

3-42 Athabasca Hall, Edmonton, Alberta, T6G 2E8, Canada

■ karim.ali@ualberta.ca | ★ karimali.ca | ☑ themaplelab | ★ @karimhamdanali

Research Areas

My primary research interest is to develop and evaluate static analysis techniques that are applicable in real-world settings by exploring three aspects: scalability, precision, and usability. My interests span programming languages and software systems.

Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta, CanadaJul 2022–PresentAssistant Professor, Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta, CanadaJul 2017–Jun 2022Research Assistant Professor, Department of Computing Science, University of Alberta, CanadaJul 2016–Jul 2017

Education _____

Ph.D., Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Canada

2014

- · Advisor: Ondřej Lhoták
- Thesis: The Separate Compilation Assumption
- Committee: Jan Vitek, Frank Tip, Reid Holmes, and Werner Dietl

MMath, Computer Science, University of Waterloo, Canada

2010

- · Advisor: Raouf Boutaba
- Thesis: Algorizmi A Configurable Virtual Testbed to Generate Datasets for Offline Evaluation of Intrusion Detection Systems
- Reviewers: Ian MacKillop and Urs Hengartner

B.Sc., Computer Science, The American University in Cairo, Egypt

2007

- · Advisors: Sherif G. Aly and Sherif El-Kassas
- Thesis: A Jabber Framework for Building Communication Capable Java Mobile Applications
- Minor: Mathematics

Professional Experience _____

Postdoctoral Researcher,Secure Software Engineering, Technische Universität Darmstadt, GermanyOct 2014–Jul 2016Software Engineer,Execution Team, ITWorx, EgyptJun 2007–Dec 2007Researcher,Software Engineering,May 2007–Dec 2007

Awards and Honours

Dahl-Nygaard Junior Prize, Association Internationale pour les Technologies Objets (AITO)	2021
ACM SIGPLAN Distinguished Paper Award, ACM SIGPLAN Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages (POPL)	2019
Student's Choice Award, University of Alberta, Canada	2018
ACM SIGSOFT Distinguished Paper Award, International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis (ISSTA)	2017
Distinguished Artifact Award, European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming (ECOOP)	2014
B.Sc. Summa Cum Laude Honors. The American University in Cairo, Egypt	2007

Research Funding

Cyber Security Innovation Network

2022-2026

- Government of Canada
- Co-PI. Led by the National Cybersecurity Consortium. Multi-university project.
- Amount: CAD\$80,000,000

Game-Theoretic Static Bug Detection

2021-2022

- Oracle Labs
- Sole PI
- Amount: CAD\$25,000

 Analysis-Driven Inlining Algorithms IBM Centre for Advanced Studies Research Fellowship Sole Pl 	2020–2023
 Amount: CAD\$90,000 Improving JVM Startup Performance Through Static Analysis IBM Centre for Advanced Studies Research Fellowship Main PI, Co-PI: Sarah Nadi (University of Alberta) Amount: CAD\$90,000 	2020–2023
 Automatic Verification of Comparators and Hash Functions Mitacs Accelerate (in collaboration with Synopsys) Sole PI Amount: CAD\$30,000 	2019–2020
Validating the Correct Usage of Cryptography Libraries • IBM Centre for Advanced Studies Research Fellowship • Sole PI • Amount: CAD\$60,000	2018–2020
 Scalable and Precise Program Analysis for Modern Software Systems Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Discovery Grant Sole PI Amount: CAD\$150,000 	2017-2023
Improving the Inlining Algorithms in the IBM Just-in-Time (JIT) Compiler • IBM Centre for Advanced Studies Research Fellowship • Sole PI	2017–2020
• Amount: CAD\$90,000	
Publications Note: underlined names indicate students whom I have (co-)supervised in an official capacity. Double-underline students whom I led to publish their course projects. Authors are ordered according to their contributions. "Hame	
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REFEREED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

Abdul Ali Bangash, Karim Ali, and Abram Hindle. "A Black Box Technique to Reduce Energy Consumption of
Android Apps." International Conference on Software Engineering (Companion Volume), 2022. (Acceptance Rate:
26/94 = 28%).

ICSE '22 NIER

<u>Erick Ochoa</u>, <u>Cijie Xia</u>, **Karim Ali**, Andrew Craik, and José Nelson Amaral. "U Can't Inline This!" *International Conference on Computer Science and Software Engineering*, pp. 1–10, 2021. (Acceptance Rate: 18/70 = 25%).

CASCON '21

Kristen Newbury, **Karim Ali**, and Andrew Craik. "Hotfixing Misuses of Crypto APIs in Java Programs". *International Conference on Computer Science and Software Engineering*, pp. 1–10, 2021. (Acceptance Rate: 18/70 = 25%).

