

Zhilin Zhang

PhD Candidate, Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford

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I am a PhD candidate at the University of Oxford, working on AI and governance in decentralized social systems. My research investigates how AI systems reshape authority, trust, and decision-making in large-scale online communities. I combine empirical studies with system prototyping to design deployable, human-centered AI infrastructures. I have published in top-tier venues such as CHI and CSCW and received multiple awards. I am currently extending this work toward building AI systems for real-world governance and moderation.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

- Ph.D.** **Computer Science, University of Oxford, UK** (in progress)
Supervised by Sir Nigel Shadbolt, Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Jun Zhao, Max Van Kleek
- M.S.** **Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA**
Advised by Lawrence Angrave and Karrie Karahalios
- B.S.** **Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA**
Bachelor of Science with Highest Honors

RESEARCH AREAS

Human-Computer Interaction • Computer Supported Cooperative Work

Artificial Intelligence • Human-Centered AI

Social Computing • Decentralization and Social Media

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2024 Best Paper Honorable Mention Award, ACM CHI
- 2024 Special Recognitions for Outstanding Reviews, ACM CSCW
- 2021 Best Paper Award, American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE)
- 2021 Best DEI Paper Award, American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE)
- 2020 Best DEI Paper Honorable Mention, American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE)

PUBLICATIONS

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=6xQZcDEAAAAJ>

h-index: 10 · i10-index: 11 · Citations: 321 (as of 25 March 2026)

Refereed Conference, Journal and PACM Papers

- 2026
[P12] **Zhilin Zhang**, Jun Zhao, Ge Wang, Sruthi Viswanathan, Tala Jo Ross, Samantha-Kaye Johnston, Diyi Liu, Hayoun Noh, Max Van Kleek, and Nigel Shadbolt. 2026. “Attitudes, Imagined Roles, and Governance Boundaries for AI in Decentralized Social Media.” *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI’26)*.
- 2024
[P11] **Zhilin Zhang**, Jun Zhao, Ge Wang, Samantha-Kaye Johnston, George Chalhoub, Tala Ross, Diyi Liu, Claudine Tinsman, Rui Zhao, Max Van Kleek, and Nigel Shadbolt. 2024. “Trouble in Paradise? Understanding Mastodon Admin’s Motivations, Experiences, and Challenges Running Decentralised Social Media.” DOI:10.1145/3687059 *Proceedings of the ACM: Human-Computer Interaction, Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing. PACMHCI: CSCW. (CSCW’24)*.
- 2024
[P10] Ge Wang, Jun Zhao, Samantha-Kaye Johnston, **Zhilin Zhang**, Max Van Kleek, and Nigel Shadbolt. “CHAITok: A Proof-of-Concept System Supporting Children's Sense of Data Autonomy on Social Media.” DOI:10.1145/3613904.3642294 *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI’24)*.
 **Best Paper Honorable Mention Award**
- 2024
[P9] Ge Wang, Jun Zhao, Konrad Kollnig, Adrien Zier, Blanche Duron, **Zhilin Zhang**, Max Van Kleek, and Nigel Shadbolt. “KOALA Hero Toolkit: A New Approach to Inform Families of Mobile Datafication Risks.” DOI:10.1145/3613904.3642283 *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI’24)*.
- 2023
[P8] Tiffany Wenting Li, Silas Hsu, Max Fowler, **Zhilin Zhang**, Craig Zilles, Karrie Karahalios. “Am I Wrong, or Is the Autograder Wrong? Effects of AI Grading Mistakes on Learning.” DOI:10.1145/3568813.3600124 *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM Conference on International Computing Education Research. (ICER 2023)*
- 2022
[P7] Bhavya, Si Chen, **Zhilin Zhang**, Tiffany Wenting Li, ChengXiang Zhai, Lawrence Angrave, Yun Huang. “Exploring Collaborative Caption Editing to Augment Video-Based Learning” DOI:10.1007/s11423-022-10137-5 *Educational Technology Research and Development Journal, 2022*
- 2021
[P6] **Zhilin Zhang**, Bhavya, Lawrence Angrave, Ruihua Sui, Rob Kooper, Chirantan Mahipal, Yun Huang. “How Students Search Video Captions to Learn: An Analysis of Search Terms and Behavioral Timing Data.” DOI:10.18260/1-2--37257 *Proceedings of the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference. (ASEE 2021)*
- 2021
[P5] Jenny Amos, **Zhilin Zhang**, Lawrence Angrave, Hongye Liu, Yiyin Shen. “A UDL-Based Large-Scale Study on the Needs of Students with Disabilities in Engineering Courses.” DOI:10.18260/1-2--36627 *Proceedings of the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference. (ASEE 2021)*
 **3rd Best Paper Award & 2nd Best Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Paper Award**
- 2021
[P4] Zhuohao Zhang, **Zhilin Zhang**, Haolin Yuan, Natã Barbosa, Sauvik Das, Yang Wang. “WebAlly: Making Visual Task-based CAPTCHAs Transferable for People with Visual Impairments.” DOI:10.5555/3563572.3563587 *Proceedings of the Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security. (SOUPS 2021)*
- 2021
[P3] Silas Hsu, Tiffany Wenting Li, **Zhilin Zhang**, Max Fowler, Craig Zilles, Karrie Karahalios. “Attitudes Surrounding an Imperfect AI Autograder.” DOI:10.1145/3411764.3445424 *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI’21)*.
- 2020
[P2] Lawrence Angrave, Karin Jensen, **Zhilin Zhang**, Chirantan Mahipal, David Mussulman, Christopher Schmitz, Robert Baird, Hongye Liu, Ruihua Sui, Maryalice Wu, and Rob Kooper. “Improving Student Accessibility, Equity, Course Performance, and Lab Skills: How Introduction of ClassTranscribe is Changing Engineering Education.” DOI: 10.18260/1-2--34796 *Proceedings of the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference. (ASEE 2020)*

