

Zhiping (Arya) Zhang

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My PhD research lies at the intersection of **HCI**, **privacy** and **human-centered AI**. Specifically, I 1) understand privacy challenges in personalized agentic AI systems; and 2) design effective human-AI collaboration mechanisms that align AI behavior with both general social norms and individual privacy preferences in real-world applications.

Education	Ph.D. student in Computer Science	Boston, US
	<i>Northeastern University (NEU), Supervisor: Prof. Tianshi Li</i>	2024 – 2029 (Exp.)
	M.Sc. in Industrial Design (HCI Track)	Eindhoven, NL
	<i>Eindhoven University of Technology (TU/e)</i>	2018 – 2020
	B.Eng. in Industrial Design (Honours, Top 1)	China & UK
	<i>University of Liverpool (UoL), Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University</i>	2014 – 2018
Research Experience	Privacy-Enabling AI & Computer-Human Interaction Lab	2024 – present
	Conducted human-centered privacy research on language models and agentic AI systems using mixed methods, system building, and computational experiments. First-authored papers published in CHI '24 [C.2], CSCW '25 [C.3], and submitted to TOCHI [I.1]. (Advised by <i>Prof. Tianshi Li</i>)	
	CompLING Lab-AI Group, UWaterloo	Summer 2025
	Led a project on mitigating privacy concerns in personalized LM agents by balancing human control and agent autonomy. Developed an LLM agent system and conducted a computational experiment. First-authored paper submitted to COLM '26 [I.2]. (Advised by <i>Prof. Freda Shi</i>)	
	Social Robotics Lab, TU/e	2019
	Worked on social robot role design, robot behavior programming, and conducted a field test. Co-authored paper published in HRI '20 [C.1]. (Advised by <i>Prof. Emilia Barakova & Panos Markopoulos</i>)	
Industry Experience	AI Product Manager, Fiture	2021 – 2023
	o-to-1 explored AI-powered home gym equipment, bridging algorithms and real products (<i>a voice assistant, natural language & body-pose remote control, and a course searching and recommendation system</i>).	
	User Experience Design & Research, Alibaba	2020 – 2021
	Researched and designed user experience to support multi-role collaboration in enterprise purchasing systems. (<i>an intelligent purchasing conversational agent: enhanced purchasers' workflow and increased user satisfaction by 22% after launch</i>).	

* indicates co-first authorship.

Peer-reviewed
conference
and journal
papers

[C.4] Dark Patterns Meet GUI Agents: LLM Agent Susceptibility to Manipulative Interfaces and the Role of Human Oversight

Jingyu Tang*, Chaoran Chen*, Jiawen Li, Zhiping Zhang, Bingcan Guo, Ibrahim Khalilov, Simret Araya Gebreegziabher, Bingsheng Yao, Dakuo Wang, Yanfang Ye, Tianshi Li, Ziang Xiao, Yaxing Yao, Toby Jia-Jun Li

In Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26)

[C.3] Secret Use of Large Language Model (LLM)

Zhiping Zhang, Chenxinran Shen, Bingsheng Yao, Dakuo Wang, Tianshi Li.

In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '25)

[C.2] “It’s a Fair Game”, or Is It? Examining How Users Navigate Disclosure Risks and Benefits When Using LLM-Based Conversational Agents

Zhiping Zhang, Michelle Jia, Hao-Ping (Hank) Lee, Bingsheng Yao, Sauvik Das, Ada Lerner, Dakuo Wang, Tianshi Li.

In Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24)

[C.1] Robot role design for implementing social facilitation theory in musical instruments practicing

Heqiu Song, Zhiping Zhang, Emilia I. Barakova, Jaap Ham, Panos Markopoulos

In Proceedings of the 2020 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction (HRI '20).

In
Submission

[I.2] Autonomy Matters: A Study on Personalization-Privacy Dilemma in LLM Agents

Zhiping Zhang, Yi Evie Zhang, Freda Shi, Tianshi Li

[I.1] Privacy Leakage Overshadowed by Views of AI: A Study on Human Oversight of Privacy in Language Model Agent

Zhiping Zhang, Bingcan Guo, Tianshi Li

SIG/Poster/
Workshop

[W.1] Toward a Human-centered Evaluation Framework for Trustworthy LLM-Powered GUI Agents

Chaoran Chen*, Zhiping Zhang*, Ibrahim Khalilov, Bingcan Guo, Simret A Gebreegziabher, Yanfang Ye, Ziang Xiao, Yaxing Yao, Tianshi Li, Toby Jia-Jun Li
(HEAL @CHI '25)

[P.1] The Obvious Invisible Threat: LLM-Powered GUI Agents’ Vulnerability to Fine-Print Injections

Chaoran Chen, Zhiping Zhang, Bingcan Guo, Shang Ma, Ibrahim Khalilov, Simret A Gebreegziabher, Ziang Xiao, Yaxing Yao, Tianshi Li, Toby Jia-Jun Li
(SOUPS '25)

[S.1] Human-Centered Privacy Research in the Age of Large Language Models

Tianshi Li, Sauvik Das, Hao-Ping (Hank) Lee, Dakuo Wang, Bingsheng Yao, Zhiping Zhang
In Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24)

Professional **Program Committee**
Service 2026: (Associate Chair) CHI '26 Poster, IUI '26, AgentCraft @IUI '26
 2025: HAIPS @CCS '25

External Reviewer

✱ *Received “special recognitions” for outstanding reviews*

2026: ✱CHI '26, HRI '26, DIS '26, CHI-Dissertation Research Roundtable

2025: ✱CHI '25, IMWUT '25, UIST '25, TEI '25, IJHCS

2024: CSCW '24, CUI '24

Awards	IF Design Award Winner	2024
	Reddot Award Winner	2023
	IF Talent Award Winner	2020
	Alibaba High-level Talents Scholarship (~\$14,400)	2020
	China-U.S Young Maker Competition Final Excellence Award	2018
	Best Overall Academic Performance (Top 1)	2018
	Academic Achievement Award Scholarship (Top 5%) (~\$1,440)	2018
	Academic Excellence Award Scholarship (Top 10%) (~\$720)	2017
	COMAP's Interdisciplinary Contest in Modeling - Meritorious Winner (Top 5%)	2016