

Tonya Nguyen

Ph.D. Candidate, Information Science

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Interests: Human-AI Interaction, Evaluation of AI Systems, Algorithmic Fairness & Responsible AI, Social Computing, AI Policy & Governance, Human Data

SKILLS

Research	Qualitative Methods, Quantitative Methods, Controlled Experiments, Participatory Methods, Prototyping & Design
Technical	Python, ML + Post-training techniques, Evals, Data Vis, Front-End Dev / Web Design, Prompt Engineering

EDUCATION

2020 – 2026	University of California, Berkeley Ph.D. Candidate, Information Science <i>Advisor: Niloufar Salehi</i>
2016 – 2020	University of California, Berkeley BA, Interdisciplinary Studies Field Coursework in Computer Science, Design Innovation, Critical Theory

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

2025	Microsoft Research Intern, FATE and STAC Group <i>Advisors: Jennifer Wortman Vaughan, Jean Garcia-Gathright</i>
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 – 2026	Tech of One's Own Lab (TO3) Graduate Research Assistant, UC Berkeley <i>Advisor: Niloufar Salehi</i>
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- 2020 – 2021 Berkeley Center for Law & Technology
Research Assistant
Advisor: Richmond Wong
- 2019 – 2020 Stanford Human Computer Interaction
Research Assistant
Advisors: Mark Whiting, Michael Bernstein
- 2018 – 2020 Berkeley Institute of Design
Research Assistant
Advisors: Jeremy Warner, Björn Hartmann

PUBLICATIONS

- FAccT '26 *Validating and Refining Generative AI Evaluations via Stakeholder Engagement*

Tonya Nguyen, Jean Garcia-Gathright, Hannah Washington, Alex Chouldechova, Hanna Wallach, Jennifer Wortman Vaughan
- CHI '25 *"It Actually Doesn't Feel Very Mutual:" How Technology Impacts the Values of Mutual Aid Groups in Practice*

Tonya Nguyen, Darya Kaviani, Niloufar Salehi
- CSCW '24 *Definitions of Fairness Differ Across Socioeconomic Groups & Shape Perceptions of Algorithmic Decisions*

Tonya Nguyen, Sabriya Alam, Cathy Hu, Catherine Albiston, Niloufar Salehi.
- CHI '23 *Expressiveness, Cost, and Collectivism: How the Design of Preference Languages Shapes Participation in Algorithmic Decision-Making*

Samantha Robertson, **Tonya Nguyen**, Cathy Hu, Catherine Albiston, Afshin Nikzad, Niloufar Salehi
- IUI '23 *SlideSpecs: Automatic and Interactive Presentation Feedback Collation*

Jeremy Warner, Amy Pavel, **Tonya Nguyen**, Maneesh Agrawala,

Björn Hartmann

CSCW '22 *Not Another School Resource Map: Meeting Underserved Families' Information Needs Requires Trusting Relationships and Personalized Care*

Samantha Robertson, **Tonya Nguyen**, Niloufar Salehi

CHI '21 *Modeling Assumptions Clash with the Real World: Why Student Assignment Algorithms Have Not Realized Theoretical Values of Transparency, Equity, and Efficiency*

Samantha Robertson, **Tonya Nguyen**, Niloufar Salehi

CHI '21 *Timelines: A Speculative World-Building Activity for Discussing Values and Ethics*

Richmond Wong, **Tonya Nguyen**

CHI '20 *Implications of Conversational Artificial Intelligence*
Workshop Paper: Fair Artificial Intelligence

Tonya Nguyen, Niloufar Salehi

CHI LBW '19 *"I Almost Fell in Love with a Machine": Speaking with Computers Affects Self-disclosure*

