Serina Chang

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Most Recent CV Here

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA — Starting July 2025
Assistant Professor, Department of EECS and Computational Precision Health (joint appointment)

Microsoft Research, New York, NY — 2024-2025
Postdoctoral Researcher, Computational Social Science group

EDUCATION

Stanford University, Stanford, CA — 2019-2024
Ph.D., Computer Science
Advisors: Jure Leskovec, Johan Ugander
Thesis committee: Dan Jurafsky, Eric Horvitz, Ran Abramitzky

Columbia University, New York, NY — 2015-2019
B.A., Computer Science (major), Sociology (concentration), *magna cum laude*
Advisor: Kathleen McKeown

HONORS

Rising Stars in Data Science, University of Chicago and University of California San Diego — 2023
EECS Rising Stars, Georgia Institute of Technology — 2023
Future Faculty Symposium Scholar, Cornell University — 2023
PhD Fellowship, Computational Social Science, Meta — 2022
Best Paper Award, KDD 2021 (Applied Data Science Track) — 2021
Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation — 2019
The Finch Family Fellowship, Stanford University, School of Engineering — 2019
Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher Award, Computing Research Association — 2019
Phi Beta Kappa, Columbia University — 2019
Theodore R. Bashkow Award, Columbia University, Computer Science — 2019
Academic Excellence Award, Columbia University, Computer Science — 2019
King's Crown Leadership Award, Innovation and Enhancement, Columbia University — 2018
Dean's List (all semesters), Columbia University — 2015-2019

PAPERS

*indicates co-first authorship. †indicates a student I mentored.

[15] Learning production functions from temporal graphs
Serina Chang, Zhiyin Lin†, Benjamin Yan†, Swapnil Bembde, Qi Xiu, Chi Heem Wong, Yu Qin, Frank Kloster, Xi Luo, Raj Palleti, and Jure Leskovec
Under review
Also presented at Stanford Graph Learning Workshop 2023 (invited talk); Stanford Causal Science Conference 2023 (oral)

[14] Generating social networks with large language models
Alicja Chaszczewicz*†, **Serina Chang***, Emma Wang†, Maya Josifovska†, Emma Pierson, and Jure Leskovec
Presenting at IC^{2}S^2 2024 as **Plenary Talk** (2.8% of submissions)

[13] Inferring dynamic networks from marginals with iterative proportional fitting
Serina Chang*, Frederic Koehler*, Zhaonan Qu*, Jure Leskovec, and Johan Ugander
ICML 2024
Also presented at *Learning on Graphs* 2023

[12] Accurate measures of vaccination and concerns of vaccine holdouts from web search logs
Serina Chang, Adam Fourney, and Eric Horvitz
Nature Communications (accepted in principle)
Also presented at KDD 2023 Workshop on Epidemiology Meets Data Mining and Knowledge Discovery (oral); KDD 2023 Workshop on Data Science for Social Good (oral); IC^{2}S^2 2024 (oral)

[11] Estimating geographic spillover effects of COVID-19 policies from large-scale mobility networks
Serina Chang, Damir Vrabac†, Jure Leskovec, and Johan Ugander
AAAI 2023
Also presented at KDD 2022 Workshop on Data-driven Humanitarian Mapping and Policymaking (oral); IC^2S^2 2022

[10] Computational analysis of 140 years of US political speeches reveals more positive but increasingly polarized framing of immigration
Dallas Card, **Serina Chang**, Chris Becker, Julia Mendelsohn, Rob Voigt, Leah Boustan, Ran Abramitzky, and Dan Jurafsky
PNAS 2022
Also presented at *Conference on New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data* (TADA) 2021 (oral)

[9] To recommend or not? A model-based comparison of item-matching processes
Serina Chang and Johan Ugander
ICWSM 2022 (oral)
Also presented at IC^2S^2 2021 (oral)

[8] Data-driven real-time strategic placement of mobile vaccine distribution sites
Zakaria Mehrab, Mandy Wilson, **Serina Chang**, Galen Harrison, Bryan L. Lewis, Alex Tellionis, Justin Crowe, Dennis Kim, Scott Spillman, Kate Peters, Jure Leskovec, and Madhav Marathe
IAAI 2022

