

임제인 Jane Im

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University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
School of Information & Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Research Interests

I design and build social computing systems (e.g., social media, workplace software) that are grounded in affirmative consent, an idea that a person or a system must ask for, and earn, enthusiastic approval before interacting with an individual. Existing social platforms enable or exacerbate two classes of problems that negatively impact society: 1) interpersonal harm people cause one another, such as online harassment, and 2) institutional exploitation of users, such as companies' invasive data tracking of users. Both are closely related to people's consent (e.g., "Do I decide to interact with this user?", "Do I opt into tracking for targeted ads?"). Thus, consent is an important concept to define when it comes to software design. My research defines theoretical properties of affirmative consent and provides design ideas on how to encode them into software. Based on the ideas, I build systems to ensure people's consent boundaries are protected during interactions—especially in contexts where individuals make high-risk decisions, such as navigating abuse of power in workplace settings. And, because there is a power imbalance between tech companies and users, I design interfaces to help users make less burdensome data-related consent decisions. I am also interested in studying how users perceive social media's business models, which are a basis for companies' power.

Education

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Sept. 2018 - present

Ph.D. in Information & Computer Science and Engineering (enrolled in both via U-M's SIDP)

Thesis: Social Computing Systems Grounded in Consent (passed proposal)

Committee: Kentaro Toyama (advisor), Emily Mower Provost, Mark S. Ackerman, Amy J. Ko

Korea University, Seoul, Republic of Korea Mar. 2013 - Aug. 2018

B.B.A. in Business Administration

B.S. in Computer Science and Engineering

Industry Employment

Meta, Menlo Park, CA (remote) Jun. 2021 - Aug. 2021

User Experience Research Intern for Facebook with Scarlett Sheng

Sassafra Tech Collective, Ann Arbor, MI (remote) May 2020 - Aug. 2020

Software Development & Research Intern with Jill Dimond

Airbnb, San Francisco, CA Research Intern Recipient 2020; cancelled due to COVID

Awards, Grants, and Recognitions

Heidelberg Laureate Forum Young Researcher 2024

EECS Rising Stars 2023

Meta PhD Research Fellowship 2023 - 2025

21 fellows were selected out of 3,200 applications. Receives a full coverage of tuition and university fees for two academic years, as well as a \$42,000 stipend. (Selected on my fourth try—I started applying from my second year.)

Google Grant (Unrestricted Gift; PI: Dr. Florian Schaub) 2022

Contributed to ideation and grant writing, which led to winning an unrestricted gift of \$75,000.

Finalist for CSE Graduate Student Honors Competition 2022

Recognizes "top research done by PhD students" at CSE. One of the five finalists of the last round. Awarded \$600.

Barbour Scholarship 2022 - 2023

Among the oldest and most prestigious awards granted by the University of Michigan, offering one year of funding to female students from Asia and the Middle East since 1917. Covers stipend of \$36,084 and tuition.

Finalist for Meta PhD Research Fellowship	2022
ACM CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention Award	2021
ACM WebSci Best Paper Runner Up Award	2020
SK Telecom Big Data Analytics Competition 3rd Prize	2015
Korea University Honor Scholarships	Spring & Fall 2014, Fall 2015

Publications

Select Conference Proceedings, Journals, Posters, and Panel Proposals (Archival)

[p1] **Jane Im**, Kentaro Toyama. Understanding How to Design a Social Computing System That Helps PhD Students Collectively Navigate Mistreatment or Abuse in Advising Relationships. *Extended Abstracts of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA 2024)*. [\[link\]](#)

[p2] **Jane Im**, Himanshu Zade, Steve Oney, Pamela Wisniewski, Kentaro Toyama. Improving Advising Relationships Between PhD Students and Faculty in Human-Computer Interaction. *Extended Abstracts of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA 2024)*. [\[link\]](#) [\[project website\]](#)

