

# NEIL SHAH

Lead Research Scientist  
Snap Inc.  
Seattle, WA

Email: nshah[at]snap[dot]com  
Last Update: October 18, 2021

## EDUCATION

---

- **Ph.D:** Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, August 2013 - October 2017  
Advisor: Prof. Christos Faloutsos.
- **M.S:** Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University, August 2013 - May 2017
- **B.S:** Computer Science (Minor in Mathematics), North Carolina State University, August 2010 - May 2013  
GPA: **4.0** (class rank #1), *Summa Cum Laude with Honors*

## POSITIONS

---

- **Snap Inc.**, Lead Research Scientist.  
My work spans the graph data mining, machine learning, and computational social science domains, specifically in the contexts of understanding and modeling user behavior and misbehavior on social platforms.  
December 2017 - present
- **Carnegie Mellon University**, Graduate Researcher.  
I worked in the Computer Science Department, on algorithms and applications for anomaly detection in large social graphs.  
August 2013 - October 2017
- **Twitch**, Visiting Researcher.  
I worked on anti-abuse technologies as a member of the Science team.  
January 2016 - May 2016
- **Microsoft Research - Redmond**, Research Intern.  
I worked on improving metrics and methods for measuring research impact for Microsoft Academic Search.  
June 2015 - August 2015
- **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory**, Research Intern.  
I worked on developing algorithms to automatically identify patterns and anomalies in time-evolving graphs.  
June 2014 - August 2014
- **IBM - Silicon Valley**, Software Intern.  
I worked in the IBM BigInsights group, with a focus on indexing and analytics of system log data.  
May 2012 - January 2013
- **North Carolina State University**, Undergraduate Researcher.  
I worked in the Department of Computer Science on compressing and indexing large scientific datasets.  
June 2009 - April 2013

## AWARDS & DISTINCTIONS

---

- ACM SIGCHI Best Research Paper Honorable Mention Award, 2019
- Symantec Graduate Research Fellowship Finalist, 2017
- ACM SIGKDD Best Research Paper Award, 2016
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2013
- North Carolina State University College of Engineering Senior Award for Scholarly Achievement, 2013
- North Carolina State University Department of Computer Science Senior Faculty Scholar, 2012
- National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Grant, 2011
- North Carolina State University College of Engineering Dean's Research Assistantship, 2011

- North Carolina State University Caldwell Fellowship, 2011
- Coca-Cola Scholarship, 2010
- Zinch Scholarship, 2010
- National Merit Scholarship, 2010
- CompTIA Information Technology Merit Award, 2010
- 2nd place, National Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology, 2009
- 1st place, Regional Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology, 2009

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### Refereed Conference Publications