[7] Supporting COVID-19 policy response with large-scale mobility-based modeling
Serina Chang, Mandy Wilson, Bryan Lewis, Zakaria Mehrab, Komal K. Dudakiya, Emma Pierson, Pang Wei Koh, Jaline Gerardin, Beth Redbird, David Grusky, Madhav Marathe, and Jure Leskovec
KDD 2021 (oral)
Best Paper Award, Applied Data Science Track (1 out of 705 submissions)

[6] Mobility network models of COVID-19 explain inequities and inform reopening
Serina Chang*, Emma Pierson*, Pang Wei Koh*, Jaline Gerardin, Beth Redbird, David Grusky, and Jure Leskovec
Nature 2021
Also presented at Networks 2021 (oral); NeurIPS 2020 COVID-19 Symposium (invited talk); NeurIPS 2020 Machine Learning for Health Workshop
Coverage in 650+ news outlets, including *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*; ranked as #3 most online impact among 901 similar-age papers published by *Nature* (metrics)

[5] Epidemic dynamics in inhomogeneous populations and the role of superspreaders
Kyle Kawagoe*, Mark Rychnovsky*, **Serina Chang**, Greg Huber, Lucy M. Li, Jonathan Miller, Reuven Pnini, Boris Veytsman, and David Yllanes
Physical Review Research 2021

[4] The socioeconomic mobility gap: disparities in the COVID-19 pandemic
Maya Josifovska†, **Serina Chang**, and Jure Leskovec
Presented at IC^2S^2 2021

[3] Automatically inferring gender associations from language
Serina Chang and Kathleen McKeown
EMNLP 2019 (oral, short paper)

[2] Detecting gang-involved escalation on social media using context
Serina Chang, Ruiqi Zhong, Ethan Adams, Fei-Tzin Lee, Siddharth Varia, Desmond Patton, William Frey, Chris Kedzie, and Kathleen McKeown
EMNLP 2018 (oral, long paper)

[1] Crowd-sourced iterative annotation for narrative summarization corpora
Jessica Ouyang, **Serina Chang**, and Kathleen McKeown
EACL 2017 (oral, short paper)

WORK EXPERIENCE

AI Advisor, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2024-present
- Served as AI Advisor on "Project Vision: AI Unveils Tomorrow", which seeks to use AI to analyze how countries are responding to impending risks (e.g., climate change, pandemics, democratic backsliding) and adapting their development strategies

Research Intern, Microsoft Research 2022-2024

- Advised by Dr. Eric Horvitz and Dr. Adam Fourney
- Developed methods in graph ML to detect user intents from search logs and derive insights for public health

Software Engineering Intern, Google, Geo Assistant 2018
- Built a new, user-facing feature for Google Search and Assistant
- Implemented backend to parse queries in Search, worked with UX designer and PM to create frontend

Engineering Practicum Intern, Google, Search Site Reliability Engineering (SRE) 2017
- Improved internal tools for monitoring and tracking requests to Google Now

INVITED TALKS

Oxford, Networks Seminar	2024
Stanford, Big Data Methods for Behavioral, Social, and Population Health Research (EPI 270)	2024
CMU School of Computer Science, Machine Learning Department	2024
Berkeley, EECS Department & Computational Precision Health	2024
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Department of Computer Science	2024
AAAI'24 Workshop on Graphs and More Complex Structures for Learning and Reasoning	2024
University of Washington, Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering	2024
Microsoft Research NYC, Computational Social Science	2024
Columbia Business School, Decision, Risk, and Operations Division	2024
Cornell, Departments of Computer Science & Information Science	2023
Johns Hopkins, Department of Computer Science	2023
MIT, Department of Political Science & Schwarzman College of Computing	2023
NYU Stern School of Business, Department of Technology, Operations, and Statistics	2023
Learning on Graphs Conference, Stanford Meetup	2023
Northeastern, Network Science Institute Seminar	2023
Cornell Tech, Applied Data Science: Decision-Making Beyond Prediction (ORIE 5355)	2023
Stanford, Graph Learning Workshop	2023
Columbia, Analysis of Networks and Crowds (COMS 6998)	2023
Cornell Tech, Data Science for Social Change (CS 6382)	2023
NSF Predictive Intelligence for Pandemic Prevention (PIPP), PandEval Research Team	2023
NIH National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C), Machine Learning Seminar	2023
Stanford, Algorithmic Fairness Seminar	2023
Stanford, Networks (MS&E 135)	2023
Meta, Computational Social Science Seminar	2023
Stanford, Introduction to Computational Social Science (MS&E 231)	2022
Stanford, Fundamental Concepts in MS&E (MS&E 302)	2022
Cornell Tech, Urban Data (INFO 5430)	2022
Stanford, Big Data Methods for Behavioral, Social, and Population Health Research (EPI 270)	2022
OECD-ODISSEI Webinar on Open Data Infrastructure	2021
Data Science Connect Conference	2021
March for Science Podcast	2021
PathCheck Global Health Innovators Seminar	2021
Stanford, Networks (MS&E 135)	2021
Diaries of Social Data Research Podcast	2021
NeurIPS, COVID-19 Symposium	2020
AI Science Spotlight Series	2020
Global Pervasive Computational Epidemiology Seminar	2020
The Octavian Report Podcast	2020
Placekey Community Seminar	2020
Stanford, Stats ML Retreat	2020
Columbia, NLP Seminar	2019
Columbia, Emerging Scholars Program (COMS 1404)	2018

