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

EDUCATION

**PH.D IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**

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. <b>Bhavana Bheem</b> , Tom Bowman (August 2025). New Orleans' Dragnet Facial Recognition Program Threatens Innocent People, <a href="#">Blog post</a> , Center for Democracy & Technology.	
	2. <b>Bhavana Bheem</b> (July 2025). Echoes of Authoritarianism: A Comparative Study of U.S. Social Media Monitoring for Immigration with Global Parallels, <a href="#">Blog post</a> , Center for Democracy & Technology.	
WORK EXPERIENCE	POLICY INTERN - SECURITY AND SURVEILLANCE PROJECT	
	Center for Democracy and Technology	Jun 2025 - Aug 2025
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-authored a public blog post on civil liberties and accuracy concerns of real-time, untargeted facial recognition</li> <li>Published a comparative study on U.S. social media monitoring for immigration enforcement</li> </ul>	
	SOFTWARE ENGINEER - AZURE NETWORKING	
	Microsoft	Aug 2021 - Aug 2023
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed and deployed new features for the Azure Software Load Balancer in C#, collaborating across teams to meet customer needs</li> <li>Built solutions to improve backend data consistency and reliability</li> </ul>	
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