Smirity Kaushik

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RESEARCH INTEREST

My research interests lie at the intersection of Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), privacy, and policies. I am particularly interested in improving the online privacy experiences of marginalized and vulnerable population groups.

EDUCATION

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, School of Information Sciences, Champaign, IL, GPA: 3.8/4.0 expected May'25
Ph.D. Information Sciences

Syracuse University, School of Information Studies, iSchool, Syracuse, NY, GPA: 4.0/4.0 May'19
Master of Science in Information Management

University of Delhi, Faculty of Law, New Delhi, India, **GPA: 3.5/4.0** Jun'17
Bachelor of Laws –B.A. LL.B. *(U.S. J.D. equivalent)*

University of Delhi, Lady Shri Ram College, New Delhi, India, **GPA: 3.7/4.0** Jun'14
Bachelor of Arts in History

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy, Bochum, Germany May'18 – *present*
Visiting Scholar, PI: Yixin Zou

- Ongoing usable privacy and security research in Ad Fraud, targeting young adults

Graduate Research Student, UIUC-iSchool, Champaign, IL. Jan'21– *present*
Ph.D. student *(Co-Advisors: Dr. Yang Wang, Dr. Madelyn Sanfilippo)*

User perception of Ads privacy and safety in the South Asia Dec'21 – *present*

- Leading a **survey** study to examine the generalizability of findings from the interview study with participants from India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh, situated in their cultural, social, and economic contexts *(on-going)*.
- Led an **interview** study with 40 participants from India and Bangladesh to explore users' perceptions and experiences of targeted ad privacy on social media platforms. Analyzed results qualitatively. **Full paper accepted at CHI 2023**.

Collaborative Privacy and Security Practices for People with Visual Impairment Jan'21 – *present*

- Led an **experiment study** testing usability of a browser extension tool, Guardlens, developed in-house to improve the accessibility of privacy/security cues of websites for people with visual impairments. Analyzed results using a **mixed-method** approach. **Full paper accepted at SOUPS 2023**
- Assisted in an **experiment study** testing usability of an app, ImageAlly, developed in-house to support people with visual impairments to make their photo sharing experience safer and free of unnecessary private and sensitive information. **Full paper accepted at SOUPS 2023**

SALT (Social Computing Systems) lab, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY. Aug'17 – Aug'19
Research Assistant *(Advisor: Prof. Yang Wang)*

GDPR Vendor Tool Analysis Aug'17 – Jan'18

- Created framework for GDPR compliance by companies and analyzed over 50 3rd party vendors, based on IAPP privacy report 2017, which meets compliance standards as per EU-GDPR.
- Specifically analyzed tool features offered by vendors to enable "Privacy by Design" in compliance with GDPR. **Paper published at CHI-GDPR Workshop, 2018**.

Co-operative Privacy Management for people with visual impairments Mar'18 – Jul'19

- Assisted in conducting ethnographic study and writing paper for inclusive privacy project that aims to provide effective privacy management for people with visual impairment. **Full paper accepted at SOUPS 2019. Awarded IAPP Privacy Award.**
- Assisted in conducting interview study for "accessible web technology" project for people with visual impairment.

IoT Smart Home Privacy Jun'18 – Sep'18

- Assisted in conducting focus group-based participatory design study sessions with users from varied demographics.
- Brainstormed privacy and security implications of smart home IoT devices to co-design solutions using Privacy by Design (PbD) approach. **Full paper accepted at CHI 2019**.

Understandable AI and User Privacy Rights (EU-GDPR) Jun'18 – May'21

- Lead a three-member team for a transnational study on privacy rights, with users from US and UK and designed survey to capture users' perceptions of the privacy rights under the GDPR.
- Analyzed users' understanding of the Right against 'solely' automated decision making and attributes of automated decision by machine algorithm to explain. Used qualitative thematic coding analysis for result synthesis. **Full paper accepted at SOUPS 2021.**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ernst & Young (EY), San Francisco, US   Sep'19 – Jan'21
Data Protection and Privacy Consultant
- **CCPA compliance–** Automated CCPA compliance of third-party service contracts for a $3.2B utility company.
- **FTC Privacy Assessment–** Conducted independent privacy assessment of a $1T technology company
- **Privacy Ops Management–** Managed privacy reviews of projects for data science team of a $1T technology company

MitKat Advisory Services, New Delhi, India   Feb – Mar'17
 Risk Management and Compliance Intern
- **Regulatory Risk–** Analyzed ISO/IEC 27001 regulations to identify reasonable security practices to protect sensitive user data such as Personally Identifiable Information (PII) and Protected Health Information (PHI).
- **Corporate Due-Diligence–** Performed due diligence for a $40B pharmaceutical client and saved $200M by identifying fraudulent online sale of the client's medicines through mobile applications.

