

Research Interests

I study human-AI interaction paradigms to foster interpretability and enable alignment controls that preserve human agency. I like building AI tools that augment users' ability to translate rough ideas into precise language and images.

Education

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL Sept. 2021 – Present

Ph.D., Technology and Social Behavior (GPA: 4.0/4.0)

Joint Ph.D. in Computer Science and Communication Studies

Advisor: Matthew Kay, Committee: Darren Gergle, Duri Long, and Eytan Adar

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong SAR Sept. 2018 – Nov. 2020

M.Phil., Computer Science and Engineering

Advisor: Xiaojuan Ma, Committee: Pan Hui and Dongwon Lee

Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea Mar. 2012 – Feb. 2018

B.S., Business Administration

Military Service: 2013 – 2015

B.S., Computer Science and Engineering

Research Experience

Toyota Research Institute, Los Altos, CA Jun. 2025 - Sep. 2025

Research Intern | Mentor: Matthew Hong and Matt Klenk

Midjourney, Inc., San Francisco, CA Mar. 2024 - Sept. 2024

Visiting Researcher | Mentor: John Joon Young Chung and Max Kreminski

Accenture Labs, San Francisco, CA Jun. 2024 - Sept. 2024

Visiting Researcher | Mentor: Manaswi Saha and Jordan Ackerman

KAIST Interaction Lab (KIXLAB), Daejeon, Republic of Korea Jan. 2021 - Jul. 2021

Researcher | Mentor: Juho Kim

Awards & Honors

Nominated for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards, Northwestern University 2025

School of Communication Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University 2024 - 2025

Best Paper Honorable Mention, ACM CHI 2024, [c.6] 2024

Advanced Cognitive Science Fellowship, Northwestern University 2023 - 2024

Design Cluster Fellowship, Northwestern University 2022 - 2023

Computer Science Graduate Fellowship, Northwestern University 2021 - 2022

Academic Publications

Refereed Conference Proceedings and Journal Articles (fully reviewed, archival)

[C.8] **Steering AI-driven Personalization of Scientific Text for General Audiences**

Taewook Kim, Dhruv Agarwal, Jordan Ackerman, Manaswi Saha

ACM CSCW 2025 (To appear)

[C.7] **MentalImager: Exploring Generative Images for Assisting Support-Seekers' Self-Disclosure in Online Mental Health Communities**

Han Zhang, Jiaqi Zhang, Yuxiang Zhou, Ryan Louie, Taewook Kim, Qingyu Guo, Shuailin Li, Zhenhui Peng

ACM CSCW 2025 (To appear)

- [C.6] **Authors' Values and Attitudes Towards AI-bridged Scalable Personalization of Creative Language Arts**
Taewook Kim, Hyomin Han, Eytan Adar, Matthew Kay, John Joon Young Chung
ACM CHI 2024 (Acceptance rate: 26.3%)
 Best Paper Honorable Mention (top 5% among 4,028 submissions)
- [C.5] **Opportunities in Mental Health Support for Informal Dementia Caregivers Suffering from Verbal Agitation**
Taewook Kim, Hyeok Kim, Angela C. Roberts, Maia Jacobs, Matthew Kay
ACM CSCW 2024
- [C.4] **RLens: A Computer-aided Visualization System for Supporting Reflection on Language Learning under Distributed Tutorship**
 Meng Xia, Yankun Zhao, Jihyeong Hong, Mehmet Hamza Erol, Taewook Kim, Juho Kim
ACM L@S 2022
- [C.3] **Love in Lyrics: An Exploration of Supporting Textual Manifestation of Affection in Social Messaging**
Taewook Kim, Jung Soo Lee, Zhenhui Peng, and Xiaojuan Ma
ACM CSCW 2019 (Acceptance rate: 31.2%)
- [C.2] **Understanding and Modeling User-Perceived Brand Personality from Mobile Application UIs**
 Ziming Wu, Taewook Kim, Quan Li, and Xiaojuan Ma
ACM CHI 2019 (Acceptance rate: 23.8%)
- [C.1] **Mediating Color Filter Exploration with Color Theme Semantics Derived from Social Curation Data**
 Ziming Wu, Zhida Sun, Taewook Kim, Manuele Reani, Caroline Jay, and Xiaojuan Ma
ACM CSCW 2018 (Acceptance rate: 26.1%)
- Extended Abstracts: Posters and Workshops (lightly reviewed)
- [E.6] **Transforming Language to Improve Human Communication**
Taewook Kim, Duri Long
ACM CSCW 2024 Workshop on Envisioning New Futures of Positive Social Technology
- [E.5] **Rawal: A Reflection Assistant with Active Listening for Peer Support Chats**
 Ryan Louie, Taewook Kim, Zhenhui Peng
ACM CHI 2023 Workshop on Self-Reflection Technologies
- [E.4] **Opportunities to Support Communal Experiences of Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing People in Live Popular Music Concerts**
 Hyomin Han, Taewook Kim
ACM GROUP 2022 Poster
- [E.3] **Facilitating Continuous Text Messaging in Romantic Encounters Online by Expanded Keywords Enumeration**
Taewook Kim, Qingyu Guo, Hyeonjae Kim, Wenjie Yang, Meiziniu Li, Xiaojuan Ma
ACM CSCW 2022 Poster
- [E.2] **Improving Readers' Awareness of Divergent Viewpoints by Displaying Agendas of Comments in Online News Discussions**
Taewook Kim, Hyunwoo Kim, Juho Kim, and Xiaojuan Ma
ACM CSCW 2021 Poster
- [E.1] **GremoBot: Exploring Emotion Regulation in Group Chat**
 Zhenhui Peng, Taewook Kim, and Xiaojuan Ma
ACM CSCW 2019 Poster

Magazine Article

[M.1] **Literature and AI - Expecting Roles of Bridging Writers and Readers**

John Joon Young Chung, Taewook Kim

The Poet's Notebook (A Quarterly Magazine): Summer, 2023

Teaching Experiences

Technology and Human Interaction (COMP_SCI 314), Northwestern University

Winter 2025

Teaching Assistant | Lecturer: Darren Gergle

Nominated for the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards

Human-Computer Interaction (COMP 4461), HKUST

Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant | Lecturer: Xiaojuan Ma

Design and Analysis of Algorithms (COMP 3711), HKUST

Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant | Lecturer(s): Mordecai J. Golin & Xiaojuan Ma

Academic Mentoring

Grace He, Northwestern CS Undergraduate

Winter – Spring 2025

Joanna Jung, Northwestern CS Undergraduate

Winter – Spring 2025

Hyunbin Lee, Northwestern CS Undergraduate

Winter – Spring 2025

Academic Services

Associate Chair (AC)

ACM CHI

2025 – Present

Reviewer (★) Special Recognitions for Outstanding Reviews

ACM CHI, ★ (2022), ★ (2023), ★ (2024), ★★ (2025)

2019 – Present

ACM CSCW, ★ (2022), ★ (2023)

2021 – Present

ACM UIST, ★ (2024), ★ (2025)

2024 – Present

ACM DIS

2025 – Present

ACM IUI

2024

ACL In2Writing Workshop

2023 – Present

Student Volunteer – ACM CHI

2022

Peer mentor

TSB program buddy

2022 - Present

Northwestern PhD visiting event

2022, 2025

References

Matthew Kay, Associate Professor (Primary Advisor), Northwestern University

mjskay@northwestern.edu

Darren Gergle, Bao Family Professor (Dissertation Committee), Northwestern University

dgergle@northwestern.edu

John Joon Young Chung, Research Scientist, Midjourney Inc.

jchung@midjourney.com