

# Abraham Mhaidli

## Curriculum Vitae

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### Education

- Exp. 2022 **PhD in Information Sciences**, *University of Michigan, School of Information.*  
2017 **Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science w/Minor in Neuroscience**, *Grinnell College.*

### Research Statement

I am a mixed methods researcher whose interests lie in the intersection of technology, society, and ethics. I am particularly interested in studying the ethical issues in extended reality contexts (including VR, AR, MR), and understanding how to help developers make more ethical, less harmful, XR technologies.

### Skills

- Methods Interviews, Focus Groups, User Studies, Experiments, Survey, Ethical Impact Assessments, Privacy Impact Assessments
- Programming Python, Java, C, C++, Scheme, R, HTML
- Software Hammer Editor,  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , GitHub, Linux Command Line, MS Word, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint, Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Sheets, nVivo
- Languages English (native), Spanish (native), French (High School level)

### Publications

- 2021 Identifying Manipulative Advertising Techniques in XR Through Scenario Construction (**Abraham Mhaidli**, Florian Schaub) *Conditionally accepted for the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*
- 2020 Advertising In Mixed Reality: A Cause For Concern (**Abraham Mhaidli**, Florian Schaub) *Ethics of MR Workshop for CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems 2020 (CHI)*
- 2020 Privacy Impact Assessments for Digital Repositories (**Abraham Mhaidli**, Jordan Cundiff, Libby Hemphill, Florian Schaub, Andrea Thomer) *International Digital Curation Conference (IDCC 2020)* (Accepted, awaiting to be published)
- 2020 Listen Only When Spoken To: Interpersonal Communication Cues as Smart Speaker Privacy Controls (**Abraham Mhaidli**, Manikandan Kandadai Venkatesh, Yixin Zou, Florian Schaub) *Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies (PoPETS) 2020 Issue 2*
- 2019 'We can't live without them!': App Developers' Adoption of Ad Networks and Their Considerations of Consumer Risks (**Abraham Mhaidli**, Yixin Zou, Florian Schaub) *Fifteenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS)*
- 2019 It's My Data! Tensions Among Stakeholders of a Learning Analytics Dashboard (Kaiwen Sun, **Abraham Mhaidli**, Sonakshi Watel, Christopher A Brooks, Florian Schaub) *Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*

- 2018 “I’ve Got Nothing to Lose”: Consumers’ Risk Perceptions and Protective Actions after the Equifax Data Breach (Yixin Zou, **Abraham Mhaidli**, Austin McCall, Florian Schaub) *Fourteenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS)*
- 2018 Keeping a Low Profile? Technology, Risk and Privacy among Undocumented Immigrants (Tamy Guberek, Allison McDonald, Sylvia Simioni, **Abraham Mhaidli**, Kentaro Toyama, Florian Schaub) *Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*
- 2016 Energy profiling with Alpaca (Logan Goldberg, Joel Katticaran, **Abraham Mhaidli**) *In Companion Proceedings of the 2016 ACM SIGPLAN International Conference on Systems, Programming, Languages and Applications: Software for Humanity (SPLASH)*

## Awards

- 2018 **Distinguished Paper Award** for “I’ve Got Nothing to Lose”: Consumers’ Risk Perceptions and Protective Actions after the Equifax Data Breach (Yixin Zou, **Abraham Mhaidli**, Austin McCall, Florian Schaub) *Fourteenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS)*
- 2018 **Best Paper** for Keeping a Low Profile? Technology, Risk and Privacy among Undocumented Immigrants (Tamy Guberek, Allison McDonald, Sylvia Simioni, **Abraham Mhaidli**, Kentaro Toyama, Florian Schaub) *Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*

## Work Experience

Summer 2019 **UX Research Intern**, Facebook, Menlo Park.

UX Summer Research intern at the Ads Business Integrity team for Facebook.

- Planned, organized, and ran a 12-week qualitative study to investigate user interactions with post-purchase feedback surveys. Project was completed successfully and many useful insights were delivered to relevant product teams.
- Quickly learned to acclimatize to novel corporate environment
- Interacted with various stakeholders to conduct an optimal study that met all of their needs.

Fall 2018; **Graduate Student Instructor**, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Fall 2019; Teaching instructor for a beginning and intermediate undergraduate level programming courses.

- Winter, Fall 2020
- Taught undergraduate and graduate programming courses, including: SI 206: Data-Oriented Programming (Fall 2018, Winter 2020); SI 106: Programs, Information and People (taught Fall 2019); and SI 506 (Fall 2020)
  - Held weekly discussion sections to conduct practice problems and explain course concepts.
  - Held weekly office hours to further explain concepts to students.
  - Provided feedback on course syllabus, homeworks, problems, and other course materials.
  - Crafted problem sets and lab exercises.
  - Graded homework problems and exams for students.

2017–2019 **Graduate Student Research Assistant**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.

Graduate student research assistant aiding in numerous research projects for faculty at University of Michigan.

- Worked on many different projects as a research assistant for various faculty at University of Michigan. Products included a qualitative study examining how latinx immigrants navigated technology in their daily lives; building and evaluating novel smart speaker privacy controls; studying consumer's attitudes and actions following the Equifax data breach; examining stakeholder attitudes and perceptions of new learning analytics software; and conducting a privacy impact assessment (PIA) on a proposed research credentialing system.
- Tasks included planning and leading research projects; conducting experiments; conducting user studies; planning and leading privacy and security trainings for latino communities; conducting qualitative interviews; aiding in qualitative analysis; conducting privacy impact assessments; and paper writing.

Summer 2016 **Summer Research Assistant**, *Grinnell College*, Grinnell.

Summer research assistant at Grinnell College

- Worked alongside Dr Charlie Curtsinger and other research assistants on developing a new type of energy profiler.
- Developed 'ALPACA', a prototype energy profiler that energy audits programs utilizing linear regression models along with regularly spaced power intervals, using PAPI Tools and the intel RAPL framework.

2015; 2017 **Computer Science Mentor**, *Grinnell College*, Grinnell.

Mentor for computer science courses at Grinnell College.

- Helped students understand concepts, solve problems, and deal with difficulties in computer science courses.
- Organized student mentor sessions to further explain concepts to students.

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## Service

2019–2020 **Doctoral Executive Committee**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.

Member of the student Doctoral Executive Committee (DEC)

- DEC is the representative voice of all PhD students at University of Michigan's School of Information for departmental affairs.
- In charge of organizing social events and creating committees to address departmental issues; independently created a reading group to discuss and reduce stigma around mental health issues in higher education; represented students voices at various departmental meetings

2017–Present **SPI Lab Member**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.

Member of the Security Privacy Interaction (SPI) lab at University of Michigan

- SPI Lab is a lab dedicated to promoting and improving privacy research and awareness.
- Activities in this lab included providing feedback on research projects; assisting members with research projects; helping with logistical aspects of meetings; and helping organize privacy related events (such as Privacy Day).

2019–Present **Research Mentor**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.

Mentored various students in several research projects

- Mentored 2 undergraduate and 5 masters students in a series of 4 research projects.
- Research projects included carrying out experiments to determine effectiveness and permissibility of VR advertising; analyzing the suitability of ethical impact assessments for XR technologies; analysing privacy policies of AR apps; and examining how to meaningfully ask for consent in XR environments.
- Tasks included working alongside students to set up a research plan and outline; teaching students how to conduct research; providing feedback on work done.

- 2020 – **External Reviewer**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.
- Present Reviewed paper submissions for various journals and conferences.
- ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI): 2021
  - ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW): June 2020
  - ACM Conference on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies (IMWUT): 2020