

# Kaiwen Sun

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## Research Interests

Human-Computer Interaction (HCI), Privacy and Security, AI Safety, Digital Literacy, Family-Centered Technology Design, Digital Parenting, Participatory Design with Children.

## Appointment

Aug 2025 - **Indiana University Bloomington** | Bloomington, IN  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Informatics, Luddy School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering


## Education

- 2025 **University of Michigan** | Ann Arbor, MI  
Ph.D. in Information  
Dissertation: Child Safety and Families' Co-participation in the Smart Home  
Dissertation Committee: Florian Schaub, Chris Brooks, Jenny Radesky, Jason Yip
- 2018 **University of Michigan** | Ann Arbor, MI  
M.S. in Information - Human Computer Interaction
- 2013 **University of Minnesota** | Minneapolis, MN  
B.S. in Marketing

## Affiliations

2021 – 2025 **Center for Ethics, Society, and Computing (ESC)** | Ann Arbor, MI  
ESC Researcher

## Honors & Awards

- 2026 **CHI 2026 Best Paper Award**   
For “Families are messy”: *From Parent-Child Tensions to Family-Centered Design of Smart Home Technologies*  
Awarded to the top 1% papers at the premier international conference in Human-Computer Interaction (acceptance rate typically around 25%).

- 2025 **SaTC Aspiring PI Workshop 2025 Travel Grant**  
George Washington University  
Competitive grant supporting emerging selective scholars in cybersecurity research to attend a two-day workshop to obtain feedback on proposals submitted to the NSF Security, Privacy, and Trust in Cyberspace (SaTC 2.0) program.
- 2024 – 2025 **Rackham International Student Fellowship**  
University of Michigan  
Awarded to outstanding international doctoral students demonstrating exceptional academic achievement and research potential.
- 2025 **USENIX SOUPS Distinguished Poster Award**   
For “*Why is everything in the cloud?*”: *Co-designing visual cues representing data processes with children.*
- 2024 **CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention**   
For “*I want it to talk like Darth Vader*”: *Helping Children Construct Creative Self-Efficacy with Generative AI.*  
Awarded to the top 5% papers at the premier international conference in Human-Computer Interaction (acceptance rate typically around 25%).
- 2022 – 2024 **2022 Meta PhD Research Fellowship**  
Meta  
Highly competitive global fellowship as Meta awards PhD candidates conducting cutting-edge research in emerging topics across computer science and engineering. Selected as one of 37 recipients from over 2,300 applicants worldwide.
- 2018 **SOUPS Student Grant**  
Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security Baltimore, MD, USA.
- 2016 – 2018 **Merit Scholarship**  
University of Michigan School of Information.

## Publications

Journal Articles and Conference Proceedings (17)

Publications appear in leading international venues in Human-Computer Interaction, privacy, and security, including ACM CHI, IDC, IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy, ACM CSCW, and Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies.

- IDC’26a **Designing Workbook Probes for Families: A Smart Home Case Study of Intergenerational Co-Speculation**  
Kaiwen Sun, Jade Li, Irene Chung, Jenny Radesky Jason Yip, Christopher Brooks, Florian Schaub.  
*In ACM Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2026)*, June 2026  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3773077.3806138>

- IDC'26b **Caring for the Furry Friends in the Smart Home: An Initial Exploration of Child-Centered Approach to Designing for Pets**  
Jade Li, Jason Yip, Katie Davis, Florian Schaub, Christopher Brooks, Jenny Radesky, Kaiwen Sun.  
*In ACM Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2026)*, June 2026  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3773077.3811936>
- CHI'26 **“Families are messy”: From Parent-Child Tensions to Family-Centered Design of Smart Home Technologies** 🏆  
Kaiwen Sun, Jade Li, Irene Chung, Jenny Radesky, Jason Yip, Christopher Brooks, Florian Schaub.  
*CHI'26: ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, April 2026  
*CHI Best Paper Award*.  
CHI is the premier international conference in Human-Computer Interaction.  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3790865>
- IMWUT'25 **“Ads that Talk Back”: Implications and Perceptions of Injecting Personalized Advertising into LLM Chatbots**  
Brian Tang, Kaiwen Sun, Noah T. Curran, Florian Schaub, and Kang G. Shin.  
*Proceedings of the ACM on Interactive, Mobile, Wearable and Ubiquitous Technologies (Ubi-Comp/IMWUT)*, October 2025  
<https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.15436>
- CHI'25 **Children using Tabletop Telepresence Robots for Collaboration: A Longitudinal Case Study of Hybrid and Online Intergenerational Participatory Design**  
Casey Lee Hunt, Kaiwen Sun, Zahra Dhuliawala, Fumi Tsukiyama, Allison Druin, Amanda Huynh, Daniel Leithinger, Jason Yip  
*CHI'25: ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, April 2025  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3706598.3713746>
- CSCW'24 **Unfulfilled Promises of Child Safety and Privacy: Portrayals and Use of Children in Smart Home Marketing**  
Kaiwen Sun, Jingjie Li, Yixin Zou, Jenny Radesky, Christopher Brooks, Florian Schaub  
*Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 8 (CSCW1).  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3637422>  
*Also presented at the Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés (CNIL) Privacy Research Day 2024 in Paris*
- IDC'24a **“Why is Everything in the Cloud?”: Co-Designing Visual Cues Representing Data Processes with Children**  
Kaiwen Sun, Ritesh Kanchi, Frances Marie Tabio Ello, Li-Neishin Co, Mandy Wu, Susan Gelman, Jenny Radesky, Florian Schaub, Jason Yip.  
*In ACM Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2024)*, June 2024  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3628516.3655819>

