

Talie Massachi

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Research Interests

Building social support through social media. Creating clinical and personal tools to increase the availability of mental health services. Personalized affect detection, prediction over private messages.

Education

Brown University, Providence, RI August 2019 – Present
PhD Candidate, Computer Science
MSc Computer Science May 2022
Advised by: Jeff Huang

Brandeis University, Waltham, MA August 2014 – May 2018
B.S. Computer Science, Psychology
Minor: Mathematics
Thesis: [Image Priors for Image Colorization](#)
Advised by: James Storer

Research Projects

Chime [Website](#) January 2020 – Present
A social mood-tracking mobile app encouraging social support through emoji-only communication.

- Publicly available on the [Apple](#) and [Google](#) app stores
- “Chime: The Impact of Private Online Self-Disclosure on Perceived Social Support” under review at CSCW 2024

Sochiatrist [Website](#) August 2019 – Present
A data extractor for social messaging data used to predict signals of mental health.

- Desktop app and web versions made available to researchers upon request
- Used in multiple clinical studies to extract data, with consent, from over 350 participants
- “Sochiatrist: Signals of Affect in Messaging Data” published in CSCW 2020

Publications

Matthew Jörke, Yasaman S Sefidgar, **Talie Massachi**, Jina Suh, Gonzalo Ramos. “Pearl: A Technology Probe for Machine-Assisted Reflection on Personal Data.” IUI 2023

Gabriela Hoefer*, **Talie Massachi***, Neil G Xu, Nicole Nugent, Jeff Huang. “Bridging the Social Distance: Offline to Online Social Support during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” CSCW 2022 [PDF](#)

Hari Dandapani, Natalie Davoodi, Lucie Joerg, Melinda Li, Daniel Strauss, Kelly Fan, **Talie Massachi**, Elizabeth Goldberg. “Leveraging Mobile-Based Sensors for Clinical Research to Obtain Activity and Health Measures for Disease Monitoring, Prevention, and Treatment.” Frontiers in Digital Health 2022 [PDF](#)

Talie Massachi*, Grant Fong*, Varun Mathur*, Sachin Pendse*, Gabriela Hofer, Jessica Fu, Chong Wang, Nikita Ramoji, Nicole Nugent, Megan Ranney, Daniel Dickstein, Michael Arney, Ellie Pavlick, Jeff Huang. "Sochiatrist: Signals of Affect in Messaging Data." CSCW 2020 [PDF](#) [Video](#)

Mathieu Chollet, **Talie Massachi**, Stefan Scherer. "Racing Heart and Sweaty Palms." IVA 2017 [PDF](#)

* denotes equal contribution

Extended Abstracts

Catherine Li, **Talie Massachi**, Jordan Eschler, Jeff Huang. "Understanding the Needs of Enterprise Users in Collaborative Python Notebooks." CHI Case Studies 2023

Teaching Experience

Brown University

Primary Instructor, UI/UX (major-focused course) Spring 2024

Primary Instructor, UI/UX Workshop (non-major focused course) Spring 2023

Curriculum Developer, Digital Health Innovation Certificate (DHIC), Design Course Summer 2022

- Developed class activities and materials for two modules in a post-grad certification course
- Guest lecturing

Graduate Teaching Assistant, User Interfaces and User Experience Fall 2020

Brandeis University

Teaching Assistant, Introductory Java and Python September 2015 – December 2017

Mentor, Introductory Computer Programming September 2016 – December 2016

Work Experience

Microsoft Research, HUE group: Research Intern June 2023 – September 2023

- Investigated and improved understanding of expected responses from LLM chatbot systems during times of tension or conflict with users; in collaboration with Bing

April 2022 – July 2022

- Helped design & implement a system, later named Pearl, to inform users of their current online habits and encourage personalized healthy routine changes

Brown University: PhD Student and Research Assistant August 2019 – Present

- Managed a team of five students working on various research projects, culminating in published papers as described above
- Collaborated with psychologists and clinical researchers to develop systems to increase the availability of mental health services

Constructor.io: Software Engineer June 2018 – June 2019

- Implemented Boolean expression simplification algorithm for performant query expansion

- Designed and developed APIs for creating, updating, and retrieving synonym data
- Prototyped system to broaden results for unsuccessful searches through token removal

University of Southern California: Research Assistant

June 2016 – August 2016

- Designed and implemented real-time functionality to improve a virtual reality system aiming to treat public speaking anxiety
- Developed and ran an experiment with 25 participants to measure the effect of audience response on speaker's emotional state

Service

Brown University

PhD Admissions Committee, *Computer Science Dept*

November 2021 – December 2021

Sheridan Teaching Center Grad Liaison, *Computer Science Department*

September 2021 – Present

Communications Director, *Graduate Labor Organization (GLO)*

October 2020 – February 2022

Grad Student Diversity Initiative, *Computer Science Dept (unofficial)*

September 2020 – May 2023

PhD Admit Events Organizer, *Computer Science Dept*

February 2020 – March 2020

Brandeis University

Undergraduate Department Representative, *Computer Science Department*

May 2017 – May 2018

Lead Organizer, *Codestellation (Brandeis Hackathon)*

May 2016 – May 2018

Reviewing

CIKM (2020), CHI (2022), CSCW (2023, 2024)

Poster AC CSCW 2023

Awards and Certifications

Invitation & travel grant for CRA-W Grad Cohort Workshops

2021

GHC Scholarship for Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing

2016

Sheridan Center for Teaching & Learning, *Certificate III*

Expected December 2023

Sheridan Center for Teaching & Learning, *Certificate II: Course Design*

May 2022

Sheridan Center for Teaching & Learning, *Certificate I: Reflective Teaching*

December 2021

Student Mentoring

Gabriela Hofer, Master's student, now at IBM

August 2019 – December 2021

John Roy, Undergraduate, now at Google

January 2020 – May 2022

Lauren Choi, Undergraduate, now at Apple

January 2020 – August 2021

Eindra Kyi, Visiting summer research assistant

June 2020 – September 2020

Jordan Idehen, Summer undergraduate research assistant, now at Spotify

July 2020

Catherine Li, Undergraduate, now at Index.app

January 2021 – December 2021

Neil Xu, Undergraduate

May 2021 – December 2021

Cat Mai, Visiting summer research assistant, now at NYU

June 2021 – September 2021

Anika Ahluwalia, Undergraduate

September 2022 – May 2023