CASCON '21

Abdul Ali Bangash, Daniil Tiganov, **Karim Ali**, and Abram Hindle. "Energy Efficient Guidelines for iOS Core Location Framework". *International Conference on Software Maintenance and Evolution*, pp. 1–12, 2021. (Acceptance Rate: 43/179 = 24%).

ICSME '21

Daniil Tiganov, <u>Jeff Cho</u>, **Karim Ali**, and Julian Dolby. "SWAN: A Static Analysis Framework for Swift". *ACM Joint Meeting on European Software Engineering Conference and Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering*, pp. 1640–1644, 2020. (Acceptance Rate: 26/44 = 59%).

ESEC/FSE '20 Tool Paper

Stefan Krüger, **Karim Ali**, and Eric Bodden. "CogniCrypt $_{GEN}$ - Generating Code for the Secure Usage of Crypto APIs". *International Symposium on Code Generation and Optimization*, pp. 185–198, 2020. (Acceptance Rate: 26/95 = 27%).

CGO '20

Abdul Ali Bangash, <u>Hareem Sahar</u>, Shaiful Alam Chowdhury, Alexander William Wong, Abram Hindle, and **Karim Ali**. "What do developers know about machine learning: a study of ML discussions on StackOverflow". *International Conference on Mining Software Repositories*, pp. 260–264, 2019. (Acceptance Rate: 14/27 = 52%).

MSR '19

Mining Challenge

<u>Artem Chikin</u>, José Nelson Amaral, **Karim Ali**, and Ettore Tiotto. "Toward an Analytical Performance Model to Select between GPU and CPU Execution". *IEEE International Workshop on High-Level Parallel Programming Models and Supportive Environments*, pp. 353–362, 2019.

HIPS '19

Johannes Späth, **Karim Ali**, and Eric Bodden. "Context-, Flow-, and Field-Sensitive Data-Flow Analysis Using Synchronized Pushdown Systems". *ACM SIGPLAN Symposium on Principles of Programming Languages*, 48:1–48:29, 2019. (Acceptance Rate: 77/267 = 29%).

POPL '19

P Distinguished Paper

Stefan Krüger, Johannes Späth, **Karim Ali**, Eric Bodden, and Mira Mezini. "CrySL: An Extensible Approach to Validating the Correct Usage of Cryptographic APIs". *European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming*, 10:1–10:27, 2018. (Acceptance Rate: 26/66 = 39%).

ECOOP '18

<u>Lisa Nguyen Quang Do, Stefan Krüger, Patrick Hill, **Karim Ali**, and Eric Bodden. "VISUFLOW: A Debugging Environment for Static Analyses". *International Conference on Software Engineering (Companion Volume)*, pp. 89–92, 2018. (Acceptance Rate: 30/72 = 42%).</u>

ICSE '18 Tool Paper

Stefan Krüger, Sarah Nadi, Michael Reif, **Karim Ali**, Mira Mezini, Eric Bodden, Florian Göpfert, Felix Günther, Christian Weinert, Daniel Demmler, and Ram Kamath. "CogniCrypt: Supporting Developers in using Cryptography". *International Conference on Automated Software Engineering*, pp. 931–936, 2017.

ASE '17 Tool Paper

<u>Johannes Späth, Karim Ali,</u> and Eric Bodden. "IDE al : Efficient and Precise Alias-Aware Dataflow Analysis". *ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages and Applications*, 99:1–99:27, 2017. (Acceptance Rate: 66/223 = 30%).

OOPSLA '17

<u>Mona Nashaat</u>, **Karim Ali**, and James Miller. "Detecting Security Vulnerabilities in Object-Oriented PHP Programs". *IEEE International Working Conference on Source Code Analysis and Manipulation*, pp. 159–164, 2017.

SCAM '17

<u>Taylor Lloyd</u>, <u>Artem Chikin</u>, <u>Erick Ochoa</u>, **Karim Ali**, and José Nelson Amaral. "A Case for Better Integration of Host and Target Compilation When Using OpenCL for FPGAs". *International Workshop on FPGAs for Software Programmers*, pp. 1–9, 2017.

FSP '17

ISSTA '17

Lisa Nguyen Quang Do, **Karim Ali**, Ben Livshits, Eric Bodden, Justin Smith, and Emerson Murphy-Hill. "Just-in-Time Static Analysis". *International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis*, pp. 307–317, 2017. (Acceptance Rate: 31/118 = 26%).

