

# Miranda Wei

mirandawei.com

weimf@cs.washington.edu

## EDUCATION

---

### University of Washington

September 2019–present

Ph.D. student, Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering

M.S. in Computer Science & Engineering, April 2022

Advisors: Tadayoshi Kohno and Franziska Roesner

### University of Chicago

September 2013–June 2017

B.A. in Political Science, Minor in Computer Science

Overall GPA: 3.83 (4.0 highest)

“ISIS Anashid and the Logic of Imagined Communities,” Departmental Honors Thesis

### London School of Economics

September 2015–June 2016

General Course (Direct Enrollment, Study Abroad Program)

Coursework in International Law, International Relations, Foreign Policy Analysis

## EMPLOYMENT

---

### University of Maryland

September 2018–September 2019

*Researcher with Prof. Michelle Mazurek*

*College Park, MD, USA*

### University of Chicago SUPERgroup

August 2017–September 2019

*Researcher with Prof. Blase Ur*

*Chicago, IL, USA*

### Chicago Project on Security and Threats (CPOST)

January 2015–August 2017

*Analyst; Supervisor; Deputy Research Director with Prof. Robert Pape*

*Chicago, IL, USA*

### London School of Economics

October 2015–October 2016

*Researcher with Prof. Julia Gray*

*London, UK*

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

---

### Fellowships:

- College of Engineering Dean’s Fellowship, UW, 2019–2020
- College Research Fellow, UChicago, 2016–2017

### Conference Grants:

- Scholarship to Grad Cohort Workshop, April 2021, April 2022
- Diversity Grant to USENIX Security, August 2020
- Scholarship to SecHuman Summer School at Ruhr University Bochum (RUB), June 2019
- Scholarship to SecHuman Summer School at Ruhr University Bochum (RUB), September 2018
- Ford Foundation Stipend to Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS), July 2018
- Student Scholarship to Women in Cybersecurity (WiCyS), March 2018
- Diversity Grant to USENIX Enigma, January 2018
- NSF Student Grant to USENIX Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS), June 2017

- IMC 2021: Runner-Up for Best Paper for “Polls, Clickbait, and Commemorative...”
- NSF GRFP 2021 Honorable Mention
- CHI 2020: Honorable Mention for Best Paper for “Taking Data Out of Context to Hyper-Personalize Ads...”
- SOUPS 2019: Distinguished Poster Award for “What was that site doing with my Facebook password ...”
- Dean’s List, *GPA above 3.25, ineligible during study abroad*, UChicago, 2013–2015, 2016–2017

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PUBLICATIONS

---

**Polls, Clickbait, and Commemorative \$2 Bills: Problematic Political Advertising on News and Media Websites Around the 2020 U.S. Elections**

Eric Zeng, Miranda Wei, Theo Gregersen, Tadayoshi Kohno, and Franziska Roesner.

*ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC)*, Nov. 2021.

**Runner-Up for Best Paper.**

**On the Limited Impact of Visualizing Encryption: Perceptions of E2E Messaging Security**

Christian Stransky, Dominik Wermke, Johanna Schrader, Nicolas Huaman, Yasemin Acar, Anna Lena Fehlhaber, Miranda Wei, Blase Ur, Sascha Fahl.

*Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS)*, Online, August 2021.

**What Twitter Knows: Characterizing Ad Targeting Practices, User Perceptions, and Ad Explanations Through Users’ Own Twitter Data**

Miranda Wei, Madison Stamos, Sophie Veys, Nathan Reitinger, Justin Goodman, Margot Herman, Dorota Filipczuk, Ben Weinshel, Michelle L. Mazurek, Blase Ur.

*USENIX Security (13% acceptance rate)*, Online, August 2020.

**Taking Data Out of Context to Hyper-Personalize Ads: Crowdworkers’ Privacy Perceptions and Decisions to Disclose Private Information**

Julia Hanson\*, Miranda Wei\*, Sophie Veys, Matthew Kugler, Lior Strahilevitz, Blase Ur. \* This is a co-first authored publication.

*ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) (24% acceptance rate)*, April 2020.

