

# Smirity Kaushik

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## Research interests

My research lies at the intersection of HCI, tech policy, and social computing for emerging technologies such as AI and is oriented around answering the question: *How can we ensure online trust and safety experiences are inclusive and equitable for all, particularly for vulnerable and understudied populations, when interacting with emerging technologies?* Previously, I was a Privacy Consultant at Ernst & Young (EY), where I developed, managed, and audited privacy programs for tech clients in Silicon Valley and the Greater Seattle Area.

## Employments

- 2023 - 2024 **Visiting Research Scholar**  
Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy | Bochum, Germany
- 2021 - 2023 **Graduate Student Research Assistant**  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, School of Information Sciences | Champaign, IL, United States
- 2019 - 2021 **Data Protection and Privacy Consultant**  
Ernst & Young | San Francisco, CA, United States
- 2017 - 2019 **Graduate Student Research Assistant**  
Syracuse University, School of Information Studies | Syracuse, NY, United States

## Education

- 2025 (expected) **Ph.D. in Information Sciences**, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2019 **M.S. in Information Management**, Syracuse University, School of Information Studies
- 2017 **Bachelor of Laws – B.A. LL.B., (U.S. J.D. equivalent)**, University of Delhi, Faculty of Law
- 2014 **B.A.(H) History**, University of Delhi, Lady Shri Ram College

## Honors & Awards

- 2024 **Gary Marsden Travel Award**  
Awarded financial support to attend the CHI 2024 conference.
- 2024 **President's Research in Diversity Travel Assistance Award**  
Awarded travel assistance to attend the CHI 2024 conference.
- 2023 **Computing Research Association (CRA) Grad Cohort Workshop for Women Scholar**  
Awarded a scholarship to attend CRA Grad Cohort Workshop for Women Scholars
- 2021 **IAPP Privacy award**  
For "How I Know For Sure": People's Perspectives on Solely Automated Decision-Making(SADM).
- 2021 **Google CS Research Mentorship Program Mentee (CSRMP 2021)**  
Received career and research mentorship from a Googler Mentor for a quarter.

- 2019 **John R. Weitzel Memorial Award Scholar for Information Systems Research**  
Awarded by Syracuse University, iSchool, to the top graduate student for demonstrating excellence in the area of information systems through coursework and research.
- 2018 **IAPP Privacy award**  
For *Cooperative privacy and security: Learning from people with visual impairments and their allies*.
- 2018 **Grace Hopper Conference 2018 (GHC'18) Scholar**  
Awarded full scholarship to attend the world's largest conference of women in computing.

## Funding

### Grants

- 2021 **Meta Research Award: Global South Citizens' Privacy Perceptions and Management of Targeted Ads on Social Media.**  
Co-PI with Yang Wang (PI, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Tanusree Sharma (Co-PI, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign), Yaman Yu (Co-PI, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign). \$100,000.

### Fellowships

- 2017 **Information Management Faculty Engagement Scholar (IMFES) fellowship**  
Awarded by Syracuse University, iSchool, to conduct research under the mentorship of a faculty member.

## Publications

*Conferences are the top-tier academic publishing venues in computer science and information science (CS/IS). Thus, the majority of my research is published in CS/IS conference proceedings.*

*\* co-first authorship.*

Journal and Conference Proceedings (Heavily Peer-reviewed)

- [C7] **Design and evaluation of inclusive email security indicators for people with visual impairments**  
Yaman Yu, Saidivya Ashok, Smirity Kaushik, Yang Wang, Gang Wang  
IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (SP). 2023.  
[https://gangw.cs.illinois.edu/Gmail\\_sp23.pdf](https://gangw.cs.illinois.edu/Gmail_sp23.pdf)
- [C6] **User perceptions and experiences of targeted ads on social media platforms: Learning from Bangladesh and India**  
Tanusree Sharma\*, Smirity Kaushik\*, Yaman Yu\*, Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, Yang Wang  
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI). 2023.  
<https://dl.acm.org/doi/abs/10.1145/3544548.3581498>
- [C5] **ImageAlly: A Human-AI Hybrid Approach to Support Blind People in Detecting and Redacting Private Image Content**  
Zhuohao Jerry Zhang, Smirity Kaushik, JooYoung Seo, Haolin Yuan, Sauvik Das, Leah Findlater, Danna Gurari, Abigale Stangl, Yang Wang  
Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS). 2023.  
<https://www.usenix.org/system/files/soups2023-zhang.pdf>