♀ Distinguished Paper

<u>Lisa Nguyen Quang Do</u>, **Karim Ali**, Ben Livshits, Eric Bodden, Justin Smith, and Emerson Murphy-Hill. "Cheetah: Just-in-Time Taint Analysis for Android Apps". *International Conference on Software Engineering - Companion Volume*, pp. 39–42, 2017. (Acceptance Rate: 18/57 = 32%).

ICSE '17 Tool Paper

Johannes Späth, Lisa Nguyen Quang Do, Karim Ali , and Eric Bodden. "Boomerang: Demand-Driven Flow-Sensitive, Field-Sensitive, and Context-Sensitive Pointer Analysis". <i>European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming</i> , 22:1–22:26, 2016. (Acceptance Rate: 25/79 = 32%).	ECOOP '16
Steven Arzt, Sarah Nadi, Karim Ali , Eric Bodden, Sebastian Erdweg, and Mira Mezini. "Towards Secure Integration of Cryptographic Software". <i>ACM SIGPLAN Symposium on New Ideas in Programming and Reflections on Software at SPLASH</i> , pp. 1–13, 2015. (Acceptance Rate: 17/37 = 46%).	Onward! '15
Karim Ali , Marianna Rapoport, Ondřej Lhoták, Julian Dolby, and Frank Tip. "Constructing Call Graphs of Scala Programs". <i>European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming</i> , pp. 54–79, 2014. (Acceptance Rate: 27/101 = 27%).	ECOOP '14 P Distinguished Artifact
Karim Ali and Ondřej Lhoták. "Averroes: Whole-Program Analysis without the Whole Program". <i>European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming</i> , pp. 378–400, 2013. (Acceptance Rate: 29/116 = 25%).	ECOOP '13
Karim Ali and Ondřej Lhoták. "Application-Only Call Graph Construction". <i>European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming</i> , pp. 688–712, 2012. (Acceptance Rate: 30/140 = 21%).	ECOOP '12
OTHER REFEREED PUBLICATIONS Karim Ali, Issam Aib, and Raouf Boutaba. "P2P-AIS: A P2P Artificial Immune Systems architecture for detecting DDoS flooding attacks". Global Information Infrastructure Symposium, 2009.	GIIS '09

Karim Ali and Raouf Boutaba. "Applying Kernel Methods to Anomaly-based Intrusion Detection Systems". *Global Information Infrastructure Symposium*, 2009.

GIIS '09

INVITED ARTICLES

<u>Lisa Nguyen Quang Do, Daniil Tiganov,</u> and **Karim Ali**. "Designing UIs for Static Analysis Tools: Evaluating Tool Design Guidelines with SWAN". *ACM Queue*, 19(4), pp. 97–118, 2021.

ACM Queue '21

Selected Invited Talks

"Scalable and Precise Static Analysis. For Real!" Dahl-Nygaard Junior Prize Keynote, 2021.	ECOOP '21
"Hotfixing Misuses of Crypto APIs in Java Programs". IFIP WG 2.4 on Software Implementation Technology, 2021.	IFIP '21
"Is Program Analysis The Silver Bullet Against Software Bugs?" Java Pathfinder Workshop, 2020.	JPF '20
"U Can't Inline This". IFIP WG 2.4 on Software Implementation Technology, 2020.	IFIP '20
"Scalable and Precise Detection of Security Vulnerabilities". Amazon, Palo Alto, CA, USA, 2019.	Amazon '19
"Scalable and Precise Detection of Security Vulnerabilities". Google, Mountain View, CA, USA, 2019.	Google '19
"Is Program Analysis The Silver Bullet Against Software Bugs?" Papers We Love Conference, St. Louis, MI, USA, 2019.	PWLConf '19
"U Can't Inline This". TURBO Workshop at SPLASH, 2018.	TURBO '18
"SWAN: A Program Analysis Framework for Swift". NJR Workshop at SPLASH, 2018.	NJR '18
"Averroes - Letting go of the library!" Samsung Research America, Mountain View, CA, USA, 2015.	SRA '15

Patents ___

"Assessment of the Benefit of Post-Inlining Program Transformation in Inlining Decisions". Andrew James Craik, Erick Ochoa, José Nelson Amaral, and Karim Ali, U.S. Patent 11157252, Oct 26 2021.