GRANTS

NSF Incorporating Human Behavior in Epidemiological Models (IHBEM) 2023
Data-driven multimodal methods for behavior-based epidemiological modeling
Total funded amount: $850,000
As a PhD student, I initiated the grant proposal, shaped the research vision, secured a letter of collaboration from Microsoft (from Dr. Eric Horvitz), and helped to write the proposal.

TEACHING

Head course assistant (CA), Stanford University, Machine Learning with Graphs (CS224W) 2021
- Managed team of 9 CAs and class of around 300 students; oversaw lecture slides, assignments, exams, and final projects
- Course material covers the foundations and state-of-the-art of machine learning with graphs, including representation learning, graph neural networks, reasoning over knowledge graphs, and algorithms for large-scale networks

Instructor, Girls Who Code, Summer Immersion Program 2019
- Served as the primary teacher for a classroom of 20 high school girls
- Taught a 7-week curriculum including Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, and Arduino

Instructional assistant, Columbia University, Data Structures in Java (COMS 3134) 2017
- Led discussion sections, held weekly office hours, and graded assignments and exams

Peer tutor, Columbia University, Computer Science Theory (COMS 3261) 2017

MENTORSHIP

Mentor, Stanford Computer Science, CURIS (undergraduate summer research) 2023

Mentor, Machine Learning for Health (ML4H), Career Mentorship Program 2023

Mentor, Stanford Computer Science, Undergraduate Mentoring Program 2022

Mentor, Stanford Engineering, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship 2021

Research mentees: Maya Josifovska, Zhiyin Lin, Daisuke Masuda, Emma Wang, Benjamin Yan (undergraduates); Damir Vrabac (master's); Alicja Chaszczewicz, Jordan Troutman (PhD)

SERVICE

Organization

Co-Chair, KDD Workshop on Epidemiology meets Data Mining and Knowledge discovery (epiDAMIK)	2024
Program Chair, Machine Learning for Health (ML4H)	2023
Co-Chair, KDD Workshop on Data Science for Social Good	2023
Panel Moderator, KDD Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Day	2023
Faculty Search Committee, Stanford Data Science and School of Engineering	2023
Organizer, NYC Digital Humanities Week, Using Computation to Analyze Gender in Film	2019

Journal reviewer

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences	2024
Science Advances	2023
Nature Human Behaviour	2022
American Journal of Sociology	2021
ACM Transactions on Spatial Algorithms and Systems	2021
npj Urban Sustainability	2021

Conference reviewer

International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC^2S^2)	2024
AAAI	2023
Machine Learning for Health	2023
EMLNP	2023
ACL Rolling Review	2023
ICWSM	2023
KDD, epiDAMIK Workshop	2023
KDD, Data Science for Social Good Workshop	2023
ACL Rolling Review	2022
Machine Learning for Health	2022
ACL, NLP for Positive Impact Workshop	2022
KDD, epiDAMIK Workshop	2022
ACL-IJCNLP	2021
Machine Learning for Health	2021
ACL, NLP for Positive Impact Workshop	2021
ICLR, AI for Public Health Workshop	2021