

Shaomei Wu

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

- **AI & HCI:** Research and create inclusive AI technologies with and by impacted communities.
- **Accessibility:** Push the envelope of accessibility beyond checklists and usability requirements.
- **Computational Social Sciences:** Understand collective behaviors and structural marginalization online and offline.

EDUCATION

- **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

- **AImpower.org** Mountain View, CA
Founder and CEO Feb 2022 - Present
 - Found and lead AImpower.org, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization that researches and co-creates technologies *for, with,* and *by* marginalized communities to dismantle barriers, create benefits, and seek social justice.
- **MySpeech** Remote
Chief Technology Officer Mar 2022 - Oct 2022
 - Guide MySpeech - a stuttering support and advocacy organization - during its transition to a digital platform for people who stutter. Responsibilities include: define R&D roadmap; architect technical infrastructure; advise the executive team on technical issues and directions; set up task management system; onboard and lead technical staff and volunteers.
- **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.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Xinru Tang, Jingjin Li, and **Shaomei Wu**. 2026. **Disability-First AI Dataset Annotation: Co-designing Stuttered Speech Annotation Guidelines with People Who Stutter**. In *Proc. of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26)*
- Robin Netzorg, Juliana Francis, Brooklyn Shepard, Kimi Wenzel, Norman Makoto Su, Anna Leschanowsky, Abraham Glasser, Bowon Lee, Christine Murad, Cosmin Munteanu, Jay Cunningham, and **Shaomei Wu**. 2026. **Speech AI for All: Challenging Deficit-based Approaches to Speech Science and Technology**. Special Session Proposal. *InterSpeech Conference (InterSpeech '26)*
- Kimi Wenzel, Alisha Pradhan, Maria Teleki, Tobias M Weinberg, Robin Netzorg, Allyssa Hillary Zisk, Anna Seo Gyeong Choi, Jingjin Li, Raja Kushalnagar, Colin Lea, Abraham Glasser, Christian Vogler, Ly Xīnzhèn M. Zhāngsūn, Nan Bernstein Ratner, Allison Koenecke, Karen Nakamura, and **Shaomei Wu**. 2026. **Speech AI for All: The What, How, and Who of Measurement**. Workshop Proposal. In *Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '26)*
- Allison Koenecke, Niranjan Sivakumar, Jingjin Li, and **Shaomei Wu**. 2025. **ACM TechBrief: Automated Speech Recognition**. In *Proceedings of the InterSpeech Conference (InterSpeech '25)*
- Jingjin Li, Peiyao Liu, Rebecca Lietz, Ningjing Tang, Norman Makoto Su, and **Shaomei Wu**. 2025. **Govern With, Not For: Understanding the Stuttering Community's Preferences and Goals for Speech AI Data Governance in the US and China**. In *Proceedings of the Eighth AAI/ACM Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Ethics, and Society (AIES '25)*
- Charan Sridhar and **Shaomei Wu**. 2025. **J-j-j-just Stutter: Benchmarking Whisper's Performance Disparities on Different Stuttering Patterns**. In *Proceedings of the InterSpeech Conference (InterSpeech '25)*
- Gregory Price and **Shaomei Wu**. 2025. **Lost in Translation: Benchmarking Commercial Machine Translation Models for Dyslexic-Style Text**. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL '25)*
- Jingjin Li, Qisheng Li, Rong Gong, Lezhi Wang, and **Shaomei Wu**. 2025. **Our Collective Voices: The Social and Technical Values of a Grassroots Chinese Stuttered Speech Dataset**. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '25)*
- **Shaomei Wu**, Kimi V. Wenzel, Jingjin Li, Qisheng Li, Alisha Pradhan, Raja Kushalnagar, Colin Lea, Allison Koenecke, Christian Vogler, Mark Hasegawa-Johnson, Norman Makoto Su, and Nan Bernstein Ratner. 2025. **Speech AI for All: Promoting Accessibility, Fairness, Inclusivity, and Equity**. Workshop Proposal. In *Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '25)*
- Qisheng Li, **Shaomei Wu**. 2024. **"I Want to Publicize My Stutter": Community-led Collection and Curation of Chinese Stuttered Speech Data**. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '24)*
- Rong Gong, Hongfei Xue, Lezhi Wang, Xin Xu, Qisheng Li, Lei Xie, Hui Bu, **Shaomei Wu**, Jiaming Zhou, Yong Qin, Binbin Zhang, Jun Du, Jia Bin, Ming Li. 2024. **AS-70: A Mandarin Stuttered Speech Dataset for Automatic Speech Recognition and Stuttering Event Detection**. In *Proceedings of the InterSpeech Conference (InterSpeech '24)*
- Jingjin Li, **Shaomei Wu**, Gilly Leshed. 2024. **Re-envisioning Remote Meetings: Co-designing Inclusive and Empowering Videoconferencing with People Who Stutter**. In *Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS '24)* **Honorable Mention**
- Qisheng Li, **Shaomei Wu**. 2024. **Towards Fair and Inclusive Speech Recognition for Stuttering: Community-led Chinese Stuttered Speech Dataset Creation and Benchmarking**. In *Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '24)*
- **Shaomei Wu**, Jingjin Li, Gilly Leshed. 2024. **Finding My Voice over Zoom: An Autoethnography of Videoconferencing Experience for a Person Who Stutters**. In *Proc. of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24)*
- **Shaomei Wu**. 2023. **"The World is Designed for Fluent People": Benefits, Challenges, and Opportunities of Videoconferencing Technologies for People Who Stutter**. In *Proc. of the ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23)*
- Yu-Ru Lin, **Shaomei Wu**, Winter Mason. 2023. **Mapping Language Literacy At Scale: A Case Study on Facebook**. *EPJ Data Science*, **12**, 13 (2023)
- **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 AAI 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)*.

