

Wenting (Tiffany) Li

Assistant Professor of Computer Science
Stevens Institute of Technology

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[Personal Website](#)

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Computer Science
Stevens Institute of Technology (SIT)

2025 ~ Present
Hoboken, United States

UX Researcher Intern
Meta Platforms, Inc.

Summer 2022
Menlo Park, United States

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Computer Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

2018 ~ 2024
Urbana, United States

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Computer Science
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2018 ~ 2024
Urbana, United States

- **Advisors:** Karrie Karahalios, Hari Sundaram
- **Thesis topic:** Towards the Effective and Responsible Use of Imperfect NLP-generated Learning Content for STEM Personalized Learning
- **Committee:** Karrie Karahalios, Hari Sundaram, Craig Zilles, Chinmay Kulkarni

B.A., Double Majors in Mathematics & Economics
Cornell University

2012 ~ 2016
Ithaca, United States

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research lies at the intersection of human-computer interaction, human-centered AI, and education technology. Currently, I ask and answer questions regarding **the interplay between education and algorithmic systems via a sociotechnical lens**. I am passionate about addressing the interaction challenges and establishing meaningful relationships between algorithmic systems and stakeholders in education. I am excited to leverage education and theories in human learning to support people's critical use of algorithmic systems in various scenarios (e.g., information seeking, decision making). I conduct human subject experiments, perform quantitative (e.g., Bayesian statistics, causal inference) and qualitative analysis, and build innovative interactive systems.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- **Google Ph.D. Fellowship**
One of seven recipients globally in Human-Computer Interaction 2022 ~ 2024
- **Microsoft Research Accelerate Foundation Models Research Program** 2023
Received funding support for the project proposal on "Challenges and Benefits of AI Errors for Learners in Conversational Q&A Systems."
- **Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award** 2021
One of the eight recipients in the department for Spring 2021.
- **Saburo Muroga Endowed Fellowship** 2018
For outstanding graduate students in CS at UIUC; Selected as one of the five recipients.

PUBLICATIONS (* = Equal contribution)

Refereed Conference and Journal Publications

- [1] **T.W. Li**, Y. Song, H. Sundaram, K. Karahalios. *Can Learners Navigate Imperfect Generative Pedagogical Chatbots? An Analysis of Chatbot Errors on Learning*. ACM Learning @ Scale Conference, 2025 [Acceptance Rate: 21.4%]
- [2] T. Cheng*, **T.W. Li***, K. Karahalios, H. Sundaram. *Budget, Cost, or Both? An Empirical Exploration of Mechanisms in Quadratic Surveys*. ACM Collective Intelligence Conference 2025
- [3] B.F. Farkhad, **T.W. Li**, H. Dev, M.S. Chan, D. Albarracin, H. Sundaram. *Latent Homophily or Social Influence? An Empirical Analysis of Information Diffusion in Social Media Networks*. Social Science & Medicine (In submission).
- [4] T. Cheng, Y. Zhang, Y. Chou, V. Koshy, **T.W. Li**, K. Karahalios, H. Sundaram. *Organize, Then Vote: Exploring Cognitive Load in Quadratic Survey Interfaces*. ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Conference (CHI), 2025
- [5] **T.W. Li***, S. Hsu*, M. Fowler, Z. Zhang, C. Zilles, K. Karahalios. *Am I Wrong, or is the Autograder Wrong? Effects of AI Grading Mistakes on Learning*. Accepted to ACM Conference on International Computing Education Research (ICER), 2023. [Acceptance Rate: 21%]
- [6] Z. Xiao, **T.W. Li**, K. Karahalios, H. Sundaram. *Inform the uninformed: Improving Online Informed Consent Reading with an AI-Powered Chatbot*. Accepted to ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Conference (CHI), 2023.
- [7] B. Bhavya, S. Chen, Z. Zhang, **T.W. Li**, C. Zhai, L. Angrave, Y. Huang. *Exploring collaborative caption editing to augment video-based learning*. Educational technology research and development (2022): 1-25.
- [8] T. Cheng*, **T.W. Li***, Y. Chou, K. Karahalios, H. Sundaram. *“I can show what I really like.”: Eliciting Preferences via Quadratic Voting*. ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), 2021.
- [9] S. Hsu*, **T.W. Li***, Z. Zhang, M. Fowler, C. Zilles, K. Karahalios. *Attitudes Surrounding an Imperfect AI Autograder*. ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Conference (CHI), 2021. [Acceptance Rate: 26.3%]
- [10] **T.W. Li**, K. Karahalios, H. Sundaram. *“It’s all about conversation:” Challenges and Concerns of Faculty and Students in the Arts, Humanities, and the Social Sciences about Education at Scale*. ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), 2020.
- [11] **T.W. Li**, L. Paquette. *Erroneous Answers Categorization for Sketching Questions in Spatial Visualization Training*. International Educational Data Mining Society (EDM), 2020. [Acceptance Rate: 30.6%]
- [12] H. Wauck, B. Woodard, Z. Xiao, **T.W. Li**, B. Bailey. *A Data-Driven, Player-Centric Approach to Evaluating Spatial Skill Training Games*. Proceedings of the Annual Symposium on Computer-Human Interaction in Play (CHI Play), 2020. [Acceptance Rate: 29.45%] **Honorable Mention Award**

