

Ziyi (Zoe) Wang

Ph.D. Student, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Texas A&M University
Research: Human-Centered AI · Human-AI Interaction · Natural Language Processing
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Education

2026 –	Ph.D. in Computer Science Advisor: Prof. Meng Xia Expected graduation: May 2031	Texas A&M University
2024 – 2026	M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction Research advisors: Prof. Fumeng Yang, Dr. Zijian Ding Collaborators: Prof. Yue Zhao, Prof. Xiyang Hu, Prof. Xiang Yan GPA: 4.00/4.00	University of Maryland, College Park

Publications

My research appears at top-tier HCI, NLP, and AI conferences (e.g., EMNLP, DIS, IEEE VIS, AAAI). Within each category, papers are listed newest first; * denotes equal contribution, and my name is highlighted. Google Scholar (October 2026): 159 citations, h-index 7.

Peer-Reviewed Conference & Journal Papers

2026	 P9	Do Vision Language Models Understand Human Engagement in Games?  Ziyi Wang *, Qizan Guo*, Rishitosh Singh*, Xiyang Hu Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) Oral Presentation (top 2.6%)
2026	P8	StreetDesignAI: Broadening Designer Perspectives Through Multi-Persona Evaluation of Cycling Infrastructure  Ziyi Wang , Yilong Dai, Duanya Lyu, Mateo Nader, Sihan Chen, Wanghao Ye, Zijian Ding, Xiang Yan Proceedings of the ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS)
2026	 P7	Made to Feel: How Designers Bring Emotions into Affective Visualization  Yixin Bai, Ziyi Wang , Keke Wu, Fumeng Yang IEEE Visualization and Visual Analytics Conference (VIS) Short Papers Best Paper Award (top 1%)
2026	P6	Physics-Preserving Latent Compression for Zero-Shot Resolution Transfer in 3D Turbulence  Yilong Dai, Yiming Sun, Yiheng Chen, Ziyi Wang , Shengyu Chen, Xiaowei Jia, Runlong Yu IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM)
2026	P5	Learning PDE Solvers with Physics and Data: A Unifying View of Physics-Informed Neural Networks and Neural Operators  Yilong Dai, Shengyu Chen, Ziyi Wang , Xiaowei Jia, Yiqun Xie, Vipin Kumar, Runlong Yu International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence (IJCAI) Survey Track
2026	P4	Mitigating Hallucinations in Large Language Models via Causal Reasoning  Yuangang Li*, Yiqing Shen*, Yi Nian, Jiechao Gao, Ziyi Wang , Chenxiao Yu, Shawn Li, Jie Wang, Xiyang Hu, Yue Zhao AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)
2025	P3	Frontend Diffusion: Empowering Self-Representation of Junior Researchers and Designers Through Multi-agent System  Zijian Ding, Qinshi Zhang, Mohan Chi, Ziyi Wang IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC)

2025

P2

JailDAM: Jailbreak Detection with Adaptive Memory for Vision-Language Model

Yi Nian*, Shenzhe Zhu*, Yuehan Qin, Li Li, Ziyi Wang, Chaowei Xiao, Yue Zhao

Conference on Language Modeling (COLM)

2025

P1

Few-Shot Graph Out-of-Distribution Detection with LLMs

Haoyan Xu*, Zhengtao Yao*, Yushun Dong, Ziyi Wang, Ryan A. Rossi, Mengyuan Li, Yue Zhao

European Conference on Machine Learning and Principles and Practice of Knowledge Discovery in Databases (ECML PKDD)

Peer-Reviewed Workshop Papers

2026

W2

Multimodal Generative Engine Optimization: Rank Manipulation for Vision-Language Model Rankers

Yixuan Du, Chenxiao Yu, Haoyan Xu, Ziyi Wang, Yue Zhao, Xiyang Hu

Workshop on Towards Knowledgeable Foundation Models (KnowFM) at ACL

2025

W1

From Image Generation to Infrastructure Design: A Multi-agent Pipeline for Street Design Generation

Chenguang Wang, Xiang Yan, Yilong Dai, Ziyi Wang, Susu Xu

Workshop on Urban AI (UrbanAI) at NeurIPS

Preprints

2026

A7

Persona-aware and Explainable Bikeability Assessment: A Vision-Language Model Approach

Yilong Dai*, Ziyi Wang*, Chenguang Wang, Kexin Zhou, Yiheng Qian, Susu Xu, Xiang Yan

arXiv preprint

2026

A6

ResearchCube: Multi-Dimensional Trade-off Exploration for Research Ideation

Zijian Ding, Fenghai Li, Ziyi Wang, Joel Chan

arXiv preprint

2026

A5

Sovereign-OS: A Charter-Governed Operating System for Autonomous AI Agents with Verifiable Fiscal Discipline

Aojie Yuan, Haiyue Zhang, Ziyi Wang, Yue Zhao

arXiv preprint | demo paper | GitHub (95 stars)

2026

A4

In the Shadow of Judgment: Mapping Out the Landscape of Human-AI Decision-Making Through a Systematic Review

Yixin Bai, Taehyun Yang, Zhongzheng Xu, Dayeon Ki, Ziyi Wang, Yu Hou, Fumeng Yang

