

Taslina Akter

Assistant Professor (tenure-track), Department of Computer Science
University of Texas San Antonio

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RESEARCH SUMMARY

I use disability studies and human-computer interaction (HCI) methods to explore the social, cultural, and technical challenges of people with disabilities in the context of privacy and security. I address these needs through innovative and ethics-driven interventions, providing novel designs, accessibility guidance, and policy recommendations for developing responsible and trustworthy assistive tools.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Science May 2022

Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN*

Committee: Apu Kapadia (chair), Kay Connelly, David J. Crandall, Norman Makoto Su,
Bryan Semaan, Manohar Swaminathan

Dissertation: Reducing Privacy Risks of Visually Impaired People with Camera Based Assistive Tools

M.Sc. in Computer Science December 2019

Indiana University, *Bloomington, IN*

B.Sc. in Computer Science & Engineering July 2014

Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology (BUET), *Dhaka, Bangladesh*

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor (tenure-track) August 2024 - present

Core Faculty, School of Data Science

Department of Computer Science

University of Texas San Antonio (UTSA)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Computing Innovation Fellow (CIFellow) Postdoctoral Researcher June 2022 - July 2024

Accessibility Research Collective lab

Department of Informatics, University of California, Irvine

Mentor: [Prof. Anne Marie Piper](#)

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN Aug 2016–May 2022

Graduate Research Assistant, Privacy lab

Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering

Advisor: [Prof. Apu Kapadia](#)

Microsoft Research, Bangalore, India Fall 2018

Research Intern, Technology for Emerging Market Team

University of Asia Pacific, Dhaka, Bangladesh May 2015–July 2016

Lecturer, Department of Computer Science & Engineering

Daffodil International University, Dhaka, Bangladesh
Lecturer, Department of Software Engineering

Sep 2014–April 2015

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

CRA Trustworthy AI Research Fellowship (Amount: \$16,500) <i>Computing Research Association (CRA) & Microsoft sponsored</i>	July 2025
Explore STEM Workshop (Amount: \$27,930) <i>Texas Workforce Commission (Currently under review)</i>	Spring 2025
School of Data Science Undergraduate Fellowship (Amount: \$1,000) <i>University of Texas San Antonio</i>	Spring 2025
Computing Innovation Fellowship (CIFellows) (Amount: \$253,800) <i>Computing Research Association (CRA & NSF-sponsored)</i>	June 2022
The Trust & Safety scholarship (Amount: \$20,000) <i>Cognizant Technology Solutions</i>	Fall 2021
Travel Grant Recipient (Amount: \$1,000) <i>ACM SIGGRAPH 2023</i>	August 2023
Doctoral Consortium Travel Grant Recipient (Amount: \$600) <i>ACM CSCW 2020</i>	October 2020
Doctoral Consortium Travel Grant Recipient (Amount: \$2000) <i>ACM ASSETS 2019</i>	October 2019
Travel Grant Recipient (Amount: \$1,000) <i>IEEE Security & Privacy 2017</i>	May 2017

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed Conference and Journal Papers:

1. **Akter, T.**, Marathe, A., Gergle, D., and Piper, A. M., “Beyond Accessibility: Understanding the Ease of Use and Impacts of Digital Collaboration Tools for Blind and Low Vision Workers”, To appear in the Proceedings of ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (**ASSETS 2025**).
2. **Akter, T.**, Swaminathan, M., and Kapadia, A., “Towards Effective Communication of AI-Based Decisions in Assistive Tools: Conveying Confidence and Doubt to People with Visual Impairments at Accelerated Speech”, In the Proceedings of ACM Web for All (**W4A 2024**).
3. **Akter, T.**, Cha, Y., Figueira, I., Branham, S., and Piper, A.M., ““If I’m supposed to be the facilitator, I should be the host”: Understanding the Accessibility of Videoconferencing for Blind and Low Vision Meeting Facilitators”, In the Proceedings of ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (**ASSETS 2023**).

