

Chao Zhang

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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 (<i>expc.</i>)
<i>Ph.D. in Information Science, advised by Dr. Jeff Rzeszotarski</i>	
Zhejiang University , Hangzhou, China	09/2020 - 03/2023
<i>M.E. in Design Engineering, GPA 3.93/4.00, advised by Dr. Cheng Yao</i>	
Jiangnan University , Wuxi, China	09/2016 - 06/2020
<i>B.E. in Electrical Engineering, minor in Digital Media Technology, GPA 3.83/4.00</i>	

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.

** denotes equal contribution.*

Under-reviewed Manuscripts and Pre-prints

- M.1. **Chao Zhang**, Shengqi Zhu, Xinyu Yang, Yu-Chia Tseng, Shenrong Jiang, and Jeffrey M. Rzeszotarski.
Navigating the Fog: Unpacking University Students' Sensemaking, Challenges, and Adaptations to Hallucinations in Large Language Model Outputs.

Major Peer-reviewed Conference and Journal Papers

- C.9. **Chao Zhang**, Kexin Ju, Peter Bidoshi, Yu-Chun Grace Yen, and Jeffrey M. Rzeszotarski.
Friction: Deciphering Writing Feedback Into Writing Revisions through LLM-Assisted Reflection.
[ACM CHI 2025](#) — *Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*.
- 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 Co-creative 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.

ACM IDC 2024 — *Proceedings of the 23rd Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference.*

🏆 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

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| 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 |

Design Exhibitions

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

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.