

ZIXIN WANG

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-AI Interaction, Usable Security and Privacy, HCI, Social Computing

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

PhD in Information Science

Aug 2024 - present
Ann Arbor, MI

- Advisor: Dr. Florian Schaub & Dr. Christopher Brooks

Zhejiang University

MSc in Applied Psychology

Sep 2021 - Jun 2024
Hangzhou, China

- **GPA:** 3.9/4.0
- **Thesis:** Empowering Users to Navigate Privacy in Self-disclosure with Large Language Models

Southwest University

BSc in Psychology

Sep 2017 - Jun 2021
Chongqing, China

- **GPA:** 3.9/4.0
- **Thesis:** Social Economic Status and Financial Literacy Among High School Students

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan / Graduate Student Researcher

Aug 2024 - present

Research collaborator at the Security, Privacy, and Usability (SPI) Lab helmed by Dr. Florian Schaub. Co-leading Hearing the Smile, a smart-glasses project that uses a wearable camera, facial-expression recognition, and AI-generated music to help blind and low-vision people perceive interpersonal warmth and start conversations. Work includes designing and running mixed-methods studies (interviews, surveys, in-situ sessions), analyzing survey and behavioral data with statistical modeling in R, and translating findings into design recommendations for accessible social wearables.

Johns Hopkins University / Research Assistant

May 2022 - Aug 2024

Research assistant advised by Dr. Yaxing Yao on two large vignette-based online studies (N=400 and N=867) of tenants' privacy negotiation preferences in smart homes and Airbnb. Responsibilities included survey and experiment design, management of large-scale data collection, quantitative analysis in R and qualitative thematic analysis of open-ended responses, and development of design implications for in-platform negotiation tools and clearer privacy disclosures.

SKILLS

- **Methods:** Quant-driven mixed methods; large-scale surveys & online experiments; vignette studies; validated scales; statistical modeling (regression, ANOVA, GLM/GLMM, mixed-effects models); thematic analysis
- **Tools:** R, Python, SPSS; Qualtrics, Prolific, MTurk; SQL basics; Git; NVivo

PUBLICATIONS

1. [CHI '26] Yuting Yang, **Zixin Wang**, Rongjun Ma, and Florian Schaub. 2026. Privacy and Trust vs. Utility: Adoption of Commercial vs. Institutional AI assistants Among University Users. *In ACM SIGCHI Conference*.

2. [SA '25] Zixin Wang, Shan Luo, Siyu Tian, Yunxi Cai, Long Ling, Muhan Xu, Jiaxing Yu, Guanting Lu, Jiajing Zhu, and Liping Luo. 2025. *TunTun Diary: Exploring AI-Generated Storytelling and Virtual Companionship for Nightmare Relief*. In *SIGGRAPH Asia*.
3. [SOUPS '25] Yuting Yang, Zixin Wang, Florian Schaub. 2025. *Privacy Perceptions in the Use of ChatGPT Across Different Contexts: A Survey Study of Commercial vs. University-specific Implementations*. In *Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS)*.
4. [CHI '25 Workshop] Shan Luo, Zixin Wang, and Botao Hu. 2025. Hearing the Smile: Scoring Spontaneous Social Scenes for the Visually Impaired. In *ACM CHI conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)*.
5. [USEC '24] Tu Le, Zixin Wang, Danny Yuxing Huang, Yaxing Yao, and Yuan Tian. 2024. *Towards Real-time Voice Interaction Data Collection Monitoring and Ambient Light Privacy Notification for Voice-controlled Services*. In *Workshop on Usable Security and Privacy (USEC)*.
6. [USENIX Security '23] Zixin Wang, Danny Yuxing Huang, and Yaxing Yao. 2023. *Exploring Tenants' Preferences of Privacy Negotiation in Airbnb*. In *32nd USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX)*.
7. [USEC '23] Stefany Cruz, Logan Danek, Shinan Liu, Christopher Kraemer, Zixin Wang, Nick Feamster, Danny Yuxing Huang, Yaxing Yao, and Josiah Hester. 2023. *Augmented Reality's Potential for Identifying and Mitigating Home Privacy Leaks*. In *Workshop on Usable Security and Privacy (USEC)*.
8. [iConference '23] Xiang Chen, Jiamu Xie, Zixin Wang, Bohui Shen, and Zhixuan Zhou. 2023. *How We Express Ourselves Freely: Censorship, Self-censorship, and Anti-censorship on a Chinese Social Media*. In *18th iConference*.
9. [HICSS '23] Zhixuan Zhou, Zixin Wang, and Franziska Zimmer. 2023. *Anonymous Expression in an Online Community for Women in China*. In *56th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)*.
10. [Oxford Open Energy '23] Moritz Platt, Stephen Ojeka, Andreea-Elena Drăgnoiu, Osereere Ejemen Ibelegbu, Francesco Pierangeli, Johannes Sedlmeir, and Zixin Wang. 2023. *Energy Demand Unawareness and the Popularity of Bitcoin: Evidence from Nigeria*. In *Oxford Open Energy*.
11. [FiDeFix@ICDCS '23] Andreea-Elena Drăgnoiu, Moritz Platt, Zixin Wang, and Zhixuan Zhou. 2023. *The More You Know: Energy Labelling Enables More Sustainable Cryptocurrency Investment*. In *1st Workshop on Fintech and Decentralized Finance (FiDeFix) co-located with ICDCS*.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (~\$3,500), University of Michigan, 2025
- Excellent Graduate, Zhejiang University, 2024
- Excellent Graduate (City-Level), Chongqing, 2021
- Science Scholarship (~\$3,000), Southwest University, 2020
- National Scholarship (~\$1,200), Southwest University, 2020

SERVICES

- **Reviewer:** CHI 2026, CHI Late-breaking Work 2023, 2024, 2025, CSCW 2024, IMX 2024, iConference, HICSS