Kristen Vaccaro

Assistant Professor of Computer Science & Engineering
University of California San Diego

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Education

2013-2020   PhD in Computer Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Advisor: Karrie Karahalios
Committee: Christian Sandvig, Sanmi Koyejo, Hari Sundaram and Kevin Hamilton
Dissertation Title: Configuration and Control in Social Media Systems

2011-2013   NONDEGREE graduate work in Computational Social Science, George Mason University

2005-2009   BA in Physics, Reed College

Research experience

2020-present   Assistant Professor, University of California San Diego
Research: improving the user experience of social computing, particularly around algorithmic systems for curation, recommendation, and content moderation

2013-2020   Research Assistant, University of Illinois
Research: the user experience of algorithmic systems for social computing, with a focus on designing for user agency and control

2015   Research Intern, Adobe Research
Research: modeled compatibility in the fashion domain, investigating whether a third item could "make or break" an outfit

2009-2013   Software Engineer, MITRE Corporation
Research: developed and evaluated systems dealing with identity resolution and social network analysis. Also contributed to the design, development and evaluation of radar systems

Publications

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS (PEER-REVIEWED)

2023   Challenges of Moderating Social Virtual Reality
Nazanin Sabri, Bella Chen, Annabelle Teoh, Steven P. Dow, **Kristen Vaccaro**, Mai ElSherief
CHI

2022   Understanding Risks of Privacy Theater with Differential Privacy
Mary Anne Smart, Dhruv Sood, and **Kristen Vaccaro**
CSCW

2022   Learning about the experiences of Chicano/Latino students in a large undergraduate CS program
        Amari Lewis, Joe Politz, **Kristen Vaccaro**, and Mia Minnes
        ITiCSE

2021   Contestability For Content Moderation
        Kristen Vaccaro, Ziang Xiao, Kevin Hamilton and Karrie Karahalios
        CSCW   DOI: 10.1145/3476059

2020   "At the End of the Day Facebook Does What It Wants": How Users Experience Contesting Algorithmic Content Moderation
        Kristen Vaccaro, Christian Sandvig and Karrie Karahalios
        CSCW   DOI: 10.1145/3415238

2020   Awareness, Navigation, and Use of Feed Control Settings Online
        Silas Hsu, **Kristen Vaccaro**, Yue Yin, Aimee Rickman and Karrie Karahalios
        CHI   DOI: 10.1145/3313831.3376583

2019   User Attitudes Towards Algorithmic Opacity and Transparency in Online Reviewing Platforms
        Motahhare Eslami, **Kristen Vaccaro**, Min Kyung Lee, Amit Elazari Bar On, Eric Gilbert, and Karrie Karahalios
        CHI   DOI: 10.1145/3290605.3300724

2018   The Illusion of Control: Placebo Effects of Control Settings
        Kristen Vaccaro, Dylan Huang, Motahhare Eslami, Christian Sandvig, Kevin Hamilton, and Karrie Karahalios
        CHI   DOI: 10.1145/3173574.3173590

2018   Designing the Future of Personal Fashion
        Kristen Vaccaro, Tanvi Agarwalla, Sunaya Shivakumar, and Ranjitha Kumar
        CHI   DOI: 10.1145/3173574.3174201

2017   "Be careful; things can be worse than they appear": Understanding Biased Algorithms and Users' Behavior around Them in Rating Platforms
        Motahhare Eslami, **Kristen Vaccaro**, Karrie Karahalios, and Kevin Hamilton
        ICWSM

2016   The Elements of Fashion Style
        Kristen Vaccaro, Sunaya Shivakumar, Ziqiao Ding, Karrie Karahalios, and Ranjitha Kumar
        UIST   DOI: 10.1145/2984511.2984573

2016   First I "like" it, then I hide it: Folk Theories of Social Feeds
        Motahhare Eslami, Karrie Karahalios, Christian Sandvig, **Kristen Vaccaro**, Aimee Rickman, Kevin Hamilton and Alex Kirlik
        CHI   DOI: 10.1145/2858036.2858494

2016   Not by Money Alone: Social Support Opportunities in Medical Crowdfunding Campaigns
        Jennifer Kim, **Kristen Vaccaro**, Karrie Karahalios, and Hwajung Hong
        CSCW   DOI: 10.1145/2998181.2998245

2015   "I always assumed that I wasn't really that close to [her]": Reasoning About Invisible Algorithms in the News Feed
        Motahhare Eslami, Aimee Rickman, **Kristen Vaccaro**, Amir Hossein, Christian Sandvig, Kevin Hamilton and Karrie Karahalios
        CHI   DOI: 10.1145/2702123.2702556 **Best paper award**

WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS (LIGHTLY PEER-REVIEWED)

2017   Algorithmic Appeals
       Kristen Vaccaro and Karrie Karahalios
       NSF Workshop on Trustworthy Algorithmic Decision Making

2017   An Experimentation Engine for Data-Driven Fashion Systems
       Kristen Vaccaro and Ranjitha Kumar
       AAAI Spring Symposium: The User Experience of Machine Learning

2015   Agree or Cancel? Research and Terms of Service Compliance
       Kristen Vaccaro, Karrie Karahalios, Christian Sandvig, Kevin Hamilton, and Cedric Langbort
       CSCW Workshop on Ethics for Studying Sociotechnical Systems in a Big Data World

