Chao Zhang

Department of Information Science Cornell University

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Research Interests

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Human-AI Collaboration, Creativity Support Tools, Learning Technologies, Storytelling, Sensemaking

Education

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, United States

09/2023 - 06/2028 (expc.)

Ph.D. in Information Science, advised by Dr. Jeff Rzeszotarski

Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China

09/2020 - 03/2023

M.E. in Design Engineering, GPA 3.93/4.00, advised by Dr. Cheng Yao

Jiangnan University, Wuxi, China

09/2016 - 06/2020

B.E. in Electrical Engineering, minor in Digital Media Technology, GPA 3.83/4.00

Selected Publications

Top-tier venues for human-computer interaction research include CHI, UIST, and CSCW. The titles of papers currently under review are edited to maintain authors' anonymity.

Under-reviewed Manuscripts and Pre-prints

- *M.2.* **Chao Zhang**, Kexin Ju, Peter Bidoshi, Yu-Chun Grace Yen, and Jeffrey M. Rzeszotarski. Deciphering Feedback Into Revisions with an AI-infused Visual Interface.
- M.1. Chao Zhang, Shengqi Zhu, Xinyu Yang, Yu-Chia Tseng, Shenrong Jiang, and Jeffrey M. Rzeszotarski. University Student Sensemaking of Large Language Model Outputs: Challenges and Adaptations in Managing Hallucinations.

Major Peer-reviewed Conference and Journal Papers

C.8. Chao Zhang, Xuechen Liu, Katherine Ziska, Soobin Jeon, Chi-Lin Yu, and Ying Xu.

Mathemyths: Leveraging Large Language Models to Teach Mathematical Language through Child-AI Cocreative Storytelling.

ACM CHI 2024 — Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.

C.7. Lanjing Liu*, Chao Zhang*, and Zhicong Lu.

Wrist-bound Guanxi, Jiazu, and Kuolie: Unpacking Chinese Adolescent Smartwatch-mediated Socialization.

ACM CHI 2024 — Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.

C.6. Yuwen Lu*, **Chao Zhang***, Yuewen Yang, Yaxing Yao, and Toby Jia-Jun Li.

From Awareness to Action: Exploring End-user Empowerment Interventions for Dark Patterns in UX.

ACM CSCW 2024 — Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, Volume 8, Issue CSCW1.

Best Paper Award

C.5. Xueyan Cai, Kecheng Jin, Shang Shi, Shichao Huang, Ouying Huang, Xiaodong Wang, Jiahao Cheng, Weijia Lin, Jiayu Yao, Yuqi Hu, **Chao Zhang**, and Cheng Yao.

"See, Hear, Touch, Smell, And,...Eat!": Helping Children Self-improve their Food Literacy and Eating Behavior through a Tangible Multi-Sensory Puzzle Game.

^{*} denotes equal contribution.

 ${\bf ACM\ IDC\ 2024-Proceedings\ of\ the\ 23rd\ Annual\ ACM\ Interaction\ Design\ and\ Children\ Conference.}$

P Best Short Paper Award

- C.4. Chao Zhang, Zili Zhou, Yajing Hu, Lanjing Liu, Jiayi Wu, Yaping Shao, Jianhui Liu, Lingyan Zhang, Lijuan Liu, Hangyue Cheng, Fangtian Ying, and Cheng Yao.
 - Observe It, Draw It: Scaffolding Children's Observations of Plant Biodiversity with an Interactive Drawing Tool.
 - **ACM IDC 2023** Proceedings of the 22nd Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference.
- C.3. Qingyu Guo, **Chao Zhang**, Hanfang Lyu, Zhenhui Peng, and Xiaojuan Ma.
 - What Makes Creators Engage with Online Critiques? Understanding the Role of Artifacts' Creation Stage, Characteristics of Community Comments, and their Interactions.
 - **ACM CHI 2023** Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.
- *C.2.* Wenjie Xu, Jiayi Ma, Jiayu Yao, Weijia Lin, **Chao Zhang**, Xuanhe Xia, Nan Zhuang, Shitong Weng, Xiaoqian Xie, Shuyue Feng, Fangtian Ying, Preben Hansen, and Cheng Yao.
 - MathKingdom: Teaching Children Mathematical Language through Speaking At Home via a Voice-guided Game.
 - **ACM CHI 2023** Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.
- C.1. Chao Zhang*, Cheng Yao*, Jiayi Wu, Weijia Lin, Lijuan Liu, Ge Yan, and Fangtian Ying.

 StoryDrawer: A Child–AI Collaborative Drawing System to Support Children's Creative Visual Storytelling.

 ACM CHI 2022 Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.

