

Eugenia H. Rho

Virginia Tech Department of Computer Science
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Research Interests: Human-Centered AI, Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Natural Language Processing (NLP), Large, Language Models, Statistics

APPOINTMENTS

Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech	2021 – Present
Assistant Professor	
Director of Society + AI and Language (SAIL) Research Lab	
Affiliate Faculty, Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence	
Affiliate Faculty, Virginia Tech Center for Autism Research	
Affiliate Faculty, Center for Human-Computer Interaction	
Meta (Facebook), Menlo Park, CA	2017
Research Intern	
NORC at the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL	2016
Data Science Intern	
University of California, Irvine, Irvine CA	2016
Graduate Research Assistant	
PricewaterhouseCoopers, Seoul, South Korea	2013 – 2014
Consultant	
Opera Solutions, New York, NY	2011 – 2012
Consultant	

EDUCATION

Department of Computer Science, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA	2020 – 2021
Post-doctoral Researcher, Stanford NLP Group	
Advisor: Dan Jurafsky	
School of Information & Computer Sciences, University of California, Irvine, CA	2015 – 2020
Ph.D. in Informatics	
Thesis: Design of Online Environments and the Quality of Democratic Discourse At-Scale	
Committee: Melissa Mazmanian (chair), Judy Olson, Kai Zheng	
Columbia University (Columbia College), New York, NY	2007 – 2011
B.A. in Political Science, Dean's List	

GRANTS

An Interactional Framework for Auditing AI as a Social Interpreter of Human Conversations Role: PI; \$434,207, NSF (Pending)	2026
Conversational AI for Technical Interview Learning to Enhance Computing Education Role: PI; \$2.95M, Institute of Education Sciences (Pending)	2025
Scaling AI-Driven Managerial Communication Training: A 10-Week Longitudinal Field Study Role: PI; \$5,000, Amazon Web Services	2025
Designing Large Language Models as a Mental Health Resource for Autistic Adults Role: PI; \$45,000, World Health Consortium	2024
Enhancing the Privacy of Users with Disabilities Through Transparent Web Advertisement Role: Co-PI; \$75,000, Commonwealth Cyber Initiative	2024
Integrating Neurodivergence into the STEM Workforce Role: Co-PI; \$75,000, Oak Ridge Associated Universities	2023
Empathy-Driven Human-AI System for Countering Negative-Self Talk for Autistic Adults Role: PI; \$25,000, Center for Human-Computer Interaction, Virginia Tech	2023
Understanding Linguistic Patterns in COVID-19 Public Health Discourse Role: PI; \$15,000, Center for Peace Studies and Violence Prevention, Virginia Tech	2021

HONORS AND AWARDS

Department of Computer Science Community Builder Award, Virginia Tech	2025
CSCW Diversity Recognition Award	2024
ACM CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention	2020
Kling Endowed Memorial Fellowship	2020
Doctoral Consortium Fellowship	2019
Roberta Ellen Lamb Memorial Fellowship	2018
Graduate Dean's Recruitment Fellowship	2015

PUBLICATIONS

Journals and Conference Papers (Selected)

† Denotes first-authored work by PhD/MS students under my supervision as the primary advisor.

- [2025q] **A Multi-Level Benchmark for Causal Language Understanding**
Xiaohan Ding, Kaike Ping, Buse Carik, and **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), 2025
- [2025p] **Personalization or Social Bias? Large Scale LLM Audit for Understanding Stereotypes in Language Model Advice for Autistic Users**
Caleb Wohn, Buse Carik, Xiaohan Ding, Sang Won Lee, Young-Ho Kim, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2026
(Accepted)
- [2025o] **Human-Human-AI Pair Programming: Examining the Role of Agentic AI and the Value of a Human Partner in Collaborative Learning**
Taufiq Daryanto, Xiaohan Ding, Lance T Wilhelm, Kaike Ping, Yan Chen, Chris Brown, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2026
(Accepted)
- [2025n] **"Having Lunch Now": Understanding How Users Engage with a Proactive Agent for Daily Planning and Self-Reflection**
Adnan Abbas, Caleb Wohn, Arnav Jagtap, Eugenia H. Rho, Young-Ho Kim, Sang Won Lee.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2026
(Accepted)
- [2025m] **Who Persuades the Hateful? How Language and Identity Shape Effective Online Pushback**
Kaike Ping, Xiaohan Ding, Buse Carik, James Hawdon, and **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI), 2025
(Under Review)
- [2025l] **"It Doesn't Know Me": Investigating the Potential of AI Role-Play in Managerial Communication Training**
Lance T Wilhelm, Xiaohan Ding, Kirk Knutsen, Buse Carik, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
Proceedings of the 7th ACM Conference on Conversational User Interfaces (CUI), 2026
- [2025k] **PITCH: Designing Agentic Conversational Support for Planning and Self-reflection**
Adnan Abbas, Caleb Wohn, Donghan Hu, Eugenia H Rho, Sang Won Lee.
Proceedings of the 7th ACM Conference on Conversational User Interfaces (CUI), 2025
- [2025j] **Designing Conversational AI to Support Think-Aloud Practice in Technical Interview Preparation for CS Students**
Taufiq Daryanto, Sophia Stil, Xiaohan Ding, Daniel Manesh, Sang Won Lee, Tim Lee, Stephanie Lunn, Sarah Rodriguez, Chris Brown, and **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
Proceedings of IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC), 2025