- IDC'24b **Making a Metaphor Sandwich: Analyzing Children's use of Metaphor During Tabletop Telepresence Robot Supported Participatory Design**  
 Casey Lee Hunt, [Kaiwen Sun](#), Kaitlyn Tseng, Priyanka Balasubramaniam, Allison Druin, Amanda Huynh, Daniel Leithinger, Jason Yip.  
*In ACM Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2024)*, June 2024  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3628516.3656272>
- CHI'24 **"I want it to talk like Darth Vader": Helping Children Construct Creative Self-Efficacy with Generative AI**   
 Michele Newman, [Kaiwen Sun](#), Ilena B Dalla Gasperina, Grace Y. Shin, Matthew Pedraja, Matthew Kyle Pedraja, Ritesh Kanchi, Maia B. Song, Rannie Li, Jin Ha Lee, Jason Yip.  
*CHI'24: ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, May 2024  
*CHI Best Paper Honorable Mention Award.*  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3613904.3642492>
- PoPETs'24 **Cross-Contextual Examination of Older Adults' Privacy Concerns, Behaviors, and Vulnerabilities**  
 Yixin Zou, [Kaiwen Sun](#), Tanisha Afnan, Ruba Abu-Salma, Robin Brewer, Florian Schaub  
*Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies*, 2024 (1), 133-150. 2024  
<https://doi.org/10.56553/popets-2024-0009>
- IDC'23 **Designing together, miles apart: A longitudinal tabletop telepresence adventure in online co-design with children.**  
 Casey Lee Hunt, [Kaiwen Sun](#), Fumi Tsukiyama, Iva Matkovic, Zachary Schwemler, Anastasia Wolf, Zihao Zhang, Allison Druin, Amanda Huynh, Daniel Leithinger, Jason Yip  
*In ACM Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2023)*, June 2023  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3585088.3589359>
- S&P'23 **"It's up to the Consumer to be Smart": Understanding the Security and Privacy Attitudes of Smart Home Users on Reddit**  
 Jingjie Li, [Kaiwen Sun](#), Brittany Huff, Anna Bierley, Younghyun Kim, Florian Schaub, Kassem Fawaz.  
*IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy*, May 2023  
<https://doi.org/10.1109/SP46215.2023.10179344>
- CSCW'21 **Child Safety in the Smart Home: Parents' Perceptions, Needs, and Mitigation Strategies**  
[Kaiwen Sun](#), Yixin Zou, Jenny Radesky, Christopher Brooks, Florian Schaub  
*Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5 (CSCW2), 471:1–471:41.  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3479858>  
*Also presented at FTC PrivacyCon 2022*
- IJAIED **Disparities in Students' Propensity to Consent to Learning Analytics**  
 Warren Li, [Kaiwen Sun](#), Florian Schaub, Chris Brooks.  
*The International Journal of Artificial Intelligence in Education Special Issue*, June 2021  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s40593-021-00254-2>

