

Drshika Asher

Computer Science, Statistics

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

(847) 242-1447 • drshika2@illinois.edu • drshika.me

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Virtual/Augmented Reality, Accessibility, Social Computing, Moderation, Computer Supported Cooperative Work

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Bachelor of Sciences, Computer Science, Statistics; GPA: 3.75 Expected May 2024

Relevant Coursework: Algorithms & Models of Computing, Data Structures, Discrete Structures, Ethical and Professional Issues in CS, Software Design Studio, Introduction to Computer Science Honors, Linear Algebra (Python), Numerical Methods, Probability and Statistics for Computer Science

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Microsoft Research

Incoming Undergraduate Research Intern, June 2022

Advisor: Mar Gonazalez-Franco (EPIC group, HCI group)

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Computer Science

CS STARS Research Fellowship, August 2021- present

Advisors: Alex Kirlik , Sebastian Rodriguez

Building a VR game (C#, Unity) for a study examining whether the physicality of an agent affects user trust.

Summer REU participant, June-July 2021

Advisors: Eshwar Chandrasekharan , Tanvi Bajpai

Scraped Twitter for discourse about Audio Based Social Platforms (ABSPs). Used Topic Modeling (Sparse Additive Generative Models (SAGE) and Latent Dirichlet Allocation (LDA)) to identify key trends and to help Graduate Mentor create a framework for classifying ABSPs. Extended line of inquiry from Clubhouse to other ABSPs like Twitter Spaces.

University of Chicago, Department of Materials Science and Engineering

Research Volunteer, June-July 2019

Advisors: Professor Jie Xu

Designed and engineered microfluidic mazes to illustrate basic fluid flow mechanics concepts. Analysed the effects of gamified learning methods on student learning outcomes.

PUBLICATIONS

(Under Review, ACM CSCW) Harmonizing the Cacophony: An Affordance-aware Framework of Audio-Based Social Platform Moderation. Tanvi Bajpai, **Drshika Asher**, Anwesa Goswami, Eshwar Chandrasekharan (pre-print, arXiv:2107.09008)

TEACHING

CS225: Data Structures

Course Developer, January 2022-present

CS196: Computer Science Honors

Project Manager and Head of Social Events, January 2021 - December 2021

HONORS AND GRANTS

JPMorgan Chase WCS Scholarship (2021)

Facebook Above and Beyond Computer Science Scholar (2021)

Illinois CS Tapia Scholarship Recipient (2021)

US Presidential Scholar State Nominee (2020)

Prudential Spirit of Community State Nominee (2020)

ISAC State Scholar (2019)

NCWIT Aspirations in Computing Regional Affiliate Award Winner (2019)

LEADERSHIP/SERVICE

HackIllinois

Experience Team, August 2021 - present

Outreach Team, August 2020 – August 2021

Contact companies to arrange corporate sponsorships and secure technical mentors for HackIllinois. Communicate with company representatives to satisfy all of their requirements so that they can successfully become a part of HackIllinois

ACM (Association for Computing Machinery)

Social Media Chair, 08/2020 – 5/2021

Corporate Chair, 5/2021 - present

Organized ACM social committee events and designed promotional materials for these events.

Manage the ACM Instagram and Twitter page. Communicate with corporate sponsors and create engaging events for the student body. Manage a team of 10 students in cold outreach efforts.

Raised \$10000+ in sponsorship funds during the pandemic.

Reflections | Projections

Content Chair, Feb 2021 – October 2021

Raise awareness about inclusivity and diversity in the workplace by hosting technical talks and events with companies such as Google, PayPal, Microsoft, and Facebook. Facilitate career fairs to help connect students with employment opportunities.

MEMBERSHIP

Association for Computing Machinery (2020–present)
National Center for Women in Computing (2019-present)
Rewriting the Code (2020-present)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Programming

Python, C/C++, C#, Java, SQL, Rust, JavaScript, HTML, CSS, Kotlin, Swift (IOS Development)

Technologies

Git, LaTeX Unity, Jupyter Notebook, Django, Pytorch, Flask, Firebase, Vim, MongoDB, AWS, REST API, REST Framework, UIKit

LANGUAGES

Hindi (Conversational)
Kutchi (Fluent)
Spanish (Conversational)

Last updated: Feb 3, 2022