Ernst & Young (EY) – PDS Legal, New Delhi, India   Feb – Mar'16
 Corporate Tax Law & Technology Intern
- **Merger Management–** Performed due diligence during acquisition process for a leading $2.5B e-commerce company, and analyzed whether target (acquisition candidate) was in compliance with parent firm's financial and privacy protection guidelines.
- **Cloud Technology Analysis–** Assessed viability of classifying cloud computing transactions as a tangible asset for taxation under the Income Tax Act of India.

SKILLS

Research Methodology: Qualitative Thematic Analysis; Survey Designing; Text analysis (in R, Python); Quantitative Analysis (in R), Machine Learning (in R)
Tools: Microsoft Office Suite (Word, PowerPoint, Project, Excel, Access), Invision (Product design tool), Creately (CASE Tool), Google Analytics, Tableau, R Commander; LaTex (Overleaf), Dedoose (Data analysis tool), Atlas.ti (Data analysis tool);
Programming Languages: R Programming, Basic understanding of Python, and C++

PUBLICATIONS

Conference Paper:
- **Kaushik, S.**, Barbosa, N. M., Yu, Y., Sharma, T., Killhoffer, Z., Seo, J., Das, S., & Wang, Y.: GuardLens: Supporting Safer Online Browsing for People with Visual Impairments. In 19th Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2023)
- Zhang, Z., **Kaushik, S.,** Haolin, Y., Seo, J., Stangl, A., Findlater, L., Das, S., & Wang, Y.: ImageAlly: Human-AI Hybrid Approach to Support Blind People in Detecting and Redacting Private Image Content. In 19th Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2023)
- **Kaushik, S.***, Sharma, T.*, Yu, Y., Ahmed, SI., & Wang, Y. (2023). User Perceptions and Experiences of Targeted Ads on Social Media Platforms: Learning from Bangladesh and India. In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. (Note: * = equal authorship)
- **Kaushik, S.**, Yao, Y., Dewitte, P., & Wang, Y. (2021). "How I know for sure": People's perspectives on solely automated decision-making (SADM). In 17th Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security, SOUPS 2021 (pp. 159-180). USENIX Association.
- Hayes, J., **Kaushik, S.**, Price, C. E., & Wang, Y. (2019). Cooperative privacy and security: Learning from people with visual impairments and their allies. In 15th Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2019) (pp. 1-20). (IAPP Award 2019).
- Yao, Y., Basdeo, J. R., **Kaushik, S.**, & Wang, Y. (2019, May). Defending my castle: A co-design study of privacy mechanisms for smart homes. In Proceedings of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-12).

Journal Paper:
- Barbosa, N. M., Hayes, J., **Kaushik, S.**, & Wang, Y. (2022). "Every Website Is A Puzzle!": Facilitating Access to Common Website Features for People with Visual Impairments. ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS).

Workshop Paper:
- **Kaushik, S.**, & Wang, Y. : Enabling Privacy by Design in GDPR: An Analysis of Industry Tool Support. Accepted at CHI-GDPR Workshop titled "The General Data Protection Regulation, an opportunity for the HCI Community?" (CHI 2018).

Seminar Paper published:
- **Kaushik, S.**, & Chawla. J.S.: Interoperability and Standardization of IoT Technology: A Legal perspective. Accepted at Osmania

University Seminar titled "National Seminar on Information Technology and Law – Issues, Concerns, and Challenges" (2016).