40. Xianfeng Tang, Yozen Liu, Xinran He, Suhang Wang, Neil Shah. *Ranking Friend Stories on Social Platforms with Edge-Contextual Local Graph Convolutions*, WSDM 2022.
39. Satyaki Sikdar, Neil Shah, Tim Weninger. *Attributed Graph Modeling with Vertex Replacement Grammars*, WSDM 2022.
38. Hyeonjeong Shin, Taehyung Kwon, Neil Shah, Kijung Shin. *Finding a Concise, Precise and Exhaustive Set of Near Bi-Cliques in Dynamic Graphs*, WSDM 2022.
37. Tong Zhao, Bo Ni, Wenhao Yu, Zhichun Guo, Neil Shah, Meng Jiang. *Action Sequence Augmentation for Early Graph-based Anomaly Detection*, CIKM 2021.
36. Yao Ma, Xiaorui Liu, Tong Zhao, Yozen Liu, Jiliang Tang, Neil Shah. *A Unified View on Graph Neural Networks as Graph Signal Denoising*, CIKM 2021.
35. Ekta Gujral, Leonardo Neves, Evangelos Papalexakis, Neil Shah. *Niche Detection in User Content Consumption Data*, CIKM 2021.
34. Shubhranshu Shekhar, Neil Shah, Leman Akoglu. *FairOD: Fairness-aware Outlier Detection*, AIES 2021.
33. Qi Yang, Weinan Wang, Lucas Pierce, Rajan Vaish, Xiaolin Shi, Neil Shah. *Online Communication Shifts in the Midst of the Covid-19 Pandemic: A Case Study on Snapchat*, ICWSM 2021.
32. Farhan Asif Chowdhury, Yozen Liu, Koustuv Saha, Nicholas Vincent, Leonardo Neves, Neil Shah, Maarten Bos. *CEAM: The Effectiveness of Cyclic and Ephemeral Attention Models of User Behavior on Social Platforms*, ICWSM 2021.
31. Aravind Sankar, Yozen Liu, Jun Yu, Neil Shah. *Graph Neural Networks for Friend Ranking in Large-scale Social Platforms*, WWW 2021.
30. Koustuv Saha, Yozen Liu, Nicholas Vincent, Farhan Asif Chowdhury, Leonardo Neves, Neil Shah, Maarten Bos. *AdverTiming Matters: Examining User Ad Consumption for Effective Ad Allocations on Social Media*, CHI 2021.
29. Tong Zhao, Yozen Liu, Leonardo Neves, Oliver Woodford, Meng Jiang, Neil Shah. *Data Augmentation for Graph Neural Networks*, AAAI 2021.
28. Brihi Joshi, Francesco Barbieri, Neil Shah, Leonardo Neves. *The Devil is in the Details: Evaluating Limitations of Transformer-based Methods for Granular Tasks*, COLING 2020.
27. Parisa Kaghazgaran, Maarten Bos, Leonardo Neves, Neil Shah. *Social Factors in Closed-Network Content Consumption*, CIKM 2020.
26. Sara Abdali, Rutuja Gurav, Siddharth Menon, Daniel Fonseca, Negin Entezari, Neil Shah, Evangelos Papalexakis. *Identifying Misinformation from Website Screenshots*, ICWSM 2021.
25. Sara Abdali, Neil Shah, Evangelos Papalexakis. *Semi-Supervised Multi-aspect Misinformation Detection with Hierarchical Joint Decomposition*, ECML-PKDD 2020.
24. Xianfeng Tang, Yozen Liu, Neil Shah, Xiaolin Shi, Prasenjit Mitra, Suhang Wang. *Knowing your FATE: Friendship, Action and Temporal Explanations for User Engagement Prediction on Social Apps*, KDD 2020.
23. Neil Shah. *FARE: Schema-Agnostic Anomaly Detection in Social Event Logs*, DSAA 2019.
22. Hamed Nilforoshan, Neil Shah. *SliceNDice: Mining Suspicious Multi-attribute Entity Groups with Multi-view Graphs*, DSAA 2019.
21. Hemank Lamba, Neil Shah. *Modeling Dwell Time Engagement on Visual Multimedia*, KDD 2019.

