

Vinay Koshy

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Research Interests

My research aims to democratize online community governance. I approach this problem in two ways. First, I conduct computational social science research to build models of longitudinal community dynamics. In this work, I develop natural language processing-based approaches to measuring social phenomena. Second, I build new tools to help online community moderators guide and adapt to the norms of the groups they run. I adopt qualitative, user-centered design approaches to inform early prototypes, and larger scale quantitative analyses to evaluate impact.

Current Position

2019-2025 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, University of Washington
Advisor: Amy Zhang

Education

2019-2025 **PhD in Computer Science**, University of Illinois - Urbana-Champaign
Advisor: Karrie Karahalios

2015-2019 **BA in Computer Science**, University of California - Berkeley
Research Mentors: Gireeja Ranade, Eric Friedman

Publications

- 2025 Venire: A Machine Learning-Guided Panel Review System for Community Content Moderation.
Computer-Supported and Cooperative Work (CSCW)
Vinay Koshy, Frederick Choi, Yi-Shyuan Chiang, Hari Sundaram, Eshwar Chandrasekharan, Karrie Karahalios.
- 2025 Organize, Then Vote: Exploring Cognitive Load in Quadratic Survey Interfaces
Computer-Human Interaction (CHI)
Ti-Chung Cheng, Yutong Zhang, Yi-Hung Chou, Vinay Koshy, Tiffany Wenting Li, Karrie Karahalios, Hari Sundaram.
- 2025 Placebo Effects of Control Settings Are Not Always Strong
Computer-Human Interaction (CHI)
Silas Hsu, Vinay Koshy, Kristen Vaccaro, Christian Sandvig, Karrie Karahalios.
🏆 Best Paper Award
- 2025 Creator Hearts: Investigating the Impact Positive Signals from YouTube Creators in Shaping Comment Section Behaviors
Computer-Human Interaction (CHI)
Frederick Choi, Charlotte Lambert, Vinay Koshy, Sowmya Pratipati, Tue Do, Eshwar Chandrasekharan
- 2024 Not What it Used to Be: Characterizing Content and User-base Changes in Newly Created Online Communities
Computer-Human Interaction (CHI)
Alex Atcheson*, Vinay Koshy*, Karrie Karahalios
🏆 Best Paper Honorable Mention Award

- 2023 Measuring User-Moderator Alignment on r/ChangeMyView
Computer-Supported and Cooperative Work (CSCW)
Vinay Koshy, Tanvi Bajpai, Eshwar Chandrasekharan, Hari Sundaram, Karrie Karahalios
🏆 Best Paper Award
- 2023 A User-Centric Evaluation of Smart Home Resolution Approaches for Conflicts Between Routines.
Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies (IMWUT)
Ali Zaidi, Rui Yang, Vinay Koshy, Camille Cobb, Indranil Gupta, Karrie Karahalios
- 2021 “We Just Use What They Give Us”: Understanding Passenger User Perspectives in Smart Homes
Computer-Human Interaction (CHI)
Vinay Koshy, Joon Sung Park, Ti-Chung Cheng, Karrie Karahalios
🏆 Best Paper Honorable Mention Award

Datasets

- 2024 Subreddit Linguistic Distinctiveness and Userbase Diversity Dataset
Data from “Not What it Used to Be: Characterizing Content and User-base Changes in Newly Created Online Communities” Includes: two years of data on size, comment removal rate, linguistic distinctiveness, and user-base diversity for 1600 newly created Reddit subreddits.
- 2023 ChangeMyView User-Moderator Alignment Dataset
Data from “Measuring User-Moderator Alignment on r/ChangeMyView.” Includes: case judgements from users and moderators, user support ratings for community rules (Likert), and participation statistics for user survey respondents

Honors, Awards, and Grants

- 2025 CHI Best Paper Award (Top 1% of Submissions)
- 2024 CHI Student Volunteer Accessibility Award (1 of 2 Awardees)
- 2024 CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention (Top 5% of Submissions)
- 2023 CSCW Best Paper Award (Top 1% of Submissions)
- 2021 UIUC Graduate College Travel Award (1 of 5 Dept. Awardees)
- 2021 CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention (Top 5% of Submissions)

Teaching Experience

- 2025 Discrete Structures (TA)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Under Naina Balepur and Margaret Fleck
- 2021 Social Spaces on the Internet (TA)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Under Karrie Karahalios
- 2019 Efficient Algorithms and Intractable Problems (Head TA)
University of California at Berkeley
Under Prasad Raghavendra and Luca Trevisan
- 2018 Efficient Algorithms and Intractable Problems (Head TA)
University of California at Berkeley
Under Alessandro Chiesa and Satish Rao

- 2018 Efficient Algorithms and Intractable Problems (TA)
University of California at Berkeley
Under Umesh Vazirani and Alessandro Chiesa
- 2017 Discrete Mathematics and Probability Theory (TA)
University of California at Berkeley
Under Allen Tang, Hongling Lu, and Vrettos Moulos

Invited Talks and Guest Lectures

- 2025 Data-Driven Approaches to Democratizing Online Community Governance
Behavioral Data Science Lab - University of Washington
Social Futures Lab - University of Washington
University of Iowa
University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Bowdoin College
- 2024 CS498: Computational Social Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2023 Rising Stars in Social Computing Seminar
University of Iowa
- 2023 CS567: Social Spaces on the Internet
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2022 CS498: Antisocial Computing
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Industry Experience

- 2019 Infrastructure Software Engineer Intern
Salesforce, Service Cloud Performance Engineering Team
- 2018 Infrastructure Software Engineer Intern
Salesforce, APP SCALE Team

Mentoring

- 2024 Janvi Gandhi (Undergraduate)
Conducted exploratory analysis on inter-subreddit linking events on Reddit
- 2023 Alex Atcheson (Junior PhD Student)
Coauthored CHI Honorable Mention Award winning paper on online community evolution

Academic Service

- 2024 CHI Accessibility Student Volunteer
- 2024 TiiS, NordiCHI, CSCW, CHI Reviewer
- 2023 CSCW, CHI Reviewer
- 2022 CSCW, CHI Reviewer
- 2021 Just Infrastructures Speaker Series Organizer
- 2017 Volunteer Computer Science Tutor - Discrete Mathematics