Qiurong Song

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Overview

I study privacy, security, and safety for at-risk users through two connected strands: health data privacy and safety in game ecosystems. My mixed-methods research combines interviews, usability testing, surveys and experiments, discourse analysis, participatory design, social media analysis, and app walkthroughs to understand users' experiences and develop evidence-based design and policymaking recommendations.

To date, I have published or had accepted **16 peer-reviewed archival publications—12 full conference papers and four journal articles**—in premier venues such as CHI, CSCW, IEEE S&P, USENIX Security, CCS, SOUPS, WWW, DIS and CHI PLAY, **including eight first-authored papers**.

Research areas: Human–computer interaction (HCI); security and privacy (S&P); health informatics; online safety.

Education

2022 – Present **The Pennsylvania State University** University Park, PA, USA
Ph.D. in Informatics *Expected Spring 2027*
Advisors: Drs. Xinning Gui and Yubo Kou

2018 – 2022 **Wuhan University** Wuhan, Hubei, China
B.S. in Information Management and Information System (with honors)

Honors and Awards

Research Awards and Recognition

2026 First Place, Graduate Research Excellence Award, Department of Human-Centered Computing and Social Informatics (HCCSI), Penn State College of IST ($500)

2026 Runner-Up, Ph.D. Award for Research Excellence, Penn State College of IST

2026 CSAW Applied Research Competition Finalist (10 of 125 submissions, [C11]), the 23rd Annual Cybersecurity Games & Conference

2026 Best Social Impact Award in CSAW Applied Research Competition for [C11], the 23rd Annual Cybersecurity Games & Conference

2023 Best Paper Honorable Mention Award, CHI 2023 [C2]

Conference Travel Grants

2026 USENIX Security 2026 Student Travel Grant ($300)

2025 Penn State College of IST Student Travel Grant - Fall ($1,070)

2025 Penn State College of IST Student Travel Grant - Spring ($1,500)

2025 Penn State Graduate Student International Travel Grants - Spring ($1,500)

2024 Penn State Graduate Student International Travel Grants - Fall ($1,500)

Other Honors and Scholarships

2024 Grace Hopper Celebration Scholarship

2023–2026 14 Special Recognitions for Outstanding Review for papers in CHI 2026, IDC 2026, CHI PLAY 2025, CHI 2025, CHI 2024, CSCW 2024, IMWUT 2023, CSCW 2023

2022 Funds for Excellence in Graduate Recruitment (FEGR) Assistantship, Penn State

2021 Second-Class Scholarship, Wuhan University

2019 China National Scholarship, Ministry of Education of China

2019 Outstanding Student Leader, Wuhan University

2019 First-Class Scholarship, Wuhan University

Research Experience

2022 – Present **The Pennsylvania State University**
Graduate Research Assistant | Supervisors: Drs. Xinning Gui and Yubo Kou

- Health Data Privacy in Expansive Data Ecosystems. Examine privacy sensemaking, anonymity controls, and data governance in reproductive-health technologies, family devices, and LLM-powered mental-health applications
- Safety by Platform Design in Game Ecosystems. Study how platform governance, monetization, creator practices, and parental mediation shape children's and creators' safety; develop design and governance recommendations

Apr 2021 – Oct 2021 **University of Wisconsin–Madison**
Research Intern | Supervisor: Dr. Jiepu Jiang
Investigate the effects of misinformation density on health information search through quantitative user study analysis

Conference Publications

In computer and information science, selective peer-reviewed conference proceedings are primary archival publication venues. The venues below include leading HCI and security/privacy outlets, such as CHI, IEEE S&P, USENIX Security, and ACM CCS. Acceptance rates reflect overall paper-track rates for the corresponding year when publicly available.