[c1] **Jane Im**, Ruiyi Wang, Weikun Lyu, Nick Cook, Hana Habib, Lorrie Cranor, Nikola Banovic, Florian Schaub. Less is Not More: Improving Findability and Actionability of Privacy Controls for Online Behavioral Advertising. *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2023)*. **Coverage: The Wall Street Journal** [\[link\]](#)

[c2] **Jane Im**, Jill Dimond, Melody Berton, Una Lee, Katherine Mustelier, Mark Ackerman, Eric Gilbert. Yes: Affirmative Consent as a Theoretical Framework for Understanding and Imagining Social Platforms. *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2021)*. **Best Paper Honorable Mention Award** [\[link\]](#) [\[project website\]](#)

Other Conference Proceedings and Journals

[c3] Sumit Asthana, **Jane Im**, Zhe Chen, Nikola Banovic. “I know even if you don’t tell me”: Understanding Users’ Privacy Preferences Regarding AI-based Inferences of Sensitive Information for Personalization. *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2024)*. *Forthcoming*.

[c4] Shubham Atreya, **Jane Im**, Paul Resnick, Libby Hemphill. AppealMod: Inducing Friction to Reduce Moderator Workload of Handling User Appeals. *ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2024)*. [\[link\]](#)

[c5] Paul Resnick, Aljohara Alfayez, **Jane Im**, Eric Gilbert. Searching For or Reviewing Evidence Improves Crowdworkers’ Misinformation Judgments and Reduces Partisan Bias. *ACM Collective Intelligence (CI 2023)*. [\[link\]](#)

[c6] Lia Bozarth, **Jane Im**, Christopher Quarles, Ceren Budak. Wisdom of Two Crowds: Current Practices of Misinformation Moderation on Reddit and How to Improve this Process—A Case Study of COVID-19. *ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2023)*. [\[link\]](#)

[c7] **Jane Im**, Sarita Schoenebeck, Marilyn Iriarte, Gabriel Grill, Daricia Wilkinson, Amna Batool, Rahaf Alharbi, Audrey N. Funwie, Tergel Gankhuu, Eric Gilbert, Mustafa Naseem. Women’s Perspectives on Harm and Justice after Online Harassment. *ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2022)*. [\[link\]](#)

[c8] Hariharan Subramonyam, **Jane Im**, Colleen Seifert, Eytan Adar. Solving Separation-of-Concerns Problems in Collaborative Design of Human-AI Systems through Leaky Abstractions. *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2022)*. [\[link\]](#)

[c9] **Jane Im**, Eshwar Chandrasekharan, Jackson Sargent, Paige Lighthammer, Taylor Denby, Ankit Bhargava, Libby Hemphill, David Jurgens, Eric Gilbert. Still Out There: Modeling and Identifying Russian Troll Accounts on Twitter. *ACM Conference on Web Science (WebSci 2020)*. **Best Paper Runner Up Award** [\[link\]](#)

[c10] **Jane Im**, Sonali Tandon, Eshwar Chandrasekharan, Taylor Denby, Eric Gilbert. Synthesized Social Signals: Computationally-Derived Social Signals from Account Histories. *ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2020)*. [\[link\]](#)

[c11] **Jane Im**, Amy X. Zhang, Christopher J. Schilling, David Karger. Deliberation and Resolution on Wikipedia: A Case Study of Request for Comments. *ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2018)*. **Coverage: Motherboard, Campus Technology** [\[link\]](#)

[c12] **Jane Im**, Paul Medlock-Walton, Mike Tissenbaum. App Inventor VR Editor for Computational Thinking. *Computational Thinking in Education Conference (CTE 2017)*. [\[link\]](#)

Other Posters and Panel Proposals

[p3] Annie Chen, Sean Scarnecchia, **Jane Im**, Tanisha Afnan, Byron M. Lowens, Florian Schaub. FB Privacy Helper: A Browser Extension That Simplifies Facebook Ad Privacy Settings. *Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security*. Anaheim, CA. August 2023.

