Smirity Kaushik

Award-winning qualitative user experience and technology researcher with over 5 years of experience
smirity2@illinois.edu.edu | +6073793830 | Website | Twitter | Linkedin

EDUCATION

PH.D. IN INFORMATION COMPUTER SCIENCE
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Jan 2021 - May 2025 (expected) | Urbana-Champaign, IL, USA

MS IN INFORMATION AND HUMAN COMPUTER INTERACTION
Syracuse University
Aug 2017 - May 2019 | Syracuse, NY, USA

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR SECURITY AND PRIVACY |Visiting Research Scholar
May – Aug 2023, Jan - Aug 2024 | Bochum, Germany
- Conducted cross-cultural **survey** with 400 participants from the United States, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh to evaluate perceptions about targeted ads.
- Defined and led a **mixed-method** study to investigate deceptive ads targeting young adults on Short Video-Sharing Platforms (SVSPs)

SOCIAL COMPUTING SYSTEMS LAB (SALT) |Graduate Researcher
Aug 2018 – Aug 2019, Jan 2021 - May 2023 | Champaign, IL
- Planned and executed an **experiment** study with 20 blind and low-vision participants to evaluate the usability and effectiveness of a browser extension designed to enhance website accessibility.
- Conducted a transnational **survey** with 400 users from the US and UK to analyze preferred attributes of automated decisions by machine algorithms.

ERNST & YOUNG (EY) Data Protection and Privacy Consultant
Sep 2019 - Jan 2021
- Automated CCPA compliance of third-party service contracts for a $3.2B utility company.
- Conducted independent privacy assessment of a $1T technology company.
- Worked cross-functionally with data science and marketing teams of a $1T technology company to manage privacy reviews.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Smirity Kaushik, Natã M. Barbosa, Yaman Yu, Tanusree Sharma, Zachary Kilhoffer, JooYoung Seo, Sauvik Das, and Yang Wang. GuardLens: Supporting Safer Online Browsing for People with Visual Impairments. *SOUPS, 2023.*

Smirity Kaushik, Yaxing Yao, Pierre Dewitte, and Yang Wang. "How I Know For Sure": People's Perspectives on Solely Automated Decision-Making(SADM). *SOUPS, 2021.* [IAPP Privacy Award]

Jordan Hayes, **Smirity Kaushik**, Charlotte Emily Price, and Yang Wang. Cooperative privacy and security: Learning from people with visual impairments and their allies. *SOUPS, 2019.* [IAPP Privacy Award]

SKILLS

PROGRAMMING
Proficient:
R • Python • LATEX
Familiar:
JavaScript • HTML • CSS

RESEARCH METHODS
Qualitative:
Semi-structured interviews • Focus groups •Participatory design • Ethnographic research •Diary studies •Usability testing
Quantitative:
Surveys • Experimental design •Log analysis

LANGUAGES
Hindi (native) • English (full proficiency)

SELECTED RESEARCH

AWARDS
2023 NSF PrivaCI Fellow
2021 Google CS Research Mentorship Program Scholar
2021, 2019 SOUPS Privacy Award
2019 John R. Weitzel Memorial Scholar for Information Systems Research
2017 Information Management Faculty Engagement Scholar fellowship

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE
WIPS workshop Paper Co-chair 2023, 2022
Corporate Chair ACM-Women in Computing, UIUC-iSchool chapter
Student Representative Doctoral Studies Committee (DSC), iSchool, UIUC 2021
External Reviewer ACM CHI, ACM CSCW, ACM FAccT

TEACHING
Fall '23 User Research & Evaluation (IS 236)