Shiza Ali shizah@live.com | shizaali.com

Interests

Human-Computer Interaction, Social Computing, Machine Learning, Adolescent Online Safety, Usable Privacy, and Security.

EDUCATION

Boston University

Sept. 2019 – May 2024

PhD in Computer Engineering

CGPA: 3.96/4.00

• Advisor: Dr. Gianluca Stringhini

• Awarded Meta Research Ph.D. Fellowship Finalist, 2023

National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences (NUCES)

Sept. 2014 - May 2018

Bachelor of Computer Science

CGPA: 3.82/4.00

• Magna Cum Laude — 1st Position in a batch of 400 students

EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Scholar: Computational Models and Software Systems

Aug 2024 - Present

University of Washington

Seattle, WA

• Working at RAISE LAB (Responsibility in AI Systems and Experiences) to understand the fairness and privacy of AI models.

Graduate Researcher

Aug. 2019 - May 2024

Boston University (SeclaBU)

Boston, MA

- Developed data-driven machine-learning models to mitigate risks and abusive behavior online.
- Published significant research in leading conferences, including IEEE(S&P), WebSci, CHI, CSCW etc.

Graduate Teacher's Fellow

Sep. 2020 - May. 2021

Boston University

Boston, MA

• I conducted labs for Applied Algorithms for Engineers Course (EC330) and worked with a class of 50 students to teach them the core concepts of algorithms and programming in C++.

Software Engineer

Feb. 2019 - Aug. 2019

Educative, Inc

Bellevue, WA (Remote)

- Designed and developed interactive training courses on Data Structures, Algorithms, Python and C++.
- Collaborated across teams to deliver 8 new features for the Educative online learning platform.
- Orchestrated the launch of Edpresso (Educative's SEO campaign) by managing a team of 20+ Developers. Spearheaded requirement gathering and stakeholder alignment to ensure project objectives were clearly defined and met.

Research Associate

Feb. 2018 - Feb. 2019

Technology for People Initiative Lab, LUMS

Lahore, Pakistan

- Mentored new students, managed the website, and led 3 research projects.
- Conducted research in internet measurement, social media algorithm auditing, and web scraping.
- Collaborated on a project to create a deep learning pipeline that uses multiple video features to accurately detect child-inappropriate content on YouTube. Published at IEEE ASONAM'19.

Software Engineer Intern

Jun. 2017 - Aug. 2017

Mindstorm Studios

Lahore, Pakistan

• Served as a full-stack developer and deployed HTML5 game online.

Conference

- Mohammad H. Saeed, **Shiza Ali**, Pujan Paudel, Jeremy Blackburn, and Gianluca Stringhini. "Unraveling the Web of Disinformation: Exploring the Larger Context of State-Sponsored Influence Campaigns on Twitter." (RAID'24).
- Shiza Ali, Afsaneh Razi, Seunghyun Kim, Ashwaq Alsoubai, Joshua Gracie, Munmun De Choudhury, Pamela J. Wisniewski, and Gianluca Stringhini. "Understanding the digital lives of youth: Analyzing media shared within safe versus unsafe private conversations on Instagram." *Best Paper: Honorable Mention Award (ACM CHI'22).
- Mohammad. H. Saeed, **Shiza Ali**, Jeremy Blackburn, Emiliano De Cristofaro, Savvas Zannettou, and Gianluca Stringhini. "Trollmagnifier: Detecting state-sponsored troll accounts on Reddit." (IEEE S&P'22).
- Shiza Ali, Mohammad H. Saeed, Esraa Aldreabi, Jeremy Blackburn, Emiliano De Cristofaro, Savvas Zannettou, and Gianluca Stringhini. "Understanding the effect of deplatforming on social networks." (ACM WebSci'21).
- Rashid Tahir, Faizan Ahmed, Mohammad H. Saeed, **Shiza Ali**, Fareed Zaffar, and Christo Wilson. "Bringing the kid back into YouTube kids: Detecting inappropriate content on video streaming platforms." (IEEE/ACM ASONAM'19).

Journal

- Ashwaq AlSoubai, Afsaneh Razi, Zainab Agha, **Shiza Ali**, Gianluca Stringhini, Munmun De Choudhury, and Pamela J. Wisniewski. "Profiling the Offline and Online Risk Experiences of Youth to Develop Targeted Interventions for Online Safety" (ACM CSCW'24).
- Shiza Ali, Afsaneh Razi, Seunghyun Kim, Ashwaq Alsoubai, Chen Ling, Munmun De Choudhury, Pamela J. Wisniewski, and Gianluca Stringhini. "Getting Meta: A Multimodal Approach for Detecting Unsafe Conversations within Instagram Direct Messages of Youth." (ACM CSCW'23).
- Afsaneh Razi, Ashwaq AlSoubai, Seunghyun Kim, Shiza Ali, Gianluca Stringhini, Munmun De Choudhury, and Pamela J. Wisniewski. "Sliding into My DMs: Detecting Uncomfortable or Unsafe Sexual Risk Experiences within Instagram Direct Messages Grounded in the Perspective of Youth."
 *Impact Recognition Award (ACM CSCW'23).

Workshops

- Afsaneh Razi, Ashwaq AlSoubai, Seunghyun Kim, Nurun Naher, Shiza Ali, Gianluca Stringhini, Munmun De Choudhury, and Pamela J. Wisniewski. "Instagram Data Donation: A Case Study on Collecting Ecologically Valid Social Media Data for the Purpose of Adolescent Online Risk Detection." (ACM CHI'22 - Extended Abstracts.
- Xavier Caddle, Ashwaq Alsoubai, Afsaneh Razi, Seunghyun Kim, **Shiza Ali**, Gianluca Stringhini, Munmun De Choudhury, and Pamela Wisniewski. "Instagram data donation: A case for partnering with social media platforms to protect adolescents online." (ACM CHI'21 Workshop).
- Xavier Caddle, Afsaneh Razi, Seunghyun Kim, **Shiza Ali**, Temi Popo, Gianluca Stringhini, Munmun De Choudhury, and Pamela J. Wisniewski. "MOSafely: Building an Open-Source HCAI Community to Make the Internet a Safer Place for Youth." (ACM CSCW'21 Companion Publication.
- Afsaneh Razi, Seunghyun Kim, Ashwaq Alsoubai, Xavier Caddle, **Shiza Ali**, Gianluca Stringhini, Munmun De Choudhury, and Pamela Wisniewski. "Teens at the Margin: Artificially Intelligent Technology for Promoting Adolescent Online Safety." (ACM CHI'21 Workshop).

Honors and Awards

- Rising Star in Social Computing and Public Policy, University of Iowa 2023
- Impact Recognition Award, CSCW'2023

- SIGCHI Gary Marsden Travel Award, 2023
- Meta Research Ph.D. Fellowship Finalist, 2023
- Best Paper Honorable Mention Award, CHI'2022
- IEEE S&P Student Grant, 2022 (\$1500)

SERVICES

- Associate Chair for CSCW 2024 Poster
- EPJ Data Science Reviewer (2024)
- CSCW Reviewer (2022 and 2023)
- ICWSM Reviewer (2021)

TALKS

- Guest Lecturer at Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering
- Gave a talk on "Tackling Malicious Activity Online" at the University of Iowa

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: Python, C/C++, SQL, HTML/CSS, R

Libraries: Pandas, NumPy, Matplotlib, PyTorch, SciPy, BeautifulSoup, Scikit learn, Plotly

LINKS

Google Scholar: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=wVYZPn4AAAAJ

LinkedIn: https://www.linkedin.com/in/theshizaali/