

Ruijia “Regina” Cheng

Mixed Method UX researcher

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HCI PhD with **5+ years** of experience in **leading and conducting user research** about **online communities**, **programming & data science tools**, **human-AI collaboration**, and **video recommendation**.

Skills: **Research:** interview, ethnography, usability testing, design probe, grounded theory, thematic analysis, literature review, survey, A/B testing, experiment design, statistical modeling, machine learning | **Programming:** Python, R, SQL, JavaScript, web development (React, FastAPI, Node.js, HTML, CSS) | **Design:** Photoshop, Figma, InDesign, Blender

Education

University of Washington (UW)

Doctor of Philosophy in Human Centered Design & Engineering	Expected 2023
Master of Science in Human Centered Design & Engineering	2021

University of California, San Diego (UCSD) *Magna Cum Laude*

Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science with a Specialization in Computation	2018
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics: Applied Science	2018

Experiences

University of Washington Graduate Researcher, HCI 2018 – present

- Led multiple **mixed method formative** and **evaluative** research projects on online peer production platforms, data science & programming support and learning systems, and human-AI collaboration.
- Published **10+ research reports** on impactful HCI venues; **translated research** into insights for future products.

Microsoft HCI Research Intern, AI Software Development Tools 2022

- Led a multi-phase research on user trust in **AI-powered code generation** tools; conducted **30+ formative interviews**, developed **prototypes**, and conducted **20+ evaluative studies** with software engineers.
- Impacted the **product strategy** of GitHub Copilot with concrete design guidelines and prototypes.

Dataminr HCI Research Intern, Human-AI Collaboration in NLP 2021

- Led research on **human-in-the-loop** text summarization; **synthesized 600+ academic literatures** into concrete product design guidelines; developed **interactive prototypes** and conducted **evaluative studies** with **crowd workers**.
- Laid the **foundation** for the design of internal tools with **actionable guidelines** supported by theory and user data.

Meta UX Research Intern, Video Recommendation 2020

- Designed & conducted **usability tests**, **20k+ in-app opt-in surveys** in **5 countries**, and **analyzed 20k+ user logs**.
- Impacted the design of recommendation algorithms and video players with insights from **international markets**.
- Collaborated effectively with **cross-functional teams** (engineering, design, and data) and **vendors**.

Selected Publications in Premier HCI Venues [See Full list of publications](#)

[CHI 2022] Cheng, R., Dasgupta, S., Hill, B. [How Interest-Driven Content Creation Shapes Opportunities for Informal Learning in Scratch: A Case Study on Novices’ Use of Data Structures](#). *Best Paper Honorable Mention (Top 5%)*

[NAACL 2022] Cheng, R., Smith-Renner, A., Zhang, K., Tetreault, J., Jaimes, A. [Mapping the Design Space of Human-AI Interaction in Text Summarization](#).

[CSCW 2020] Cheng, R., Zachry, M. [Building Community Knowledge in Online Data Science Competitions: Motivation, Practices and Challenges](#).