Best Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Paper Honorable Mention

- 2020
[P1] Lawrence Angrave, **Zhilin Zhang**, Genevieve Henricks-Lepp, and Chirantan Mahipal. “Who Benefits? Positive Learner Outcomes from Behavioral Analytics of Online Lecture Video Viewing using ClassTranscribe.” DOI: 10.1145/3328778.3366953
Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on Computer Science Education. (SIGCSE 2020)

Refereed Workshop Papers, Posters, Panels, and Demos

- 2021
[W5] Silas Hsu, **Zhilin Zhang**, and Karrie Karahalios. “Tired of Bad Recommendations? A Design to Better Steer Your Feeds Inspired by Version Control.”
Human Computer Interaction Consortium (HCIC) Virtual workshop.
- 2021
[W4] Tiffany Wenting Li*, Silas Hsu*, **Zhilin Zhang**, Craig Zilles, and Karrie Karahalios. “Exploring Students’ Control over Imperfect AI Autograders.”
Human Computer Interaction Consortium (HCIC) Virtual workshop.
- 2021
[W3] Kendra Walther, Hongye Liu, Lawrence Angrave, Erin Carrier, **Zhilin Zhang**, Harsh Deep. “Understanding the Needs of Students with Disabilities based on Universal Design for Learning Principles.”
CMD-IT/ACM Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Conference.
- 2021
[W2] Hongye Liu, Jennifer Amos, Kusum Vanwani, **Zhilin Zhang**, Lawrence Angrave. “Qualitative analysis of college students’ perception of multiple representations and modalities in courses.”
ASEE Illinois-Indiana Section Conference Proceedings.
- 2020
[W1] **Zhilin Zhang**, Lawrence Angrave. 2020. “ClassTranscribe: Addressing the COVID Challenge and Promoting Better Equity in Education.”
Computing Research Association (CRA) Virtual Conference.

Thesis and Dissertation

- 2021
[T2] **Zhilin Zhang**. “Attitudes, Behaviors, and Learning Outcomes from Using ClassTranscribe, a UDL-Featured Video-Based Online Learning Platform with Learnersourced Text-Searchable Captions.”
Master’s Thesis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- 2020
[T1] **Zhilin Zhang**. “What Benefits? Exploring the Influences of Student Behaviors in Video-Based Online Learning.”
Undergraduate Senior Thesis, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

TEACHING

Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford

Lead Teaching Assistant, Interaction Design (2025)

Teaching Assistant, Group Design Practical (2025, 2026)

Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant, CS 225: Data Structures (2021)

Teaching Assistant, CS 410: Text Information Systems (2020)

Course Assistant, CS 498: Art and Science of Web Programming (2020)

Course Assistant, CS 125: Intro to Computer Science (2017)

SERVICE

Department of Computer Science, University of Oxford

Graduate Admissions Interview Assistant (2026)

Jesus College, University of Oxford

Undergraduate Admissions Interview Assistant (2022)

Paper Reviewing for CHI, CSCW, DIS, SIGCSE