20. Hana Habib, Neil Shah, Rajan Vaish. *Impact of Contextual Factors on Public Snapchat Sharing*, CHI 2019. **Best Paper Honorable Mention Award**.
19. Shreya Jain, Dipankar Niranjana, Hemank Lamba, Neil Shah, Ponnurangam Kumaraguru. *Characterizing and Detecting Livestreaming Chatbots*, ASONAM 2019
18. Gisel Batista Guacho, Sara Abdali, Neil Shah, Evangelos Papalexakis. *Semi-Supervised Content-based Detection of Misinformation via Tensor Embeddings*, ASONAM 2018.
17. Nikhil Gupta, Dhivya Eswaran, Neil Shah, Leman Akoglu, Christos Faloutsos. *Beyond Outlier Detection: Look-Out for Pictorial Explanation*, ECML-PKDD 2018.
16. Neil Shah, Hemank Lamba, Alex Beutel and Christos Faloutsos. *The Many Faces of Link Fraud*, ICDM 2017.
15. Da-Cheng Juan, Neil Shah, Mingyu Tang, Zhiliang Qian, Diana Marculescu, Christos Faloutsos. *M3A: Model, MetaModel, and Anomaly Detection in Web Searches*, DSAA 2017.
14. Neil Shah. *FLOCK: Combating Astroturfing on Livestreaming Platforms*, WWW 2017.
13. Bryan Hooi, Hyun Ah Song, Alex Beutel, Neil Shah, Kijung Shin, Christos Faloutsos. *FRAUDAR: Bounding Graph Fraud in the Face of Camouflage*, KDD 2016. **Best Paper Award**.
12. Bryan Hooi, Neil Shah, Alex Beutel, Stephan Gunnemann, Leman Akoglu, Mohit Kumar, Disha Makhija, Christos Faloutsos. *BIRDNEST: Bayesian Inference for Ratings-Fraud Detection*, SDM 2016.
11. Neil Shah, Danaï Koutra, Tianmin Zou, Brian Gallagher, Christos Faloutsos. *TimeCrunch: Interpretable Dynamic Graph Summarization*, KDD 2015.
10. Maria Giatsoglou, Despoina Chatzakou, Neil Shah, Alex Beutel, Stephan Guenneman, Christos Faloutsos, Athena Vakali. *ND-Sync: Detecting Synchronized Fraud Activities*, PAKDD 2015.
9. Maria Giatsoglou, Despoina Chatzakou, Neil Shah, Christos Faloutsos, Athena Vakali. *Retweeting Activity on Twitter: Signs of Fraud*, PAKDD 2015.
8. Neil Shah, Alex Beutel, Brian Gallagher, Christos Faloutsos. *Spotting Suspicious Link Behavior with fBox: An Adversarial Perspective*, ICDM 2014.
7. Neil Shah, Eric Schendel, Saurabh Pendse, Sriram Lakshminarasimhan, Terry Rogers, Nagiza Samatova. *Improving I/O Throughput with PRIMACY: Preconditioning ID-Mapper for Compressing Incompressibility*, CLUSTER 2012.
6. Eric Schendel, Ye Jin, Neil Shah, Jackie Chen, Choong-Seock Chang, Seung-Hoe Ku, Stephane Ethier, Scott Klasky, Robert Latham, Robert Ross, Nagiza Samatova. *ISOBAR Preconditioner for Effective and High-throughput Lossless Data Compression*, ICDE 2012.
5. Isha Arkatkar, John Jenkins, Sriram Lakshminarasimhan, Neil Shah, Eric Schendel, Stephane Ethier, Choong-Seock Chang, Jackie Chen, Hemant Kolla, Scott Klasky, Robert Ross, Nagiza Samatova. *Analytics-driven Lossless Data Compression for Rapid In-situ Indexing, Storing and Querying*, DEXA 2012.
4. Ye Jin, Sriram Lakshminarasimhan, Neil Shah, Zhenhuan Gong, Choong-Seock Chang, Jackie Chen, Stephane Ethier, Hemant Kolla, Seung-Hoe Ku, Scott Klasky, Robert Latham, Robert Ross, Karen Schuchardt, Nagiza Samatova. *S-preconditioner for Multi-fold Data Reduction with Guaranteed User-controlled Accuracy*, ICDM 2011.
3. Sriram Lakshminarasimhan, Neil Shah, Stephane Ethier, Scott Klasky, Robert Latham, Robert Ross, Nagiza Samatova. *Compressing the Incompressible with ISABELA: In-situ Reduction of Spatio-Temporal Data*, EuroPar 2011.
2. Neil Shah, Yekaterina Shpanskaya, Choong-Seock Chang, Seung-Hoe Ku, Anatoli Melechko, Nagiza Samatova. *Automatic and Statistically Robust Spatio-temporal Detection and Tracking of Fusion Plasma Fronts*, SciDAC 2010.
1. Paul Breimyer, Guruprasad Kora, William Hendrix, Neil Shah, Nagiza Samatova. *pR: Automatic Parallelization of Data-parallel Statistical Computing Codes for R in Hybrid Multi-node and Multi-core Environments*, IADIS 2009.

