

Ruijia “Regina” Cheng

Human Centered Research Scientist & UX Researcher

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Ph.D. in Human-computer interaction (HCI). 6+ years of experience in **qualitative and quantitative** research on **LLM & ML tools, programming, creativity & writing platforms, online communities, and education technology.**

Key Skills **Qualitative Research:** interview, ethnography, usability testing, design probe, grounded theory, design workshops, thematic analysis, literature review | **Quantitative Research:** survey, A/B testing, experiment design, statistical modeling, inferential statistics, psychophysics | **Programming:** Python, R, SQL, MATLAB, JavaScript, web development (React, Node.js), machine learning (PyTorch), Unity | **Design:** Photoshop, Figma, Illustration, Blender

Selected Professional Experiences

Apple, AI/ML Resident, Human Centered Machine Learning 07/2023 to present

- Led and conducted research on applications of **LLM** and **machine learning** in creativity and developer tools.
- Designed and conducted human centered research around AI systems; designed and build AI research prototypes.
- Presented to **VP-level directors** and in **company-wide summits**. **Published** in broader academic communities.

University of Washington, Graduate Researcher, HCI 09/2018 to 06/2023

- Led **10+ formative** and **evaluative** research projects and **published research reports** on top HCI venues. Topics include online peer production platforms, data science & programming tools, STEM education, and creativity support.
- Conducted **100+ interviews & 50+ user studies**; analyzed activity log of **500k+ users** using **statistical methods**.
- Designed and built **data pipelines** and **user-facing web applications**.
- **Managed** teams of 5-10 researchers and engineers, **set agendas**, and **mentored** junior researchers.

Microsoft Research, HCI Research Intern, AI Software Development Tools 06/2022 to 09/2022

- Led a multi-phase research project on user trust in **LLM-powered code generation** tools; designed and conducted **30+ interviews & 20+ evaluative studies** with software engineers; **built visual prototypes** to convey design insights.
- Generated **research reports** for engineering teams and disseminated findings in broader academic communities.
- Reported design insights to director-level stakeholders and GitHub Copilot product team.

Dataminr, HCI Research Intern, Human-AI Collaboration in NLP 09/2021 to 12/2021

- Led research on **human-in-the-loop** text summarization; **synthesized 600+ academic literatures** into design framework; developed **Figma prototypes** and conducted **evaluative studies** with **crowd workers**.
- Generated **research reports** for internal usage and **publications** in broader academic communities.
- **Reported to director-level stakeholders** and impacted the design of internal **AI-powered tools**.

Meta, UX Research Intern, Video Recommendation 06/2020 to 09/2020

- Led **20k+ surveys** in **5 countries**, **interviews**, **usability tests**, and **statistical analysis** of **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, PM, and data) and **vendors**.

Education

University of Washington (UW)

Doctor of Philosophy in Human Centered Design & Engineering 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 (Computation) and Mathematics (Applied Science) 2018