

# Anna Ablove

PhD Candidate, *University of Michigan*

September 25, 2025

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## Research Overview

My research centers on network security and Internet freedom, particularly at the intersection of computer science, policy, and human rights. I focus on topics including network measurement, censorship and geoblocking, and the integration of user perspectives. More recently, I've been interested in how big tech can aid Internet accessibility and transparency.

## Education

- Ph.D in Computer Science, University of Michigan, 2023 - *Present*  
GPA: 4.0, Advisor: Prof. Roya Ensafi
- M.S.E in Computer Science, University of Michigan, 2022 - 2024  
GPA: 4.0
- B.S.E in Computer Science, University of Michigan, Spring 2022  
Minor in Physics, GPA: 3.7, *magna cum laude*

## Conference Publications

### [1] Characterizing the Implementation of Censorship Policies in Chinese LLM Services

*Anna Ablove\**, S. Chandrashekaran\*, X. Qiang, and R. Ensafi

In: Network and Distributed System Security Symposium 2026, (NDSS '26).

### [2] CenAlert: Amplifying User Voices to Rally Censorship Measurement

A. Ortwein, *Anna Ablove*, A. Huremagic, L. Chang, V. Fortuna, and R. Ensafi

Under Submission

### [3] Digital Discrimination of Users in Sanctioned States: The Case of the Cuba Embargo

*Anna Ablove*, S. Chandrashekaran, H. Le, R. Sundara Raman, R. Ramesh, H. Oppenheimer, and R. Ensafi

In: USENIX Security Symposium 2024, (USENIX '24).

### [4] Bridging Barriers: A Survey of Challenges and Priorities in the Censorship Circumvention Landscape

D. Xue\*, *Anna Ablove*\*, R. Ramesh, G. Kwak-Danciu, and R. Ensafi

In: USENIX Security Symposium 2024, (USENIX '24).

### [5] TSPU: Russia's Decentralized Censorship System

D. Xue, B. Mixon-Baca, ValdikSS, *Anna Ablove*, B. Kujath, J. Crandall, and R. Ensafi

In: Internet Measurement Conference 2022, (IMC '22).

## Service

- Member of Program Committee for Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI) co-located with PETS 2026
- Graduate Student Coordinator for Explore Computer Science Research Program (2025 - Present)
- Manager of Tor relay hosted at University of Michigan (2025 - Present)

## Reports

- **How Geoblocking Limits Digital Access in Sanctioned States**  
The Lawfare Institute, November, 18, 2024

## Experience

- **Research Assistant, University of Michigan** (2022 - Present)  
I work as a research assistant under my advisor Prof. Roya Ensafi. My work focuses on problems in the internet freedom, anti-censorship space.

## Speaking

- **Digital Discrimination of Users in Sanctioned States: The Case of the Cuba Embargo**  
USENIX Security Symposium 2024, Philadelphia, PA, August, 15, 2024.

## Honors

- **CSE Graduate Honors Competition** (November, 2025)  
I placed first in the CSE Graduate Honors Competition with my talk, “*Investigating Emerging Private-Sector Censorship Threats*”.
- **USENIX 24 Distinguished Paper Award** (August, 2024)  
Our paper: “*Digital Discrimination of Users in Sanctioned States: The Case of the Cuba Embargo*” won the USENIX 24 Distinguished Paper Award.

## Student Grants and Travel Awards

- **PETS Travel Stipend** (July 2023)  
Granted to attend FOCI 23 and the PET Symposium 2023 in Lausanne, Switzerland.
- **USENIX GREPSEC Workshop Travel Grant** (August 2023)  
Granted to attend GREPSEC VI workshop and USENIX 23 in Anaheim, California.