- [2025i] **Designing Human-AI Collaboration to Support Learning in Counterspeech Writing**
Xiaohan Ding, Kaike Ping, Uma Sushmitha Gunturi, Buse Carik, Lance T Wilhelm, Taufiq Daryanto, Sophia Stil, James Hawdon, Sang Won Lee, and **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
Proceedings of IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC), 2025
- [2025h] **Perceiving and Countering Hate: The Role of Identity in Online Responses**
Kaike Ping, James Hawdon, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW), 2025
- [2025g] **Behind the Counter: Exploring the Motivations and Barriers of Online Counterspeech Writing and the Potential for AI-Mediated Assistance**
Kaike Ping, Anisha Kumar, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (TOCHI), 2025
- [2025f] **Reimagining Support: Exploring Autistic Individuals' Visions for AI in Coping with Negative Self-Talk**
Buse Carik, Victoria Izaac, Xiaohan Ding, Angela Scarpa, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2025
- [2025e] **Adaptive Captioning with Emotional Cues: Supporting Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Neurodiverse Learners in STEM**
Sunday David Ubur, **Eugenia H. Rho**, and Denis Gracanin.
Proceedings of IEEE International Conference on Affective Computing and Intelligent Interaction (ACII), 2025
- [2025d] **Desire Over Experience: AI Acceptance in STEM Mentorship for Autistic Students**
Sophia Stil, Jacqueline Bruen, Jennifer J Mitchell, Kaike Ping, Buse Carik, Xiaohan Ding, Alexa C. Brantley, Caroline Branscome, Angela Scarpa, Myounghoon Jeon, Sunwook Kim, and **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
(Under Review)
- [2025c] **Empowering Social Media Users Through Nudges for Facilitating the Use of Trigger and Content Warnings**
Emily Altland, Xinyi Zhang, Md Momen Bhuiyan, **Eugenia H. Rho**, D. Scott McCrickard, Sang Won Lee.
(Under Review)
- [2025b] **Exploring Large Language Models Through a Neurodivergent Lens: Use, Challenges, Community-Driven Workarounds, and Concerns**
Buse Carik, Kaike Ping, Xiaohan Ding, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM International Conference on Supporting Group Work (GROUP), 2025
- [2025a] **Conversate: Supporting Reflective Learning in Interview Practice Through Interactive Simulation and Dialogic Feedback**
Taufiq Daryanto, Xiaohan Ding, Lance T Wilhelm, Sophia Stil, Kirk Knutsen, and **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM International Conference on Supporting Group Work (GROUP), 2025

