ZAINAB AGHA

LinkedIn | Google Scholar
321.318.9731 | zainabagha@sfsu.edu

Research Areas: Human-Computer Interaction, Social Computing, Online Safety, User Experience

EDUCATION

August 2024 **PH.D. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE,** Vanderbilt University
Dissertation: Co-Designing & Evaluating Adolescent Online Safety Nudges with Teens
Advisor: Dr. Pamela Wisniewski

August 2022 **M.S. IN COMPUTER SCIENCE**, University of Central Florida

2015-2019 **B.S IN COMPUTER SCIENCE,** Lahore University of Management Sciences

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-Present **ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,** San Francisco State University, Department of Computer Science

2022-2024 **GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT,** Vanderbilt University, Department of Computer Science

- Led research supported by the **William T. Grant** to design and evaluate real-time "nudges", that can protect youth's safety and privacy online by providing cues to take safer actions online.
- Conducted meta-research to design an ethical and effective experimentation tool for nudge evaluation.

2019-2022 **GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT,** UCF, Department of Computer Science

- Led research supported by the **William T. Grant** to understand ethical concerns and safe ways to conduct sensitive research with youth.
- Supported an **NSF PFI** project for designing and developing a research study for understanding youth online risk experiences through social media data donated and annotated by teens.

2022 **USER EXPERIENCE RESEARCHER INTERN,** Meta Platforms, Instagram Youth Team

- Led qualitative research on improving interest discovery for Instagram Youth Experiences impacting key product decisions which were shared with partner teams including Instagram Explore and Search.
- Worked cross-functionally with Design, Product Management and Engineering teams to incorporate user-centered research in product design and strategy.

2021 **USER EXPERIENCE RESEARCHER INTERN,** Meta Platforms, Business Suite Team

- Led research to improve community management on Facebook Business Suite which impacted b2b and b2c community engagement and centralized management features on Facebook.
- Provided direction for the prioritization of new features in Facebook Business suite.

2017-2019 **UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT,** Lahore University of Management Sciences

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2024	**NSF Award# 2216575: BPC-A: Socially Responsible Computing ($293,376),** NSF
2024	**Outstanding Peer-Review Recognition**, ACM CHI
2023	**Vanderbilt LIVE Research Microgrant ($2000),** Vanderbilt University
2023	**Gary Marsden Travel Award ($1500),** ACM SIGCHI
2023	**Meta Research Fellowship Finalist,** Meta Platforms
2023	**Outstanding Peer-Review Recognition**, ACM CHI
2023	**Candidacy Success Award ($500),** Vanderbilt University
2023	**Travel Award ($1500),** ACM Interaction Design for Children
2023	**Doctoral Consortium,** ACM Interaction Design for Children
2022	**Vanderbilt Launching Student Success ($2000),** Vanderbilt University
2022	**Facebook Research Fellowship Finalist,** Facebook Inc.
2022	**Graduate Presentation Fellowship ($500),** Vanderbilt University
2021	**Graduate Presentation Fellowship ($500),** University of Central Florida
2020	**Grace Hopper Celebration Scholarship,** AnitaB.Org
2019	**ORC Doctoral Fellowship ($25K),** University of Central Florida
2019	**Vice President**, LUMS Community Service Society (300+ Students)
2019	**Dean's Honors List,** Lahore University of Management Sciences

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

2020	Suicide Prevention Training, QPR Institute At-Risk Mental Health Risk Training, Kognito
2019	Youth Protection Training, University of Central Florida

PUBLICATIONS

Citations: 363; h-index: 11; i10-index: 13

JOURNAL ARTICLES/CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS (PEER-REVIEWED)

