

# BRENNAN SCHAFFNER

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## EDUCATION

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### University of Chicago, IL

Third Year Ph.D. student in Computer Science

2020-Present

*Research area:* Human Computer Interaction (HCI)

I am currently involved in projects related to the impact of platform design and recommendation systems on user-agency, platform moderation of user-generated content, and ethical data collection.

### University of Chicago, IL

M.S. in Computer Science

2022

### University of St. Thomas, MN

B.S. in Computer Science

Class of 2020

B.A. in Physics

Dean's list every semester

Minor in Mathematics

GPA: 3.87/4.00

## PUBLICATIONS

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1. **B. SCHAFFNER**, A. STEFANESCU, O. CAMPILI, AND M. CHETTY. Don't Let Netflix Drive the Bus: User's Sense of Agency Over Time and Content Choice on Netflix. *To Appear CSCW 2023*.  
[Preprint](#).
2. **B. SCHAFFNER**, N. LINGAREDDY, AND M. CHETTY. Understanding Account Deletion and Relevant Dark Patterns On Social Media. *CSCW 2022: Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.*  
[DOI: 10.1145/3555142](https://doi.org/10.1145/3555142).
3. B. TRAN, **B. SCHAFFNER**, J. MYRE, J. SAWIN AND D. CHIU. Exploring Means to Enhance the Efficiency of GPU Bitmap Index Query Processing. *DSE 2020: 2020 Data Science and Engineering Journal*.  
[DOI: 10.1007/s41019-020-00148-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s41019-020-00148-8).
4. B. TRAN, **B. SCHAFFNER**, J. MYRE, J. SAWIN AND D. CHIU. Increasing the Efficiency of GPU Bitmap Index Query Processing. *DASFAA 2020: International Conference on Database Systems for Advanced Applications*.  
[DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-59419-0-21](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-59419-0-21).
5. **B. SCHAFFNER**, J. SAWIN AND J. MYRE. Smartphones as Alternative Cloud Computing Engines: Benefits and Trade-offs. *FICLOUD 2018: IEEE 6th International Conference on Future Internet of Things and Cloud*, pp. 244-250.  
[DOI: 10.1109/FiCloud.2018.00043](https://doi.org/10.1109/FiCloud.2018.00043).

### Preprints and Work in Submission:

1. **B. Schaffner**, A. BROHN, J. CHEE, K. FENG, M. CHETTY. Designing and Testing a Mobile Application for Collecting WhatsApp Chat Data While Preserving Privacy. *Under Review at SOUPS 2023*.
2. S. WANG, K. MACMILLAN, **B. SCHAFFNER**, N. FEAMSTER, M. CHETTY. A First Look at the Consolidation of DNS and Web Hosting Providers. October 2021.  
[arXiv:2110.15345 \[cs.NI\]](https://arxiv.org/abs/2110.15345).

### Lightly Reviewed Papers:

1. N. LINGAREDDY, **B. SCHAFFNER**, AND M. CHETTY. Can I Delete My Account?: Dark Patterns In Account Deletion On Social Media. CHI 2021: *Workshop on What Can CHI do About Dark Patterns?*.  
[Position Paper](#).

## PANELS

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C. Gray, S. Chivukula, K. Bongard-Blanchy, A. Mathur, J. Gunawan, **B. Schaffner**.  
Emerging Transdisciplinary Perspectives to Confront Dark Patterns, April 23-28, 2023, *CHI 2023*,  
Hamburg, Germany.

## TALKS

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*CSCW 2023* - *October, Minneapolis, USA (Upcoming)*  
Don't Let Netflix Drive the Bus: User's Sense of Agency Over Time and Content Choice on Netflix.

*CSCW 2022* - [Recording](#) *October, Taipei, Taiwan (Virtual)*  
Understanding Account Deletion and Relevant Dark Patterns On Social Media.

*DAFSAA 2020* *September, Jeju, South Korea (Virtual)*  
Increasing the Efficiency of GPU Bitmap Index Query Processing.