HONORS AND AWARDS

- **Computing Research Association (CRA) Grad Cohort Workshop for Women Scholar 2023 -** Awarded scholarship to attend CRA Grad Cohort Workshop for Women scholars held in San Francisco, CA on Apr 20-23, 2023.
- **NSF travel award (Award ID 2240232)** – Awarded the travel grant o attend the 4th Annual Applications of Contextual Integrity (PrivaCI) symposium held at CornellTech in NYC on Sept 22/23, 2022.
- **Google CS Research Mentorship Program Mentee (CSRMP 2021)** – Accepted to the class of 2021B Google's CSRMP Program to receive career and research mentorship from a Googler Mentor for a quarter.
- **ACM-W vGHC21 Volunteer Staff Member** (virtual conference) – Selected as one of 10 students globally to represent Association for Computing Machinery's Council on Women in Computing (ACM-W) at the 2021 Grace Hopper Celebration (vGHC21), the world's largest gathering for women in computing. Awarded full scholarship.
- **IAPP Privacy Award 2021 (SOUPS 2021)** (virtual conference) - Awarded IAPP Privacy award for presenting first 1st - authored paper on People's Perspectives on Solely Automated Decision-Making (SADM) at the Seventeenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2021) conference.
- **SOUPS Student Grant (SOUPS 2021)** (virtual conference) – Awarded full scholarship to attend SOUPS 2021, a premier venue for usable privacy and security research with a 26% acceptance rate for 2021.
- **SOUPS Student Volunteer (SOUPS 2021)** (virtual conference) – Selected as student volunteer for Seventeenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2021).
- **CHI Student Volunteer (CHI'21)** (virtual conference) - Selected as student volunteer for Conference on Human Computer Interaction (CHI) 2021. Also selected for Accessibility Task Force as a point of contact for accessibility support during conference.
- **IAPP Privacy Award 2019 (SOUPS 2019)** at Santa Clara, CA- Awarded IAPP Privacy award for presenting a paper on inclusive privacy for people with visual impairment at the Fifteenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2019) conference.
- **John R. Weitzel Memorial Award Scholar 2019 for Information Systems Research** at Syracuse, NY, 13210- Awarded graduate award for demonstrating excellence in the area of information systems through coursework and research.
- **Grace Hopper Conference 2018 (GHC'18) Scholar** at Houston, TX– Awarded full scholarship to attend the world's largest conference of women in computing.
- **Information Management Faculty Engagement Scholar (IMFES) merit fellowship (2017)** at Syracuse University, iSchool.

Leadership

- **WIPS PC Co-chair** at SOUPS 7th "Workshop on Inclusive Privacy and Security" (WIPS 2022)
- **Corporate Chair** at ACM-W UIUC-iSchool chapter, School of Information Sciences, UIUC (2021)
- **PhD Student Representative** at the Doctoral Studies Committee (DSC), School of Information Sciences, UIUC (2021)
- **Graduate Student Representative** at the Syracuse University, School of Information Studies (2019)
- **Corporate Chair and Board Member, Women in Technology (WiT) Organization** at Syracuse University (2017-19)
- **President, Moot Court Society** at University of Delhi, Faculty of Law (2015-17)

CERTIFICATION

- **Certified Information Privacy Professional– United States (CIPP/US).** Issued by International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP). No Expiration Date.
- **Collaborative Institutional Program Training (CITI) Program course**. Basic/Refresher Course – Human Subjects Research (Curriculum Group), Social/Behavioral Research Course (Course Learner Group), 1 - Basic Course (Stage). Record ID: 24252143. Expiration Date: Jan, 2024.

RELEVANT COURSE WORK

Ph.D. level: 54 credits

- **Spring 2021 (**13 credit): IS 529 (Doctoral Pro-Seminar); IS 517 (Methods of Data Science); IS 509 (History and Foundations of IS); IS 507 (Data, Info, and Stats);
- **Fall 2021** (9 credit): IS 519 (Research Design in IS); IS 529 (Doctoral Pro-Seminar); IS 597 (Responsible Data Science & AI)
- **Spring 2022** (12 credits): IS 567 (Text Mining); SOC 280 (Intro to Social Statistics); IS 589 (Independent Study); ESL 592 (Advanced Academic Writing)
- **Summer 2022** (4 credits): IS 445 (Data Visualization)
- **Fall 2022** (14 credits): IS 589 (Independent Study); Privacy Reading Group; EPSY 575 (Mixed-Method Inquiry); CS 598 (Usable Cybersecurity and Privacy);
- **Spring 2023** (12 credits): IS 586 (Usability Engineering); IS 589 (Independent Study);

Master's level: 42 credits
- **Fall 2017** *(12 credits)***:** IST 649 (**Human Computer Interaction**); IST 728/LAW 800 (**Information Security Policy**); IST 614 (Management for Information Professionals); IST 621 (Introduction to Information Management)
- **Spring 2018** *(12 credits)***:** IST 800 (**Privacy, Policy, Law, and Technology-*Doctoral level***); IST 625 (Enterprise Risk Management); IST 654 (Information System Analysis; SCM 651 (Business Analytics)
- **Summer 2018** *(3 credits)***:** IST 971 (Internship – Research intern, SALT Lab (iSchool, SU)
- **Fall 2018** *(9 credits)***:** IST 690 (**Independent Study – Privacy, policy research**); IST 618 (Information Policy); IST 621 (Introduction to Information Security); IST 645 (A)(Project Management)
- **Spring 2019** *(6 credits)***:** IST 704 (Applied Information Security); IST 820 (**Research Seminar - Innovations in Digital Data Analysis with R-*Doctoral level***)

Academic Reviewer

Reviewed papers for ACM FAccT, CHI, SOUPS, CSCW