1. Ozioma C. Oguine, Anuyah, O., **Agha, Z.**, Melgarez, I., Alvarado A. G., Badillo-Urquiola, K.. 2025. (In-Press) "Online Safety for All: Sociocultural Insights from a Systematic Review of Youth Online Safety in the Global South," In the Proceedings of the 2025 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2025)
2. Park, J., Ma, R., Ali N. S., Baptiste, N. J, **Agha, Z.**, and Wisniewski, P., J. 2025. "Teens, Privacy, and Algorithms: Navigating and Co-Designing Solutions for Interpersonal Boundary Management on Social Media. In the Proceedings of Interaction Design and Children" (IDC '25).
3. **Agha, Z.**, Ali, N. S., Park, J., & Wisniewski, P. J. (2024). "A systematic review on design-based nudges for adolescent online safety". International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction (IJCCI 2024).
4. **Agha, Z.,** Park, J., Wan R., Ali, N., Wang, Y., DiFranzo, D., Badillo-Urquiola, K., & Wisniewski, P. (In-Press) (2024) "Tricky vs. Transparent: Towards an Ecologically Valid and Safe Approach for Evaluating Online Safety Nudges for Teens,", In the Proceedings of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI 2024).

5. **Agha, Z.**, Badillo-Urquiola, K., Wisniewski, P., (2023) ""Strike at the Root:" Co-designing Real-Time Social Media Interventions for Adolescent Online Risk Prevention" In the Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2023)
6. Obajemu, O., **Agha, Z.,** Wisniewski, P., (In-Press) (2023) "Towards Enforcing Good Digital Citizenship: Identifying Opportunities for Adolescent Online Safety Nudges" In the Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2024).
7. Badillo-Urquiola, K., **Agha, Z.,** Wisniewski, P., (In-Press) (2023) "Towards a Social Ecological Approach to Supporting Caseworkers in Promoting the Online Safety of Youth in Foster Care" In the Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2024)
8. Alsoubai, A., Razi, A., **Agha, Z.,** Ali, S., Stringhini, G., De Choudhury, M., Wisniewski, P., (In-Press) (2023) "Profiling the Offline and Online Risk Experiences of Youth to Develop Targeted Interventions for Online Safety" In the Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2024).
9. **Agha, Z.,** Ali, N., Park, J., & Wisniewski, P. (Under Review) (2024). Nudging HCI researchers to move beyond design to implementing behavioral interventions for adolescents: a systematic review. [Manuscript submitted for review].
10. **Agha, Z.,** Anaraky, R., Badillo-Urquiola, K., McHugh, B., Wisniewski, P., (2021) "Just-in-Time Parenting: A Two Month Examination of the Bi-directional Influences Between Parental Mediation and Adolescent Online Risk Exposure," In the Proceedings of the 23rd International Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (HCII 2021)
11. Badillo-Urquiola, K., Shea, Z., **Agha, Z.**, Lediaeva, I., Wisniewski, P., (2021) "Conducting Risky Research with Teens: Co-designing for the Ethical Treatment and Protection of Adolescents" In the Proceedings of the 2021 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2021)

EXTENDED ABSTRACTS & POSTERS (PEER-REVIEWED)

12. **Agha, Z.**, Martinez, M., Ali, N. S., DiFranzo, D., Wisniewski, P. J. (2025). "SocialSim: An Open Source Platform for Conducting Behavioral Intervention Research on Social Media", In the Proceedings of the 2025 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW 2025)
13. Ali, N. S., Ahn, T., **Agha, Z.**, Park, J. K., & Wisniewski, P. J. (2024). From Ideas to Impact: Cracking the Code for Effectively Engaging Teens in Long-Term Online Safety Research. In Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.
14. Ali, N., **Agha, Z.**, Chatlani, N., Park, J., Wisniewski, P. (2024) "A Case Study on Facilitating a Long-Term Youth Advisory Board to Involve Youth in Adolescent Online Safety Research," In the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI 2024).
15. **Agha, Z.,** Miu, K., Piper, S., Park, J., Wisniewski, P. (2023) "Co-Designing User Personas and Risk Scenarios for Evaluating Adolescent Online Safety Interventions" In Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '23 Companion)
16. **Agha, Z.**, Zhang, Z., Obajemu, O., Shirley, L., Wisniewski, P. (2022) "A Case Study on User Experience Bootcamps with Teens to Co-Design Real-Time Online Safety Interventions," In the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI 2022).
17. Dev, P., Medina, J., **Agha, Z.,** De Choudhury, M., Razi, A., Wisniewski, P. (2022) "From Ignoring Strangers' Solicitations to Mutual Sexting with Friends: Understanding Youth's Online Sexual Risks in Instagram Private Conversations," In Companion Publication of the 2023 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '22 Companion)

