

# EMILY WENGER

+1 (240) 353-5346 ◊ [ewenger@uchicago.edu](mailto:ewenger@uchicago.edu) ◊ <http://people.cs.uchicago.edu/ewillson/>

## EDUCATION

---

**Ph.D. in Computer Science**, The University of Chicago Expected 2023

*Area of focus:* machine learning security and privacy

*Advisors:* Ben Y. Zhao and Heather Zheng

**M.S. in Computer Science**, University of Chicago 2020

*Thesis:* Backdoor Attacks Against Facial Recognition in the Physical World

**B.S. in Math and Physics**, Wheaton College (IL) 2012-2016

## EMPLOYMENT

---

<b>Research Assistant</b>	The University of Chicago	2018 - Present
<b>Researcher</b>	Institute for Defense Analysis (IDA)	Summer 2019
<b>Mathematician</b>	Department of Defense	2016-2018
<b>Research Assistant</b>	Wheaton College Physics Department	2013-2016

## PUBLICATIONS

---

**Emily Wenger**, Josephine Passananti, Arjun Bhagoji, Yuanshun Yao, Haitao Zheng, Ben Y. Zhao. *Backdoor Attacks Against Facial Recognition in the Physical World*. CVPR 2021

Shawn Shan, **Emily Wenger** (co-first author), Jiayun Zhang, Huiying Li, Haitao Zheng, Ben Y. Zhao. *Fawkes: Protecting Personal Privacy against Unauthorized Deep Learning Models*. USENIX Security Symposium, August 2020

Shawn Shan, **Emily Wenger**, Bolun Wang, Bo Li, Haitao Zheng, Ben Y. Zhao. *Using Honeypots to Catch Adversarial Attacks on Neural Networks*. ACM CCS, November 2020

Huiying Li, **Emily Wenger**, Ben Y. Zhao, Haitao Zheng. *Piracy Resistant Watermarks for Deep Neural Networks*. In Submission.

Huiying Li, Shawn Shan, **Emily Wenger**, Jiayun Zhang, Yuanshun Yao, Haitao Zheng, Ben Y. Zhao. *Blacklight: Defending Black-Box Adversarial Attacks on Deep Neural Networks*. In Submission.

## MEDIA COVERAGE

---

Fawkes: Image Cloaking for Personal Privacy

- Covered by the **New York Times**: *This Tool Could Protect Your Photos From Facial Recognition* <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/03/technology/fawkes-tool-protects-photos-from-facial-recognition.html>
- Covered by **Nature Communications**: *Resisting the Rise of Facial Recognition* <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03188-2>
- Covered by the **Verge**: *Cloak your photos with this AI privacy tool to fool facial recognition* <https://www.theverge.com/2020/8/4/21353810/facial-recognition-block-ai-selfie-cloaking-fawkes>
- Covered by **The Register (UK)**: *Sick of AI engines scraping your pics for facial recognition? Here's a way to Fawkes them right up* [https://www.theregister.com/2020/07/22/defeat\\_facial\\_recognition/](https://www.theregister.com/2020/07/22/defeat_facial_recognition/)
- Covered by **Die Zeit (Germany)**: *Die unsichtbare Maske (The Invisible Mask)* <https://www.zeit.de/digital/datenschutz/2020-08/gesichtserkennung-fawkes-software-app-algorithmus-ki-bildanalyse>
- And many more (see <http://sandlab.cs.uchicago.edu/fawkes/> for a full list)

## INVITED TALKS

---

“Fawkes: Protecting Personal Privacy against Unauthorized Deep Learning Models”

**Facebook**, October 2020

“**Are You a Robot?**” **Podcast** October 2020

**The Brave Foundation**, August 2020

**Boehringer-Ingelheim**, August 2020

**Infosec Podcast**, July 2020

“Piracy Resistant Watermarks for Deep Neural Networks” EE380 Colloquium, **Stanford University**, November 2019

Plenary speaker, **Beyond the Binary Conference** at The University of Hartford, April 2019

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

---

(2021) Harvey Fellowship

(2018) Graduate Fellowship for Stem Diversity (GFSD)

(2018) University of Chicago Neubauer Fellowship

(2016) Wheaton College Chase Senior Merit Scholarship

(2012) National Merit Scholar Finalist

## TEACHING

---

<b>Cryptocurrencies</b> (TA)	University of Chicago	Winter 2019
<b>Introductory Cryptography</b> (TA)	WAM Program at the Institute for Advanced Studies	May 2018

## WORKSHOPS

---

<b>Private AI Bootcamp</b>	Microsoft Research	November 2019
----------------------------	--------------------	---------------

## STUDENT RESEARCH ADVISING

---

Maxmillian Bronckers	B.S. Economics & Computer Science, University of Chicago (exp. 2021)	2020 - Present
Talia Gifford	B.S. Physics, University of Chicago (exp. 2022)	2019 - Present
Esin Onal	B.S. Computer Science, University of Chicago (exp. 2021)	2020 - Present
Josephine Passananti	B.S. Computer Science, University of Chicago (exp. 2022)	2018 - Present
Angela Sha	B.S. Computer Science, University of Chicago (exp. 2022)	2020 - Present

## LEADERSHIP

---

Founding Member, [AI & Faith](#)

Curatorial team member for “Traced & Traced” exhibit, [Science Gallery Detroit](#) (2020-2021)

Member of UChicago CS student leadership team (2020-2021)

Student representative for UChicago CS graduate admissions committee (2019-2020)

## OUTREACH AND VOLUNTEERISM

---

Math tutor for Hope Scholars after-school program (Woodlawn, Chicago)