Ruijia (Regina) Cheng

Researcher in Human-computer Interaction (HCI)

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Research Keywords:
Online community; Social computing; Learning Technology; Data science & programming support; Computational literacies; Human-AI collaboration; Trust and reliance in AI; Creativity

Education

09/18 – 06/23 (exp.) **University of Washington (UW)**
PhD candidate in Human Centered Design & Engineering (HCDE)
Advisors: Benjamin Mako Hill, Jennifer Turns

09/18 – 03/21 **University of Washington**
Master of Science in Human Centered Design & Engineering

09/14 – 03/18 **University of California, San Diego (UCSD)**
Magna Cum Laude
Bachelor of Science in Cognitive Science with a Specialization in Computation
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics: Applied Science

Academic & Professional Experiences

09/18 – present **Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington**
Graduate Research Assistant.

- Led research projects that used mix method approaches to understand and design for informal learning of computational skills in online communities [C1, C2], data science collaboration and communication [C6], visual block-based programming systems for data science learning, and creative feedback exchange [C3, C7].

06/22 – 09/22 **Microsoft Research**
PhD Research Intern. Software Analysis and Intelligence in Engineering Systems (SAINTES).
Supervisors: Denae Ford, Tom Zimmermann.

- Led a multi-phase research project (interview, prototyping, and design probe) on how developers build trust with AI-powered code generation tools through participating in socio-technical ecosystems [U1].
- Collaborated in research about responsible design in AI-powered code generation tools [U2].
- Impacted the product strategy of GitHub Copilot and other AI-powered code generation tools with user-evaluated design guidelines coupled with visual mockup.

09/21– **Dataminr**
12/21 *PhD Research Intern. HCI/AI.*
Supervisors: Alison Smith-Renner, Ke Zhang.

- Led research on human-in-the-loop text summarization [C4, C5, S1].
- Conducted a systematic literature review and synthesized 600+ papers into design patterns.
- Developed interactive prototypes and conducted design probe interview studies with crowd workers.
- Laid the foundation for the design of internal human-AI collaborative text summarization tools.

06/21– **Community Data Science Collective Lab, Northwestern University**
09/21 *Visiting Researcher.*

- Led a large-scale quantitative study on data literacy and social media discussion about COVID-19.
- Built datasets of cross-platform social media activities about COVID-19.

03/21– **Microsoft Corporation** via i2e LLC
06/21 *Project Intern.*
Supervisor: Jonathan Grudin.

- Designed and developed user scenarios and interaction guides for K-12 online search technology.

06/20 – **Meta**
09/20 *UX Research Intern.*

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

10/16 – **Design Lab, University of California, San Diego**
01/18 *Undergraduate Research Assistant.*
Supervisors: Steven Dow, Joel Chan, Jim Hollan.

- Led survey and online experiment studies on crowd creativity and problem framing [S2].
- Conducted thematic analyses and topic modeling on narrative patterns in computational notebooks.

Publications *indicates equal contribution of the authors

Peer-reviewed Conference Proceedings

C1. **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. 2022. Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2022). ***Best Paper Honorable Mention Award (Top 5%)***

C2. **Cheng, R**., Hill, B. Many Destinations, Many Pathways: A Quantitative Analysis of Legitimate Peripheral Participation in Scratch. 2022. Accepted to the ACM Human Computer Interaction, Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing Conference (CSCW 2022).

C3. **Cheng, R**., * Frens, J.* Feedback Exchange and Online Affinity: A Case Study of Online Fanfiction Writers. 2022. Accepted to the ACM Human Computer Interaction, Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing Conference (CSCW 2022).

C4. **Cheng, R.**, Smith-Renner, A., Zhang, K., Tetreault, J., Jaimes, A. Mapping the Design Space of Human-AI Interaction in Text Summarization. 2022. Accepted to the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics Special Theme: Human-Centered Natural Language Processing (NAACL 2022).

C5. Lai, V., Smith-Renner, A., Zhang, K., **Cheng, R.**, Zhang, W., Tetreault, J., Jaimes, A. An Exploration of Post-Editing Effectiveness in Text Summarization. 2022. Accepted to the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics Special Theme: Human-Centered Natural Language Processing (NAACL 2022).

C6. **Cheng, R.**, Zachry, M. Building Community Knowledge in Online Data Science Competitions: Motivation, Practices and Challenges. 2020. Proceedings of the ACM Human Computer Interaction, Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2020).

C7. **Cheng, R.**, Zeng, Z., Liu M., Dow, S. Critique Me: Exploring How Creators Publicly Request Feedback in an Open Online Community. 2020. Proceedings of the ACM Human Computer Interaction, Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2020).