18. **Agha, Z.,** Chatlani, N., Razi, A., Wisniewski, P., (2020) "Towards Conducting Responsible Research with Teens and Parents regarding Online Risks" Extended Abstracts of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2020)

CO-ORGANIZED WORKSHOPS (PEER-REVIEWED)

19. Cho, J., Song, I., **Agha, Z.**, Cagiltay, B., Calambur, V., Rheu, M. M., & Huh-Yoo, J. (2025). Mobile Technology and Teens: Understanding the Changing Needs of Sociocultural and Technical Landscape. Workshop in the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI 2025)
20. Smith, G., Chapman, K., **Agha, Z.,** Ruppert, J. Cullen, S., Khan, S., Knijnenburg, B., Vitak, J., Kumar, P., Wisniewski, P., Page, X. (2023) "Privacy Interventions and Education (PIE): Encouraging Privacy Protective Behavioral Change Online", Workshop in the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (CHI 2023)

WORKSHOP POSITION PAPERS (LIGHTLY REVIEWED)

21. Akter, M., **Agha, Z.**, Alsoubai, A., Ali, N., & Wisniewski, P. (2024). Towards Collaborative Family-Centered Design for Online Safety, Privacy and Security. Extended Abstract presented at the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing (CHI 2024) Workshop on Family-Centered Design.
22. **Agha, Z.,** Badillo-Urquiola, K. Chatlani, N., Alsoubai, A., Wisniewski, P., (2020) "Socially Responsible Computing in Adolescent Online Safety" Extended Abstract presented at the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work Workshop on Collective Organizing and Social Responsibility, (CSCW 2020).
23. Badillo-Urquiola, K., **Agha, Z.,** Akter, K., Wisniewski, P., (2020) "Towards Assets-Based Approaches for Adolescent Online Safety" Extended Abstract presented at the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work Workshop on Operationalizing an Assets-Based Design of Technology, (CSCW 2020)
24. Razi, A., **Agha, Z.,** Chatlani, N., Wisniewski, P., (2020) "Privacy Challenges for Adolescents as a Vulnerable Population" Networked Privacy Workshop of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2020).

UNIVERSITY SPONSORED RESEARCH FORUMS (NOT PEER-REVIEWED)

25. Miu, K. Piper, S., **Agha, Z.,** Park, J., Wisniewski, P., (2022), "Co-Designing User Personas and a Simulation for Evaluating Adolescent Online Safety Interventions", Poster presented at Vanderbilt Undergraduate Research Fair (VURF 2022)
26. Shirley, L., McNeil, M., **Agha, Z.,** Taliaferro, L., Gryglewicz, K., Wisniewski, P., (2021), "SafePlan: Co-designing for Suicide Prevention of At-Risk Youth", Poster presented at UCF's Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence (SURE 2021)
27. Zhang, A., Acevedo, C., Martins, F., Shirley, L. **Agha, Z.,** Wisniewski, P., (2021) "Designing a UX Workshop for Youth Online Safety**",** Poster presented at UCF's Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence (SURE 2021)
28. Chandra, S., **Agha, Z.,** Chatlani, N., Wisniewski P., (2020), "Conducting Responsible Research with Teen and Parents About Online Risks", Poster presented at UCF's Showcase of Undergraduate Research Excellence (SURE 2020)

TEACHING & MENTORING

2024 - 2025 **INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD,** San Francisco State University
Human-Computer Interaction (100 students)