GRANTS

- Borealis Philanthropy Disability Inclusion Fund (DIF) x Tech Grant . Dec 20, 2024. [Inclusive Videoconferencing with People with Speech Diversities](#). \$40,000
- Patrick J. McGovern Foundation AI for Humanity Grant. Oct 03, 2024. [Improving the Ability of Automatic Speech Recognition Models to Recognize Stuttered Speech](#). \$150,000
- NSF Award No. 2427710. Aug 16, 2024. [ReDDDoT Phase 1: Planning Grant: Destigmatizing Disfluencies in Speech AI with Grassroots Stuttering Communities](#). \$299,963, with Professor Norman Su, University of California, Santa Cruz
- The San Francisco Foundation. 2024. [Unrestricted Gift](#). \$5,000

PUBLIC SPEAKING

- Guest Lecture, invited by Professor John Tang . February 26, 2026. [Design for Speech Accessibility](#). Stanford University CS 377Q / ME 214: Designing for Accessibility (Winter 2026)
- Invited Presentation. November 18, 2025. [Make Our Voices Heard: Co-creating Communication Technologies for, with, and by People Who Stutter](#). University of Tsukuba, Tsukuba, Japan
- Conference presentation. October 21, 2025. [Govern With, Not For: Understanding the Stuttering Community's Preferences and Goals for Speech AI Data Governance in the US and China](#). AIES '25
- Panel Presentation. October 9, 2025. [Accessible Futures: Shaping Policy for Disability, Technology, and AI](#). Cornell Tech Accessibility Summit
- Invited Presentation. October 9, 2025. [Finding Power in Shared Vulnerability: From Silicon Valley to Community Technology](#). Cornell Tech Accessibility Summit
- Podcast (in Chinese). September 8, 2025. [脸书这么大一厂，也养不起个无障碍优化项目吗？\(Can't Facebook afford its accessibility innovation?\)](#). 两岸无障碍
- Podcast (in Chinese). August 16, 2025. [口吃也是一种残障吗？一名前脸书无障碍官员的身份管理与认同之路\(Is Stuttering a Disability? One ex-Facebook Accessibility Researcher's Journey on Disability Identity Recognition and Management\)](#) . 两岸无障碍
- Invited Presentation. August 6, 2025. [Fair and Inclusive Speech AI: for People Who Stutter, with People Who Stutter, by People Who Stutter](#). National Taiwan University
- Podcast (in Chinese). June 12, 2025. [无障碍需求很小众吗？它可以跟每个人都有关系\(Is Accessibility Just a Niche? It is Relevant to Everyone\)](#). 果壳时间(Guokr Time)
- Invited presentation (in Chinese). June 5, 2025. [Fair and Inclusive Speech AI: for People Who Stutter, with People Who Stutter, by People Who Stutter](#). 中文构音障碍线上研讨会
- Workshop Opening Speech. April 27, 2025. [Speech AI for All: Promoting Accessibility, Fairness, Inclusivity, and Equity](#). CHI '24
- Guest Lecture . Feb 27, 2025. [AI Risks and Biases for People with Disabilities](#). Stanford University CS 377Q Designing for Accessibility (Winter 2025)
- Guest Lecture . Oct 24, 2024. [Fair and Inclusive Speech AI for Stuttering](#). University of Ottawa DTO 5310 Ethics for Design, AI and Robotics (Winter 2024)