- [2024d] **Leveraging Prompt-Based Large Language Models: Predicting Pandemic Health Decisions and Outcomes Through Social Media Language**
Xiaohan Ding, Buse Carik, Uma Gunturi, Valerie Reyna, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2024
- [2024c] **A Design Space for Intelligent and Interactive Writing Assistants**
Mina Lee, Katy Ilonka Gero, John Joon Young Chung, Simon Buckingham Shum, Vipul Raheja, Hua Shen, Subhashini Venugopalan, Thiemo Wambsganss, David Zhou, Emad A. Alghamdi, Tal August, Avinash Bhat, Madiha Zahrah Choksi, Senjuti Dutta, Jin L.C. Guo, Md Naimul Hoque, Yewon Kim, Simon Knight, Seyed Parsa Neshaei, Agnia Sergeyuk, Antonette Shibani, Disha Shrivastava, Lila Shroff, Jessi Stark, Sarah Sterman, Sitong Wang, Antoine Bosselut, Daniel Buschek, Joseph Chee Chang, Sherol Chen, Max Kreminski, Joonsuk Park, Roy Pea, **Eugenia H. Rho**, Shannon Zejiang Shen, Pao Siangliue.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2024
- [2024b] **Understanding the Relationship between User Identity and Self-Expression through GIFs on Social Media**
Marx B Wang, Md Momen Bhuiyan, **Eugenia H. Rho**, Kurt Luther, Sang Won Lee.
ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW), 2024
- [2024a] **Understanding the Linguistic Signature of Acts and Recalls of Online Racial Microaggressions through Interpretable NLP**
Uma Gunturi, Anisha Kumar, Xiaohan Ding, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW), 2024
- [2023d] **Escalated Police Stops of Black Men Are Linguistically and Psychologically Distinct in Their Earliest Moments**
Eugenia H. Rho, Maggie Harrington, Yuyang Zhong, Reid Pryzant, Nicholas P. Camp, Dan Jurafsky, Jennifer L. Eberhardt.
Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), 2023
- [2023c] **Same Words, Different Meanings: Interpretable Predictions of Polarization Trends in Broadcast Media Language and Granger Causal Effects on Online Public Discourse**
Xiaohan Ding, Mike Horning, **Eugenia H. Rhot**.
AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), 2023
- [2023b] **ToxVis: Enabling Interpretability of Implicit vs. Explicit Toxicity Detection Models with Interactive Visualization**
Uma Gunturi, Xiaohan Ding, **Eugenia H. Rhot**. Extended Abstract, Workshop on Combating Toxicity, Harassment, and Abuse in Online Social Spaces,
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2023
- [2023a] **Real Memes In-The-Wild: Explainable Classification of Hateful vs. Non-Hateful Memes**
Rohan Leekha, **Eugenia H. Rhot**. Extended Abstract, Workshop on Combating Toxicity, Harassment, and Abuse in Online Social Spaces,
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2023
- [2020c] **Political Hashtags and the Lost Art of Democratic Discourse**
Eugenia H. Rho and Melissa Mazmanian.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2020, Best Paper Honorable Mention

- [2020b] **Cultural Differences in the Effects of Contextual Factors and Privacy Concerns on Users' Privacy Decision on Social Networking Sites**
Yao Li, Eugenia H. Rho, and Alfred Kobsa.
Journal of Behavior and Information Technology, 2020
- [2020a] **Quality of Democratic Discourse in the Age of Political Hashtags and Social Media News Consumption**
Eugenia H. Rho. Position Paper, Doctoral Consortium: Companion Publication of the 2019 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing, *ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)*, 2020
- [2019b] **Hashtag Burnout? An Experimental Study Investigating How Political Hashtags Shape Reactions to News Content**
Eugenia H. Rho and Melissa Mazmanian.
ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW), 2019
- [2019a] **Moral and Affective Differences in U.S. Immigration Policy Debate on Twitter**
Ted Grover, Elvan Bayraktaroglu, Gloria Mark, and Eugenia Ha Rim Rho.
Journal of Computer Supported Cooperative Work Vol 28, Issue:3-4, 2019, p. 317-355
- [2018d] **Fostering Civil Discourse Online: Linguistic Behavior in Comments of #MeToo Articles Across Political Perspectives**
Eugenia H. Rho, Gloria Mark, and Melissa Mazmanian.
ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW), 2018
- [2018c] **Differences in Online Privacy & Security Attitudes Based on Economic Living Standards: A Global Study of 24 Countries**
Eugenia H. Rho, Alfred Kobsa, Carolyn Nguyen.
Proceedings of the European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS), 2018
- [2018b] **Intelligent Agents in Everyday Settings: Leveraging a Multi-Methods Approach**
Krithika Jagannath, Eugenia H. Rho. Position Paper, Voice-Based Conversational UX Studies and Design Workshop,
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2018
- [2018a] **Contextual Impact on SNS Users' Privacy Decisions: A Cross-Cultural Study**
Yao Li, Eugenia H. Rho. Position Paper, Moving Beyond a "One-Size Fits All" Approach: Exploring Individual Differences in Privacy, *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*, 2018
- [2017b] **Class Confessions: Restorative Properties in Online Experiences of Socioeconomic Stigma**
Eugenia H. Rho, Oliver L. Haimson, Nazanin Andalibi, Melissa Mazmanian, and Gillian R. Hayes.
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), 2017
- [2017a] **Privacy Norms in the Context of Connected & Self-Driving Cars**
Eugenia H. Rho. Position Paper, Networked Privacy Workshop, *ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)*, 2017