Minor Lightly-reviewed Posters, Extended Abstracts, and Workshop Papers

- P.2. Chao Zhang, Zili Zhou, Jiayi Wu, Yajing Hu, Yaping Shao, Jianhui Liu, Yuqi Hu, Fangtian Ying, and Cheng Yao.
 - Bio Sketchbook: An AI-assisted Sketching Partner for Children's Biodiversity Observational Learning. **ACM IDC EA 2022** Extended Abstracts of the 20th Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference.
- P.1. Chao Zhang, Cheng Yao, Jianhui Liu, Zili Zhou, Weilin Zhang, Lijuan Liu, Fangtian Ying, Yijun Zhao, and Guanyun Wang.
 - StoryDrawer: A Co-creative Agent Supporting Children's Storytelling through Collaborative Drawing. **ACM CHI EA 2021** Extended Abstracts of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.

Design Awards & Exhibitions

Design Awards

| A.9. | James Dyson Award National Runner-up (Top 3 in China), Dyson Limited, United States. | 2023 |
|------|--|------|
| A.8. | Red Dot Award: Design Concept, Red Dot Award, Germany. | 2023 |
| A.7. | A' Design Iron Award, A' Design Award, Italy. | 2022 |
| A.6. | iF Talent Award , iF Design Award, Germany. | 2021 |
| A.5. | Honorable Mention Award (Top 5%), Design Intelligence Award, China. | 2021 |
| A.4. | Champion (Top 1 in AI Innovation Track), China Collegiate Computing Contest, China. | 2021 |
| A.3. | Outstanding Winner (Top 1%), China Graduate AI Innovation Competition, China. | 2021 |
| A.2. | Finalist (Top 5%), User Experience Design Award, China. | 2021 |
| A.1. | Nominations Award, International Designer Club Award, Malaysia. | 2021 |
| D | esign Exhibitions | |
| E.3. | China Design Exhibition, China. | 2022 |
| E.2. | Global Grad Show, Dubai Design Week, The United Arab Emirates. | 2021 |
| E.1. | "Ecological Bridge" Innovative Design Exhibition, China. | 2021 |

Academic Honors & Scholarships

| H.5. Best Paper Award (Top 1%), CSCW 2024. | 2024 |
|--|------------------|
| H.4. Best Short Paper Award (Top 1%), IDC 2024. | 2024 |
| H.3. National Scholarship (Top 1%), Ministry of Education, China. | 2022, 2021, 2018 |
| H.2. Valedictorian, School of IOT, Jiangnan University, China. | 2020 |
| H.1. Jiangnan Talent (Only 10 undergraduate awardees), Jiangnan University, China. | 2019 |

Research Experience

| Research Assistant, Artifact Lab, Cornell University, USA | 09/2023 - Present |
|---|-------------------|
| Mentored by Dr. Jeff Rzeszotarski | |
| Visiting Researcher, Converse to Learn Lab, Harvard University, USA | 01/2023 - 09/2023 |
| Mentored by Dr. Ying Xu | |
| Visiting Researcher, SanDwich Lab, University of Notre Dame, USA | 06/2022 - 01/2023 |
| Mentored by Dr. Toby Jia-jun Li and Dr. Yaxing Yao (Virginia Tech) | |
| Research Intern, HCI Lab, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, China | 06/2022 - 09/2022 |
| Mentored by Dr. Xiaojuan Ma | |

Teaching Experience

| INFO 4310/5311 Interactive Information Visualization, Teaching Assistant, Cornell | Spring 2025 |
|---|-------------|
| INFO/CS 3300 Visual Data Analytics for the Web, Teaching Assistant, Cornell | Fall 2024 |
| INFO 4430 Teams and Technology, Teaching Assistant, Cornell | Fall 2023 |
| CST 5141081 Interaction Technology and Design Practice, Teaching Assistant, ZJU | Spring 2021 |
| CST 5143104 Design Engineering, Teaching Assistant, ZJU | Fall 2020 |
| CST 2521018 Frontier of Engineering Technology, Teaching Assistant, ZJU | Fall 2020 |

Academic Services

Program Committee: CHI 2024 Late-Breaking Work, CHI 2023 Late-Breaking Work

Paper Review: ACM CHI, ACM CSCW, ACM IUI, ACM IDC, Chinese CHI, International Journal of Human-Computer Studies, International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction, International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction

▼ Outstanding Reviewer Recognition — ACM CSCW 2023, ACM CHI 2024, ACM CHI 2025

Skills

Research: Interview, Survey, Experimental Design, Qualitative Analysis, Quantitative Analysis, LaTeX **Design:** User Experience Design (Figma), Graphic Design (Adobe Products)

Computing: Front-End Development (HTML, CSS, Typescript, Vue.js, React.js), Statistical Analysis (Matplotlib, Numpy, Pandas, SPSS, JASP), Machine Learning (Sklearn, PyTorch, Tensorflow), and Prompt Engineering

References

Available upon request.