

# Shaomei Wu

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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- **AI & HCI:** Design human-centric AI to deliver tangible benefits to marginalized populations.
- **Accessibility:** Push the envelope of accessibility beyond checklists and government requirements.
- **Computational Social Sciences:** Understand marginalized populations and their experiences online and offline through quantitative and qualitative methods.

## EDUCATION

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- **Cornell University** Ithaca, NY  
*Doctor of Philosophy, Information Science* 2007 - 2012  
*Dissertation:* *The Dynamics of Information Diffusion on On-line Social Networks*  
*Advisory committee:* Michael Macy, Jon Kleinberg, Dan Cosley
- **University of California, Santa Barbara** Santa Barbara, CA  
*Master of Science, Computer Science* 2005 - 2007
- **Tsinghua University** Beijing, China  
*Bachelor of Science and Engineering, Computer Science* 2001 - 2005

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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- **AImpower.org** Mountain View, CA  
*Founder and CEO* Feb 2022 - Present
  - Found and lead [AImpower.org](http://AImpower.org), a tech non-profit that researches and co-creates technologies for and with marginalized communities to dismantle barriers and seek social justice.
- **MySpeech** Remote  
*Chief Technology Officer* Mar 2022 - Oct 2022
  - Guide [MySpeech](http://MySpeech) - a stuttering support and advocacy organization - during its transition to a digital platform for people who stutter. Scope and architecture its R&D roadmap and infrastructure. Advise the executive team on technical directions. Set up task management system. Train and lead its team of technical volunteers and staff.
- **Facebook** Menlo Park, CA  
*Staff Research Scientist* Mar 2013 - Nov 2021
  - **Instagram Equity:** Tech lead various efforts in identifying platform equity gaps and building new products for Black users on Instagram
  - **Facebook AI:** Found and lead the *AI for inclusion* initiative to build AI technologies that benefit marginalized and low-resourced communities through participatory design, rapid prototyping, and in-the-wide user studies.
  - **Core Data Science:** Drive research and engineering innovations on accessibility (e.g. [Automatic Alt-text on Facebook](#)); research and model networked behaviors such as app adoption, reshare of misinformation, and user churn.
- **Google** Various Locations  
*Research and Engineering Intern* Jul 2006 - Dec 2011
  - **Google.org:** Work on Google Person Finder and Crisis Alerts. Sep 2011 - Dec 2011
  - **Google Research:** Study the dynamics of user arrival and departures in a large social network. Jun 2011 - Aug 2011
  - **Google New York:** Build classifiers to categorize and rank user generated data (MyMaps). May 2009 - Aug 2009
  - **Google New York:** Build localized business classifiers for categorical search on Google Maps. May 2008 - Aug 2008
  - **Google Kirkland:** Build ML classifiers to identify hub pages for instant crawler. Jun 2007 - Aug 2007
  - **Google China:** Study online community structures and develop community detection algorithms. Jul 2006 - Sep 2006
- **Yahoo Research** New York, NY  
*Research Intern* May 2010 - Oct 2010
  - **Human Social Dynamics Group:** Work with Duncan Watts to study communication patterns in Twitter.
- **Microsoft Research Asia** Beijing, China  
*Research Intern* Jul 2004 - Jul 2005
  - **System Research Group:** Design and implement a large-scale, low-latency peer-to-peer routing protocol.

