

Algorithmic justice, AI governance, and Policy-Oriented Audits of  
Sociotechnical Systems

**PH.D IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

EDUCATION

University of Illinois Urbana Champaign | 2023 - 2029  
Advised by Karrie Karahalios

**B.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE-MATHEMATICS &  
B.A. IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

Harvey Mudd College | 2017-2021  
Graduate with Distinction

RESEARCH  
INTERESTS

- Bridging legal and policy frameworks with sociotechnical system design, prioritizing community-centered approaches
- Algorithmic auditing of AI systems using legal frameworks to assess transparency, accuracy, and civil liberties
- Empowering communities to audit, govern, and shape AI design and deployment
- Qualitative and comparative analysis of AI governance frameworks and regulations

ACADEMIC  
PAPERS

1. Banafsheh Behzad, **Bhavana Bheem**, Daniela Elizondo & Susan Martonosi (2023). *Prevalence and Propagation of Fake News*, Statistics and Public Policy, 10:1. DOI: [10.1080/2330443X.2023.2190368](https://doi.org/10.1080/2330443X.2023.2190368)
2. (In Review) **Bhavana Bheem**, Sophia Yonus, Vinay Koshy, Motahhare Eslami, Kristen Vaccaro, Karrie Karahalios, Silas Hsu, Christian Sandvig. *Are News Feeds like Traffic Lights? Surveying Folk Theories of Algorithmic Technologies Beyond Social Media.*

POSTERS

1. **Bhavana Bheem**, Karrie Karahalios, Wendy Tam (March 2025). Reevaluating the Platform Neutrality Assumption of Section 230: An Agent-Based Model Approach, Poster presented at ACM Symposium on Computer Science and Law.
2. Wendy K. Tam, **Bhavana Bheem**, Karrie Karahalios (September 2024). Technology as Both a Threat and a Promise for Platform Regulation: Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions for Online Speech on Social Media Platforms, Poster presented at Navigating the New Frontier: The Political and Economic Implications of AI.

PUBLIC  
SCHOLARSHIP

1. **Bhavana Bheem**, Tom Bowman (August 2025). New Orleans' Dragnet Facial Recognition Program Threatens Innocent People, [Blog post](#), Center for Democracy & Technology.
2. **Bhavana Bheem** (July 2025). Echoes of Authoritarianism: A Comparative Study of U.S. Social Media Monitoring for Immigration with Global Parallels, [Blog post](#), Center for Democracy & Technology.

WORK  
EXPERIENCE

- POLICY INTERN - SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE PROJECT  
Center for Democracy and Technology Jun 2025 - Aug 2025
- Co-authored a public blog post on civil liberties and accuracy concerns of real-time, untargeted facial recognition
  - Published a comparative study on U.S. social media monitoring for immigration enforcement
- SOFTWARE ENGINEER - AZURE NETWORKING  
Microsoft Aug 2021 - Aug 2023
- Developed and deployed new features for the Azure Software Load Balancer in C#, collaborating across teams to meet customer needs
  - Built solutions to improve backend data consistency and reliability

TEACHING  
ASSISTANCE

- CS 277 ALGORITHMS AND DATA STRUCTURES  
Spring 2026
- CS 498 LAW AND POLICY ISSUES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE  
Fall 2025
- CS 565 SOCIAL SPACES  
Fall 2024

CERTIFICATES

- VISTA INSTITUTE FOR AI POLICY  
AI Agents and the Law Jun 2025 - Jul 2025

AWARDS &  
HONORS

- ACM CS & Law Conference Travel Scholarship Mar 2025
- ACM Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency Conference Scholarship Jun 2024
- Richard T. Cheng Endowed Fellowship Aug 2023
- The William and Margaret Radley Prize in Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Arts May 2021
- Henry A. Krieger Prize in Decision Sciences Sep 2019