MEGAN LI

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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, Jason Hong, Lorrie Cranor, 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, 2025. Forthcoming in the Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society 2025.

[2] 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.

[3] 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.

[4] 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.

[5] 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 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 [3]
- *US-UK Cookie Consent Project*: Conducted qualitative data analysis and authored sections of paper for a study investigating US and UK citizens' expectations and understandings of cookie consent interfaces [4]

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

Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Software Engineering June - October 2021
Supervisor: Professor Lorrie Cranor Carnegie Mellon University

- Developed a web-scraper to aggregate examples of cookie consent interfaces and identify commonly appearing deceptive patterns; helped write, build, deploy, and analyze results from user study to evaluate how deceptive patterns affect comprehension and use of consent interfaces [5]

WORK EXPERIENCE

Head Teaching Assistant, Algorithms (CS140) August 2023 - May 2024
Harvey Mudd College

- In addition to regular TA duties, coordinate/monitor weekly timelines and serve as a resource for all Algorithms teaching assistants

Teaching Assistant, Intro Computer Science (CS5) & Algorithms (CS140) August 2021 - May 2023
Harvey Mudd College

- Hold weekly office hours and proctor labs
- Grade weekly problem sets and coding assignments

Grading Assistant, Linear Algebra (MATH73) January - May 2022
Harvey Mudd College

- Grade two weekly problem sets (one computational, one proof-based)

SCHOLARSHIPS & HONORS

IAPP Student Scholarship Sept 2025
funds to attend IAPP AI Governance Global North America
USENIX Student Grant May 2025
funds to attend PEPR '25
2025 CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women April 2025
funds to attend CRA-WP workshop
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention April 2024

ASPIRE Illinois Campus Visit Program October 2023
funds to attend graduate recruitment event at UIUC
Grace Hopper Conference Scholarship September 2023
funds to attend the Grace Hopper Conference
USENIX Diversity Grant January 2023
funds to attend Enigma conference; declined
USENIX Diversity Grant July 2021
funds to attend Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security

EXTRACURRICULARS & SERVICE

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