[USENIX Security 2026]
Acceptance: 13.2%

[C12] Digital Risks and Coping Practices among Roblox Game Creators
Qiurong Song, Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, Xinning Gui, and Yubo Kou
Proceedings of the 35th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security '26), pp. 6721–6740. [Article]

[S&P 2026]
Acceptance: 12.7%

[C11] Usable Anonymity in Reproductive Health Privacy
Qiurong Song, Yanlai Wu, Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, Yao Li, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the 47th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P '26), pp. 3627–3646. [Article]

[CHI 2026]
Acceptance: 25.3%

[C10] Surveillance as Care: Configuring Baby Monitors in the Home
Qiurong Song, Yunhan Liu, Zinan Zhang, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26), Article 272, pp. 1–16. [Article]

[CHI 2026]
Acceptance: 25.3%

[C9] Player Safety by Design: Co-Designing Child-Centered Safety Mechanisms with Children
Zinan Zhang, **Qiurong Song**, Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, Yunhan Liu, Elena Koung, Junnan Yu, Sunhye Bai, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (*CHI '26*), Article 1702, pp. 1–21. [Article]

[CCS 2026]
Acceptance: 14.4%

[C8] How Children Assess Digital Safety Risk in Gaming Platforms: A Case Study of Roblox
Zinan Zhang, **Qiurong Song**, Xinning Gui, Junnan Yu, Sunhye Bai, and Yubo Kou
Proceedings of the 2026 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (*CCS '26*), pp. 5046–5060. [Article]

[SOUPS 2025]
Acceptance: 19.1%

[C7] How Predatory Monetization Designs Manifest in Child-Friendly Video Games
Qiurong Song, Zinan Zhang, Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, Xinning Gui, and Yubo Kou
Proceedings of the Twenty-First Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (*SOUPS '25*), pp. 515–534. [Article]

[CHI 2025]
Acceptance: 24.9%

[C6] Understanding Users' Perception of Personally Identifiable Information
Qiurong Song, Yanlai Wu, Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, Yao Li, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (*CHI '25*), Article 240, pp. 1–24. [Article]

[DIS 2025]
Acceptance: 24%

[C5] Reflecting Upon The Unintended Consequences of Personal Informatics Systems: A Systematic Review of Empirical Studies
Yuhan Luo, Xinning Gui, Xianghua (Sharon) Ding, Xi Zheng, Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, Zhuoyang Li, and **Qiurong Song**
Proceedings of the 2025 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (*DIS '25*), pp. 2847–2866. [Article]

[CHI 2024]
Acceptance: 26.4%

[C4] "Our Users' Privacy is Paramount to Us": A Discourse Analysis of How Period and Fertility Tracking App Companies Address the Roe v Wade Overturn
Qiurong Song, Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (*CHI '24*), Article 816, pp. 1–21. [Article]

[CHI 2024]
Acceptance: 26.4%

[C3] "At the end of the day, I am accountable": Gig Workers' Self-Tracking for Multi-Dimensional Accountability Management
Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, **Qiurong Song**, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (*CHI '24*), Article 382, pp. 1–20. [Article]

[CHI 2023]
Acceptance: 27.6%

[C2] AutoML in The Wild: Obstacles, Workarounds, and Expectations
Yuan Sun, **Qiurong Song**, Xinning Gui, Fenglong Ma, and Ting Wang
Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (*CHI '23*), Article 247, pp. 1–15. (**Best Paper Honorable Mention Award**). [Article]

[WWW 2022]
Acceptance: 17.7%

[C1] How Misinformation Density Affects Health Information Search
Qiurong Song and Jiepu Jiang
Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2022 (WWW '22), pp. 2668–2677. [Article]

Journal Publications

CSCW and CHI PLAY full papers are archival journal articles published in the *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (PACMHCI)* and are also presented at their associated conferences. These venues use rigorous multi-round peer review and are top-tier publication outlets in HCI/CSCW and games research.

[CSCW 2026]
Acceptance: 30.5%

[J4] "I usually profit because I know when to stop": Understanding Teenagers' Risk Perception and Mitigation Strategies of Gambling from Reddit
Yunhan Liu, Elena Koung, **Qiurong Song**, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 10(2), Article CSCW023, pp. 1–34. [Article]

[Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)]

[J3] Making the Gig Economy Infrastructure Work: Gig Drivers' Adaptive, Algorithmic, and Social Knowledge Practices
Rie Helene (Lindy) Hernandez, **Qiurong Song**, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) The Journal of Collaborative Computing and Work Practices, 35(1), Article 1 (2026). [Article]

