

Riya Sahni

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530 West 120th Street, Columbia University, New York, NY 10027

EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D. in Computer Science

Advisor: Dr. Lydia B. Chilton

New York, NY

September 2024 - *Now*

The University of Chicago

A.B. in Economics

Sc.B. in Computer Science with a Specialization in Human-Computer Interaction,

Chicago, IL

June 2023

GRANTS

- *National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship* 2024
- *Jeff Metcalf Award* 2021

WORK EXPERIENCE

Organization Microsoft

New York, NY

Customer Success Account Manager in Banking Financial Services

August 2023 – September 2024

- Managed 2 customer accounts, led successful renewal of Unified contract, and successfully navigated several critical reactive escalations with customers.

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Organization Microsoft

Chicago, IL

- *Data and AI Cloud Solutions Architect Intern*

June 2022 – September 2022

- *Data and AI Customer Engineer Intern*

June 2021 – September 2021

Organization Tiburon Resources

Houston, TX

Software Developer Intern

January 2021 – June 2021

Organization Chevron Information Technology Company

Houston, TX

Analytics & Data Engineering Intern in Data Analytics & Modern Data Teams

June 2020 – September 2020

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS 2026)

January 2026

- *Beyond Training: How Workers Discover Value in Enterprise AI*
 - **Riya Sahni**, Lydia B. Chilton
 - Conference Proceedings
 - Link: https://riyasahni.github.io/papers/copilot_paper.pdf

ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2025)

October 2025

- *An Experimental Study of Netflix Use and the Effects of Autoplay on Watching Behaviors*
 - Brennan Schaffner, Yaretzi Ulloa, **Riya Sahni**, Jiatong Li, Ava Kim Cohen, Natasha Messier, Lan Gao, Marshini Chetty
 - Conference Proceedings
 - Link: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3710928>

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2025) *Best Paper, Honorable Mention*

April 2025

- *DynEx: Dynamic Code Synthesis with Structured Design Exploration for Accelerated Exploratory Programming*
 - Jenny Ma, Karthik Sreedhar, Vivian Liu, Sitong Wang, Pedro Alejandro Perez, **Riya Sahni**, Lydia B. Chilton
 - Conference Proceedings
 - Link: <https://dl.acm.org/doi/full/10.1145/3706598.3714115>

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Organization** Microsoft AI Ethics and Effects in Engineering and Research (AETHER) New York, NY
Research Volunteer; Advisor: Dr. Mihaela Vorvoreanu August 2023 – September 2024
- Organization** University of Chicago Department of Computer Science Chicago, IL
• *Research Assistant; Advisor: Dr. Marshini Chetty, AIR Lab* February 2023 – January 2024
• *Research Volunteer; Advisor: Dr. Sarah Sebo, HRI Lab* March 2023 – June 2023

TEACHING

- Organization** Columbia University New York, NY
Computer Science Teaching Assistant for COMS 4170 UI Design January 2025 – June 2025
- Organization** University of Chicago Chicago, IL
Computer Science Teaching Assistant for MPC5 53001 Databases September 2022 – December 2022

SERVICE

- Organization** ReadAhead Mentorship Program New York, NY
Reading mentor to an assigned elementary school student October 2024 – Now
- Conduct bi-weekly reading sessions with an elementary school student, where we cover reading comprehension assignments, vocabulary development, and generally foster a love for reading.
- Organization** Columbia University Graduate Org for Computer Science (GrOCS) New York, NY
Founding Member and Head of Social Media/Communications December 2024 – Now
- Manage the main Instagram channel, posting about upcoming events and networking.
- Organization** Microsoft New York, NY
Lead Event Programmer for Microsoft Tristate Disability ERG NY Chapter October 2023 – September 2024
- Founded and hosted a bi-weekly lunch-and-learn series on accessibility and inclusive technology across Microsoft research, engineering, and sales divisions.
 - Co-planned a 250+ person panel discussion between Microsoft and The Eagles Autism Foundation.
 - Co-planned a 200+ person virtual toy drive between Microsoft and Holton's Heroes.