Qian Yu, **Tonya Nguyen**, Sorivas Prakkamakul, Niloufar Salehi

WORKING PAPERS

2026 User Interaction Models for Control and Alignment in GenAI Memory Management

Tonya Nguyen, Donghoon Shin, Gary Hsieh, Lucy Lu Wang

2026 How Explanations and Political Frames Shape Perceptions of Algorithmic Social Policies

Tonya Nguyen, Liza Gak, Cathy Hu, Catherine Albiston, Niloufar Salehi

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

2025	\$30,000 – UC Dissertation Fellowship
2022	Diversity and Inclusion Award, ACM CSCW
2022	\$100,000 – Meta Research Grant for Fairness in Two-Sided Markets Author of Proposal
2022	NSF GRFP Honorable Mention Recipient
2021	\$750,000 – NSF Grant for Designing & Evaluating Software Systems to Advance Equal Opportunity
2021	\$2000 – Center for Technology, Society, & Policy Fellowship
2020	\$5000 – Berkeley Center for New Media Research Grant

TEACHING

2021	Tangible User Interfaces Head Graduate Instructor <i>Instructor:</i> Kimiko Ryokai
2020	User Interface Design & Development (CS 160 / INFO 213) Head Undergraduate Instructor <i>Instructor:</i> Niloufar Salehi
2019	Beyond Design Thinking – Democratic Learning at Cal (DeCal) <i>Co-Instructors:</i> Lian Song, Mars Wu, Kevin Pham

WORKSHOP & PANEL ORGANIZING

4S '25	Sociotechnical Perspectives on Public Interest Technology Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S) Lauren Chambers, Cedric Deslandes Whitney, Tonya Nguyen , Morgan Ames, Deirdre Mulligan
CSCW '24	Case Studies in Public Interest Technology: Bridging Research & Practice

Lauren Chambers, Nasser Eledroos, **Tonya Nguyen**, Cedric Deslandes
Whitney, Dan Bateyko, Jared Katzman

CSCW '22 Who has an interest in “Public Sector Technology”? Critical questions for
working with local governments & impacted communities

Logan Stapleton, Devansh Saxena, Anna Kawakami, Tonya Nguyen,
Asbjørn Ammitzbøll Flügge, Motahhare Eslami, Naja Holten Møller, Min
Kyung Lee, Shion Guha, Kenneth Holstein, Haiyi Zhu

SERVICE

2026 – present Associate Chair (AC) for CHI 2026 – Critical Computing Track

2024 – 2025 PhD Student Representative at the UC Berkeley iSchool

2022 – present ACM FAccT Program Committee

2022 – present ACM CHI Reviewer

2022 – present ACM CSCW Reviewer

2021 – 2026 PhD Application Feedback Program
UC Berkeley iSchool

TALKS AND PANELS

2026 *Rich Evaluations of Sociotechnical Systems and AI*
Stanford HCI Group, at Stanford University

2025 *How Stakeholder Evaluation Can Improve Measurement*
Microsoft Research STAC, Remote

2025 *Participatory Design Can Improve AI Science and Evaluation*
Pareto AI Headquarters, in San Francisco, CA

2025 *Measuring Representational Harms in GenAI*
Microsoft Research, in New York City, New York

2025 *It Actually Doesn't Feel Very Mutual: How Technology Impacts*

- The Values of Mutual Aid Groups in Practice*
CHI 2025, in Yokohama, Japan
- 2024 *The Values We Live By: Enactment, Alignment, and Politics In Sociotechnical Systems*
Qualifying Exam, at UC Berkeley
- 2024 *Definitions of Fairness Differ Across Socioeconomic Groups & Shape Perceptions of Algorithmic Decisions*
CSCW 2024, in San José, Costa Rica
- 2024 *Sociotechnical Perspectives on Public Interest Technology*
4S 2024, in Seattle, Washington
- 2024 *Evaluating Expectation Violation Theory in Public School Assignment*
Guest Lecture, Data Science 241: Experiments and Causal Inference,
at UC Berkeley
- 2023 *Algorithmic School Assignment and Its Limitations*
Guest Lecture, in Information 203, Social Issues of Information, at UC Berkeley
- 2022 *Democratic Engagement & Procedural Justice in Algorithmic School Assignment*
SREE 2022, in Washington, D.C.
- 2022 *Solidarity, not Charity!: Understanding Social Movements Online*
Center for Technology, Society, and Policy, at UC Berkeley
- 2019 *Scaled Humanity: How Task Design and Context Impacts Online Collaborative Dynamics*
Stanford HCI Group, at Stanford University
- 2019 *Feminist HCI and Postcolonial Computing*
Stanford HCI Group, at Stanford University