

# Lesley (Yajie) Zhou

Ph.D. Candidate in Computer Science  
University of Maryland, College Park

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Last updated: January 2026

## Research Interests

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AI for Network Operations, Self-driving Networking and Systems, Large Language Models for Network Management, Advanced Persistent Threat Detection, Privacy-Preserving Network Telemetry

## Education

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<b>University of Maryland, College Park</b> <i>PhD in Computer Science</i> Advisor: Prof. Zaoxing (Alan) Liu	<b>2023 – Present</b>
<b>Boston University</b> <i>PhD in Computer Engineering</i> Advisor: Prof. Zaoxing (Alan) Liu	<b>2021 – 2023</b>
<b>Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST)</b> <i>M.S. in Electrical Engineering</i> Advisors: Prof. Yung Yi, Prof. Dongsu Han	<b>2020</b>
<b>Xidian University</b> <i>B.E. in Computer Science and Technology</i> Bachelor Dissertation Award: Top 1% in CS Department	<b>2018</b>

## Research Experience

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<b>Carnegie Mellon University, CyLab</b> <i>Visiting Researcher</i> Host: Prof. Vyas Sekar	<i>Oct 2025 – Present</i>
<b>Microsoft Research (Redmond, WA)</b> <i>Research Intern</i> Focus: Synthesizing Log Alerting Rules with LLMs	<i>May – Aug 2025</i>
<b>Microsoft Research (Redmond, WA)</b> <i>Research Intern</i> Focus: Build AI Agents for Network Management	<i>May – Aug 2024</i>
<b>Microsoft Research (Redmond, WA)</b> Research Internship AI-driven Network Operations; Zero Trust Cloud Security	<i>May - Aug 2023</i>

## Publications

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### Conference Papers

1. NetArena: Dynamically Generated LLM Benchmarks for Network Applications  
*Yajie Zhou, Jiajun Ruan, Eric S. Wang, Sadjad Fouladi, Francis Y. Yan, Kevin Hsieh, Zaoxing Liu*  
International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR), 2026
2. Tidal: Tackling Concept Drift in Provenance-based Advanced Persistent Threats Detection  
*Yajie Zhou, Nengneng Yu, Tuo Zhao, Zaoxing Liu*  
New Ideas in Networked Systems (NINeS), 2026
3. PrvTel: Lightweight Models for Private and Accurate Telemetry Data Retention  
*Yajie Zhou, Fuheng Zhao, Eric Wang, Ayse Coskun, Divyakant Agrawal, Amr El Abbadi, Zaoxing Liu*  
USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI), 2026
4. MeshAgent: Enabling Reliable Network Management with Large Language Models  
*Yajie Zhou, Kevin Hsieh, Sathiya Kumaran Mani, Srikanth Kandula, Zaoxing Liu*  
ACM SIGMETRICS International Conference on Measurement and Modeling of Computer Systems, 2026
5. Securing Public Cloud Networks with Efficient Role-based Micro-Segmentation  
*Sathiya Kumaran Mani, Kevin Hsieh, Santiago Segarra, Ranveer Chandra, Yajie Zhou, Srikanth Kandula*  
USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI), 2025
6. Towards Interactive Research Agents for Internet Incident Investigation  
*Yajie Zhou\*, Nengneng Yu\*, Zaoxing Liu (\*equal contribution)*  
ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (HotNets), 2023
7. Enhancing Network Management Using Code Generated by Large Language Models  
*Sathiya Kumaran Mani, Yajie Zhou, Kevin Hsieh, Santiago Segarra, Trevor Eberl, Eliran Azulai, Ido Frizler, Ranveer Chandra, Srikanth Kandula*  
ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (HotNets), 2023
8. Genet: Automatic Curriculum Generation for Learning Adaptation in Networking  
*Zhengxu Xia\*, Yajie Zhou\*, Francis Y. Yan, Junchen Jiang (\*equal contribution)*  
ACM SIGCOMM Conference, 2022

### PATENT

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- Sathiya Kumaran Mani, **Yajie Zhou**, Kevin Hsieh, Santiago Segarra, Ranveer Chandra, Srikanth Kandula. 2023. "Graph Analysis and Manipulation."  
*US Patent Application MS#413451-US-NP, registered January 2025.*
- **Yajie Zhou**, Kasim Te. 2020. "Method and Apparatus for Transmitting Video Data."  
*Korean Patent Application 10-2020-0141018, registered October 2020.*

### Honors and Awards

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- **KAUST Rising Stars in AI Symposium 2026** (top 6%) 2026

- **N2Women Young Researcher Fellowship** 2022
- **CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women** 2022

## **Professional Service**

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### **Conference Service**

- **SIGMETRICS 2026** – Shadow Program Committee Member
- **EuroSys 2026** – Shadow Program Committee Member
- **HotNets 2025** – Web Chair
- **Sensors S&P Workshop 2025** – Technical Program Committee Member

### **Community Service**

- **N2Women Young Researcher Workshop 2023** – Event Host  
Connected mentors from academia and industry with female PhD students and postdocs to share career development advice

## **Teaching Experience**

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### **Boston University**

**Fall 2022, Spring 2023**

*Teaching Assistant – Introduction to Networking (EC441)*

## **Technical Skills**

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**Programming Languages:** Python, C++, JavaScript, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**Machine Learning:** PyTorch, TensorFlow, Keras, LangChain, Hugging Face

**Systems & Tools:** Docker, Git, Linux, AWS, Azure

**Development:** Emacs, PyCharm, Visual Studio Code