4. Pias, S.B.H., Ahmad, I., **Akter, T.**, Kapadia, A. and Lee, A.J., “Decaying Photos for Enhanced Privacy: User Perceptions Towards Temporal Redactions and Trusted Platforms”, In the Proceedings of the Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (**CSCW 2022**).
5. Ahmad, I., **Akter, T.**, Buher, Z., Farzan, R., Kapadia, A., and Lee, A.J., “Tangible Privacy for Smart Voice Assistants: Measuring Users’ Attitudes Towards User-Centric Sensor Designs”, In the Proceedings of the Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (**CSCW 2022**).
6. **Akter, T.**, Ahmed, T., Kapadia, A., and Swaminathan, M., “Shared Privacy Concerns of the Visually Impaired and Sighted Bystanders with Camera Based Assistive Technologies”, In the Proceedings of Transactions on Accessible Computing (**TACCESS 2022**).
7. **Akter, T.**, Ahmed, T., Kapadia, A., and Swaminathan, M., “Privacy Considerations of the Visually Impaired with Camera Based Assistive Technologies: Misrepresentation, Impropriety, and Fairness”, In the Proceedings of ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (**ASSETS 2020**).
8. **Akter, T.**, Dosono, B., Ahmed, T., Kapadia, A., and Semaan, B., ““I am uncomfortable sharing what I can’t see”: Privacy Concerns of the Visually Impaired with Camera Based Assistive Applications”, In the Proceedings of 29th USENIX Security Symposium (**USENIX Security 2020**).
9. **Akter, T.**, “Privacy Considerations of the Visually Impaired with Camera Based Assistive Tools”, In the Proceedings of Conference Companion Publication of Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (**CSCW Companion 2020**).
10. Dosono, B., Rashidi, Y., **Akter, T.**, Semaan, B., and Kapadia, A., “Challenges in Transitioning from Civil to Military Culture: Hyper-Selective Disclosure through ICTs”, Proceedings of the ACM Journal: Human-Computer Interaction: Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (**CSCW 2018**), Vol. 1, No. 2, Article 41.
11. Zannat, H., **Akter, T.**, Tasnim, M., and Rahman, A., “The coverage problem in visual sensor networks: A target oriented approach.” Journal of Network and Computer Applications 2016, Vol 75: 1-15.
12. Nurain, N., **Akter, T.**, Zannat, H., Akter, M., Islam, A., and Kabir, H., “General-Purpose Multi-Objective Vertical Hand-off Mechanism Exploiting Network Dynamics.” IEEE Conference on Wireless and Mobile Computing, Networking and Communications (**WiMob 2015**).

Workshop Papers and Posters:

1. **Akter, T.**, “Privacy Considerations of the Visually Impaired with Camera-based Assistive Applications”, Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (**CSCW 2020**).
2. **Akter, T.**, Dosono, B., Ahmed, T., Kapadia, A., and Semaan, B., “Privacy Concerns of the Visually Impaired with Camera-based Assistive Applications”, ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (**ASSETS 2019**).
3. **Akter, T.**, Dosono, B., Ahmed, T., Kapadia, A., and Semaan, B., “AI vs Human Intelligence: Privacy Implications of Assistive Tools for Visually Impaired People”, Grace Hopper Celebrations (**GHC 2019**).
4. **Akter, T.**, Dosono, B., Ahmed, T., Kapadia, A., and Semaan, B., “Privacy Implications of Assistive Tools for Visually Impaired People”, Symposium On Usable Privacy and Security (**SOUPS 2019**).

5. **Akter, T.**, Dosono, B., Ahmed, T., Kapadia, A., and Semaan, B., “Privacy Implications of Human Intelligence Powered Assistive Tools for Visually Impaired People”, Workshop on Bridging the Gap Between AI and HCI, ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (**CHI 2019**).
6. **Akter, T.**, Dosono, B., Ahmed, T., Kapadia, A., and Semaan, B., “ Privacy Concerns of People with Visual Impairments while Using Camera-based Assistive Technologies”, CRA-W Grad Cohort workshop 2019.
7. Dosono, B. , Rashidi, Y., **Akter, T.**, Semaan, B., and Kapadia, A., “Challenges in Transitioning from Civil to Military Culture: Hyper-Selective Disclosure through ICTs”, Midwest Security Workshop (**MSW 2018**).
8. **Akter, T.**, Ahmed, T., Connelly, K., Crandall, D., and Kapadia, A., “Privacy Risks of Using Camera Assisted Tools for People with Visual Impairments.” CVPR workshop on The Bright and Dark Sides of Computer Vision: Challenges and Opportunities for Privacy and Security (**CV-COPS 2017**).
9. Zannat, H., Akter, M., **Akter, T.**, and Islam, A., “MOVH: General Purpose Multi-Objective Vertical Hand-off Mechanism with Higher Scalability and Higher Stability.” Mobile Computing and Human Computer Interaction (**MoHCI 2014**).