Workshops, panels & invited talks

2022   Anti-Social Computing: Ethics & Values in Content Moderation
       Invited talk at *Institute for Practical Ethics*

2020-2021   Contestability in Content Moderation
       Invited talk at *MIT (CSAIL), Stanford (Human-Computer Interaction Group), and University of Michigan (Living Online Lab)*

2021   Agency in an Automated World
       Invited talk at *Wilkes University*

2019   Contestability in Algorithmic Systems
       Workshop at *CSCW*   DOI: 10.1145/3311957.3359435
       Organizer with Karrie Karahalios, Dierdre Mulligan, Daniel Kluttz and Tad Hirsch

2019-2020   Designing Machine Learning Systems for User Agency and Control
       Invited talk at *University of California San Diego, University of Maryland, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, Rutgers University, Syracuse University, Reed College*

2017   Fairness, Accountability and Transparency in Algorithmic Decision Making
       Panel at *TAPIA*
       Assisted organization with Sanmi Koyejo

    Guest lecturer
2020   Ethics and Artificial Intelligence *MED 265: Informatics in Clinical Environments*
2020   Designing Machine Learning for User Agency *COGS 200: Cognitive Science Seminar*
2018   Placebo Effect of Control Settings *CS 591: Human-Computer Interaction Seminar*
2017   Deception Online *CS 598: Social Spaces Online*
2016   Accessibility & Internationalization in Web Development *CS 498: Art of Web Programming*
2016   Design Alternatives and Heuristic Evaluation *CS 498: Art of Web Programming*
2016   Elements of Fashion Style *CS 591: Human-Computer Interaction Seminar*
2016   Ethical Web Scraping *CS 205: Problem Solving with Data Structures*

Mentoring

<small>GRADUATE STUDENTS</small>

University of California San Diego
Mary Anne Smart (coauthor)
Lu Sun
Udayan Tandon
Tianyi Shan
Aaron Broukhim
Yajie Sun
Alex Martakis
Aditya Mandke

University of Illinois
Silas Hsu (coauthor)
Lucy Chang

<small>UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS</small>
University of California San Diego

Mrinal Sharma		Thanh Tong
Zimo Peng		Jasmine Takei
Harini Gurusankar		Lucy Hu
Jianming Geng	*Berkeley MEng*	Ayushi Sharma
Mingyang David Liu	*UCSD MCS*	Tyus Liu
Binghong Leo Li	*Yale MSCS*	McKinley Souder
Yutong Chen	*CMU MHCI*	Stephen Tan
Ruoxuan Li	*Columbia MS*	Dhruv Sood

University of Illinois

Ding Ziqiao (coauthor)	Ming Wen
Chen Qian	Isaac Park
Dana Nikolaeva Chambourova	Lisa Huang
Hanzi Amber Shen	Kevin Ly
Dylan Huang (coauthor)	Ankith Subramanya
Sunaya Shivakumar (coauthor)	Ji Yeon In
Tanvi Agarwalla (coauthor)	Rahul Shah
Will Koster	Yujie Shao
Nandini Iyer	
Annabelle Shih	

Teaching experience

2020-2023   Assistant Professor, University of California San Diego
CS 91 Peer-led Academic Cohort Experiences (2022-2023)
CS 170 Interaction Design (2022)
CS 190 Human-Centered AI (2020-2022)
CS 290 User Experiences of Machine Learning (2021)
CS 291 Antisocial Computing (2020-2023)

2016-2017	Selected to teach in the Graduate Academy for College Teaching, the University of Illinois' campus-wide TA training program
2013-2016	Teaching assistant, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

> *CS 598 Data Driven Design (2016)*
> *CS 498 Art of Web Programming (2016)*
> *CS 210 Ethics in Technology (2013-2014)*
> *CS 205 Problem Solving with Data Structures (2015)*
> *CS 102 Little Bits to Big Ideas (2014)*

Service

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer
CHI 2020, 2018, 2017, 2016
DIS 2020
CSCW 2022, 2019, 2018
UIST 2019, 2018, 2017
IUI 2017
TIIS 2017
New Media & Society 2022
Information, Communication and Society 2019
Creativity & Cognition 2017

Program Committee
DIS 2023
FAccT 2022
IUI Posters and Demos 2020
Women In Data Science Urbana-Champaign 2020

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

2020-2023	Undergraduate Committee, Computer Science & Engineering Department, University of California San Diego
2022-2023	Designing Just Futures Hiring Committee, Computer Science & Engineering Department and Design Lab, University of California San Diego
2021-2023	Executive Committee, Seventh College, University of California San Diego
2021	Faculty Sponsor, Graduate Women in Computing, University of California San Diego
2014-2020	Mentor for the Computer Science department

> Mentor first-year graduate students in the department
> Graduate Ambassador, supporting recruitment for the department
> Selected as the *2019 Graduate Student Outstanding Ambassador Award*

2020	Judge for the University of Illinois Women in Data Science Poster Session
2014-2019	Speaker for events for undergraduates for:

> Women in Computer Science (WCS)
> Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
> Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) Program

2017	Instructor at the NCSA Software Carpentry Workshop

Last updated: April 26, 2023