[p4] Douglas Zytko, **Jane Im**, Jonathan Zong. Consent: A Research and Design Lens for Human-Computer Interaction. *Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW'22 Companion)*. Virtual. November 2022.

[p5] **Jane Im**, Nikola Banovic, Florian Schaub. Designing and Building Social Platforms Grounded in Consent. *Trust & Safety Research Conference*. Stanford, CA. September 2022.

Select Workshop Papers

[w1] **Jane Im**, Jeeyoon Hyun, Jill Dimond, Melody Berton, Eric Gilbert. Building Social Platforms around Affirmative Consent. *Moving Forward Together: Effective Activism For Change Workshop at ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2020)*. Honolulu, HI. April 2020.

[w2] **Jane Im**. Non-consensual Images & Videos and Consent in Social Media. *Sensitive Research, Practice, and Design in HCI Workshop at ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2019)*. Glasgow, UK. May 2019.

Media Writing

[m1] Heeryung Choi, **Jane Im**, Cindy Lin, Yixin Zou. An open letter to the U-M community. *The Michigan Daily*. [\[link\]](#)

Select Research Experience

University of Michigan

Sept. 2018 - present

PhD Research

- Currently designing and researching social computing systems that give users more agency and protect people's consent boundaries in user-to-system and user-to-user interactions [c1, p1].
- Using social science theories, system-building, interviews, and surveys, uncovered how lack of consent lead to a wide range of problems on social media, with users wanting fine-grained privacy and safety tools [c2, c10].

Meta (Facebook)

Jun. 2021 - Aug. 2021

User Experience Research Intern, advised by Scarlett Sheng, Rui Yang & Ayesha Zafar

- Impacted Meta's privacy strategy by doing foundational mixed-method research to understand users' perception of consent in the context of online behavioral advertising and App Tracking Transparency. Quantitatively analyzed existing survey data to understand Facebook advertisers' goals.

Sassafras Tech Collective

May 2020 - Aug. 2020

Software Development & Research Intern, advised by Jill Dimond

- Built and conducted (remote) usability testing of a moderation system. Based on the usability testing results, designed mockups and further developed the moderation system.

Haystack Group, MIT

Apr. 2017 - Apr. 2018

Undergraduate Research, advised by Amy X. Zhang and David Karger

- Investigated how various factors affect the outcome of Request for Comments (RfC), a deliberative discussion on Wikipedia, by using mixed methods: 1) interviewing Wikipedia editors and 2) creating and quantitatively analyzing an English RfC dataset [c11].

MIT App Inventor, MIT

Oct. 2016 - May 2017

Undergraduate Research, advised by Paul Medlock-Walton and Hal Abelson

- Enabled novice programmers to create modular code in the App Inventor, by developing customized blocks within the system that can execute any functions of an imported API. Implemented virtual reality (VR) blocks in the App Inventor to help novice users build VR apps [c12].

Soft Active Materials Lab, MIT

Sept. 2016 - Feb. 2017

Undergraduate Research, advised by Hyunwoo Yuk

- Developed 3D printing based soft robotic hands with stand-alone actuation and control system. Implemented the software interface for precise 3D printing for advanced soft materials.

Invited Talks and Panels

PrivacyCon 2024, Federal Trade Commission Mar. 2024
Less is Not More: Improving Findability and Actionability of Privacy Controls for Online Behavioral Advertising

Professor Hyejin Youn's group, Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management Feb. 2024
Consent and Consensus on Social Computing Systems

Faculty Media Skills: Ask the Experts, University of Michigan School of Information Feb. 2024
Invited to talk about my experience interacting with the media as a PhD student (panel discussion).

