

EDUCATION

Carnegie Mellon University

Fall 2024-present

PhD, Societal Computing

Advisors: Lorrie Cranor & Hoda Heidari

Recent Coursework: Usable Security & Privacy, Algorithmic Foundations of Interactive Learning

Harvey Mudd College

May 2024

BS, Mathematics & Computer Science

High Distinction, Departmental Honors in Computer Science, Departmental Honors in Mathematics

Relevant Coursework: Neural Networks, Advanced Linear Algebra, Computational Statistics, Stochastic Processes, Programming Languages, Algorithms

PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Megan Li***, Wendy Bickersteth*, Ningjing Tang, Parv Kapoor, Khinezin Win, Peter Zhong, Jason Hong, Lorrie Cranor, Hong Shen, and Hoda Heidari. [What the Public Sees \(and Misses\) About Generative AI Risks: Perceptions of Failures, Risks, and Who Should Address Them](#). Submitted to *2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*.
- [2] **Megan Li**, Wendy Bickersteth, Ningjing Tang, Lorrie Cranor, Jason Hong, Hong Shen, and Hoda Heidari. [a closer look at the existing risks of generative ai: mapping the who, what, and how of real-world incidents](#). In *Proceedings of the AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society*, volume 8, pages 1561–1573, 10 2025.
- [3] Ningjing Tang, **Megan Li**, Amy Winecoff, Michael Madaio, Hoda Heidari, and Hong Shen. [navigating uncertainties: understanding how genai developers document their models on open-source platforms](#), 2025.
- [4] Christopher Choy, Ellie Young, **Megan Li**, Lorrie Faith Cranor, and Jon M. Peha. [consumer-driven design and evaluation of broadband labels](#). In *Proceedings of the 2023 Research Conference on Communications, Information and Internet Policy*, TPRC51. SSRN, 2023.
- [5] Elijah Robert Bouma-Sims, **Megan Li**, Yanzi Lin, Adia Sakura-Lemessy, Alexandra Nisenoff, Ellie Young, Eleanor Birrell, Lorrie Faith Cranor, and Hana Habib. [a us-uk usability evaluation of consent management platform cookie consent interface design on desktop and mobile](#). In *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, CHI '23, New York, NY, USA, 2023. Association for Computing Machinery.
- [6] Hana Habib, **Megan Li**, Ellie Young, and Lorrie Cranor. ["okay, whatever": an evaluation of cookie consent interfaces](#). In *Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, CHI '22, New York, NY, USA, 2022. Association for Computing Machinery.

TALKS

From Existential to Existing Risks of Generative AI: A Taxonomy of Who Is At Risk, What Risks Are Prevalent, and How They Arise

June 2025

At the 2025 USENIX Conference on Privacy Engineering Practice and Respect (PEPR '25)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Doctoral Researcher

August 2024-current

Supervisors: Professors Lorrie Cranor and Hoda Heidari

Carnegie Mellon University

- Co-leading a project related to identifying and managing risks of generative artificial intelligence
- Co-leading a project related to benchmarking of generative text-to-image models

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

August 2023-May 2024

Supervisors: Professor Naim Matasci (HMC), Robert Blake (LLNL)

Harvey Mudd Clinic Program

- Developed software to use high performance computing for systematically testing and determining the empirical scaling law for a given scientific problem with the goal of understanding where neural networks can replace mathematical approximations in scientific simulation

MIT Summer Research Program & Fall Extension Program

June-December 2023

Supervisor: Professor Peko Hosoi

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Developed a metric to quantify the affordability of homes across the United States using Census Bureau data with the goals of identifying barriers to homeownership and evaluating the effects of existing and potential housing assistance programs

Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Software Engineering

June - November 2021, 2022

Supervisor: Professor Lorrie Cranor

Carnegie Mellon University

- *Broadband Labels Project*: Helped write and deploy two surveys to understand user needs for broadband internet plan labeling; analyzed responses from ~4000 total participants to inform revision of label designs and include in a report to the Federal Communications Commission [4]
- *US-UK Cookie Consent Project*: Conducted qualitative data analysis and authored sections of paper for a study investigating US and UK citizens' understandings of cookie consent interfaces [5]
- *Initial Cookie Consent Project*: Developed web-scraper to aggregate examples of cookie consent interfaces and identify deceptive patterns; helped write, deploy, and analyze results from user study to evaluate how deceptive patterns affect comprehension and use of consent interfaces [6]

Undergraduate Research in Mathematics

September 2021 - May 2022

Supervisor: Professor Susan Martonosi

Harvey Mudd College

- Built a codebase in Python to model the spread of misinformation through a social network and evaluate the effects of network variables such as homophily, density, and size

WORK EXPERIENCE

Head Teaching Assistant, Algorithms (CS140)

August 2023 - May 2024

Harvey Mudd College

Teaching Assistant, Intro Computer Science (CS5) & Algorithms (CS140)

August 2021 - May 2023

Harvey Mudd College

Grading Assistant, Linear Algebra (MATH73)

January - May 2022

Harvey Mudd College

SCHOLARSHIPS & HONORS

IAPP Student Scholarship funds to attend IAPP AI Governance Global North America	Sept 2025
USENIX Student Grant funds to attend PEPR '25	May 2025
2025 CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women funds to attend CRA-WP workshop	April 2025
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention	April 2024
ASPIRE Illinois Campus Visit Program funds to attend graduate recruitment event at UIUC	October 2023
Grace Hopper Conference Scholarship funds to attend the Grace Hopper Conference	September 2023
USENIX Diversity Grant funds to attend Enigma conference; declined	January 2023
USENIX Diversity Grant funds to attend Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security	July 2021

EXTRACURRICULARS & SERVICE

Mentor for CMU Graduate Application Support Program	October 2025
Reviewer for Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society	May-July 2025
REUSE Admissions Committee	Feb-Mar 2025
Faculty Search Committee Member (Harvey Mudd CS Department)	Oct-Dec 2023
Leadership, 5C Chapter of Association for Computing Machinery - Women	May 2023 - May 2024
Senator, Associated Students of Harvey Mudd College	May 2023 - May 2024
President, South Dorm	May 2023 - May 2024