunny Liu & Dr. Jeff Hancock — *May 2024 – Aug 2024*

[M1] AI Chatbots in Doctor-Patient Dynamics: Designed 2x3 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)**

[**P1**] 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 — *Aug 2023 – May 2025*
Undergraduate Research Volunteer — *May 2022 – August 2023*

[**P5**] 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.

[**P2, P4**] 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*

[**P7**] Crumbl, an awareness-enhancing tool for cookie collection: Cleaned and integrated cookie datasets. Implemented backend server and frontend interface. Conducted user study.

[**P6**] Applied computer vision techniques and CSS methods: Analyzed the posting patterns and strategies of Russian trolls, providing insights into online misinformation campaigns.

REVIEWING & VOLUNTEERING & ORGANIZING

Reviewer: CHI LBW (Computer Human Interaction)	2024, 2026
Reviewer: Digital Health (Web of Science)	2026
Reviewer: IC2S2 (International Conference of Computational Social Science)	2024
Student Volunteer: CSCW (Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing)	2023, 2024
Student Volunteer: UIST (User Interface Software and Technology)	2022, 2024
Princeton Decentralized Social Media Workshop Co-organizer	2023

MENTORING & TEACHING

Teaching Assistant, Princeton University	Aug 2023 – Present
CS Mentorship Program: Mentor, Princeton University	Nov 2024 – Present
Graduate Application Support Program: Mentor, Princeton University	Nov 2023 – Present
Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Aug 2021 – May 2023

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