

# KELLY W. ZHANG

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<https://kellywzhang.github.io/>

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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My research interests lie at the intersection of *adaptive experimentation*, *sequential decision-making*, and *statistical inference*.

## EDUCATION

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<b>Harvard University</b> , School of Engineering and Applied Sciences PhD in Computer Science Advisors: Susan A. Murphy and Lucas Janson	Cambridge MA September 2018 - May 2023 (expected)
<b>New York University</b> , College of Arts and Sciences BA in Computer Science; <i>summa cum laude</i> Advisors: Sam Bowman and Yann LeCun	New York, NY May 2018

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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<b>Apple</b> <i>HealthAI Research Intern</i> Developed statistical inference methods specific to mobile health problems in large-scale, industry settings.	Seattle, WA May 2022 - August 2022
<b>Facebook AI Research</b> <i>Research Intern</i> Worked on sparse coding and text generation with Yann LeCun.	New York, NY May 2018 - August 2018
<b>eBay</b> <i>Software Engineering Intern on Recommendations Team</i> Worked on detecting “Not Suitable for Work” content, like nudity, in products sold on eBay.	New York, NY May 2017 - August 2017

## HONORS

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**Siebel Scholar**, Class of 2023

**Institute of Mathematical Statistics Hannan Graduate Student Travel Award**, 2022

**Certificate of Distinction in Teaching** awarded by the Harvard Office of Undergraduate Education, based on reviews of my performance as a Teaching Fellow for Susan Murphy’s course on *Sequential Decision Making*

**National Science Foundation GFRP Fellowship**, awarded in 2019

**Computer Science Prize for Academic Excellence in the Honors Program**, New York University, 2018

## INVITED TALKS

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### Statistical Inference for Longitudinal Data After Adaptive Sampling

**INFORMS Annual Meeting 2022**, Session on *Efficient Learning via Adaptive Experimentation* organized by Daniel Russo, October 2022

**University of Amsterdam**, *Statistics Department Seminar*, September 2022

**Joint Statistical Meeting 2022**, Session on *Prediction and Inference in Statistical Machine Learning* organized by Tracy Ke, August 2022

**Institute of Mathematical Sciences Annual Meeting 2022**, Session on *Inference Methods for Adaptively Collected Data* as a speaker and the session organizer, June 2022

**University of Toronto**, *Intelligent Adaptive Interventions Lab*, June 2022

**Apple Machine Learning Research**, *Health AI Team*, June 2022

## Statistical Inference with M-Estimators on Bandit Data

École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), *Statistics Seminar*, December 2021  
(<https://tube.switch.ch/videos/pCYwBwSYh6>)

Pennsylvania State University, *Statistics Colloquium*, November 2021

INFORMS Annual Meeting 2021, Session on *Advances in Causal Inference and Reinforcement Learning for the Online Service Industry* organized by Tim Keaton

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, *Health Data Science Seminar Series*, June 2021

Cambridge University, *Medical Research Council Biostatistics Unit Seminar*, April 2021  
(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jf1R7K0rqNA&t=2s>)

## Oralytics: A Mobile Health Study to Improve Oral Health Behaviors

Pennsylvania State University, *QuantDev Methodology Brown-Bag Seminar*, November 2021

## Inference for Batched Bandits

Bernoulli World One Symposium, Session on *Statistical Methods in Machine Learning*, August 2020

## PUBLICATIONS

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Paper titles are linked to the online pdf of the papers. \* Denotes denotes equal contribution.

### Statistical Inference after Adaptive Sampling

Kelly W. Zhang, Lucas Janson, and Susan A. Murphy. “Statistical Inference After Adaptive Sampling in Non-Markovian Environments.” *Preparing for submission*.

Kelly W. Zhang, Lucas Janson, and Susan A. Murphy. “Statistical Inference with M-Estimators on Adaptively Collected Data.” *35th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2021)*.

Kelly W. Zhang, Lucas Janson, and Susan A. Murphy. “Inference for Batched Bandits.” *34th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS 2020)*.

### Designing Reinforcement Learning Algorithms

Anna L. Trella, Kelly W. Zhang, Inbal Nahum-Shani, Vivek Shetty, Finale Doshi-Velez, Susan A. Murphy. “Reward Design For An Online Reinforcement Learning Algorithm Supporting Oral Self-Care.” *Thirty-Fifth Annual Conference on Innovative Applications of Artificial Intelligence (IAAI-23)*, 2023.

