

Allison McDonald

Contact

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Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2016 – present

PhD, Computer Science

Advisors: J. Alex Halderman & Florian Schaub

Selected Coursework: Advanced Computer Networks, Advanced Cryptography, Advanced Operating Systems, Advanced Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Conflict (Ford School of Public Policy)

Europa-Universität Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), Germany 2015 – 2016

Master of International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (LLM)

One-year, non-degree seeking student

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2010 – 2015

Bachelor of Science in Engineering, Computer Science

Bachelor of Science, German

Employment

Center on Privacy and Technology at Georgetown Law, Washington, DC May 2019 – present

Research Fellow

Expedia, Inc., Bellevue, WA May 2014 – August 2014

Software Intern

University of Michigan, College of Engineering, Ann Arbor, MI January 2011 – May 2015

CAEN Hotline Consultant

Publications

Refereed Conference Publications

The Role of Computer Security Customer Support in Helping Survivors of Intimate Partner Violence

Yixin Zou, Allison McDonald, Julia Narakornpichit, Nicola Dell, Thomas Ristenpart, Kevin Roundy, Florian Schaub, Acar Tamersoy

30th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security), August 2021

“It’s stressful having all these phones”: Investigating Sex Workers’ Safety Goals, Risks, and Practices Online

Allison McDonald, Catherine Barwulor, Michelle L. Mazurek, Florian Schaub, Elissa M. Redmiles

30th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security), August 2021

The Annoying, the Disturbing, and the Weird: Challenges with Phone Numbers as Identifiers and Phone Number Recycling

Allison McDonald, Carlo Sugatan, Tamy Guberek, Florian Schaub

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), May 2021

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“Disadvantaged in the American-dominated internet”: Sex, Work, and Technology

Catherine Barwulor, Allison McDonald, Eszter Hargittai, Elissa M. Redmiles

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), May 2021

Can Voters Detect Malicious Manipulation of Ballot Marking Devices?

Matthew Bernhard, Allison McDonald, Henry Meng, Jensen Hwa, Nakul Bajaj, Kevin Chang, J. Alex Halderman

41st IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (Oakland), May 2020

★ Best Student Paper Award

403 Forbidden: A Global View of CDN Geoblocking

Allison McDonald, Matt Bernhard, Luke Valenta, Benjamin VanderSloot, Will Scott, Nick Sullivan, J. Alex Halderman, Roya Ensafi

ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC), October 2018

Quack: Scalable Remote Measurement of Application-Layer Censorship

Benjamin VanderSloot, Allison McDonald, Will Scott, J. Alex Halderman, Roya Ensafi

27th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security), August 2018

Keeping a Low Profile? Technology, Risk and Privacy among Undocumented Immigrants

Tamy Guberek, Allison McDonald, Sylvia Simioni, Abraham H. Mhaidli, Kentaro Toyama, Florian Schaub

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), April 2018

★ Best Paper Award

Refereed Workshop Publications

An ISP-Scale Deployment of TapDance

Sergey Frolov, Fred Douglas, Will Scott, Allison McDonald, Benjamin VanderSloot, Rod Hynes, Adam Kruger, Michalis Kallitsis, David G. Robinson, Nikita Borisov, J. A. Halderman, and Eric Wustrow

Proc. 7th USENIX Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI'17), August 2017

Reports

APIs and Your Privacy

N. Cameron Russell, Florian Schaub, Allison McDonald, William Sierra-Rocafort

Available on SSRN ([link](#))

Other Publications

The web really isn't worldwide — every country has different access

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The Conversation ([link](#))

Talks

Keeping a Low Profile?: Technology, Risk and Privacy among Undocumented Immigrants

SUMIT 2018 Cyber Security Conference, Ann Arbor, USA, October 25, 2018

Uncertain Concern: How Undocumented Immigrants in the US Navigate Technology

34th Chaos Communications Congress (34C3), Leipzig, Germany, December 30, 2017

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Awards & Honors

Service Award for Excellence in Climate, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 2020

This award recognizes the recipients' commitment and action in working to improve the climate of the CSE division.

Best Student Paper Award, S&P'20

Can Voters Detect Malicious Manipulation of Ballot Marking Devices?

Facebook Fellowship, 2019 – 2021

Provides two years of funding to computer science doctoral students conducting innovative and relevant research.

Best Paper Award, CHI'18

Keeping a Low Profile?: Technology, Risk and Privacy among Undocumented Immigrants

Rackham Merit Fellowship, 2016

Provides funding for two years to selected incoming PhD students.

Roger M. Jones Fellowship, 2015

Provides one year of tuition and living expenses to one graduating engineer at the University of Michigan in order to deepen an engineering education through studying the humanities at a European university.

Baden-Württemberg Stipendium, 2012

Awarded for academic merit to fund international students enrolled in universities in Baden-Württemberg, Germany.

Teaching

EECS 388: Introduction to Computer Security

Fall 2018, Winter 2019

University of Michigan

Graduate Student Instructor

Online Self-Defense: How to protect your privacy, identity and security when using technology

Fall 2020

Co-instructor for a digital security class through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Michigan, an organization providing education for adult learners ages 50+.

Community Computer Security Workshops

2016 – present

I design and lead computer security workshops, primarily for journalists, lawyers, and activists.

- Knight-Wallace Fellows, February 2020
- Latinx community workshops, July 2018
- Latinx community workshops, November 2017
- Knight-Wallace Fellows, October & November 2017
- Knight-Wallace Fellows, April 2017
- Clean Water Action, May 2017
- Privacy and Technology Law Association, January 2017
- International Human Rights Law Master's Program, April 2016

Service

External Conference Reviewer

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing System (CHI)

2018, 2020, 2021

Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW)

2020, 2021

Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PETS)

2020, 2021

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Dissonance Event Series

Organizing Member

September 2016 – present

Dissonance explores topics of security, privacy, law, and ethics by bringing together speakers from many disciplines and facilitating challenging discussions.

ECSEL+

Co-Chair

June 2019 – May 2021

Treasurer

June 2018 – May 2019

ECSEL+ is a group to support gender minorities in the Computer Science graduate program at the University of Michigan.

Computer Science Graduate Student Organization

Vice President and Treasurer

May 2017 – May 2018

CSEG is the graduate student organization representing graduate computer science students at the University of Michigan.

LSWE-SUCCESS, 2015

Participated in planning a leadership camp in Kakata, Liberia. The camp was organized as a cooperation between the Graduate Society of Women Engineers at the University of Michigan and Liberian women in engineering and science higher education programs.

GirlsEncoded Coordinator, 2014

Cofounded event to encourage high school girls to study computer science, which brought over 100 girls to the University of Michigan for a computer science day camp.

Science Camp in India, 2014

Designed and hosted a series of computer science activities in Walchandnagar, India, as part of a summer camp for secondary school students.