Work-in-progress Papers and Posters

- [13] **T.W. Li**, Z. Xiao, M. H. Goldstein, M. L. Philpott, B. Woodard. *Evaluating an Intelligent Sketching Feedback Tool for Scalable Spatial Visualization Skill Training (work-in-progress)*. ASEE Annual Conference, 2021.
- [14] B.S. Woodard, **T.W. Li**, Z. Xiao, M. H. Goldstein, M. L. Philpott. *Work in Progress: Spatial Visualization Assessment and Training in the Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois*. ASEE Illinois-Indiana Regional Conference, 2021.

TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

- Human-Computer Interaction (CS545), SIT Spring 2025
- Social Visualization, UIUC (Co-instructor) Spring 2021

Invited Guest Lectures & Talks

- Seminar in Computer Science (CS188), SIT Spring 2025
“Design and Deploy Human-centered AI”
- HCI Seminar (CS591), UIUC Fall 2024
“Towards the Effective and Responsible Use of Imperfect NLP-generated Learning Content for STEM Personalized Learning”
- Coordinated Science Laboratory Weekly Research Talk, UIUC Fall 2021
“Attitudes Surrounding an Imperfect AI Autograder”

Teaching Assistant

- Spatial Visualization, UIUC Fall 2019, Fall 2020
- Probability and Statistics for Computer Science, UIUC Spring 2020

Mentor

- Xinjian Zhang, Undergrad, UIUC; now Ph.D. student at Georgia Institute of Technology
For his senior thesis
- Zhilin Zhang, M.S. Student, UIUC; now a Ph.D. student at the University of Oxford
In multiple papers related to educational technology
- “Mentoring Undergraduates in Science and Engineering” Program, UIUC, 2021 – 2022
Taught HCI research fundamentals

SERVICE

Reviewer

- Human Factors in Computing Systems Conference (CHI), 2025, 2024, 2023, 2021
Received Special Recognition for Outstanding Reviews in 2024
- ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), 2025, 2022
- ACM Collective Intelligence Conference (CI), 2025
- Transactions on Interactive Intelligent Systems, 2024
- ACM Special Interest Group on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE), 2020 – 2022

Organizer

- Just Infrastructure speaker series, UIUC, Fall 2021

Volunteer

- Teacher at SAIL@Illinois CS, 2023
- Student volunteer at CHI 2022

LANGUAGES & INTERESTS

Spoken languages: Mandarin (native), Cantonese (native), English (full professional proficiency), Japanese (limited working proficiency)

Interests: Table tennis, badminton, tennis, dog training, martial arts, piano