## Refereed Journal Publications

7. Tong Zhao, Tianwen Jiang, Neil Shah, Meng Jiang. *A Synergistic Approach for Graph Anomaly Detection with Pattern Mining and Feature Learning*, IEEE Transactions on Neural Networks and Learning Systems 2021.
6. Yike Liu, Tara Safavi, Neil Shah, Danaï Koutra. *Reducing Large Graphs to Small Supergraphs: A Unified Approach*, Social Network Analysis and Mining 2018.

5. Bryan Hooi, Kijung Shin, Hyun Ah Song, Alex Beutel, Neil Shah, Christos Faloutsos. *Graph-based Fraud Detection in the Face of Camouflage*, Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD) 2017
4. Neil Shah, Danai Koutra, Lisa Jin, Tianmin Zou, Brian Gallagher, Christos Faloutsos. *On Summarizing Large-Scale Dynamic Graphs*, Data Engineering Bulletin 2017.
3. Danai Koutra, Neil Shah, Joshua T. Vogelstein, Brian Gallagher, Christos Faloutsos. *DeltaCon: A Principled Massive-Graph Similarity Function with Attribution*, Transactions on Knowledge and Data Discovery 2015.
2. John Jenkins, Isha Arkatkar, Sriram Lakshminarasimhan, David Boyuka, Eric Schendel, Neil Shah, Stephane Ethier, Choong-Seock Chang, Jackie Chen, Hemant Kolla, Scott Klasky, Robert Ross, Nagiza Samatova. *ALACRITY: Analytics-driven Lossless Data Compression for Rapid In-situ Indexing, Storing, and Querying*, Transactions on Large-Scale Data-and Knowledge-Centered Systems (TLDKS) 2013.
1. Sriram Lakshminarasimhan, Neil Shah, Stephane Ethier, Scott Klasky, Robert Latham, Robert Ross, Nagiza Samatova. *ISABELA for Effective In-situ Compression of Scientific Data*, Concurrency and Computation: Practice and Experience 2011.

## Refereed Workshop Publications

5. Neil Shah. *Scale-Free, Attributed and Class-Assortative Graph Generation to Facilitate Introspection of Graph Neural Networks*, KDD MLG 2020.
4. Rohan Kumar, Mohit Kumar, Neil Shah, Christos Faloutsos. *Did We Get It Right? Predicting Query Performance in E-commerce Search*, SIGIR eCom 2018.
3. Yike Liu, Tara Safavi, Neil Shah, Danai Koutra. *Reducing Million-Node Graphs to a Few Structural Patterns: A Unified Approach*, KDD MLG 2016.
2. Neil Shah, Alex Beutel, Bryan Hooi, Leman Akoglu, Stephan Gunnemann, Disha Makhija, Mohit Kumar, Christos Faloutsos. *EdgeCentric: Anomaly Detection in Edge-Attributed Networks*, ICDM DMCS 2016.
1. Yike Liu, Neil Shah, Danai Koutra. *An Empirical Comparison of the Sumarization Power of Graph Clustering Methods*, NIPS NSIS 2015.

## Book Chapters

4. Sara Abdali, Gisel Bastidas, Neil Shah, Evangelos Papalexakis. *Tensor Embeddings for Content-Based Misinformation Detection with Limited Supervision*, Disinformation, Misinformation, and Fake News in Social Media.
3. Srijan Kumar, Neil Shah. *False Information on the Web and Social Media: A Survey*, Social Media Analytics: Advances and Applications.
2. Neil Shah. *Introduction to R*, Practical Graph Mining with R.
1. Kanchana Padmanabhan, Sriram Lakshminarasimhan, Zhenhuan Gong, John Jenkins, Neil Shah, Eric Schendel, Isha Arkatkar, Robert Ross, Scott Klasky, Nagiza Samatova. *In-situ Analysis in Support of Exploratory Scientific Discovery in Data-Intensive Science*, Data-Intensive Science.

