

# ASHLEY (YE) GAO

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📍 251 Jamestown Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23185

## EMPLOYMENT

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<b>William &amp; Mary</b> <i>Assistant Professor in Computer Science</i>	<i>2023 - Present</i>
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## EDUCATION

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<b>University of Virginia</b> Advisor: John A. Stankovic Thesis: <i>Addressing Realisms Faced by Deep Learning Models in Cyber Physical Systems</i> <i>Ph.D. in Computer Science</i>	<i>2019 - 2023</i>
<b>University of Virginia</b> <i>M.S. in Computer Science</i>	<i>2017 - 2019</i>
<b>University of California, San Diego</b> <i>B.S. in Computer Science</i> <i>B.A. in Literatures of the World</i>	<i>2012 - 2017</i>

## RESEARCH OVERVIEW

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My research direction lies in the field of **affective computing** and **natural language processing (NLP)**.

## SERVICES

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<b>S5. Panelist.</b> National Institute of Health.	<i>2025</i>
<b>S4. Associate Editor.</b> Elsevier Smart Health.	<i>2024 - present</i>
<b>S3. Panelist.</b> National Institute of Health.	<i>2024</i>
<b>S2. Panelist.</b> National Science Foundation.	<i>2024</i>
<b>S1. Demo &amp; Poster Chair.</b> The IEEE/ACM international conference on Connected Health: Applications, Systems and Engineering Technologies (CHASE)	<i>2024</i>

## PROFESSIONAL MEMEBERSHIPS

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<b>P2. Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).</b> Member.	<i>2025</i>
<b>P1. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).</b> Member.	<i>2025</i>

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

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[ICASSP'26] Shi, J., Du, H., He, Y., Hong, Y. A., **Gao, Y.**, "Emotion-Aligned Generation in Diffusion Text-to-Speech Models via Preference-Guided Optimization." 2026 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Barcelona, Spain, May 2026.

[ICASSP'26] Shi, J., Du, H., Hong, Y. A., **Gao, Y.**, "EMO-TTA: Improving Test-Time Adaptation of Audio-Language Models for Speech Emotion Recognition." 2026 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Barcelona, Spain, May 2026.

[ICASSP'26] Shi, J., Du, H., Hong, Y. A., **Gao, Y.**, "Plug-and-Play Emotion Graphs for Compositional Prompting in Zero-Shot Speech Emotion Recognition." 2026 IEEE International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP), Barcelona, Spain, May 2026.

[EMNLP'25] Du, H., Shi, J., Myerston, J., Lu, S., Zhou, G., **Gao, Y.**, "Role-Guided Annotation and Prototype-Aligned Representation Learning for Historical Literature Sentiment Classification." The 2025 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), Suzhou, China, November 2025.

[InterSpeech'25] Du, H., Lu, S., Zhou, G., **Gao, Y.**, EAA: Emotion-Aware Audio Large Language Models with Dual Cross-Attention and Context-Aware Instruction Tuning. InterSpeech 2025.

[InterSpeech'25] Shi, J., Zhang, Y., **Gao, Y.**, CLEP-DG: Contrastive Learning for Speech Emotion Domain Generalization via Soft Prompt Tuning. InterSpeech 2025.

[CHASE'25] Clapham, J., Zhou, M., MacDonald, C., Koltermann, K., **Gao, Y.**, Shao, H., "ElectroMeter: The Practical Electrolyte Measurement System." Connected Health: Applications, Systems and Engineering Technologies (CHASE).

[JMIR'25] Ko, E., **Gao, Y.**, Wang, P., Wijayasingha, L., Wright, K. D., Gordon, K. C., Wang, H., Stankovic, J. A., & Rose, K. M. (2025). Challenges to recruiting dementia caregiving dyads in community-based settings: Lessons learned from an in-home technology-based intervention. JMIR Formative Research, 9(1), e59291. <https://doi.org/10.2196/59291>

[TMLR'24] Macdonald, C., Chu, Z., Stankovic, J., Zhou, G., Shao, H., **Gao, Y.**, "MiddleGAN: Generating Inter-domain Images with GANs", Transactions on Machine Learning Research.

