

# Shiza Ali

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*Postdoctoral Associate in the Department of Computer  
Science at George Washington University*

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## Positions

- 7/2025–  
Present **Postdoctoral Associate**, *George Washington University*, Washington, DC  
Department of Computer Science
- Research on the intersection of natural language processing, machine learning, and human-computer interaction
  - **Lecturer**: CSCI 6202: Systems Foundations, Department of Computer Science
- 8/2024–  
7/2025 **Postdoctoral Scholar**, *University of Washington*, Bothell, WA  
Department of Computer Science
- Worked with RAISE LAB (Responsibility in AI Systems & Experiences) to understand the fairness and privacy in generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and large language models (LLMs).
  - **Lecturer**: CSS 488: Natural Language Processing, Department of Computer Science
- 9/2019–  
5/2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Boston University*, Boston, MA  
Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering
- **Graduate Teaching Assistant**: Applied Algorithms for Engineers (EC330), Department of Computer Engineering
- 02/2019–  
09/2019 **Developer Advocate**, *Educative, Inc.*, Pakistan  
Designed and developed interactive training courses on Data Structures, Algorithms, Python, and C++.

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## Education

- 2019–2024 **PhD in Computer Engineering**, *Boston University*, Boston, MA,  
Dissertation title: “Youth, Social media, and Online safety: a holistic approach towards detecting and mitigating risks in online conversations” – Advisor Gianluca Stringhini
- 2014–2018 **Bachelor of Computer Science**, *National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (NUCES)*, Lahore, Pakistan, *Grade*  
Magna Cum Laude | 1st Position in a batch of 400 students

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## Awards

- 2023 **Meta Research PhD Fellowship**, *META*  
Privacy and Data Practices
- 2023 **Rising Star in Social Computing and Public Policy**, *University of Iowa*
- 2023 **Impact Recognition Award**, *ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)*  
Award for the paper “Sliding into My DMs: Detecting Uncomfortable or Unsafe Sexual Risk Experiences within Instagram Direct Messages Grounded in the Perspective of Youth”

- 2023 **SIGCHI Gary Marsden Travel Award**, *ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)*
- 2022 **Honorable Mention Award**, *ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*  
Award for the paper “Award for the paper “Understanding the Digital Lives of Youth: Analyzing Media Shared within Safe Versus Unsafe Private Conversations on Instagram”
- 2022 **IEEE S&P Student Grant**

## Publications

### Conference Proceedings

M. H. Saeed, **S. Ali**, P. Paudel, J. Blackburn, G. Stringhini, Unraveling the Web of Disinformation: Exploring the Larger Context of State-Sponsored Influence Campaigns on Twitter. In *International Symposium on Research in Attacks, Intrusions and Defenses (RAID)*, 2024.

**S. Ali**, A. Razi, S. Kim, A. Alsoubai, J. Gracie, M. De Chouwhury, P. Wisniewski, G. Stringhini. Understanding the Digital Lives of Youth: Analyzing Media Shared within Safe Versus Unsafe Private Conversations on Instagram. In *ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*, 2022.

M. H. Saeed, **S. Ali**, J. Blackburn, E. De Cristofaro, S. Zannettou, G. Stringhini. Troll-Magnifier: Detecting State-Sponsored Troll Accounts on Reddit. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (Oakland)*, 2022.

**S. Ali**, M. H. Saeed, E. Aldreabi, J. Blackburn, E. De Cristofaro, S. Zannettou, G. Stringhini. Understanding the Effect of Deplatforming on Social Networks. In *ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci)*, 2021.

R. Tahir, F. Ahmed, M. H. Saeed, **S. Ali**, F. Zaffar, C. Wilson. Bringing the kid back into Youtube kids: Detecting inappropriate content on video streaming platforms. In *Proceedings of the IEEE/ACM International Conference on Advances in Social Networks Analysis and Mining (ASONAM)*, 2019.

### Journals

G. Kalhor, **S. Ali**, A. Mashhadi. Measuring biases in AI-generated co-authorship networks. In *EPJ Data Science*. 2025

A. Alsoubai, A. Razi, Z. Agha, **S. Ali**, G. Stringhini, M. De Choudhury, P. Wisniewski. Profiling the Offline and Online Risk Experiences of Youth to Develop Targeted Interventions for Online Safety. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human Computer Interaction (CSCW)*, 2024.

**S. Ali**, A. Razi, A. Alsoubai, S. Kim, C. Ling, M. De Choudhury, P. Wisniewski, G. Stringhini. Getting Meta: A Multimodal Approach for Detecting Unsafe Conversations within Instagram Direct Messages of Youth. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human Computer Interaction (CSCW)*, 2023.

A. Razi, S. Kim, A. Alsoubai, **S. Ali**, G. Stringhini, M. De Choudhury, P. Wisniewski. Sliding into My DMs: Detecting Uncomfortable or Unsafe Sexual Risk Experiences within Instagram Direct Messages Grounded in the Perspective of Youth. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human Computer Interaction (CSCW)*, 2023.

### Workshop Proceedings

A. Razi, A. Alsoubai, S. Kim, N. Naher, **S. Ali**, G. Stringhini, M. De Choudhury, P. J. Wisniewski. Instagram Data Donation: A Case Study on Collecting Ecologically Valid Social Media Data for the Purpose of Adolescent Online Risk Detection. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA)*, 2022.

X. Caddle, A. Soubai, A. Razi, S. Kim, **S. Ali**, G. Stringhini, M. De Chowdhury, P. Wisniewski. Instagram Data Donation: A Case for Partnering with Social Media Platforms to Protect Adolescents Online. In *Social Media as a Design and Research Site in HCI: Mapping Out Opportunities and Envisioning Future Uses Workshop*, 2021.

X. Caddle, A. Razi, S. Kim, **S. Ali**, T. Popo, G. Stringhini, M. De Choudhury, and P. J. Wisniewski. MOSafely: Building an Open-Source HCAI Community to Make the Internet a Safer Place for Youth. In *In Companion Publication of the 2021 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW Companion)*, 2021.

A. Razi, S. Kim, A., A. Soubai, X. Caddle, **S. Ali**, G. Stringhini, M. De Chowdhury, P. Wisniewski. Teens at the Margin: Artificially Intelligent Technology for Promoting Adolescent Online Safety. In *Artificially Intelligent Technology for the Margins: A Multidisciplinary Design Agenda Workshop*, 2021.

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### Services

2025 **Reviewer**, *ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*

2025 **Reviewer**, *USENIX Security Symposium*  
Artifact Evaluation

2025 **Program Committee Member**, *ACM Web Science Conference 2025*

2025 **Reviewer**, *AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM 2025)*

2024 **Associate Chair - Poster Session**, *ACM SIGCHI Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW)*

2024 **Reviewer**, *ACM SIGCHI Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW)*

2024 **Reviewer**, *AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM 2025)*

2023 **Reviewer**, *ACM SIGCHI Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW)*

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### Teaching

2025 **In progress**, *System Programming*, George Washington University  
Department of Computer Science

- 2025 **CS488**, *Natural Language Processing*, University of Washington-Bothell  
Department of Computer Science
- 2021-2022 **EC330**, *Applied Algorithms for Engineers*, Boston University  
Graduate Teaching Fellow

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### Invited Talks

- 02/25/2025 **Why so Toxic? Leveraging Large Language Models for Content Moderation**,  
*University of Washington*
- 10/9/2025 **Towards Tackling Online Hate**, *Indiana University*, Luddy School of Informatics,  
Computing, and Engineering
- 12/1/2023 **Tackling Malicious Activity Online**, *University of Iowa*