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

---

### Invited Talks

- Panel Moderator for KDD Outlier Detection and Discovery (ODD) Workshop (2021)
- Keynote Speaker for KDD Machine Learning in Finance (MLF) Workshop (2021)
- Keynote Speaker for SDM Doctoral Consortium (2021)
- Keynote Speaker for SDM Minisymposium on Dynamic Networks (2020)
- Keynote Speaker for ICDM Doctoral Consortium (2019)
- Keynote Speaker for WWW CyberSafety Workshop (2018)
- Keynote Speaker for KDD Outlier Detection De-constructed Workshop (2018)
- Keynote Speaker for ECML-PKDD PhD Forum (2018)

## Service

- Organizing Committee for WSDM (PC Chair for WSDM Cup 2020, 2022)
- Organizing Committee for ASONAM (PC Chair for Industrial Track 2019)
- Co-Chair for KDD Misinformation and Misbehavior Mining Workshop (2021)
- Co-Chair for WWW CyberSafety Workshop (2020)
- PC Chair for WWW CyberSafety Workshop (2019)
- Session Chair for KDD “Graphs and Networks” track (2021)
- Session Chair for WWW “Graph Models” track (2021)
- Session Chair for KDD “Graph Algorithms” track (2020)
- Session Chair for DSAA “Subgraphs” track (2019)
- Session Chair for WWW “Security and Privacy” track (2018)
- Session Chair for ICDM “Social” track (2016)
- Senior Program Committee for SDM 2022
- Senior Program Committee for WSDM 2022
- Senior Program Committee for CIKM 2021
- Program Committee for ASONAM (2022)
- Program Committee for WSDM (2019, 2020, 2021)
- Program Committee for KDD (2019, 2020, 2021)
- Program Committee for WWW (2015, 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022)
- Program Committee for SDM (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)
- Program Committee for CIKM (2017, 2020)
- Program Committee for WSDM Doctoral Consortium (2020)
- Program Committee for ICML LXAI Workshop (2020)
- Program Committee for ICDM Demo Session (2018, 2019)
- Program Committee for WSDM Misinformation and Misbehavior Mining Workshop (2018)
- Program Committee for KDD MLG Workshop (2017, 2018, 2019)
- Program Committee for WWW Graph Learning Benchmarks (GLB) Workshop (2021)
- Program Committee for RecSys Workshop on Graph Neural Networks for RecSys (GreS) (2021)
- Program Committee for WSDM HeteroNAM Workshop (2017, 2018)
- Program Committee for ICDM PhD Forum (2017)
- Program Committee for CIKM PhD Forum (2019)
- Reviewer for ACM TKDD Journal (2018, 2019, 2020)
- Reviewer for Springer DAMI Journal (2018, 2019)
- Reviewer for ACM TSOC Journal (2018, 2019)
- Reviewer for ACM TKDE Journal (2016, 2017)
- Reviewer for CSCW (2019)
- Reviewer for CHI (2019)
- Reviewer for WISE (2014)
- Reviewer for IPDPS (2011)

## Mentorship

- Mr. Cazamere Comrie (intern at Snap Research, 2021)
- Mr. Lingxiao Zhao (intern at Snap Research, 2021)
- Mr. Wei Jin (intern at Snap Research, 2021)
- Mr. Shichang Zhang (intern at Snap Research, 2021)
- Mr. Yingtong Dou (intern at Snap Research, 2021)
- Mr. Yozen Liu (RA at Snap Research, 2020)
- Ms. Qi Yang (intern at Snap Research, 2020)
- Mr. Satyaki Sikdar (intern at Snap Research, 2020)
- Mr. Yao Ma (intern at Snap Research, 2020)
- Mr. Aravind Sankar (intern at Snap Research, 2020)
- Mr. Tong Zhao (intern at Snap Research, 2020)
- Mr. Nicholas Vincent (intern at Snap Research, 2020)