Under Review and In-progress Manuscripts

U1. **Cheng, R.,** Wang, R., Zimmermann, T., Ford, D. Online Communities and Trust in AI-powered Code Generation tools. [Title modified to ensure blind review]. 2023. Under submission to the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT 2023).

U2. Wang, R., **Cheng, R**., Ford, D., Zimmermann, T. Responsible Design in AI-powered Code Generation [Title modified to ensure blind review]. 2023. Under review for the ACM Conference on Intelligent User Interfaces (IUI 2023).

U3. **Cheng, R**., Dangol, A., Ello, F., Wang, L., Dasgupta, S., Designing a Visual Block-based System for Young People to Learn Data Analysis and Visualization [Title modified to ensure blind review]. 2023. Under submission to the ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference (IDC 2023).

Short Papers, Posters, and Workshop Papers

S1. **Cheng, R.**, Smith-Renner, A., Zhang, K., Tetreault, J., Jaimes, A. Trust and Reliance in Human-AI Collaborative Text Summarization. 2022. Workshop paper in the Trust and Reliance in Human-AI Teams workshop in the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2022).

S2. **Cheng, R.**, De Castro, J., Dow, S., Chan, J. 2018. An Exploratory Study of Problem Framing in Distributed Collaborative Design. Short paper in the ACM Group Conference (Group 2018).

S3. Singh, F., Smith, A., Dudeck, N., Herrera, E., Lee, J., Yang, Z., **Cheng, R.**, Pineda, J. 2016. A Pilot Study to Assess the Effects of EEG-Gamma Neurofeedback on Working Memory in Schizophrenia Patients. Poster in the Society for Neuroscience 2016 Annual Conference (SfN 2016).

Awards & Honors

2022 Best Paper Honorable Mention Award, CHI 2022

2020 Special Recognition of Outstanding Reviews, CSCW 2020

2014–18 Provost Honor, University of California, San Diego

Invited Talks

2022 "Supporting Computational Learning in Online Communities." Speaker at Microsoft MakeCode. Microsoft Research. Webinar.

2022 "Understanding and Supporting Informal Learning in Online Communities." Speaker at The Expertise@scale Salon. Emory University. Webinar.

2022 "All Communities Are Learning Communities." Speaker at The Science of Community Dialogues. Community Data Science Collective. Webinar.

2022 "Online Communities and Trust in AI-powered Code Generation tools." Speaker at Microsoft Research HCI seminar. Microsoft Research. Redmond, WA.

2022 "Understanding and Designing for Data Literacies in Online Communities." PhD dissertation proposal presentation. University of Washington. Webinar.

2021 "Data Scientists or Conspiracists: Critical Discourses about COVID Data among Pro- and Anti-vaccine Tweets." Speaker at the HCDE research seminar (Autumn 2021). University of Washington. Webinar.

2021 "Imagining Future Design of Tools for Youth Data Literacies." Workshop organizer at the Connected Learning Summit 2021. Webinar.

2019 "Exploring Feedback Requests in an Online Critique Community." PhD preliminary exam presentation. University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

2019 "Feedback-Seeking in Online Fanfiction Communities." Poster presentation at the 2019 HCDE Research Showcase. University of Washington. Seattle, WA.

2017 "Plug-N-Talk: An Affordable Solution to Hearing Loss." Finalist presentation at the 2nd UCSD ECE Annual Design Competition. University of California, San Diego. San Diego, CA.

Teaching

Guest Lectures

2019, 20 "A Crash Course on Statistics for Usability Testing." HCDE Usability Testing, University of Washington.

Directed Research Group

2022 "Evaluative Study on Dataland: Supporting Novices to Analyze Data." University of Washington.

2021, 22 "Supporting Critical Capacities in Data Science through Online Interactions." University of Washington.

Teaching Assistant

2020, 21 HCDE Capstone. University of Washington. *Students won Best Design & Engineering awards.*

2020, 21 HCDE Capstone Project Planning. University of Washington.

2020 HCDE Qualitative Methods. University of Washington.

2019 HCDE Usability Testing. University of Washington.

2019 HCI+D Formative UX Research Studio. University of Washington.

Mentoring

2022 Cindy Gong. Undergraduate honor thesis.

2022 Frannie Ello. Undergraduate research assistant.

2019 Ziwen Zeng. Undergraduate summer intern. *Now graduate student at Carnegie Mellon University*.

2019 Maysnow Liu. Undergraduate summer intern.

Academic Services

2022 ACM TiiS reviewer

2022 DUB retreat student ambassador

2020–22 ACM CSCW reviewer

2020, 22 ACM IDC reviewer

2021 DUB Doctoral Colloquium organizer

2021 ACM CHI reviewer

2020 UW Community Data Science Workshop mentor

2019, 20 ACM CHI Late Breaking Work reviewer

2019 UW HCDE Master program application reviewer