2024 - 2025 **INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD,** San Francisco State University
Ethics, Communication and Tools for Software Development (65 students)

2022 **MASTERS THESIS MENTOR,** University of Central Florida
Identifying Challenges and Opportunities for Designing Social Media Nudges for Adolescents
Oluwatomisin Obajemu, Computer Science MS Student

2022 **UNDERGRADUATE THESIS MENTOR,** University of Central Florida
A User Study Comparing SafeLINC to an Existing mHealth App for Suicide Safety Planning
Zachary Miller, Computer Science Undergraduate Student

2021, 2022 **SENIOR DESIGN PROJECT MENTOR,** University of Central Florida
Truman Social Media Simulation, 2021
Tevin Rose
Ellie Kozlowski
Dorri Raquib
Weiyi (Sophie) Chen
Rizwan Biswas

SafeLINC App for Suicide Prevention, 2022
Daniel Cajiao
Brandon Gibbons
James Hall
Marcus Ford
Andy Collado

2019-2022 **DIRECTED RESEARCH MENTOR,** STIR Lab
Naima Samreen, PhD Student, Computer Science, Vanderbilt University
Neeraj Chatlani, PhD Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Oluwatomisin Obajemu, MS Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Ashutosh Avadhani, MS Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Sunil Patro, MS Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Zachary Miller, BS Student, Cultural Anthropology, University of Central Florida
Luke Shirley, BS Student, Psychology, University of Central Florida
Alice Zhang, BS Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Camila Acevedo, BS Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Fabrizio Martins, BS Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Ariane Avendano, BS Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Natalie Laurent, BS Student, Digital Media, University of Central Florida

Ross Benway, BS Student, Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Central Florida
Jessica Medina, BS Student, Computer Science, University of Central Florida
Enya Bullard, BS Student, Computer Science, Vanderbilt University
Sophia Piper, BS Student, Computer Science, Vanderbilt University
Kelsey Miu, BS Student, Computer Science, Vanderbilt University
Yiwei Wang, BS Student, Computer Science, Vanderbilt University
Abigail Chen, BS Student, Computer Science, Vanderbilt University
Charlyne Dong, BS Student, Computer Science, Vanderbilt University
Prema Dev, Student Volunteer, University of Central Florida

2018 **TEACHING ASSISTANT,** Lahore University of Management Sciences
Computational Problem Solving (CS 100) (100+ Students)
Led tutorials, labs and graded bi-weekly assignments

NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE

2023 **WKRN-TV,** "Vanderbilt researchers studying online teen safety as AI popularity increases"

2023 **Scientific American,** **"**Here's How to Actually Keep Kids and Teens Safe Online"

2023 **CSCW Medium,** "A Relentless Cycle of Online Risks: How Teens Co-Design for Online Risk Prevention & Collective Safety"

2021 **WESH NEWS**, "Top 3 apps parents should monitor on kids' phones"

ACADEMIC SERVICE

JOURNAL REVIEWER

2023 **ACM TOPS,** Transactions on Privacy and Security
2021 **JAH,** Journal of Adolescent Health
2022 **ILS,** Information and Learning Science Journal

CONFERENCE REVIEWER

2020-2024 **ACM CHI,** ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems
2020-2024 **ACM CSCW,** ACM Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing
2020-2022 **ACM IDC,** ACM Interaction Design for Children
2020 **ACM DIS,** ACM Designing Interactive Systems

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

2023 – 2025 **ACM** (Association for Computing and Machinery)

SKILLS

RESEARCH METHODS: Interviews, Focus Groups, UX Workshops, Participatory Design, Concept Testing, Surveys, Experimental Design, Statistical Analyses

PROFICIENT PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES: Python, C++, SQL, R, HTML, CSS, NodeJS, ReactJS

RESEARCH TOOLS: Figma, Qualtrics, SPSS, Unity, Matlab, LaTeX, Github, Wireshark