

Michael Yin | Curriculum Vitae

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I design and assess technology to *support meaning-making* and *reflection* on lived experiences.

Education

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Sep 2022 - Present

Ph.D. in Computer Science

Advisor: Robert Xiao

Expected Graduation: Aug 2026

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Sep 2020 - Sep 2022

M.Sc. in Computer Science

Advisor: Robert Xiao

Thesis: *How Subtle Design in Video Games Impacts Player Experience:*

Qualitative Studies of Two Design Features

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Sep 2015 - May 2020

B.A.Sc. in Engineering Science

Academic Appointments

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

Graduate Research Assistant (X-Lab)

Sep 2020 - Present

- Research assistant for various projects under the supervision of Professor Robert Xiao as part of a Master's and PhD

University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

May 2019 - May 2020

Research Assistant

- Research thesis under the guidance of Professor Timothy Chan.
- Topic: Analyzing Curling Performance Using a Dynamic Programming Approach.

Research Assistant - Dynamic Graphics Project

May 2017 - Aug 2017

- NSERC-sponsored summer research partially funded by Professor Kyros Kutalagos.
- Project Description: Calculating 3D Object Depth Using Structured Light Imaging.

Research Assistant - Intelligent Sensory Microsystems Laboratory

May 2016 - Aug 2016

- Summer research project under the supervision of Professor Roman Genov.
- Project Description: Developing a Novel Biomedical Wearable for Performance Analysis through Unsupervised Machine Learning.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

[* denotes equal contribution]

How We See Changes How We Feel: Investigating the Effect of Visual Point-of-View on Decision-Making in VR Environments  Nov 2024

Michael Yin, Robert Xiao

Journal Paper accepted at CSCW 2024

VirtualNexus: Enhancing 360° Video AR/VR Collaboration with Environment Cutout and Virtual Replicas  Oct 2024

Xincheng Huang*, Michael Yin*, Kaseya Xia, Robert Xiao

Conference Paper accepted at UIST 2024 [Acceptance Rate: 24.0%]

Press A or Wave: User Expectations for NPC Interactions and Nonverbal Behaviour in Virtual Reality  Oct 2024

Michael Yin, Robert Xiao

Journal Paper accepted at CHI PLAY 2024 [Acceptance Rate: 23.5%]

Lies, Deceit, and Hallucinations: Player Perception and Expectations Regarding Trust and Deception in Games  Apr 2024

Michael Yin, Emi Wang, Felix Ng, Robert Xiao

Conference Paper accepted at CHI 2024 [Acceptance Rate: 26.4%]

Drifting Off in Paradise: Why People Sleep in Virtual Reality  Apr 2023

Michael Yin, Robert Xiao

Conference Paper accepted at CHI 2023 [Acceptance Rate: 28.4%]

How Should I Respond to “Good Morning?”: Understanding Choice in Narrative-Rich Games  Jun 2022

Michael Yin, Robert Xiao

Conference Paper accepted at DIS 2022 [Acceptance Rate: 23.0%]

 Honorable Mention Award [top 4.3% of all submissions]

The Reward for Luck: Understanding the Effect of Random Reward Mechanisms in Video Games on Player Experience  May 2022

Michael Yin, Robert Xiao

Conference Paper accepted at CHI 2022 [Acceptance Rate: 24.7%]

Other Research Work

Points Gained in Curling: Modelling Curling as a Markov Reward Process June 2021

Michael Yin, Timothy Chan

Abstract accepted and presented at CORS 2021

Calculating 3D Object Depth Using Structured Light Imaging

Presentation at Undergraduate Summer Research Conference

Aug 2017

**How Subtle Design in Video Games Impacts Player Experience:
Qualitative Studies of Two Design Features**

M. Sc. Thesis

Aug 2022

Teaching Appointments

Teaching Assistant

Sep 2020 - Dec 2021

University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

- CPSC304 - Introduction to Relational Databases (3 terms)
- CPSC344 - Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction (1 term)

Students Mentored

At UofT and UBC, I have mentored 5 students (all undergrad). 3 of them have worked with me in a research degree, 3 of which have co-authored papers with me.

Academic Service

Associate Chair

Ongoing

- Associate Chair for CHI PLAY'24 WiP, CSCW'25 Full Papers

Student Volunteer

Ongoing

- Student Volunteer at DIS'22, CHI'23, CHI'24

Paper Reviewer

Ongoing

- Reviewed papers for CHI'23, DIS'23, UIST'23, IMX'23, CHI'24, and many more
- 5 Outstanding Review Recognitions at CHI'24 and CHI PLAY'24

Graduate Recruiting Group Leader

Dec 2022 - Apr 2024

- Wrote initial reviews for all HCI applicants for two recruiting seasons.

Industry Experience

Software Engineering Intern - Shopify (International R&D Team)

May 2019 - Aug 2019

Toronto, ON

- Wrote backend code to process and model data using user input for Shopify's shipping calculator.
- Created an integration pipeline to allow Shopify partners to incorporate their applications.
- Developed UI widgets to improve merchant experience and collect data on merchant behaviour.

Software Engineering Intern - Stanza (Data Team)

May 2018 - Apr 2019

San Francisco, CA

- Implemented a backend API platform to centralize ad revenue payments and show revenue statistics.
- Developed automated jobs to query for and display engagement data.
- Created an event collection and transformation pipeline using AWS tools and Airflow.

Awards, Grants, and Scholarships

Awards

NSERC CGS D

May 2023 - Apr 2026

- \$40,000/year, for 3 years.

UBC Computer Science 4YF

Sep 2022 - Aug 2026

- \$18,200/year plus tuition, for the first 4 years of PhD studies.

University of Toronto Dean's List (8 times)

Sep 2015 - May 2020

Grants

NSERC Computer Science Undergraduate Student Research Award (\$6000)

May 2017

- Proposal: Calculating 3D Object Depth Using Structured Light Imaging

Scholarships

The Crocker Foundation Bursary (\$2600)

Dec 2016

Mario and Dorothy Pesando Scholarship (\$2567)

Oct 2016

University of Toronto Scholar (\$6000)

Sept 2015