**Honorable Mention for Best Paper.**

**Oh, the Places You’ve Been! User Reactions to Longitudinal Transparency About Third-Party Web Tracking and Inferencing**

Ben Weinshel, Miranda Wei, Mainack Mondal, Eurim Choi, Shawn Shan, Claire Dolin, Michelle L. Mazurek, B. Ur.

*ACM Communications and Communication Security (CCS) (16% acceptance rate)*, London, UK, November 2019.

**“What was that site doing with my Facebook password?” Designing Notifications About Password Reuse**

Maximillian Golla, Miranda Wei, Juliette Hainline, Lydia Filipe, Markus Dürmuth, Elissa M. Redmiles, Blase Ur.

*ACM Communications and Computer Security (CCS) (17% acceptance rate)*, Toronto, Canada, October 2018.

**Your Secrets are Safe: How Browsers’ Explanations Impact Misconceptions About Private Browsing Mode**

Yuxi Wu, Panya Gupta, Miranda Wei, Yasemin Acar, Sascha Fahl, Blase Ur.

*The Web Conference (WWW) (15% acceptance rate)*, Lyon, France, April 2018.

**Styx++: Reliable Data Access and Availability Using a Hybrid Paxos and Chain Replication Protocol**

Ather Sharif, Emilia F. Gan, Miranda Wei.

*ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Late Breaking Work (CHI LBW)*, New Orleans, USA, Apr. 2022.

**What Twitter Knows: Characterizing Ad Targeting Practices, User Perceptions, and Ad Explanations Through Users' Own Twitter Data**

Miranda Wei, Madison Stamos, Sophie Veys, Nathan Reitinger, Justin Goodman, Margot Herman, Dorota Filipczuk, Ben Weinshel, Michelle L. Mazurek, Blase Ur.

*PrivacyCon*, Online, July 2021.

**“What was that site doing with my Facebook password?” Designing Notifications About Password Reuse**

Miranda Wei, Maximillian Golla, Juliette Hainline, Lydia Filipe, Markus Dürmuth, Elissa M. Redmiles, Blase Ur.

*Fifteenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2019)*, Santa Clara, CA, 2019.

**Distinguished Poster Award.**

**The Password Doesn't Fall Far: How Services Influence Password Choice**

Miranda Wei, Maximillian Golla, Blase Ur.

*Who Are You?! Adventures in Authentication Workshop (WAY)*, Baltimore, MD, August 2018.

**Exploring User Mental Models of End-to-End Encrypted Communication Tools**

Ruba Abu-Salma, Elissa M. Redmiles, Blase Ur, Miranda Wei.

*Workshop on Free and Open Communications on the Internet (FOCI)*, Baltimore, MD, August 2018.

---

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

ISIS Campaign Propaganda Profile. *CPOST Report for the Department of Defense*. September 2016.

“Eradicating suicide terrorism in Pakistan.” *Chicago Tribune*. October 30, 2015. (co-written with Robert Pape)

Spectacular Attack Profiles of AQI, Pakistani Taliban. *CPOST Report for the Carnegie Corporation*. September 2015.

“Getting ISIS Out of Iraq.” *The New York Times*. April 20, 2015. (co-written with Robert Pape)

---

INVITED TALKS

- Stanford Security Lunch, 1/2022, Online: “Polls, Clickbait, and Commemorative \$2 Bills: Problematic Political Advertising on News and Media Websites Around the 2020 U.S. Elections”
- MIT CSAIL Security Seminar, 9/2020, Online: “What Twitter Knows: Characterizing Ad Targeting Practices, User Perceptions, and Ad Explanations Through Users' Own Twitter Data”
- UChicago HCI Club, 7/2020, Online: “What Twitter Knows: Characterizing Ad Targeting Practices, User Perceptions, and Ad Explanations Through Users' Own Twitter Data”
- DUB Seminar, 5/2020, Online: “Taking Data Out of Context to Hyper-Personalize Ads: Crowdworkers' Privacy Perceptions and Decisions to Disclose Private Information”
- Mozilla, 4/2020, Online: “Oh, the Places You've Been! User Reactions to Longitudinal Transparency About Third-Party Web Tracking and Inferencing”
- Brave, 2/2020, Online: “Oh, the Places You've Been! User Reactions to Longitudinal Transparency About Third-Party Web Tracking and Inferencing”