- CHI'21 **“They See You’re a Girl if You Pick a Pink Robot with a Skirt”:** A Qualitative Study of How Children Conceptualize Data Processing and Digital Privacy Risks  
Kaiwen Sun, Carlo Sugatan, Tanisha Afnan, Hailey Simon, Susan A Gelman, Jenny Radesky, Florian Schaub.  
*CHI'21: Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, ACM, May 2021 (Acceptance rate: 26.3%)  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3411764.3445333>
- CHI'19a **It’s My Data! Tensions Among Stakeholders of a Learning Analytics Dashboard**  
Kaiwen Sun, Abraham Mhaidli, Sonakshi Watel, Chris Brooks, Florian Schaub  
*CHI'19: Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, ACM, May 2019 (Acceptance rate: 23.8%)  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3290605.3300824>
- CHI'19b **You ‘Might’ Be Affected: An Empirical Analysis of Usability Issues in Data Breach Notifications**  
Yixin Zou, Shawn Danino, Kaiwen Sun, Florian Schaub  
*CHI'19: Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, ACM, May 2019 (Acceptance rate: 23.8%)  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3290605.3300424>
- Workshop Proceedings and Posters (9)
- Summit'26 **Designing Safe and Transparent AI for Children and Families**  
Cici Ling, Yuerong Hu, Kaiwen Sun  
*Indiana University Bloomington Center of Excellence for Women & Technology 2026 Women & Technology Summit* Feb 2026
- SOUPS'25 **“Why is Everything in the Cloud?”: Co-Designing Visual Cues Representing Data Processes with Children** 🏆  
Kaiwen Sun, Ritesh Kanchi, Frances Marie Tabio Ello, Li-Neishin Co, Mandy Wu, Susan Gelman, Jenny Radesky, Florian Schaub, Jason Yip  
Poster. *SOUPS'25: Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security*. USENIX, Aug 2025.  
*USENIX SOUPS Distinguished Poster Award*.  
<https://www.usenix.org/conference/soups2025/presentation/sun-poster>
- CHI'24 **Methods for Family-Centered Design: Bridging the Gap between Research and Practice**  
Bengisu Cagiltay, Hui-Ru Ho, Kaiwen Sun, Zhaoyuan Su, Yuxing Wu, Olivia K. Richards, Qiao Jin, Junnan Yu, Jerry Fails, Jason Yip, Jodi Forlizzi.  
*CHI'24: ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Extended Abstracts*, May 2024  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3613905.3636290>

- IDC'23 **A Smart Home for 'Us': Understanding and Designing a Parent-Child Engagement Mechanism for Child Access and Participation in the Smart Home.**  
Kaiwen Sun  
*IDC'23: Proceedings of the 22nd Annual ACM Interaction Design and Children Conference Extended Abstracts*, June 2023  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3585088.3593927>
- CHI'23 **Child-Centred AI Design: Definition, Operation, and Considerations**  
 Ge Wang, Kaiwen Sun, Ayça Atabey, Kruakae Pothong, Grace C Lin, Jun Zhao, Jason Yip.  
*CHI'23: ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Extended Abstract*, April 2023  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3544549.3573821>
- KOPS'23 **The Portrayal of Children in Smart Home Marketing**  
Kaiwen Sun, Jingjie Li, Yixin Zou, Chris Brooks, Florian Schaub  
*Kids' Online Privacy and Safety (KOPS), Co-located with SOUPS* Aug 2022
- CHI'20 **It's Everyone's Home: Designing Smart Home Technologies with Children in Mind**  
Kaiwen Sun, Chris Brooks, Florian Schaub  
*CHI '20 Workshop on Networked Privacy*. Apr 2020
- EDM'18 **Taking Student Data for Granted? A Multi-Stakeholder Analysis of a Learning Analytics System**  
Kaiwen Sun, Abraham Mhaidli, Sonakshi Watel, Chris Brooks, Florian Schaub  
*EDM'18 Workshop on Policy and Educational Data Mining: Norms, Risks and Safeguards*. July 2018
- SOUPS'18 **Taking Student Data for Granted? A Multi-Stakeholder Analysis of a Learning Analytics System**  
Kaiwen Sun, Abraham Mhaidli, Sonakshi Watel, Chris Brooks, Florian Schaub  
 Poster. *SOUPS'18: Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security*. USENIX, Aug 2018.

Magazine Articles (1)

- Interactions'25 **Child-Centered AI: Contextualizing Principles and Design in HCI.**  
 Ge Wang, Ayça Atabey, Kaiwen Sun, Grace C. Lin, Samantha-Kaye Johnston, Kruakae Pothong, Cara Wilson, Lachlan D Urquhart, Jason Yip, Jun Zhao  
*ACM Interactions.*, August 2025  
<https://doi.org/10.1145/375710>

## Teaching Experience

Course Instructor

- Winter 2026 **INFO I543: Human-Computer Interaction Design Studio II: Advanced Research and Design Methods (Indiana University Bloomington)**  
Lecture and advise graduate students on HCI and design methods and projects.  
Graduate Student Instructor
- Winter 2022 **SIADS 523: Communicating Data Science Results (University of Michigan)**  
Oversee projects led by online data science program students and grade assignments.
- Winter 2022 **SIADS 601: Qualitative Inquiry for Data Scientists (University of Michigan)**  
Oversee projects led by online data science program students and grade assignments.
- Fall 2021 **SI 582: Introduction to Interaction Design (University of Michigan)**  
Led weekly in-class discussion sections, oversaw 45 projects led by master students, held office hours, and graded assignments.
- Winter 2021 **SI 658: Information Architecture (University of Michigan)**  
Facilitated weekly lecture, provided feedback to 96 individual presentations delivered by master students, and held office hours.  
  
