

Education

City University of Hong Kong

Ph.D. of Computer Science (HCI & Social Computing)

Aug. 2021 – current
Kowloon, HK

Australian National University

Master of Computing (Data Science, Professional Computing)

Aug. 2017 – Jul. 2019
Canberra, AU

Beihang University

Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Science and Technology

Aug. 2013 – Jun. 2017
Beijing, CN

Work Experience

Teaching Assistant

City University of Hong Kong

Aug. 2021 – current
Kowloon, HK

- › CS1302 Introduction to Computer Programming 24/25
- › CS2303 Data Structures for Media 21/22, 22/23, 23/24
- › JC2066 IT Professionals: Ethical, Legal and Social Issues 22/23, 23/24, 24/25
- › CS5481 Data Engineering 21/22

Full-stack Software Engineer

ThoughtWorks Inc.

Oct. 2019 – Apr. 2021
Beijing, CN

- › Worked on a large-scale web system (~1M users) for global mobility service in the North America offshore team with a focus on an original attribute-based access control (ABAC) sub-system. Familiar and experienced with software engineering methodologies including OOP, Refactoring, TDD, DDD, and Agile.

Intern & Visiting

Research Intern

Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA)

July. 2023 – Dec. 2023
Beijing, CN

- › Worked on a novel approach to orchestrate and generate motion graphic video clips with human-in-the loop paradigm using large language models (LLMs).
- › Supervised by Dr. Yun Wang & Yangyu Huang

Research Assistant

Lanfear Group - Mutation, molecular evolution and phylogenetics (@ANU)

Sep. 2018 – Apr. 2019
Canberra, AU

- › Contributed to a bioinformatics research project in algorithm optimization for phylogenetic tree estimation based on the IQ-Tree and ModelFinder software.
- › Supervised by Dr. Minh Bui & Dr. Yu Lin

Software Engineer Intern (Back-end)

Netease Youdao Inc.

Oct. 2018 – Dec. 2018
Beijing, CN

- › Worked on computational advertisement systems. Individually developed a commercial materials content auditing system for internal use.

Research Assistant

Advanced Innovation Center for Big Data and Brain Computing (@BUAA)

Feb. 2015 – Mar. 2017
Beijing, CN

- › Worked on cyber security research for vehicular communication systems. Revealed potential vulnerabilities of the onboarding-diagnostics interface (OBD) for CAN-bus based small vehicles.

- › Worked on interactive data visualization and analytics for reducing potential cyber security risks based on network traffic data in industrial networks.
- › Supervised by Dr. Bo Li

Publications

- SpeechCap: Leveraging Playful Impact Captions to Facilitate Interpersonal Communication in Social Virtual Reality** Oct. 2025
Yu Zhang, Yi Wen, Siying Hu, Zhicong Lu
Accepted and to present at CSCW '25
- RevTogether: Supporting Science Story Revision with Multiple AI Agents** Apr. 2025
Yu Zhang, Kexue Fu, Zhicong Lu
Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '25)
- DanModCap: Designing a Danmaku Moderation Tool for Video-Sharing Platforms that Leverages Impact Captions** Oct. 2025
 Siying Hu, Huanchen Wang, **Yu Zhang**, Piaohong Wang, Zhicong Lu
Accepted and to present at CSCW '25
- Engage Wider Audience or Facilitate Quality Answers? a Mixed-methods Analysis of Questioning Strategies for Research Sensemaking on a Community Q&A Site** Apr. 2024
 Changyang He, Yue Deng, Lu He, Qingyu Guo, **Yu Zhang**, Zhicong Lu, Bo Li
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '24)
- "It Felt Like Having a Second Mind": Investigating Human-AI Co-creativity in Prewriting with Large Language Models** Apr. 2024
 Qian Wan, Siying Hu, **Yu Zhang**, Piaohong Wang, Bo Wen, Zhicong Lu
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '24)
- Understanding Communication Strategies and Viewer Engagement with Science Knowledge Videos on Bilibili** Apr. 2023
Yu Zhang, Changyang He, Huanchen Wang, Zhicong Lu
Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23)
- Controlling a Car through OBD Injection** Jun. 2016
Yu Zhang, Binbin Ge, Xiang Li, Bin Shi, Bo Li
2016 IEEE 3rd International Conference on Cyber Security and Cloud Computing (CSCloud)

Skills

Software Development

- › Programming: C#, Python, ECMAScript, C/C++, Java/Scala
- › Web Development: (Front-end) HTML/CSS/JS, React, Vue.js; (Back-end) Flask, ASP.NET, Node.js
- › VR/AR Development: Unreal Engine 4.7/5.1, Meta Quest SDK
- › Database & Cloud: MongoDB, SQLite, Microsoft SQL server, Microsoft Azure
- › Machine Learning & AI: Fine-tuning, Prompt Engineering
- › DevOps: Git, Docker, Shell Scripting, ...

HCI Research

- › User Study: Interview, Survey, Co-design
- › Content analysis: Qualitative Coding

Scholarships & Awards

- Institutional Research Tuition Scholarship** City University of Hong Kong, 2023-2024
- Postgraduate Studentship** City University of Hong Kong, 2021-2025
- Outstanding Graduate of the Class** Beihang University, 2017