INVITED TALKS, PANELS, PODCASTS

Invited Talk	2026
NLP Seminar, Computer Science Department, University of California, Los Angeles	
Invited Talk	2026
Computer Science Department, University of Southern California	
Invited Talk	2026
Computational Linguistics and Information Processing Lab, University of Maryland	
Invited Talk	2025
Informatics Department, University of California, Irvine	
Keynote	2024
Institute for Critical Technology and Applied Science, Virginia Tech	
Linguistics Seminar	2024
VTL x Speaker Series Colloquium, Virginia Tech	
Johns Hopkins Center for Language and Speech Processing (CLSP) Seminar	2023
CS NLP Group, Whiting School of Engineering, Johns Hopkins University	
Guest Speaker	2023
CNN Tonight	
Guest Speaker	2023
National Public Radio (NPR) News	
Guest Speaker	2023
Closer Look with Rose Scott, National Public Radio (NPR) Atlanta	
Guest Speaker	2023
Scripps News	
CS/ AI Faculty Guest Speaker	2023
Sanghani Center for Artificial Intelligence & Data Analytics, Virginia Tech	
Guest Speaker	2023
Virginia Tech Autism Clinic & Center for Autism Research	
Guest Speaker	2023
Curious Conversations Podcast	
Guest Speaker	2023
Because Language Podcast	
Guest Speaker	2023

Center for Future Work Places and Practices, Future of Work Symposium

Guest Speaker Institute for Creativity, Arts, & Technology, Virginia Tech	2023
Guest Speaker Research in the Age of AI, Internet Archive, San Francisco, CA	2022
Guest Speaker, Human-Computer Interaction Seminar Department of Computer Science, Stanford University	2021
Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech	2020
Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington	2020
Information Sciences and Technology Department, George Mason University	2020
Guest Speaker Radio New Zealand	2019
Guest Speaker KCBS San Francisco	2019
Guest Lecturer INF 131, University of California, Irvine	2018
Guest Speaker Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Daejeon, South Korea	2017

SELECTED PRESS

AI Tool Predicts Whether Online Health Misinformation Will Cause Real-World Harm Scientific American, May 2024	2024
Study Traces an Infectious Language Epidemic Virginia Tech News, May 2024	2024
Be Careful What You Feed Your Head Forbes, February 2024	2024
AI—the Good, the Bad, and the Scary Virginia Tech Engineering News, November 2023	2023
Two Networks, Two Realities, One Big Problem Virginia Tech News, August 2023	2023
New Study: Officers' First Communication with Black Drivers Can Determine Traffic Stop Outcome	2023

NPR Atlanta, June 2023

Interview with Eugenia Rho on Police Escalation CNN Tonight, CNN, June 2023	2023
A Study Found a Racial Bias During Police Traffic Stops and Police Orders KCBS Radio, June 2023	2023
Study: Officer's First 45 Words in Traffic Stop Could Predict Outcome Scripps News, June 2023	2023
For Black Drivers, a Police Officer's First 45 Words Are a Sign of What's to Come NPR Radio, May 2023	2023
Political Hashtags Make People Less Likely to Believe the News Radio New Zealand, December 2019	2019
Hashtag Fatigue: How #Metoo Turns People off From the News Newsweek Japan, December 2019	2019
How Political Hashtags Make Discussion More Partisan KCBS Radio, November 2019	2019
Hashtag Haven: Why People Distrust Social Media Clickbait Yahoo Finance, November 2019	2019
Political Hashtags Like #Metoo and #Blacklivesmatter Make People Less Likely to Believe the News The Conversation, November 2019	2019
Political Hashtags Like #Metoo and #Blacklivesmatter Make Some People Doubt the Stories They're Attached To Nieman Journalism Lab, Harvard University, November 2019	2019

