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

Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
Ph.D. in Human Centered Computing
Advisor: **Dr. Munmun De Choudhury**

2025 -
Upcoming

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
M.S. in Computer Science (Full Scholarship)
Advisor: Dr. Andrés Monroy-Hernández

2023 – 2025
GPA: 3.93/4.00

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
B.S. in Mathematics & Computer Science
Thesis Advisor: Dr. Karrie Karahalios

2020 – 2023
GPA: 3.89/4.00

PUBLICATIONS

[**P1**] 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.*

[**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**] 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.*

[**P4**] **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.

[**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.*

[**P6**] 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. "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 2026.

[**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 CSCW 2026.

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*

[**P3**] 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.

[**P1, 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*

[**P4**] 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*

[**P5**] 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
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