Professional Service PROGRAM COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION **ECOOP PC Co-Chair**, European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming 2022, 2023 SPLASH-I Co-Chair, ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Systems, Programming, Languages and Applications: Software for Humanity 2017, 2018 ESSoS Artifact Evaluation Co-Chair, International Symposium on Engineering Secure Software and Systems 2017 **FSE Demonstration Track Co-Chair**, ACM SIGSOFT Symposium on the Foundations of Software Engineering SOAP Program Committee Co-Chair, ACM SIGPLAN International Workshop on the State Of the Art in Program Analysis @ PLDI 2017 PROGRAM COMMITTEE MEMBER OOPSLA, ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Object-Oriented Programming, Systems, Languages and Applications 2020-2023 ICSE, International Conference on Software Engineering ICCQ, International Conference on Code Quality ICSE NIER, International Conference on Software Engineering **ECOOP**, European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming 2018, 2020 MSR Mining Challenge, International Conference on Mining Software Repositories **ISSTA**, International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis 2018, 2019 **SOAP**, ACM SIGPLAN International Workshop on the State Of the Art in Program Analysis @ PLDI 2019 **SEAD**, International Workshop on Software Security from Design to Deployment @ ASE 2019 **CASCON**, International Conference on Computer Science and Software Engineering 2017 Onward!, ACM International Symposium on New Ideas, New Paradigms, and Reflections on Programming and Software @SPLASH 2017 ARTIFACT EVALUATION COMMITTEE MEMBER **ISSTA.** International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis 2016 PLDI, ACM SIGPLAN Conference on Programming Language Design and Implementation **ECOOP**, European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming 2014, 2015 WORKSHOP ORGANIZATION PLMW Co-Chair, Programming Languages Mentorship Workshop @ OOPSLA 2019-2021 Panathon Co-Organizer, Program Analysis Hackathon @ ECOOP 2018, 2019 BenchWork Co-Organizer, Workshop on Benchmarking @ ECOOP/ISSTA 2018 CDP Co-Organizer, Compiler-Driven Performance Workshop @ CASCON SOAP Co-Organizer, ACM SIGPLAN International Workshop on the State Of the Art in Program Analysis @ PLDI WALA Hackathon Co-Organizer, Program Analysis Hackathon @ PLDI 2017 **DECAF Co-Organizer**, Workshop on Designing Code Analysis Frameworks @ ISSTA 2016 Co-Organizer, Workshop on WALA @ PLDI 2015 JOURNAL REVIEWER TSE, IEEE Transactions on Software Engineering 2013, 2019 **TOPLAS**, ACM Transactions on Programming Languages and Systems 2018, 2019 **SCP**, Science of Computer Programming 2015 **OTHER CANOSP Co-Founder**, Canada Open-Source Projects 2019-Present Reverse EXPO Co-Organizer, Annual Computing Science Industry/Academia Conference at the University of Alberta 2018-2019 Associate Editor, IEEE Software Blog 2017-2020 Steering Committee Member, Undergraduate Capstone Open Source Projects (UCOSP) 2018 Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Capstone Open Source Projects (UCOSP) 2018 **Web Chair**, European Conference on Object-Oriented Programming (ECOOP) 2018 Web Chair, International Symposium on Software Testing and Analysis (ISSTA) 2018 **Subreviewer**, International Conference on Compiler Construction (CC) 2017

GRADUATE STUDENTS, UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Students_

Ph.D.	Hamza Mustafa Alvi, Just-in-Time Compilers	2021-Present
Ph.D.	Jiaqi He, Formal Verification of Neural Networks	2020-Present
Ph.D.	Ifaz Kabir, Designing Programming Languages for Non-Volatile Memory	2018-Present
Ph.D.	Abdul Ali Bangash, Detecting Energy-Inefficient Code via Program Analysis	2018-Present
	(Main supervisor; Co-supervised with Abram Hindle)	
Master's	Daniil Tiganov, Precise Taint Tracking	2022-Present
Master's	David Seekatz, Constructing Precise Library Summaries	2019-Present
Master's	Jeff Cho , Static Analysis for Games	2020–2022
		RCAF Lieutenant, Game Director at Caldera
Master's	Ahmed Elkhair, Proving Program Equivalence via Symbolic Execution	2018–2021
Master's	Kristen Newbury, Automatic Hot-Fixing of Crypto APIs Misuses	2018–2020
		CodeQL Analysis Engineer at Github
Master's	Erick Ochoa, Guiding Inlining Decisions Using Post-Inlining Transformations	2017–2019
	(Main supervisor; Co-supervised with José Nelson Amaral)	Compiler Engineer at Theobroma Systems

GRADUATE STUDENTS, PADERBORN UNIVERSITY (CO-SUPERVISED WITH ERIC BODDEN)

Manuel Benz, Interprocedural Data Dependency Graphs

Stefan Krüger, Designing Language Support for Detecting Crypto APIs Misuses

		Software Consultant at CQSE GmbH
Ph.D.	Lisa Nguyen Quang Do, User-Centered Tool Design for Data-Flow Analysis	2015–2019
		Software Engineer at Google
Ph.D.	Johannes Späth, Synchronized Pushdown Systems for Pointer and Data-Flow Analysis	2015–2019
		Research Associate at Fraunhofer IEM

2015-2020

2016

Software Engineer at Okera

GRADUATE STUDENTS, TU DARMSTADT

		Ph.D. at the University of Paderborn,
		Germany
Master's	Michael Appel, Call Graph Summaries for the Android SDK	2016

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Ph.D.

