

Abraham Mhaidli

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

- Exp. 2023 **PhD in Information Sciences**, *University of Michigan, School of Information.*
- Exp. 2023 **Science, Technology, and Public Policy Certificate**, *University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy.*
- 2017 **Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science w/Minor in Neuroscience**, *Grinnell College.*

Research Statement

I am a mixed methods researcher interested in studying emerging technologies and the ethical issues they raise. Currently, my focus is on studying the ethics and harms surrounding advertising in extended reality technologies, such as Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality.

Skills

- Methods Interviews, Focus Groups, User Studies, Experiments, Surveys, Ethical Impact Assessments, Privacy Impact Assessments, Qualitative Analysis, Content Analysis, Scenario Construction
- Programming and Markup Languages Python, Java, C, C++, Scheme, R, HTML, Markdown, Jekyll
- Software \LaTeX , GitHub, Linux Command Line, Hammer Editor, MS Word, MS Excel, MS Powerpoint, Google Docs, Google Slides, Google Sheets, nVivo
- Languages English (native), Spanish (native), French (High School level)

Publications

- 2022 Privacy Impact Assessments for Digital Repositories (**Abraham Mhaidli**, Libby Hemphill, Florian Schaub, Jordan Cundiff, Andrea K Thomer) *International Journal of Digital Curation* (IJDC)
- 2021 Identifying Manipulative Advertising Techniques in XR Through Scenario Construction (**Abraham Mhaidli**, Florian Schaub) *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 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

- 2018–2021 **Graduate Student Instructor**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor.
Teaching instructor for a beginning and intermediate undergraduate level programming courses, and ethics in IT courses.
- Taught a total of 5 undergraduate and graduate programming courses, including: SI 206: Data-Oriented Programming (Fall 2018, Winter 2020); SI 106: Programs, Information and People (Fall 2019); SI 506: Programming I (Fall 2020); and SI410: Ethics and Information Technology (WN2021)
 - 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.
- 2017–2022 **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 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.
- 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.

Service

- 2022 **Co-organizer of Workshop**, *Novel Challenges of Safety, Security and Privacy in Extended Reality (CHI 2022 Workshop)*.
Co-organized a workshop on the safety, privacy, and security issues in Extended Reality at the Computer Human Interactions (CHI) 2022 Conference.
- Moderated a panel on 'Novel Safety Challenges in XR' for the workshop
 - Reviewed submissions for the workshop.
 - Advertised the workshop, and helped create the application materials for the workshop.
- 2021-2022 **Treasurer**, *Graduate Employees Organization*, Ann Arbor.
Treasurer of the Graduate Employees Organization, an organization representing student teachers at the University of Michigan
- Treasurer for an organization representing over 2000 graduate student workers, managing and overseeing over \$800,000 in assets
 - Organized and conducted an internal audit of the organization, and crafted a yearly budget.
 - Lead the Finance Committee, in charge of drafting financial policies for the union.
 - Co-facilitated meetings with other officers of the organization to lead the organization.
 - Supervised and directed the work of two staff members for the organization.
- 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
- 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

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.

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).