TEACHING

Instructor, Virginia Tech, Department of Computer Science

CS 5724 Models and Theories of Human-Computer Interaction	Fall 2025
CS 6724 Human-AI Interaction Capstone	Spring 2025
CS 4784 Human-Computer Interaction Capstone	Fall 2024
CS 3724 Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction	Spring 2024
CS 5914 Human AI Interaction Powered by Large Language Models	Fall 2023
CS 6724 Human AI Interaction	Spring 2023
CS 5984 Computational Social Science	Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Irvine, Department of Informatics

INF 288 Master of Human-Computer Interaction & Design Capstone Project	Summer 2020
INF 281 User Needs Analysis	Fall 2019
ICS 139 Critical Writing on Information Technology	Summer 2019
ICS 5 Global Disruption & Information Technology	Spring 2018
ICS 166 Game Design	Spring 2017
INF 131 Human Computer Interaction	Spring 2017
INF 131 Human Computer Interaction	Winter 2017
INF 131 Human Computer Interaction	Fall 2016

SERVICE

Faculty Search Committee

Tenure-Track General Faculty Search, Virginia Tech Computer Science	2024
Tenure-Track AI/ HCI Faculty Search, Virginia Tech Computer Science	2023
Tenure-Track Senior AI/ HCI Faculty Search, Virginia Tech Innovation Campus	2023
Tenure-Track HCI Faculty Search, Virginia Tech Computer Science	2022

Graduate Admissions Committee

Virginia Tech Computer Science	2021
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Grant Review

National Science Foundation Panel	2022 – 2024
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Program Committee / Associate Chair Paper Reviewer

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)	2024 - present
ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)	2022, 2024
Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)	2022
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) Late Breaking Work	2020

Paper Reviewer

ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)	2016 – present
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)	2017 – present
AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)	2021
Proceedings of the European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS)	2021
ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS)	2018

Student Volunteer

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)	2018
ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)	2017

Member

ACM Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction	2015 – Present
Association for Computational Linguistics	2020 – Present

MENTORSHIP AND DIVERSITY OUTREACH

Faculty Presenter <i>Self-Advocating Autistic Committee Meeting</i> VT Center for Autism Research x Self-Advocating Autistic Committee	2023 - Present
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Faculty Panelist <i>Information Session, Pathways to Engineering: BCI Senior High School Students @VT</i> Virginia Tech College of Engineering x Black College Institute (BCI)	2023
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Faculty Panelist <i>Computer-Human Interaction Mentoring (CHIMe) Workshop</i> ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems	2021
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Faculty Panelist <i>Graduate Student Orientation</i> Department of Computer Science, Virginia Tech	2021
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ICS Graduate Student Mentor <i>Women in Information & Computer Sciences (WICS)</i> University of California, Irvine	2016 – 2017
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Panelist <i>Internship Experience with Tech Industries</i> University of California, Irvine	2017
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Panelist <i>School of Information and Computer Science Doctoral Student Orientation</i> University of California, Irvine	2017
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ACADEMIC ADVISING

Doctoral Advising at Virginia Tech	2021 – Present
Xiaohan Ding	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Kaike Ping	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Buse Carik	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Lance Wilhelm	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Taufiq Daryanto	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Caleb Wohn (co-advised with Sang Won Lee)	(Ph.D., Computer Science)

Master's Advising at Virginia Tech**2021 – Present**

Sophia Stil	(M.S., Computer Science)
Anisha Kumar <i>currently at Booz Allen Hamilton</i>	(M.S., Computer Science)
Uma Gunturi <i>Torgersen Research Excellence Award Finalist, currently at IBM Research</i>	(M.S., Computer Science)
Rohan Leekha <i>currently at MIT Lincoln Laboratory</i>	(M.S., Computer Science)

Undergraduate Advising at Virginia Tech**2021 – Present**

Samridhi Roshan	(B.S., Computer Science)
Eunice Hong	(B.S., Computer Science)

Thesis Committee**2021 – Present**

Sunday Ubur	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Yeanan Bond	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Swanand Vaishampayan	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Sukrit Venkatagiri	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Bill Ingram	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Aman Ahuja	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Satvik Chekuri	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Anirban Mukhopadhyay	(Ph.D., Computer Science)
Emily Altland	(M.S., Computer Science)
Marx Wang	(M.S., Computer Science)
Muskan Gupta	(M.S., Computer Science)
Lucas Franke	(M.S., Computer Science)
Hulya Dogan	(M.S., Computer Science)