Anna L. Trella, Kelly W. Zhang, Inbal Nahum-Shani, Vivek Shetty, Finale Doshi-Velez, Susan A. Murphy. “Designing Reinforcement Learning Algorithms for Digital Interventions: Pre-implementation Guidelines.” *Algorithms (Special Issue "Algorithms in Decision Support Systems" Vol. 2)*.

Preliminary version presented at the *5th Multidisciplinary Conference on Reinforcement Learning and Decision Making (RLDM 2022)*; (*selected for an oral presentation*).

Kelly W. Zhang, Omer Gottesman, and Finale Doshi-Velez. “A Bayesian Approach to Learning Bandit Structure in Markov Decision Processes.” *Challenges of Real-World Reinforcement Learning (NeurIPS 2020 Workshop)*.

### Natural Language Processing

Kelly W. Zhang and Samuel R. Bowman. “Language Modeling Teaches You More Syntax than Translation Does: Lessons Learned Through Auxiliary Task Analysis.” *BlackboxNLP 2018 (Workshop at Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing)*.

Jake (Junbo) Zhao, Yoon Kim, Kelly Zhang, Alexander M. Rush, and Yann LeCun. “Adversarially Regularized Autoencoders.” *Thirty-fifth International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2018)*.

### Additional Forthcoming Work

Raaz Dwivedi\*, Kelly W. Zhang\*, Prasad Chhabria, Predrag Klasnja, and Susan A. Murphy. “A Deep Dive into Assessing Personalization after Using Reinforcement Learning”.

## TEACHING

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**Guest Lecturer, Harvard University.** Susan Murphy's course on *Sequential Decision Making*, STAT 234, Spring 2022.

**Teaching Fellow, Harvard University.** Susan Murphy's course on *Sequential Decision Making*, STAT 234, Spring 2021.

**Grader, New York University.** Sam Bowman and Kyunghyun Cho's course on *Natural Language Processing with Representation Learning*, DS-GA 1011, Fall 2017.

## SERVICE

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### Workshops and Sessions

**Organized Invited Session at 2022 Institute of Mathematical Sciences Annual Meeting on Inference Methods for Adaptively Collected Data.** The speakers were Nathan Kallus, Koulik Khamaru, Evan Munro, and myself. Joseph Jay Williams and Nina Deliu chaired the session.

**Assisted in Organizing the Harvard Radcliffe 2022 Exploratory Seminar on Ethical Considerations in the Use of Big Data, AI, and Real-Time Information for Prediction of Behavioral Health Outcomes**, which was led by Jordan Smoller and Matthew Nock.

**Co-Organized NeurIPS 2021 Workshop on Causal Inference Challenges in Sequential Decision Making: Bridging Theory and Practice** with Aurelien Bibaut, Maria Dimakopoulou, Nathan Kallus, Xinkun Nie, and Masatoshi Uehara.

**Co-Organized NeurIPS 2020 Workshop on Machine Learning for Mobile Health** with Walter Dempsey, Nick Foti, Joseph Futoma, Yian Ma, Marianne Njifon, and Jieru Shi.

**Assisted in a practical workshop on Online Learning and Experimentation Algorithms in Mobile Health** organized by Walter Dempsey as a part of the AI4Health Winter School 2021.

### Reviewing

AISTATS 2022

NeurIPS 2020, 2021

Conference on Causal Learning and Reasoning 2022

NeurIPS 2020 Workshop on Challenges of Real World Reinforcement Learning

NeurIPS 2022 Workshop on Causal Machine Learning for Real-World Impact

### Mentoring

**Harvard Women in STEM Mentorship Program**, Mentor for undergraduate students, 2020-2022.

**Summer Institute on Just-in-Time Adaptive Interventions via Micro-Randomized Trials** run by the d3center at UMichigan, Mentor, 2021

### **Undergraduate Student Research Projects**

- I mentored an undergraduate student from the University of Science and Technology of China, Zeyang Jia, for the summer and fall of 2020 on *Weighting Methods to Maximize the Power of Hypothesis Tests on Bandit Data*. He presented this work at the Session on Statistical methods in Machine Learning at the Bernoulli-IMS World One Symposium 2020. He is now a PhD student in statistics at Harvard.
- I mentored a Harvard undergraduate student, Raymond Feng, for the winter and summer of 2020 on *Predicting User Engagement in Large-scale Mobile Health Studies*.