- UChicago Psychology and Law Studies Lab (PALS), 1/2020, Chicago & Online: “Taking Data Out of Context to Hyper-Personalize Ads: Crowdworkers’ Privacy Perceptions and Decisions to Disclose Private Information”
- PasswordsCon, 11/2018, Stockholm, Sweden: “Everything but the User: Reducing Password Reuse”
- W3C PING, 9/2018, Online: “Your Secrets are Safe: How Browsers’ Explanations Impact Misconceptions About Private Browsing Mode”

## MEDIA COVERAGE

---

For “Exploring User Mental Models of End-to-End Encrypted Communication Tools”

- Why you need a better handle on the WhatsApp, Signal and Telegram apps. <https://www.cnet.com/news/you-might-not-really-understand-how-encrypted-messaging-apps-work/>

For “Your Secrets Are Safe: How Browsers’ Explanations Impact Misconceptions About Private Browsing Mode”

- Consumer Reports, June 19, 2018. What Your Web Browser’s Incognito Mode Really Does. <https://www.consumerreports.org/internet/incognito-mode-web-browser-what-it-really-does/>
- Science News for Students, June 6, 2018. Incognito browsing is not as private as most people think. <https://www.sciencenewsforstudents.org/article/incognito-browsing-not-private-most-people-think>
- Unocero, May 6, 2018. ¿Qué tan realmente privada es tu ‘navegación privada’? <https://www.unocero.com/como-se-hace/que-tan-realmente-privada-es-tu-navegacion-privada/>
- IFL Science!, April 26, 2018. If You Use Your Web Browser’s Incognito Mode We’ve Got Bad News. <https://www.iflscience.com/technology/if-you-use-your-web-browsers-incognito-mode-weve-got-bad-news-/>
- Indy 100 from the Independent, April 25, 2018. Turns out ‘Incognito mode’ is not as incognito as you might think. <https://www.indy100.com/article/incognito-mode-might-not-be-as-incognito-as-you-think-8321916>
- Metro, April 25, 2018. You’re completely wrong about what ‘Incognito mode’ does when you’re watching porn. <https://metro.co.uk/2018/04/25/completely-wrong-incognito-mode-watching-porn-7496259/>
- Mental Floss, April 25, 2018. Why Browsing in Incognito Mode Isn’t as Private as You Think. <https://www.mentalfloss.com/article/541658/why-browsing-incognito-mode-isnt-private-you-think>
- Science News, April 24, 2018. Private web browsing doesn’t mean no one is watching. <https://www.sciencenews.org/article/internet-privacy-incognito-web-browsing>
- The Register, April 24, 2018. Oh dear... Netizens think ‘private’ browsing really means totally private. [https://www.theregister.com/2018/04/24/private\\_web\\_browsing\\_study/](https://www.theregister.com/2018/04/24/private_web_browsing_study/)

## SERVICE

---

### Organizing:

- Co-Coordinator: DUB Doctoral Colloquium 2020
- Publicity Co-Chair: EuroUSEC 2020

- Session Chair Student Volunteer: SOUPS 2020

### **Reviewing:**

- Poster Jury Member: SOUPS 2020
- Program Committee Member: WAY 2021
- External Reviewer: PoPETS 2022, CHI 2022, CHI LBW 2020, CSCW 2020

### **UW Community:**

- DUB (grassroots cross-departmental alliance) Student Coordinator: 2021-present
- Care Basket Chair for Care Committee (graduate student organization): 2019-present
- Pre-Application Mentorship Service (PARS) Co-leader/Mentor: 2020-present
- UW New Grad Orientation Co-Organizer: 2020

### **ADDITIONAL EXPERTISE AND SKILLS**

---

<b>Languages</b>	English (native), French (intermediate), Chinese (intermediate), Russian (beginner)
<b>Programming</b>	Python, R (tidyverse)
<b>Applications</b>	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Qualtrics, Photoshop