- [C4] **GuardLens: Supporting Safer Online Browsing for People with Visual Impairments**  
 Smirity Kaushik, Natã M Barbosa, Yaman Yu, Tanusree Sharma, Zachary Kilhoffer, JooYoung Seo, Sauvik Das, Yang Wang  
 Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS). 2023.  
<https://www.usenix.org/system/files/soups2023-kaushik.pdf>
- [J1] **“Every Website Is a Puzzle!”: Facilitating Access to Common Website Features for People with Visual Impairments**  
 Natã M Barbosa, Jordan Hayes, Smirity Kaushik, Yang Wang  
 ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS) (15), 1-35. 2022.  
<https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3519032>
- [C3] **“How I Know For Sure”: People’s Perspectives on Solely Automated Decision-Making(SADM)**   
 Smirity Kaushik, Yaxing Yao, Pierre Dewitte, Yang Wang  
 Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS). 2021.  
<https://www.usenix.org/system/files/soups2021-kaushik.pdf>  
*SOUPS IAPP Privacy Award.*
- Defending my castle: A co-design study of privacy mechanisms for smart homes**
- [C2] Yaxing Yao, Justin Reed Basdeo, Smirity Kaushik, Yang Wang  
 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI). 2019.  
<https://dl.acm.org/doi/pdf/10.1145/3290605.3300428>
- [C1] **Cooperative privacy and security: Learning from people with visual impairments and their allies**   
 Jordan Hayes, Smirity Kaushik, Charlotte Emily Price, Yang Wang  
 Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS). 2019.  
<https://www.usenix.org/system/files/soups2019-hayes.pdf>  
*SOUPS IAPP Privacy Award.*
- Workshops and Panels Co-organized
- [WP1] **Workshop on Inclusive Privacy and Security**  
 Taslima Akter, Kevin Butler, Joe Calandrino, Lynne Coventry, Sanchari Das, Roberto Hoyle, Smirity Kaushik, Ada Lerner, Abigail Marsh, Imani N. S. Munyaka, Lucy Qin, Shruti Sannon, Yang Wang, Noel Warford, Yaxing Yao, Tanusree Sharma,  
 Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS). 2015 - 2024.
- Workshop Papers (Lightly Peer-reviewed)
- [W2] **Cross-Country Examination of People’s Experience with Targeted Advertising on Social Media**  
 Smirity Kaushik, Tanusree Sharma, Yaman Yu, Amna F. Ali, Yang Wang, Yixin Zou  
 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) Late-Breaking Work. 2024.
- [W1] **Enabling Privacy by Design in GDPR: An Analysis of Industry Tool Support**  
 Smirity Kaushik, Yang Wang  
 CHI Workshop on General Data Protection Regulation. 2018.

## Technical Reports

### [T1] **Copyright and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Gowri Saini Balasubramaniam, Sara Rachel Benson, Anita Say Chan, Keith Jacobs, Karen V Jenkins, Smirity Kaushik, Jiaqi Ma, Madelyn Rose Sanfilippo, Eryclis Rodrigues Bezerra Silva, Emmy Tither, Michael Twidale, Ted E Underwood, Yaman Yu, Kyrie Zhou

Public comments submitted to the US Copyright Office via the notice of inquiry on “Copyright and Artificial Intelligence (AI)”. 2023.

<https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/items/128265/bitstreams/428897/data.pdf>

## Teaching Experience

### Graduate Student Instructor

Fall 2023 **IS 236: User Research & Evaluation** | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### Guest Lectures

2023 IS 236: User Research & Evaluation | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

“How to conduct online surveys? A case study” (1 lecture)

2023 Sparkling Science speaker series | Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy (MPI-SP)

“Supporting Safer Online Browsing for People with Visual Impairments” (1 lecture)

## Mentoring

2023 Gauri Nayak (Master’s, University of Washington → Ph.D., Cornell University)

2018 J.R. Basdeo (undergraduate, Syracuse University)

2018 Megha Jakhotia (Master’s, Syracuse University)

## Service

### Paper Chair

2023 Workshop on Inclusive Privacy and Security: Paper Chair with Imani N. S. Munyaka

2022 Workshop on Inclusive Privacy and Security: Paper Chair with Taslima Akter

### Conference Volunteering

2024 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)

2021 Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS)

2021 Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)

### External Reviewer

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)

ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)

IEEE Security and Privacy

Symposium for Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS)

ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)

ACM Conversational User Interface (CUI)