## AWARDS AND HONORS

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University Unrestricted Fellowship for excellence in research. *Spring 2022*

Crerar Fellowship - University of Chicago Computer Science Department. *2020-2021*

NSF Funded Researcher at the University of Maryland. *Summer 2019*

## REGULATORY COMMENTS

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1. *California Privacy Protection Agency (CPPA) - August 2022*.  
California Consumer Privacy Act Regulations - Public Participation in the Rulemaking Process  
M. Chetty, M. Kugler, **B. Schaffner**, L. Strahilevitz.  
Submitted Comment: [PDF](#)
2. *Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - August 2022*  
Digital Advertising Business Guidance Request for Information  
Acquisti et al.  
Comment ID: [FTC-2022-0035-0029](#)
3. *European Data Protection Board (EDPB) - May 2022*  
Request for Comments on their "Guidelines 3/2022 on Dark patterns in social media platform interfaces: How to recognise and avoid them"  
J. Chanenson, M. Chetty, C. Crum, N. Feamster, J. Holiman, A. Khanna, K. MacMillan, B. Pandey, A. Peterson, Z. Rothstein, **B. Schaffner**, L. Strahilevitz, J. Yasmeh.  
Feedback Reference: [03/2022-0023](#)
4. *Federal Trade Commission (FTC) - May 2021*  
Request for Comments Regarding Topics to be Discussed at Dark Patterns Workshop  
M. Chetty, N. Lingareddy, **B. Schaffner**, L. Strahilevitz.  
Comment ID: [FTC-2021-0019-0111](#)

## SOFTWARE AND ARTIFACTS

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## Press this Button to Make Amazon Richer

2021

In a collaboration with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, we created an artistic demonstration of how Amazon uses home security system such as Ring Doorbells to build a network of surveillance and wealth.

## REU in Combinatorics and Algorithms for Real Problems

2019

Under Andrew Childs, we developed a python package that implements Jeongwan Haah's algorithm for quantum signal processing decomposition. It includes a step by step algorithm that decomposes periodic functions (often from quantum signal processing) into a product of primitive matrices, represented as a list of rotation angles. Available on the [Python Package index \(pip\)](#).

## TEACHING

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### University of Chicago - Illinois

*Teaching Assistant*

- Inclusive Technology: Designing for Underserved and Marginalized Communities (Winter 2023)

### University of St. Thomas - Minnesota

*Mathematics Tutor (2018 - 2020)*

- MATH 005-104 Basic Math Skills, Math Sampler, College Algebra, Trigonometry
- MATH 105-114, Precalculus, Calc I, Calc II, Calc for Business and Social Science
- MATH 128 Introduction to Discrete Mathematics
- MATH 200 Multi-Variable Calculus

## RESEARCH MENTORING

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### Masters Students:

Antonia Stefanescu, *University of Chicago, Master of Arts Program in the Humanities* (2021).

### Undergraduate Students:

Riya Sahni *University of Chicago* (2023-).

Michael Cheng *University of Chicago* (2022-).

Evan Cholerton *University of Chicago* (2022-).

Jiatong Lee, *University of Chicago, Major: Physics* (2022-).

Grace Wang, *Data Science Institute Summer Lab Research Assistant* (2022).

Olivia Campili, *University of Chicago, Major: Computer Science* (2022).

Neha Lingareddy, *University of Chicago, Major: Computer Science* (2021).

### High School Students:

Yaretzi Ulloa, *University of Chicago High School Research Assistant* (2022-).

## SERVICES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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Paper Reviewer for CSCW 2022 January

Paper Reviewer for CSCW 2023 July

CHI 2023 Privacy and Security [Subcommittee Chair Assistant](#)

Paper Reviewer for CHI 2023

Student Support Application Program Volunteer - EDI program for providing feedback to students from underrepresented or marginalized backgrounds on their admissions application.

## REFERENCES

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*Available on request.*