Cornell Information Science PhD Seminar, Cornell University Nov. 2023
Affirmative Consent and Power Dynamics as Lenses for Designing Social Computing Systems

Radical Futures for Social Media, Yale Law School's Social Media Governance Initiative Mar. 2023
Interface Designs and Business Models for Safer Social Platforms (panel presentation)

GermSyllabus talk series, Germ Network Nov. 2022
Affirmative Consent in Platform Design

Expertise@Scale Lab, Carnegie Mellon University Mar. 2022
Designing and Building Social Platforms Grounded in Consent

DUB Shorts Seminar, University of Washington Aug. 2021
Yes: Affirmative Consent as a Theoretical Framework for Understanding and Imagining Social Platforms

MetaGov Seminar, Metagovernance Project Apr. 2021
Reimagining and Building Social Platforms Grounded in Consent

HCI Seminar, Seoul National University Jan. 2021
Reimagining and Building Social Platforms Grounded in Consent

Wikimedia Showcase, Wikimedia Foundation Sept. 2018
Deliberation and Resolution on Wikipedia: A Case Study of Requests for Comments

IAR Seminar, University of Michigan School of Information Sept. 2018
Deliberation and Resolution on Wikipedia: A Case Study of Requests for Comments

Select Workshop and Consortium Participation

Accelerating Independent Research on Prosocial Digital Interventions <i>Google Jigsaw and Prosocial Design Network. Invited on behalf of Shubham Atreja, who could not make it.</i>	Nov. 2023
Human-Computer Interaction Consortium <i>Selected as one of the two funded students from University of Michigan to participate.</i>	Jun. 2023
Preparing Future Faculty Seminar <i>Rackham Graduate School & Center for Research on Learning and Teaching</i>	May 2023
Social Media Governance Initiative Spring 2023 Convening: Beyond Moderation <i>Yale Law School's Social Media Governance Initiative. Invited for a panel talk.</i>	Mar. 2023

Invited Guest Lectures

SE 17702 Current Topics in Privacy Seminar, Carnegie Mellon University <i>Less is Not More: Improving Findability and Actionability of Privacy Controls for Online Behavioral Advertising</i>	Mar. 2023
CS 598 Antisocial Computing Guest Lecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign <i>Building Social Platforms Grounded in Consent</i>	Oct. 2020
EECS 598 Human-Computer Interaction Guest Presentation, University of Michigan <i>Synthesized Social Signals: Computationally-Derived Social Signals from Account Histories</i>	Apr. 2020

Press

(Quoted in) How to Make It Easier for Consumers to Control the Ads They See Online.
The Wall Street Journal. Suman Bhattacharyya. Sept. 27, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

2022 CSE Graduate Student Honors Competition highlights outstanding research.
University of Michigan CSE News. Nov 10, 2022. [\[link\]](#)

(Quoted in) Privacy by Design laws will kill your data pipelines.
Protocol. Hirsh Chitkara. May 16, 2022. [\[link\]](#)

Predictive Model Identifies Wikipedia Arguments that Will Never Get Resolved.
Campus Technology. Dian Schaffhauser. Nov. 27, 2018. [\[link\]](#)

A Third of Wikipedia Discussions Are Stuck in Forever Beefs.
Vice Motherboard. Samantha Cole. Nov. 7, 2018. [\[link\]](#)

Teaching Experience

SI 539: Web Design, Development, and Accessibility, University of Michigan Winter 2020
Graduate Student Instructor

- A graduate course providing hands-on approach to learning responsive, accessible front-end programming for Web Design. Topics covered include HTML5, CSS3 (including Bootstrap framework), JavaScript, and the POUR design principles of accessible design. Led 2 discussion sections per week.

SI 339: Web Design, Development, and Accessibility, University of Michigan Fall 2019
Graduate Student Instructor

- An undergraduate version of the course above.

Academic Mentoring

I listed the next positions of students for whom I helped faculty write a letter of recommendation (these students tend to have been interested in Masters/PhD programs; just noting this as other students have also been amazing). If you are a student who feels uncomfortable having your name included for whatever reason, please let me know—I would completely understand. Also, I have informally mentored other students by consistently giving them high-level advice on research and career.