*5.0 (of 5.0) median rating (class of 33 students).*  
  
Guest Lectures
- March 2026 **I609/709: The Dark Side of Social Media (I609/709) and The Dark Side of UX (I590) | Indiana University Bloomington**  
“Child Safety and Participation in the Smart Homes” (1 lecture)
- April 2025 **INFO 498: Child Computer Interaction | University of Washington**  
“The Digital Child in a Connected World: Safety, Privacy, and Participation” (1 lecture)
- February 2025 **Introduction to Interaction Design | Pratt Institute**  
“The Digital Child in a Connected World: Safety, Privacy, and Participation” (1 lecture)
- March 2024 **INFR11158/11230: Usable Security and Privacy | University of Edinburgh**  
“Understanding and Supporting Children in the Digital World” (1 lecture)

### Invited External Talks

Invited talk presentations at academic institutions and research venues discussing research on children, digital safety, privacy, AI in emerging technologies.

- 2025 **The Digital Child in a Connected World: Safety, Privacy, and Participation**  
The Pennsylvania State University (March)
- 2025 **The Digital Child in a Connected World: Safety, Privacy, and Participation**  
Indiana University Bloomington (March)

- 2025 **The Digital Child in a Connected World: Safety, Privacy, and Participation**  
Pratt Institute (February)
- 2024 **Unfulfilled Promises of Child Safety and Privacy: Portrayals and Use of Children in Smart Home Marketing**  
Commission Nationale de l'Informatique et des Libertés, Privacy Research Day (June 4)
- 2023 **Child Safety in the Smart Home**  
University of Michigan, Privacy Day (Feb 8)
- 2022 **Child Safety in the Smart Home: Parents' Perceptions, Needs, and Mitigation Strategies**  
The US Federal Trade Commission, PrivacyCon (Nov 1st)

## Employment

- 2017 – 2025 **Graduate Student Research Assistant**  
*University of Michigan | Ann Arbor, MI*
  - Designing family-centered smart homes.
  - Designing and evaluating visual cues supporting children's understanding of data processes.
  - Older adults' privacy and security perceptions and experiences around different types of digital contexts.
  - The depiction of children's experiences in smart home marketing.
  - The impact of privacy and security topics and discussions on consumers' adoptions of smart home technologies from Reddit.
  - Parents' perceptions and mitigation strategies of children's smart home safety.
  - Children's perceptions of data processing and digital privacy risks.
  - Measurement of students' privacy expectations and sentiments toward the use of student data in learning analytics.
  - Disparities in students' propensity to consent to learning analytics.
  - A multi-stakeholder perspective of privacy in learning analytics.
  - Empirical analysis of usability issues in data breach notifications.
- 2017 **User Experience Intern**  
*Kohler. Co, Emerging Technology Design Studio | Kohler, WI*
  - Contributed iterative concept development through exploratory UX research methods, mindmap, digital illustration, presentations, for use-case scenarios in bathroom and between connected IoT products.
  - Created new product interface information architecture and interactions through ideation, design research and wireframes while collaborating with two business units.
- 2017 **UX Consultant**  
*Harman | Novi, MI*
  - Designed a survey to uncover users' attitudes, behaviors and characteristics, analyzed survey responses to improve infotainment system user experiences.
  - Conducted usability tests to provide insights for client's design update.

## Services

### **Program Committee - Associate Chair**

- ACM Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2026)
- ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2026)

### **External Reviewer**

- Information, Communication and Society
- International Journal of Human - Computer Studies
- New Media & Society Journal
- ACM International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction
- ACM Conference On Computer-Supported Cooperative Work And Social Computing (CSCW 2023)
- ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS 2025, 2026)
- ACM Conference on Interaction Design and Children (IDC 2024, 2025, 2026)
- ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI 2020, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)

### **Mentor, UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program)**

Serve as research mentor for four undergraduate students on two research projects. Guide students to learn about research process and practice research skills.