- Lighting talk at Workshop on Human Centered Machine Learning. Aug 8, 2024. [Towards Fair and Inclusive Speech Recognition for Stuttering: Community-led Chinese Stuttered Speech Dataset Creation and Benchmarking](#). Apple Cupertino
- Podcast (in Chinese). June 24, 2024. [AI的暗面: 繁背後的障人士困境 \(The Dark Side of AI: The Struggle of Disabled People Behind the Boom\)](#).牛油果烤包 (Avocado Toast)
- Guest lecture. May 23, 2024. [AI and People with Disabilities](#). Stanford University CS-377Q/ME-214 Designing for Accessibility (Spring 2024)
- Conference presentation. May 14, 2024. [Finding My Voice over Zoom: An Autoethnography of Videoconferencing Experience for a Person Who Stutters](#). CHI '24
- Guest speaker. March 25, 2024. [Autoethnography as a Research Method](#). Cornell University INFO/COMM 4400/5400/6400 Qualitative User Research and Design Methods (Spring 2024)
- Panelist. Feb 16, 2024. [Blocked by the System: How Current Voice AI Silences People Who Stutter](#). American Association for Advancement in Science (AAAS) Annual Meeting
- Online exhibition: “Multiverse: Disability, Technology, and Co-created Futures”. Dec 2, 2023. [Stuttering community can create their own technological future](#). Tsinghua University Science Museum & MIT Museum
- Keynote speaker. Oct 21, 2023. [International Stuttering Awareness Day Virtual Conference](#). 口吃说(StammerTalk)
- Workshop moderator. Jul 6, 2023. [Claim Your Virtual Presence](#). National Stuttering Association Annual Conference
- Invited speaker. May 6, 2023. [人工智能数据标注行业扫描 \(AI Data Annotation Industry\)](#). 奇途无障碍- 数字经济与残障女性就业分享第05期 (Digital Economy and Employment Opportunities for Women with Disabilities Forum Vol. 05)
- Conference presentation. Apr 26, 2023. [“The World is Designed for Fluent People”: Benefits and Challenges of Videoconferencing Technologies for People Who Stutter](#). CHI '23
- Panelist. Apr 14, 2023. [Sociotechnical Challenges in Voice-Activated AI](#). Voice-Activated AI for Stuttered Speech Convergence Symposium
- Computation Media Department Seminar. Mar 20, 2023. [Designing Empowering Technologies for and with Marginalized Communities](#). University of California, Santa Cruz
- Guest lecture. Mar 8, 2023. [AI and the Systematic Marginalization of People with Disabilities](#). University of Ottawa CSI5195/ELG5295/IAI5130 Ethics for Artificial Intelligence (winter 2023)
- Organizer Seminar Series. Jan 24, 2023. [Break the Invisible Wall: Challenges and Opportunities for People Who Stutter to Participate in In-person and Virtual Conferences](#). Virtual Chair
- Podcast (in Chinese). Jan 26, 2023. [AI x 无障碍设计 \(下\) — 如何防止科技变成边缘化弱势群体的武器? \(AI and Accessibility Part II: How to Deyearonize Technologies Against Marginalized Communities\)](#). 扩博智聊(Clobotics)
- Podcast (in Chinese). Jan 19, 2023. [AI x 无障碍设计 \(上\) — 她就是一位曾经在脸书用AI默默关怀视障群体的“杨紫琼” \(AI and Accessibility Part I: She Built Meta’s AI Accessibility Features for People with Visual Impairments\)](#). 扩博智聊(Clobotics)
- Panelist. Jan 10, 2023. [Natural Language Processing for Media Accessibility](#). W3C Artificial Intelligence and Accessibility Research Symposium
- Invited talk. Dec 2, 2022. [Finding Power From Shared Vulnerability](#). San Jose State University
- Invited talk. Nov 3, 2022. [AI and the Empowerment of People with Disabilities](#). SheTek Women’s Tech Conference 2022
- Invited talk. Oct 21, 2022. [Acceptance and Empowerment as a Person Who Stutters](#). International Stuttering Awareness Day (China)
- Podcast (in Chinese). Oct 11, 2022. [从硅谷科学家到非盈利机构创始人-吴少玫 \(From Silicon Valley Scientist to Nonprofit Founder - Shaomei Wu\)](#). 口吃说 (Stammer Talk)
- Podcast (in Chinese). Jul 13, 2022. [在理科世界里摸爬滚打的女孩们 \(Women in STEM\)](#). 故事FM
- Invited Talk. Apr 27, 2022. [AI and Systematic Marginalization of Disabled People](#). Columbia University Data for Social Good Club

POPULAR BLOG POSTS & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- **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

- Technical policy brief on speech AI fairness and inclusivity issues covered in “ACM Technology Policy Council Releases ‘TechBrief: Automated Speech Recognition’”, *Association for Computing Machinery*, December 16, 2025.
- Work on inclusive videoconferencing featured in “Redesigning videoconferencing for, and by, people who stutter”, *Cornell Chronicle*, July 9, 2024.

- 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.

SERVICES

- **Organizer:** Special Session: Speech AI for All: Challenging Deficit-based Approaches to Speech Science and Technology. InterSpeech 2026
- **Organizer:** Workshop W53: Speech AI for All: The What, How, and Who of Measurement. CHI 2026
- **Program Committee:** AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (AIES) 2025
- **Organizer:** Workshop 34: Speech AI for All: Promoting Accessibility, Fairness, Inclusivity, and Equity. CHI 2025
- **Industry Advisory Board:** UC Santa Cruz, Computational Media Department, since August 2023
- **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
- **Associate Chair:** the ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW) 2025
- **Senior Program Committee:** the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM) 2016 - 2026
- **Dataset Co-Chair:** ICWSM 2022
- **Tutorial Co-Chair:** ICWSM 2021
- **Workshop Co-Chair:** ICWSM 2019
- **Program Committee:** International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2) 2023 - 2024
- **Program Committee:** The Web Conference (TWC, formally WWW) 2019, 2021, 2022
- **Program Committee:** the International ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS) 2015 - 2025
- **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, 2023, 2024), 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*

REFERENCES

A full list of references is available upon request.