## PUBLICATIONS

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- **Shaomei Wu**. 2022. [“The World is Designed for Fluent People”: Challenges, Benefits, and Opportunities of Videoconferencing Technologies for People Who Stutter](#). Under Review
- Yu-Ru Lin, **Shaomei Wu**, Winter Mason. 2022. [Mapping Language Literacy At Scale: A Case Study on Facebook](#). Under Review
- **Shaomei Wu**, Lindsay Reynolds, Xian Li, Francisco (Paco) Guzman. 2019. [Design and Evaluation of a Social Media Writing Support Tool for People with Dyslexia](#). In *Proc. of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '19)*
- Cole Gleason, Patrick Carrington, Lydia B Chilton, Benjamin M Gorman, Hernisa Kacorri, Andrés Monroy-Hernández, Meredith Ringel Morris, Garreth W Tigwell, and **Shaomei Wu**. 2019. [Addressing the Accessibility of Social Media](#). *CSCW 2019 Extended Abstract*
- Lindsay Reynolds, **Shaomei Wu**. 2018. [“I’m Never Happy with What I Write”: Challenges and Strategies of People with Dyslexia on Social Media](#). In *Proc. of the 12th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*. **Best Paper Runner-up**
- Yuhang Zhao, **Shaomei Wu**, Lindsay Reynolds, Shiri Azenkot. 2018. [The Effect of Computer-Generated Descriptions on Photo-Sharing Experiences of People with Visual Impairments](#). In *Proc. of the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW '18)*
- Yuhang Zhao, **Shaomei Wu**, Lindsay Reynolds, Shiri Azenkot. 2018. [A Face Recognition Application for People with Visual Impairments: Understanding Use Beyond the Lab](#). In *Proc. of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18)*
- **Shaomei Wu**, Jeffrey Wieland, Omid Farivar, Julie Schiller. 2017. [Automatic Alt-text: Computer-generated Image Descriptions for Blind Users on a Social Network Service](#). In *Proc. of the 20th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW '17)*. **The 14th most cited CSCW paper published from '16 - '21 (Google Scholar)**.
- Violeta Voykinska, Shiri Azenkot, **Shaomei Wu**, and Gilly Leshed. 2016. [How Blind People Interact with Visual Content on Social Networking Services](#). In *Proc. of the 19th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW '16)* **The 20th most cited CSCW paper published from '16 - '21 (Google Scholar)**.
- Isabel Kloumann, Lada Adamic, Jon Kleinberg, and **Shaomei Wu**. 2015. [The Lifecycles of Apps in a Social Ecosystem](#). In *Proc. of the 24th International World Wide Web Conference (WWW '15)*.
- **Shaomei Wu**, Lada Adamic. 2014. [Visually Impaired Users on an Online Social Network](#). In *Proc. of The ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '14)*.
- **Shaomei Wu**, Atish Das Sarma, Alex Fabrikant, Silvio Lattanzi, and Andrew Tomkins. 2013. [Arrival and Departure Dynamics in Social Networks](#). In *Proc. of the 6th ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM '13)*.
- **Shaomei Wu**, Chenhao Tan, Jon Kleinberg, and Michael Macy. 2011. [Does Bad News Go Away Faster?](#). In *Proc. of the 5th International AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM '11)*.
- **Shaomei Wu**, Jake M. Hofman, Winter A. Mason, and Duncan J. Watts. 2011. [Who Says What to Whom on Twitter](#). In *Proc. of the 20th International World Wide Web Conference (WWW '11)*. **Over 1000 citations by 2019**.
- **Shaomei Wu**, Shenwei Liu, Dan Cosley, and Michael Macy. 2011. [Mining Collective Local Knowledge from Google MyMaps](#). In *Proc. of the 20th International World Wide Web Conference (WWW '11)*.

## BLOGS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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- **Shaomei Wu**. 2018. [Using AI to help people with visual impairments share images on Facebook](#). *Facebook Research Blog*.
- **Shaomei Wu**, Lindsay Reynolds. 2018. [Designing a face recognition application for people with visual impairments](#). *Facebook Research Blog*
- **Shaomei Wu**. 2016. [How blind people interact with visual content on social networking sites](#). *Facebook Research Blog*
- **Shaomei Wu**, Darío García García, Manohar Paluri. 2016. [Under the hood: Building accessibility tools for the visually impaired on Facebook](#). *Facebook Engineering Blog*
- **Shaomei Wu**, Hermes Pique, Jeffrey Wieland. 2016. [Using Artificial Intelligence to Help Blind People ‘See’ Facebook](#). *Facebook Newsroom*