Preprint (HAL)

2025

A3

CareerPooler: AI-Powered Metaphorical Pool Simulation Improves Experience and Outcomes in Career Exploration

Ziyi Wang, Ziwen Zeng, Yuan Li, Zijian Ding

arXiv preprint

2025

A2

Graph Synthetic Out-of-Distribution Exposure with Large Language Models

Haoyan Xu*, Zhengtao Yao*, Ziyi Wang, Zhan Cheng, Xiyang Hu, Mengyuan Li, Yue Zhao

arXiv preprint

2025

A1

GLIP-OOD: Zero-Shot Graph OOD Detection with Graph Foundation Model

Haoyan Xu*, Zhengtao Yao*, Xuzhi Zhang, Ziyi Wang, Langzhou He, Yushun Dong, Philip S. Yu, Mengyuan Li, Yue Zhao

arXiv preprint

Research Experience

2026 –

Research Assistant

Advisor: Prof. Meng Xia

Ph.D. research on how AI can simulate people: building and evaluating simulations that range from role-playing personas with different needs to predicting human judgments and latent states such as engagement and affect, and exploring how they can help people understand others and make better decisions.

Dream Lab, Texas A&M University

2024 – 2026

Research Assistant

Advisors: Prof. Fumeng Yang, Dr. Zijian Ding

HCIL, University of Maryland, College Park

Led one project (A3) on generative-AI career exploration and contributed to four projects (P7, P3, A6, A4) on affective visualization, agentic design tools, research ideation, and human-AI decision-making.

- 2025 – 2026

Research Assistant

FORTIS Lab, University of Southern California

Advisor: Prof. Yue Zhao

Contributed to six projects (P4, P2, P1, A2, A1, A5) on LLM/VLM safety, out-of-distribution detection, and AI agents.
- 2025 – 2026

Research Assistant

Just & Green Transportation Lab, University of Florida

Advisor: Prof. Xiang Yan

Led two projects (P8, A7) on persona-based simulation and persona-aware assessment of cycling infrastructure, and contributed to one project (W1) on multi-agent street design generation.
- 2025 – 2026

Research Assistant

GLAD Lab, Arizona State University

Advisor: Prof. Xiyang Hu

Led one project (P9) on whether vision-language models can infer human engagement, and contributed to one project (W2) on vision-language model rankers.

Industry Experience

- 2024

AI Product Manager Intern

bilibili Group
- 2023 – 2024

HMI UX Design Intern

BMW Group, SKY Lab
- 2023

UX Design Intern

Publicis Sapient
- 2023

Global Brand Design Intern

NIO Inc.

Selected Honors & Awards

- 2026

Best Paper Award

(top 1%) for “Made to Feel” (P7), IEEE VIS
- 2026

Oral Presentation

(top 2.6%) for “Do Vision Language Models Understand Human Engagement in Games?” (P9), EMNLP
- 2026

Special Recognition for Outstanding Reviews

ACM CHI
- 2026

Jenny Preece & Ben Shneiderman Travel Award

(\$1,000), University of Maryland, College Park
- 2024

Outstanding Graduate of Shanghai

, the highest honor for graduating students in Shanghai, China

Talks & Presentations

- 2026

Do Vision Language Models Understand Human Engagement in Games?

Oral presentation, EMNLP 2026, Budapest, Hungary, October 2026
- 2026

StreetDesignAI: Broadening Designer Perspectives Through Multi-Persona Evaluation of Cycling Infrastructure

Paper presentation, DIS 2026, Singapore, June 2026
- 2025

Rolling into the Future: Navigating Career Pathways with a GenAI-Powered Pool World Model

Talk and poster, HCIL Annual Symposium, University of Maryland, College Park, May 2025

Poster, Graduate Research Appreciation Day, University of Maryland, College Park, April 2025

Academic Service

Reviewed 30+ papers across HCI, NLP, and machine learning venues.

Program Committees

2026 – 2027 AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)
2026 AAAI Social Impact Track

Paper Reviews

2026 – 2027  ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) · Special Recognition for Outstanding Reviews, 2026
2026 Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)
2026 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)
2026 Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)
2026 ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)
2026 International Journal of Human–Computer Interaction (IJHCI)
2025 ACM Creativity & Cognition Conference (C&C)

Volunteering

2026 **Student Volunteer**, ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS)

Teaching Experience

2025 – 2026 **Graduate Assistant**, INST201: Introduction to Information Science, College of Information, University of Maryland, College Park · Fall 2025, Spring 2026

Skills

Machine Learning & LLMs: LLM/VLM evaluation and benchmarking, prompt engineering (zero-shot, theory-guided, retrieval-augmented), fine-tuning, multi-agent systems, RLHF data annotation, data preprocessing

Programming & Tools: Python, PyTorch, Hugging Face Transformers, LLM APIs, SQL, JavaScript, HTML/CSS, Git, LaTeX

Human-Centered Research: within-subjects user studies, interviews, contextual inquiry, usability testing, survey design, quantitative and qualitative (thematic) analysis

Prototyping & Design: React.js, Three.js, Node.js, Unity3D, Figma, Adobe Creative Suite