

# Yao Rong

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Rice University  
Computer Science Department  
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## EDUCATION

**Rice University, USA**, Sept. 2024 – Aug. 2026

- Postdoctoral Researcher
- Department of Computer Science
- Mentor: [Dr. Vaibhav Unhelkar](#)

**Technical University of Munich, Germany**, Apr. 2013 – Aug. 2024

- Dr. rer. nat, TUM School of Computation, Information and Technology
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Enkelejda Kasneci](#)

**University of Tübingen, Germany**, Sept. 2019 – Mar. 2023 (transferred out)

- Dr. rer. nat, Computer Science
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Enkelejda Kasneci](#)
- Area of Study: Human-Computer Interaction

**Technical University of Munich, Germany**, Oct. 2016 – Aug. 2019

- M.Sc., Electrical and Computer Engineering
- Area of Study: Automation and Robotics
- Thesis Topic: *Real-time Hand Gesture Recognition based on a ToF Camera*

**Tongji University, China & Munich University of Applied Sciences, Germany**, Sept. 2012 – Sept. 2016

- B.Eng., Mechatronics (*Dual-degree program*)
- Thesis Topic: *Real-time Hand Gesture Detection and Tracking with OpenCV Library on Android Devices*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, Sept. 2024 – present

- Enhancing Efficiency and Trustworthy Collaboration Between Humans and Models
- [Rice University Academy of Fellows](#)
- Advisor: [Dr. Vaibhav Unhelkar](#)

**Doctoral Researcher**, Apr. 2023 – Aug. 2024

- Enhancing Model Interpretability and Competence Through Human Knowledge Integration
- [HCTL \(Human-Centered Technologies for Learning\) Research Group, TU Munich](#)
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Enkelejda Kasneci](#)

**Doctoral Researcher**, Sep. 2019 – Mar. 2023

- Human Attention in Computer Vision Applications
- [HCI \(Human-Computer Interaction\) Research Group, University of Tübingen](#)
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Enkelejda Kasneci](#)

**Visiting Scholar**, Sep. 2022 – Mar. 2023

- Efficient Graph Neural Network Explanation Generation
- [DATA Lab, Rice University](#)
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Xia Hu](#)

**Joint Research Project**, Sep. 2020 – Jun. 2021

- Human Attention in Fine-grained Classification Tasks
- [EML \(Explainable Machine Learning\) Research Group, University of Tübingen](#)
- Advisor: [Prof. Dr. Zeynep Akata](#)