- Mr. Farhan Asif Chowdhury (intern at Snap Research, 2020)
- Mr. Koustuv Saha (intern at Snap Research, 2020)
- Ms. Brihi Joshi (intern at Snap Research, 2019)
- Mr. Shiyan Yan (intern at Snap Research, 2019)
- Mr. Xianfeng Tang (intern at Snap Research, 2019 & 2020)
- Ms. Parisa Kaghzadaran (intern at Snap Research, 2019)
- Mr. Himel Dev (intern at Snap Research, 2019)
- Mr. Anis Zaman (intern at Snap Research, 2019)
- Mr. Can Liu (intern at Snap Research, 2019)
- Mr. Dipankar Niranjana (BS student at IIT Delhi, 2018)
- Ms. Shreya Jain (BS student at IIT Delhi, 2018)
- Mr. Hamed Nilforoshan (intern at Snap Research, 2018)
- Ms. Hana Habib (intern at Snap Research, 2018)
- Mr. Hemank Lamba (intern at Snap Research, 2018)
- Mr. Rohan Kumar (visiting CS student at CMU, 2017)
- Ms. Qicheng Huang (EE PhD student at CMU, 2017)
- Ms. Chenlei Fang (EE PhD student at CMU, 2017)
- Mr. Tianmin Zou (CS MS student at CMU, 2017)

## Funding

- Contributed towards Flipkart faculty grant (with CMU: Bryan Hooi, Dhivya Eswaran, Christos Faloutsos)
- Contributed towards Wharton Customer Analytics Initiative proposal “Fraud Detection through Mining Dynamic Behavior for Group Anomalies” (with CMU: Alex Beutel and Christos Faloutsos)
- Contributed towards PNC Center for Financial Services proposal PF15003: “Fraud Detection in Financial Data” (with CMU: Alex Beutel and Christos Faloutsos)
- Contributed towards proposal DOE-NNSA-30788.1.1990222 “Quantifying Network Changes” (with CMU: Danai Koutra and Christos Faloutsos)
- Contributed towards proposal NSF IIS-1028746 “Collaborative Research: Understanding Climate Change: A Data Driven Approach” (with NCSU: Nagiza Samatova and Fredrick Semazzi)

## Teaching

- Guest Lecture “Mining Misbehavior on Large-Scale Social Platforms” for Vanderbilt CS-5981-06 Social Network Analysis, by Prof. Tyler Derr (2020)
- Guest Lecture “A Foray into Graph Mining” for USC CSCI-699 Introduction to Information Extraction, by Prof. Xiang Ren (2019)
- Guest Lecture “Graph Mining for Fraud Detection” for CMU 15-300 Research and Innovation in Computer Science, by Prof. Todd Mowry (2015)
- Teaching Assistant for CMU 15-300 Research and Innovation in Computer Science, by Prof. Todd Mowry (2015)
- Teaching Assistant for CMU 15-826 Multimedia Databases and Data Mining, by Prof. Christos Faloutsos (2014)

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

---

- Cloud Platforms: GCP, AWS
- Programming Languages/Tools: Python, Java, C, C++, x86 Assembly
- Web Languages/Tools: SQL, HTML, PHP, JavaScript, CSS, WordPress
- Engineering Tools: Matlab, R
- Typesetting Tools: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office, LibreOffice
- Source Code Management Tools: Git, Subversion
- Operating Systems: Mac OSX, Ubuntu Linux, Microsoft Windows

## GRADUATE COURSEWORK

---

### Carnegie Mellon University

- *Advanced and Distributed Operating Systems* with Prof. David Andersen,
- *Multimedia Databases and Data Mining* with Prof. Christos Faloutsos  
*Graduate Algorithms* with Prof. Manuel Blum
- *Machine Learning* with Profs. Barnabas Póczos and Aarti Singh
- *Randomized Algorithms* with Prof. Bernhard Haeupler
- *Programming Language Semantics* with Prof. André Platzer

### North Carolina State University

- *Automated Learning & Data Analysis* with Prof. Nagiza Samatova
- *Software Engineering* with Prof. Tao Xie,
- *Database Management Concepts & Systems* with Prof. Ting Yu

## REFERENCES

---

Available upon request.