

ASHLEY (YE) GAO

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EMPLOYMENT

William & Mary 2023 - Present
Assistant Professor in Computer Science

EDUCATION

University of Virginia 2019 - 2023

Advisor: John A. Stankovic

Thesis: *Addressing Realisms Faced by Deep Learning Models in Cyber Physical Systems*
Ph.D. in Computer Science

University of Virginia 2017 - 2019

M.S. in Computer Science

University of California, San Diego 2012 - 2017

B.S. in Computer Science

B.A. in Literatures of the World

RESEARCH OVERVIEW

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

SERVICES

S5. Panelist. National Institute of Health. 2025

S4. Associate Editor. Elsevier Smart Health. 2024 - present

S3. Panelist. National Institute of Health. 2024

S2. Panelist. National Science Foundation. 2024

S1. Demo & Poster Chair. The IEEE/ACM international conference on Connected Health: Applications, Systems and Engineering Technologies (CHASE) 2024

PROFESSIONAL MEMEBERSHIPS

P2. Association for Computing Machinery (ACM). Member. 2025

P1. Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). Member. 2025

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

[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: Unsupervised 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

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

HONORS AND AWARDS

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

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

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

CREATIVE WRITINGS

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

REFERENCES

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