Master's

UofT

UNB

UAlberta	Daniil Tiganov, Program Analysis for Swift	2019–2021
		Master's at the University of Alberta
UAlberta	Cijie Xia, Just-in-Time Compiler Optimizations	2020
		Ph.D. at the University of Toronto
UAlberta	Revan MacQueen, Symbolic Verification of Neural Networks	2018–2019
		Master's at the University of Alberta
UAlberta	Jeff Cho, Program Analysis for Swift	2017–2019
		Master's at the University of Alberta
UAlberta	Supakorn 'Jamie' Rassameemasmuang, Formal Verification of String Equations	2019
		Undergraduate at the University of Alberta
UAlberta	Spencer Killen, Inlining Optimization in JIT Compilers	2019
		Master's at the University of Alberta
UAlberta	Alexander MacKenzie , Automated Benchmark Creation for Program Analysis Tools	2017–2018
_		Undergraduate at the University of Alberta
UofT	Bryan Tam, Program Analysis for Swift	2018
		Undergraduate at the University of Toronto
SFU	Leo Li, Program Analysis for Swift	2017–2018
		Master's at the University of Toronto

Western Alex Li, Automated Benchmark Creation for Program Analysis Tools 2018

Dalhousie Yaser Alkayale, Program Analysis for Swift 2017

Swapnil Shah, Automated Benchmark Creation for Program Analysis Tools

Tyler Pavlovic, Automated Benchmark Creation for Program Analysis Tools

Software Engineer at Microsoft

SFU

Lydia Wu, Program Analysis for Swift

2017

Master's at UC Berkley

SFU **Chen Song,** Program Analysis for Swift

2017

UAlberta **Stuart Hoye,** Developing GitHub Classroom Management Tools

Noah Weninger, Program Analysis for Swift

Ph.D. at UT Austin

Application Consultant at Ontracks

2017

Master's at UBC

Teaching _____

UAlberta

INSTRUCTOR

CMPUT 664	Secure Software Engineering, University of Alberta, Canada	Winter 2020-Present
CMPUT 416	Foundations of Program Analysis, University of Alberta, Canada	Winter 2019-Present
CMPUT 229	Computer Organization and Architecture I, University of Alberta, Canada	Winter 2017-Present
CMPUT 620	Static Program Analysis, University of Alberta, Canada	Fall 2016–Fall 2017
SAS	Static Analysis Seminar, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany	Winter 2015

Co-Instructor

APSA **Applied Static Analysis**, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany Spring 2016

SUBSTITUTE LECTURER

DECA	Designing Code Analyses, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany	Fall 2014
CS 241	Foundations of Sequential Programs, University of Waterloo, Canada	Spring 2013

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT

CS 241	Foundations of Sequential Programs, University of Waterloo, Canada	2011–2013
CS 444/644	Compiler Construction, University of Waterloo, Canada	2011–2013
CS 446/646	Software Design and Architectures, University of Waterloo, Canada	Spring 2011
CS 456/656	Computer Networks, University of Waterloo, Canada	2008–2010
CS 125	Introduction to Programming Principles, University of Waterloo, Canada	Winter 2008
CS 448	Security Engineering, The American University in Cairo, Egypt	Fall 2007

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

CS 448	Security Engineering, The American University in Cairo, Egypt	Fall 2007
CS 330	Computer Architecture, The American University in Cairo, Egypt	2005–2006
CS 106	Fundamentals of Computer Science, The American University in Cairo, Egypt	2004–2005

Volunteer Work _____

CyberPatriot Technical Mentor, Strathcona High School, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	2016–2018
Graduate Student Ambassador, University of Waterloo, Canada	Fall 2013
Tour Guide, Computer Science Open House, University of Waterloo, Canada	Winter 2012
President, Egyptian Students Association, University of Waterloo, Canada	2010–2011
Ushers Committee Leader, Honors Assembly, The American University in Cairo, Egypt	Spring 2007
Academic Committee Head, ACM Chapter, The American University in Cairo, Egypt	Spring 2007