AWARDS & HONORS

- **Luddy Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant**, Indiana University 2021
- **PhD Dissertation** received Google Faculty Research Award 2020
- **Student Scholar**, CRA-W Grad Cohort Workshop 2019
- **Student Scholar**, Grace Hopper Conference 2017
- **Best Undergraduate Thesis Award**, Department of CSE, BUET 2014
- **Best Paper Award**, Mobile Computing and Human Computer Interaction (MoHCI) 2014
- **Distinguish Poster Award**, Department of CSE, BUET 2014
- **Academic Merit Scholarship** Department of CSE, BUET 2014
- **Dean’s List Scholarship** Department of CSE, BUET 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Computer Science, *University of Texas San Antonio*

- CS 5733: Privacy Enhancing Techniques (*Grad-level*) Spring 2025
- CS 5463: Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction (*Grad-level*) Fall 2024

Instructor, Informatics, *University of California Irvine*

- IN4MTX 131: Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction (*Undergrad-level*) Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant, Computer Science, *Indiana University, Bloomington*

- CSCI 542: Technical Foundations of Cybersecurity (*Grad-level*) Spring 2021
- CSCI 430: Security for Networked Systems (*Undergrad-level*) Fall 2020

- CSCI 538: Computer Networks (*Grad-level*) Fall 2016

Lecturer, Computer Science & Engineering, University of Asia Pacific, Bangladesh

- CS 303: Operating Systems (*Undergrad-level*) Fall 2015, Spring 2016
- CS 115: Structured Programming with Lab (*Undergrad-level*) Fall 2015

Lecturer, Software Engineering, Daffodil International University, Bangladesh

- SE 311: Computer Architecture (*Undergrad-level*) Spring 2015
- SE 215: Object-oriented Programming (*Undergrad-level*) Fall 2014

RESEARCH MENTORING

- **Protik Dey**, PhD student, University of Texas San Antonio Fall 2024 - present
- **Sohana Akter**, PhD student, University of Texas San Antonio Fall 2024 - present
- **Andrew Lopez**, MS student, University of Texas San Antonio Spring 2025 - present
- **Kaylee Chambers**, Undergrad student, University of Texas San Antonio Spring 2025 - present
- **Abhinaya Guduru**, Undergrad, University of Texas San Antonio Spring 2025 - present
- **Blessy Kalluri**, Undergrad student, University of Texas San Antonio Spring 2025 - present
- **Aparajita Marathe**, PhD student, University of California Irvine Fall 2023 - present
- **Xinru Tang**, PhD student, University of California Irvine Spring 2024 - Fall 2024
- **Isabela Figueira**, PhD student, University of California Irvine Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
- **Yoonha Cha**, PhD student, University of California Irvine Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
- **Sabid Bin Habib**, PhD Student, Indiana University Summer 2020 - Fall 2022
- **Siva Likitha Valluru**, Former MS Student, Clemson University Summer 2019 - Fall 2020

PHD DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

- Abdalwahab Almajed Defended April 2025
Committee member, University of Texas San Antonio

INVITED PANELS

- Keynote panelist, Panel on Women in Technology 2025
Accenture San Antonio International Women's Day Celebration.
- Panelist, Panel on Accessibility of Cyber Interfaces as a Priority. 2023
Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC)
- Panelist, Panel on Digital Avatars: Risks, Harms, Barriers, Opportunities. 2023
Frontier workshop in ACM SIGGRAPH.
- Panelist, Panel on Academic Development of Graduate Students. 2023
Women in Cyber Security (WiCyS), University of California Irvine.

INVITED TALKS

- Guest Lecture, Towards Designing Privacy Enhancing Technology for Blind and Low-Vision (BLV) People, CS Undergraduate Research Showcase, UTSA. 2025
- Guest Lecture, Towards Designing Privacy Enhancing Technology for Blind and Low-Vision (BLV) People, CS7123 Research Methods, UTSA. 2025

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Organizing Committee Member

- Lightning Talks/Demos Co-chair, SOUPS 2024, 2023, 2022
- Workshop on Ethical Pluralism, CSCW 2023
- Poster/Demo Co-chair, ASSETS 2022
- Program Committee chair, Workshop on Inclusive Privacy and Security (WIPS), SOUPS 2024–2020
- Indiana Celebration of Women in Computing (InWiC) 2017, Poster Committee Chair

Program Committee Member

- Associate Chair, ACM CHI 2026, 2025 (Subcommittee: Accessibility and Aging)
- Associate Chair, ACM CSCW Poster 2025
- PC, ACM AsiaCCS 2026
- PC, ACM ASSETS 2025, 2024, 2023, 2022
- Associate Chair, ACM CHI 2024 (Subcommittee: Privacy and Security)
- Associate Chair, ACM CSCW 2024
- PC, ACM SOUPS 2024, 2023
- PC, ACM ASSETS Poster 2024, 2023
- PC, ACM CCS 2023
- PC, ACM SOUPS Poster 2023, 2022, 2021

External Review Services

- IEEE Security & Privacy magazine on inclusive privacy, 2024
- CHI 2023*, 2022*, 2021
- CHI Late Breaking Work 2023
- CSCW 2024, 2023

*Special Recognition for Excellent Review

Outreach and Volunteer Services

- Student volunteer, ACM CHI 2021
- Vice president, Bangladesh Student Association (BDSA), Indiana University 2021
- Student volunteer, WiC Knowledge Based Showcase, Indiana University 2017