[CHI PLAY 2026]
Acceptance: 29.0%

[J2] From Stream to Stake: Gamblification Practices and User Perceptions on Twitch
Yunhan Liu, Sam Moradzadeh, **Qiurong Song**, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 10(7), Article GAMES031 (November 2026), pp. 1–39. [Article]

[CSCW 2024]

[J1] Collective Privacy Sensemaking on Social Media about Period and Fertility Tracking post Roe v. Wade
Qiurong Song, Renkai Ma, Yubo Kou, and Xinning Gui
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 8(CSCW1), Article 161, pp. 1–35. [Article]

Doctoral Consortium and Posters

[CHI Doctoral Consortium 2026]

Exploring User Privacy in Period and Fertility Tracking Applications
Qiurong Song
Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, pp. 1–5. [Article]

[CSCW Poster 2026]

Surfacing Risky Game Design: A Multistakeholder Taxonomy for Understanding Safety Risks on Roblox
Zinan Zhang, **Qiurong Song**, Xinning Gui, and Yubo Kou
Companion of the 2026 ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW Companion '26), pp. 169–175. [Article]

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistantships

Jan 2026 – May 2026 **HCDD 364W: Methods for Studying Users**
College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST), Penn State

Aug 2025 – Dec 2025 **IST 597: Special Topics — User Experience Evaluation**
College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST), Penn State

Jan 2025 – May 2025 **HCDD 364W: Methods for Studying Users**
College of Information Sciences and Technology (IST), Penn State

Guest Lectures

Mar 2026 **"Usability Testing Study: A Real-World Example"**
HCDD 364W: *Methods for Studying Users*, Penn State

Jan 2026 **"User Research Methods: Observation"**
HCDD 364W: *Methods for Studying Users*, Penn State

Nov 2025 **"Usability Testing: A Case of Usable Anonymity Designs in Period-Tracking Apps"**
IST 597: *Special Topics — User Experience Evaluation*, Penn State

Mar 2025 **"Usability Testing Study: An Example in a Research Setting"**
HCDD 364W: *Methods for Studying Users*, Penn State

Mentorship

May 2026 – Sep 2026 **Undergraduate Research Mentor** — Mentee: Jessica Gravel, undergraduate researcher at Penn State; co-mentored her on a research project that resulted in her first-authored CHI 2027 submission.

Aug 2025 – Nov 2025 **Graduate Student Mentor** — Program: Ph.D. Connect Program, College of IST, Penn State; supported an incoming first-year Ph.D. student in their transition to doctoral study.

Media Coverage

Aug 2025 "Sibling and Friend Game Time Key to Keeping Children Safe in Online Video Games." *The Pennsylvania State University*. [Link]

Aug 2025 "iConnect: With a PhD from IST I Can …" *College of Information Sciences and Technology, The Pennsylvania State University*. [Link]

Service

Organizing Committee

2026 Assistant to the Paper Chairs, CHI 2026

Conference Program Committee

2027 Associate Chair, CHI 2027 Papers

2026 Associate Chair, DIS 2026 Provocations and Works-in-Progress

2026 Program Committee Member, GROUP 2027

2025 Program Committee Member, CHI 2025 Late-Breaking Work

2025 Program Committee Member, GROUP 2025

2024 Program Committee Member, IEEE ICHI 2024

Session Chairing

2026 CHI 2026: "Liars & Deepfakes"; CSCW 2026: "Supporting Youth and Families"

2025 CHI 2025: "Information Integrity, Privacy, Security"

2024 CHI 2024: "Users' Privacy Needs"

Peer Reviewing

2023–2026 CHI 2026, CSCW 2026, IDC 2026, CHI PLAY 2025, CHI 2025, CSCW 2025 Posters, ACM Transactions on Computing for Healthcare (HEALTH) 2025, New Media & Society 2025, CHI 2024, CSCW 2024, TOCHI 2024, IMWUT 2023, CSCW 2023

Leadership

2024–2025 Vice President, Graduate Student Association of College of IST, Penn State

Skills

Research Interview, Thematic Analysis, Discourse Analysis, Survey, Quantitative Analysis, Experimental Design, Usability Testing, App Walkthrough

Tools Python, R, NVivo, HTML/CSS

Languages Mandarin Chinese (native); English (professional proficiency)