[CHASE'24] Koltermann, K., Clapham, J., Blackwell, G., Jung W., Burnet, E., **Gao, Y.**, Shao, H., Cloud, L., Pretzer-Aboff, I., Zhou, G., "Gait-Guard: Turn-aware Freezing of Gait Detection for Non-intrusive Intervention Systems," Connected Health: Applications, Systems and Engineering Technologies (CHASE). (**Best Paper Award.**)

[SmartComp'23] **Gao, Y.**, Baucom, B., Gordon, K., Rose, K., Wang, H., Stankovic. "E-ADDA: Un-supervised Adversarial Domain Adaptation Enhanced by a New Mahalanobis Distance Loss for Smart Computing", arXiv preprint arXiv:2201.10001. [Paper]

[INA'22] Rose, K., Gordon, K., Schlegel, E., McCall, M., **Gao, Y.**, Jabbour, J. and Ko, E., 2021. "Pandemic Deployment of a Smarthealth Technology to Improve Stress in Dementia Family Caregivers", Innovation in Aging, 5(Suppl 1), pp.450-450. [Paper]

[HEALTH'21] **Gao, Y.**, Salekin, A., Gordon, K., Rose, K., Wang, H. and Stankovic, J., 2021. "Emotion Recognition Robust to Indoor Environmental Distortions and Non-targeted Emotions Using Out-of-distribution Detection", ACM Transactions on Computing for Healthcare (HEALTH), 3(2), pp.1-22. [Paper]

[PERCOM'21] **Gao, Y.**, Jabbour, J., Schlegel, E.C., Ma, M., McCall, M., Wijayasingha, L., Ko, E., Gordon, K., Rose, K., Wang, H. and Stankovic, J., 2021. "Out-of-the-Box Deployment to Support Research on In-Home Care of Alzheimer's Patients", IEEE Pervasive Computing, 21(1), pp.37-47. [Paper]

[JAN'21] Rose, K.M., Coop Gordon, K., Schlegel, E.C., Mccall, M., **Gao, Y.**, Ma, M., Lenger, K.A., Ko, E., Wright, K.D., Wang, H. and Stankovic, J., 2021. "Smarthealth technology study protocol to improve relationships between older adults with dementia and family caregivers", Journal of Advanced Nursing, 77(5), pp.2519-2529. [Paper]

[SENSYS'20] **Gao, Y.**, Ma, M., Gordon, K., Rose, K., Wang, H. and Stankovic, J., 2020, November. "A monitoring, modeling, and interactive recommendation system for in-home caregivers: Demo abstract", In Proceedings of the 18th Conference on Embedded Networked Sensor Systems (pp. 587-588). [Paper]

**M2.** Jiacheng Shi. Ph.D. student in William & Mary.  
**M1.** Hongfei Du. Ph.D. student in William & Mary.

2024 - Present  
2024 - Present

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**W1.** Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science, College of William & Mary. 2023 - Present

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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**H7.** Best Service Award at CHASE'24. 2024  
**H6.** Best Paper Award at CHASE'24. 2024  
**H5.** Best Paper Runner-Up Award at SMARTCOMP'23. 2023  
**H4.** Best Poster at CS Symposium, University of Virginia. 2022  
**H3.** UVA Computer Science PhD Fellowship, University of Virginia. 2019  
**H2.** Dept of Comp Sci Academic Excellence Fellowship, University of Virginia. 2017  
**H1.** Honors with High Distinction, University of California, San Diego. 2016

## REVIEWER SERVICE

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**S8.** Primary Reviewer. ICML, AAAI, ICLR. 2025  
**S7.** Primary Reviewer. NeurIPS, AAAI, ICLR, ACM Health. 2024  
**S6.** Primary Reviewer. AAAI, NeurIPS, ICLR. 2023  
**S5.** Primary Reviewer. IEEE Transactions on Affective Computing. 2022  
**S4.** Primary Reviewer. AAAI. 2022  
**S3.** Primary Reviewer. Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies. IMWUT/UbiComp. 2022  
**S2.** Primary Reviewer. 36th Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems. NeurIPS. 2022  
**S1.** Primary Reviewer. ACM Transactions on Computing for Healthcare. HEALTH. 2021

## FEATURED

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**F1.** Honors student of the Department of Literature at UCSD. [Webpage] 2016

## CREATIVE WRITINGS

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**C1.** *The Mother of Gaia*, in *Bewildering Stories*. 2025

## REFERENCES

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### **John A. Stankovic**

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Department of Computer Science  
University of Virginia  
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