

Hongyi Dong

✉ hongyi.dong@psu.edu • 🏠 hongyidong.com

Research Statement

I find myself at the intersection of the human, social, and cultural aspects of technology use and their impact on various dimensions of privacy and security. In particular, I am keen to investigate how people learn in day-to-day, informal settings as they navigate their technology-mediated lives.

Keywords: Usable Privacy & Security, Social Computing, Learning, Participatory Design, Human-computer Interaction

Education

Pennsylvania State University

Ph.D. in Informatics · Advised by Priya Kumar

State College, PA

Aug 2023 - Present

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

M.S. in Information Science · Advised by Bradley Hemminger

Chapel Hill, NC

Aug 2017 - May 2019

Thesis Title: A Task-Oriented Usability Study of the Carolina Digital Repository with Casual Users

University of Maine

B.A. in New Media and Minor in Spanish, *summa cum laude*

Orono, ME

Sep 2010 - May 2014

Thesis Title: A Smart Calendar Concept

Research Experience

Pennsylvania State University

Graduate Research Assistant, Living Privacy Research Group

- Collaborating on privacy literacy and generative AI related research
- Researching and designing materials for a privacy literacy toolkit

State College, PA

Aug 2023 - Present

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Carolina Academic Library Associate, University Libraries

- Led the research and design of a digital repository development initiative
- Collaborated with scholars and librarians to ensure proper repository data migration
- Analyzed open access and library usage data to support leadership decision-making

Chapel Hill, NC

Aug 2017 - May 2019

Professional Experience

Evalueserve

User Experience Engineer (Senior Analyst), Innovative Technology

- Managed and guided the user experience design of over a dozen of web application projects
- Consulted for enterprise clients on design and development best practices

Raleigh, NC

Sep 2019 - Jun 2022

OWASP Foundation

Consultant

- Advised the leadership team for the redesign and development of the legacy website

Remote

Jun 2019 - Sep 2019

nVisium LLC

Creative Design Associate

- Collaborated with security professionals to assess user experience impacts of security features
- Designed and prepared print & digital media and developed web projects

Reston, VA

Jun 2014 - May 2017

Tyler Technologies

User Experience Intern, Technology Research

- Conducted user studies of warehouse workers and coded data under mentorship of senior staff
- Designed and developed a mobile app prototype for delivery tracking and reporting

Yarmouth, ME

Jun 2013 - Aug 2013

Publications

Conference Proceedings

Yang, Y., **Dong, H.**, and Foucault Welles, B. *Refugee, Migrant, or Tourist: Scrutinizing the Dramaturgical Performance of “TikTok Refugee”*. Paper to be presented at the NCA 111th Annual Convention, Denver, CO.

Kumar, P.C., Schulman, J., Albargi, F., Bhattacharyya, S., **Dong, H.** and Liu Z. *Ungrading as a Pedagogy for Teaching Qualitative Research Methods in Computing*. ACM 2025 Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education.

Workshops

Dong, H., Kumar, P.C. (2024, August 11). *Teen Privacy and Social Learning: An On-going Reddit Analysis* [Short paper]. SOUPS 2024 Workshop on Creating Engaging Security and Privacy Educational Interfaces for Educators and Families.

Dong, H. (2023, October 14). *Understanding how youth learn about privacy through AI interactions* [Statement of interest]. CSCW 2023 Workshop on AI through the Eyes of Gen Z: Setting a Research Agenda for Emerging Technologies that Empower Our Future Generations. Virtual.

Conference Presentations

Kumar, P.C., **Dong, H.**, Albargi, F. (2024, September 4-6). Global South perspectives on privacy education for children: Examples from the Philippines and Saudi Arabia. [Abstract] 5th International Data Power Conference, Hybrid.

Honors & Awards

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| IAPP Conference Scholarship , International Association of Privacy Professionals | 2024 |
| Graham Endowed Fellowship , Pennsylvania State University | 2023 |
| Carolina Academic Library Associate Fellowship , University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill | 2017 - 2019 |
| The Center for Undergraduate Research Grant , University of Maine | 2014 |
| International Presidential Scholarship , University of Maine | 2010 - 2014 |
| Dean’s List , University of Maine | 2010 - 2013 |

Affiliations

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| Center for Socially Responsible Artificial Intelligence , Penn State University, Student Affiliate | 2024 - Present |
| The Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life , UNC Chapel Hill, Student Affiliate | 2024 - Present |

Talks & Presentations

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| Addressing Privacy Issues in Youth and Tech Use 2025 MLA/DLA Annual Conference · Presentation | Ocean City, MD May 2025 |
| Ethics of Generative AI: Penn State Undergraduate Student Perspectives Symposium for Teaching and Learning with Technology 2025 · Presentation | State College, PA Mar 2025 |
| Automation and Crowdsourcing of Privacy Setting Recommendations Human-Computer Interaction Consortium 2024 · Poster Presentation | Delevan, WI Jun 2024 |
| The Great Migration of the Carolina Digital Repository LAUNC-CH Conference · Lightning Talk | Chapel Hill, NC Mar 2018 |
| AppSec: Balancing Security & Design OWASP NoVA · Guest Talk | Arlington, VA Jul 2015 |

Skills

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| Qualitative Methods | Thematic Analysis, Usability Evaluation, Digital Accessibility Evaluation, Contextual Inquiry, Interview |
| Quantitative Methods | Descriptive Statistics, Data Visualization |
| Software Tools | Python, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Bash, SQL, Git, Adobe Creative Suite, AxureRP, Figma |
| Languages | Mandarin, Japanese, Spanish, Tagalog |