Paige Lighthammer, University of Michigan Nuclear Engineering (Undergraduate) [c9]	Sept. 2018 - Apr. 2019
Jackson Sargent, University of Michigan CSE (Undergraduate) [c9]	Sept. 2018 - Apr. 2019
Ankit Bhargava, University of Michigan CSE (Undergraduate) [c9]	Sept. 2018 - Apr. 2019
Taylor Denby, University of Michigan Cognitive Science (Undergraduate) [c9, c10] <i>Next: University of Michigan, Master of Science in Information</i>	Sept. 2018 - Aug. 2019
Sonali Tandon, University of Michigan School of Information (Masters) [c10]	Sept. 2018 - Apr. 2019
Katherine Mustelier, University of Michigan School of Information (Undergraduate) [c2]	Mar. 2020 - May. 2020
Jake Klaristenfeld, University of Michigan CSE (Undergraduate)	Oct. 2020 - Apr. 2021
Eleanor Desmond, University of Michigan Electrical Engineering (Undergraduate)	Oct. 2020 - Jul. 2021
Jolie Kaplan, University of Michigan CSE (Undergraduate)	Oct. 2020 - Jul. 2021
Alice Li Wang, University of Michigan Stephen M. Ross School of Business & School of Information (Undergraduate)	Feb. 2021 - Apr. 2021
Ruiyi Yang, University of Michigan CSE (Undergraduate) [c1] <i>Next: Carnegie Mellon University, Master of Science in Intelligent Information Systems</i>	Oct. 2021 - Aug. 2022
Weikun Lyu, University of Michigan Math & CS (Undergraduate) [c1] <i>Awarded the Blue Ribbon Certificate for his presentation at the UROP symposium. Next: Meta, Software engineer</i>	Oct. 2020 - Apr. 2021; Jan. 2022 - May 2022
Nick Cook, University of Michigan Computer Science (Undergraduate) [c1]	Jul. 2022 - Aug. 2022
Sean Scarnecchia, University of Michigan CSE (Undergraduate) [p3]	Oct. 2021 - Apr. 2022; Oct. 2022 - Jan. 2023
Annie Chen, University of Michigan CS (Undergraduate) [p3]	Oct. 2020 - Apr. 2022; Sept. 2022 - Apr. 2023
Sumit Asthana, University of Michigan CSE (PhD student) [c3]	Nov. 2022 - Sept. 2023

Select Academic Service

Reviewing

Special Recognitions for Outstanding Review: UIST 2022, CSCW 2023-2024, CHI 2023 (4 times), CHI 2024 LBW
 CHI (2021 - 2024), CSCW (2019 - 2021, 2023 - 2024), FAccT (2023), ICWSM (2022, 2024), UIST (2022), IEEE Pervasive Computing (2022), PLoS ONE (2021), IEE ICDM (2019)
 CHI LBW (2020, 2024), CSCW Poster (2020)

Others (Selected)

UMSI Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, PhD student representative	Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PhD student representative for UMSI’s DEI committee, which focuses on “school level efforts to promote an equitable and inclusive community across students, staff, and faculty.” • Contributed to shaping School of Information’s DEI 2.0 Strategic Plan by ensuring PhD students’ perspectives are reflected in the proposal. 	
Michigan Interactive and Social Computing (MISC), Student Organizer	Fall 2020 - Winter 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-organized speaker series on HCI and social computing. 	

Leadership and Outreach

UMSI PhD Student Internship Information Session, Organizer Fall 2021

- Organized a panel to give junior PhD students advice on finding and securing internships.

UMSI & CSE Student Initiated Doctoral Program (SIDP) Design, Assistant to faculty Fall 2020

- Assisted faculty members in drafting a proposal for evaluating students that want to pursue a PhD in both SI and CSE. Led the effort as the only PhD student.
- I was told that I may be the first PhD student to be *formally evaluated* by SI and CSE PhD program committees and enrolled in the two programs via U-M's Student Initiated Doctoral Program (SIDP).

Doctoral Executive Committee (DEC), Member Fall 2019 - Winter 2020

- DEC is a group of PhD students that represents the voice of UMSI PhD students.

Last updated: April 18, 2024