

Sarah Scheffler
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Princeton, NJ 08542

November 14, 2022

University of Washington

Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering
Seattle, WA

Dear Members of the Faculty Search Committee,

I am writing to apply for the position of Assistant Professor in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering (Interfolio ID 112600). I am currently a postdoctoral research associate at Princeton University's Center for Information Technology Policy, where I use my technical background to study both the technical and policy aspects of cryptography and cybersecurity. Now I am eager to take my research and teaching further as a professor. My applied cryptography background adds to Computer Science Department's existing strength in this area, and the University of Washington's Tech Policy Lab make it a great fit for my impactful cryptography policy research.

My research combines my technical background in cryptography with expertise in policy and law, creating a unique perspective by which to research and teach the topic. On the policy side, my recent work tackles the challenging problem of content moderation for end-to-end encryption, navigating the difficult balance between surveillance, censorship, privacy, and harm prevention. I am excited to take this work further with the students and professors of UW's Tech Policy Lab, especially Profs. Yoshi Kohno and Franz Roesner. On the technical side, I improve upon the state-of-the-art in zero-knowledge proofs, and my works "TurboIKOS" and "BooLigero" continue to be on the concrete efficiency frontier. This line of research synergizes well with the existing expertise of Profs. Rachel Lin and Stefano Tessaro.

I entered my current position at Princeton because I was attracted to its unique research environment that fosters strong interdisciplinary collaboration. I see another unique and vibrant cooperative atmosphere at UW, and I am eager to work with students and professors of both the School of CS and Engineering, and the Tech Policy Lab. With the growing importance of cryptography in our digital lives, I believe my work in cryptography brings an important asset to the School in both research and teaching.

My curriculum vitae, research statement, and teaching statement are attached. As references, you may contact Profs. Mayank Varia, Adam Smith, and Ran Canetti from Boston University, Prof. Jonathan Mayer from Princeton University, and Prof. Eran Tromer from Columbia University. I thank the search committee for your time and evaluation, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Sarah Scheffler