

BRENNAN SCHAFFNER

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EDUCATION

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

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

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

TALKS

- 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

- 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

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

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. More info [here](#).

TEACHING

University of Chicago - Illinois

Guest Lecturer

- Usable Security And Privacy (Spring 2023)
- Lecture Title: Dark Patterns, Online Manipulation, and Privacy

Teaching Assistant and Group Project Mentor

- 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

Masters Students:

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

Undergraduate Students:

Natasha Messier *University of Chicago* (2023-).
Jacqueline Mei *University of Chicago* (2023-).
Jay Shen *University of Chicago* (2023-).
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-).
Ava Kim Cohen, *University of Chicago High School Research Assistant* (2023-).

SERVICES AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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

Available on request.