## SELECTED PRESS COVERAGE

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- Work on automatic alt-text featured in [“Facebook Just Launched AI-Powered Technology That Reads Photos to the Blind”](#), *Fortune*, April 5, 2016.
- Research on Twitter featured in [“The New York Times and Twitter”](#), *The New York Times*, March 29, 2011.
- Research on Twitter featured in [“The Twittersphere is Dominated By Less than One Percent of Twitter Users”](#), *Time*, March 29, 2011.
- Research on Twitter referenced in [“Jack Dorsey Rejoins Twitter: Returning to the Nest”](#), *The Economist*, March 29, 2011.
- Research on Twitter featured in [“The Truth About Twitter: It’s The Evening News”](#), *Business Insider*, March 28, 2011.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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- **Program Co-Chair:** WebForAll (W4A) 2023
- **Accessibility Challenge Co-Chair:** W4A 2022
- **Doctorate Consortium Co-Chair:** W4A 2021
- **Associate Chair:** the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2018, 2020, 2021, 2022
- **Senior Program Committee:** the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2016 - 2023
- **Dataset Co-Chair:** ICWSM 2022
- **Tutorial Co-Chair:** ICWSM 2021
- **Workshop Co-Chair:** ICWSM 2019
- **Program Committee:** The Web Conference (TWC, formally WWW) 2019, 2021, 2022
- **Program Committee:** the International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS) 2015 - 2022
- **Program Committee:** ICWSM 2013, 2014
- **Workshop Organizer:** *Addressing the Accessibility of Social Media Workshop @ CSCW* 2019
- **Panel of Judges:** W4A Accessibility Challenge 2020, 2021
- **Reviewer:** the ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing, the ACM International Conference on Web Search and Data Mining (WSDM) (2012), CHI (2016, 2017, 2019), the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW) (2018, 2019, 2020, 2021), the ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST) (2019), New Media & Society

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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- **Cornell University**
  - *Teaching Assistant*
    - **INFO 4302/6302:** Web Information Systems. *Spring 2011*
    - **PSYCH/COGST/INFO 214/614:** Computational Cognitive Psychology. *Fall 2007*
- **University of California, Santa Barbara**
  - *Teaching Assistant*
    - **CS10:** Object Oriented Programming in Java. *Winter 2007*
    - **CS276:** Graduate Networking. *Fall 2006*
    - **CS290F:** Large-scale Networked Systems. *Spring 2006*
    - **CS5JA:** Introduction to Computer Programming. *Winter 2006*
    - **CS170:** Operating Systems. *Fall 2005*

## MENTORING EXPERIENCES

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- Siddharth Bajaj (MPS Student at Cornell Information Science)
- Jiang Jian (MPS student at Cornell Information Science)
- Violeta Voykinska (MPS student at Cornell Information Science, now Senior Design Researcher at Designit)
- Isabel Kloumman (PhD Intern, now Research Manager at Facebook)
- Yuhang Zhao (PhD Intern, now Assistant Professor at University of Wisconsin, Madison)
- Kinyetta Nance (PhD Intern, co-mentor, now Researcher at Twitter)
- Kelly Mack (Undergrad Intern, co-mentor, now PhD student at University of Washington)
- Rose Hong (Undergrad Intern, now senior at Harvard University)
- Michela Paganini (Postdoc Researcher at Facebook AI Research, now Research Scientist at DeepMind)
- Roman Rädle (Visiting Researcher at Facebook / Assistant Professor at Aarhus University, now Software Engineer at Facebook)
- Xinyue Zhang (Software Engineer at Facebook)
- Xinyu Li (Software Engineer at Facebook)
- Ming Sun (Applied Research Scientist at Facebook)

## REFERENCES

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A full list of references is available upon request.