Carter Buckner
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Research Interests

Explainable AI, Trustworthy AI, AI Ethics, Privacy-Preserving AI, User-Centered Privacy, Privacy Governance, AI Policy

Education

Ph.D. Computer Science | Focus: User-Centered Privacy and AI — Aug 2022 – *present*
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UARK)

B.S. Computer Science | Minor Music — Dec 2021
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville (UARK)

Awards and Fellowships

NSF LSAMP Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship — Aug 2022
P.K. Kuroda Endowed Graduate Fellowship — Aug 2024
W. R. Thomas Endowed Doctoral Fellowship — Aug 2025

Research Experience

Security and Privacy Lab — Jan 2022 – *present*
PhD Student, Qinghua Li, *Advisor*

1. Working to develop policy recommendations on the use of big data and AI in critical sectors for the state of Arkansas. This project considers privacy values specific to rural communities not currently expressed in privacy mechanisms or data privacy laws. This is a collaborative project among six members with the UARK Public Policy department.
2. Exploring solutions to balance privacy and transparency in trustworthy AI systems. Current work explores shortcomings of adapting differential privacy in explainable AI systems.
3. Contributed to a project for securing solar grid infrastructure. This is a Department of Energy funded project in collaboration with other schools and UARK departments.

Work Experience

Research Assistant, Technology Privacy — January 2022 - *present*
University of Arkansas

Technology Software Intern — Summer 2019-2022
Northrop Grumman Corporation

Teaching, Presentations, Talks

Troubling Translation: Sociotechnical Expertise and Research in AI policy and Governance — June 2025
FAccT `25, Athens, Greece   site

Participatory AI and Data Governance — December 2024
Queer in AI Workshop @ NeurIPS `24, Vancouver, BC   site

National AI Advisory Council Briefing — July 2024
Queer in AI,   site   pdf

Talk, Symposium on Surveillance: *"From Surveillance to Visibility"* — April 2024
Digital Humanities, University of Arkansas

Guest Lecturer, Intro to Digital Humanities Course   September 2023
Digital Humanities, University of Arkansas

Digital Humanities Meet Up   January 2023
Digital Humanities, University of Arkansas

Extracurriculars, Volunteerism, and Leadership

Core Organizer   January 2024 – *present*
Queer in AI,   *site*

Group Lead   August 2023 – *present*
Trustworthy Machine Learning Reading Group,   *site*

Section Member, Bass   January 2023 – *present*
Symphony of Northwest Arkansas (SoNA)

Volunteer   March 2023 – *present*
St. James Food Pantry

Eagle Scout Rank   April 2017
Boy Scouts of America

Publications

Challenges to Grassroot Organization Engagement with AI Policy   July 2025
Queer in AI, **Carter Buckner**, et al.

Rural Privacy Desires in the U.S. South   March 2025
Carter Buckner, Izehi Oriaghan, Larissa Rocha, Kadesha Treco, Anna Zajicek, Qinghua Li
Midwest Political Science Association,   *site*

Queer in AI Policy Explainer   December 2024
Queer in AI, **Carter Buckner,** et al.,   *site paper*