| Zainab  agha | [LinkedIn](https://www.linkedin.com/in/agha96/) | [Google Scholar](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=TV1xodIAAAAJ&hl=en)  321.318.9731 | [zainabagha@sfsu.edu](mailto:zainabagha@sfsu.edu) |
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| **Research Areas:** Human-Computer Interaction, Social Computing, Online Safety, User Experience | |
| educationAugust 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 experience2024-Present ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, San Francisco State University, Department of Computer Science2022-2024 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)**

1. **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)
2. 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.
3. 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).
4. **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)
5. **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).
6. 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)
7. **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)**

1. 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)
2. 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)**

1. 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.
2. **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).
3. 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)
4. 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)**

1. 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)
2. 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)
3. 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)
4. 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)

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| 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”](https://www.wkrn.com/news/local-news/vanderbilt-researchers-studying-online-teen-safety-as-ai-popularity-increases/)

**2023 Scientific American,** [**“**Here’s How to Actually Keep Kids and Teens Safe Online”](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/heres-how-to-actually-keep-kids-and-teens-safe-online/)

**2023 CSCW Medium,** “[A Relentless Cycle of Online Risks:](https://medium.com/acm-cscw/a-relentless-cycle-of-online-risks-how-teens-co-design-for-online-risk-prevention-collective-b650e7fccf9b) How Teens Co-Design for Online

Risk Prevention & Collective Safety"

**2021** **WESH NEWS**, [“Top 3 apps parents should monitor on kids’ phones”](https://www.wesh.com/article/top-3-apps-parents-monitor-kids-phones/38235490)

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| 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 |