

# DR. XIAOWEI CHEN

<https://chenetal.github.io/>

Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy ◊ Universitätsstraße 140, Bochum, Germany

(+46) 793007035 ◊ xiaowei.chen@mpi-sp.org

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

**Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy, Germany**

*November 2025 - Present*

**Postdoctoral Fellow**

Human-Centered Security and Privacy Group

Supervisors: Dr. Yixin Zou and Dr. Thorsten Holz

*Research Topic:*

I lead the research project “Supporting Infrastructure for Cybercrime Victims” (SiCV), aiming to thoroughly examine the recovery process of cybercrime victims in EU states and to design social and technical supporting infrastructures to aid their recovery. I work with key stakeholders from service platforms, law enforcement, and financial institutions to address the challenges posed by emerging cybercrimes.

**University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg**

*January 2022 - October 2025*

**Doctoral & Postdoctoral Researcher**

Department of Behavioral and Cognitive Science, FHSE

Supervisor: Professor Dr. Christine Schiltz

*Research Topic:*

I led the “Achieve Effective and Sustainable Anti-Phishing Solutions” project (AES anti-phishing). I secured funding through the Young Academics Open Call (IAS at the University of Luxembourg). In my dissertation, I explored how motivation theories can guide the design of security and privacy interventions, how user experience shapes engagement, and how field experiments can ground these insights in practice. Outputs include multiple A\* publications (CHI, CCS) and ongoing collaborations with non-academic stakeholders.

## EDUCATION

---

**The University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg**

*January 2022 - September 2025*

- PhD in Psychology (Human-Computer Interaction) ; Department of Behavioral and Cognitive Science

- Supervisor: Professor Dr. Christine Schiltz

- Dissertation topic: *An Interdisciplinary Approach to Improve Security and Privacy Intervention Design: Motivation Theories, User Experience, and Field Experiments*

**Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy, Germany**

*April 2025 - September 2025*

- Academic guest

- Supervisor: Dr. Yixin Zou (the Human-Centered Security and Privacy group)

- Research Topic: We interviewed cybercrime victims from Western Europe to understand their experiences, identify aspects that supported their recovery, and further conceptualize individual cyber resilience.

**ETH Zürich, Switzerland**

*March 2024 - May 2024*

- Visiting PhD student; Department of Humanities, Social and Political Sciences

- Supervisor: Professor Dr. Verena Zimmermann (the Security, Privacy, and Society research group)

- Research Topic: We conducted a systematic literature review that investigated the relationship between autonomous motivation and organizational security behaviors.

**KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden**

*September 2019 - June 2021*

- Media management MSc; Department of Human Centered Technology

- Supervisor: Professor Dr. Anders Hedman

- Dissertation topic: *Does Persuasive Technology Make Smartphones More Addictive?- An Empirical Study of Chinese University Students*

**Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven), Belgium**

*September 2020 - June 2021*

- Erasmus+ exchange student; Faculty of Economics and Business

**Northeast Agricultural University (NAU), China**

*September 2006 - July 2012*

- Bachelor of Arts in Journalism; Faculty of Humanities and Arts

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

---

**Stockholm Dual Career Network, Sweden**

*October 2018 - November 2019*

*Management Team Member:* Plan, coordinate and deliver SDCN's social events and workshops.

**Grand Continental Vacations, Australia**

*November 2017 - June 2018*

*Tour Operator:* Coordinate tours for customers. Collect, evaluate, and respond to customers' feedback.

**Ctrip.com, Australia**

*June 2017 - November 2017*

*Business Development Manager:* Assist hotels to maintain Channel Managers (Hotel Booking Systems). Tackle IT problems and urgent issues.

**F.I.T. Travel, Australia**

*January 2017 – May 2017*

*Travel Consultant:* Support online customers via web account, Email, and phone. Collect feedback for tour suppliers and improve the customer experience.

**Old Kumara Gold Mining, New Zealand**

*June 2016 – October 2016*

*Manager Secretary:* Ensure the implementation of management decisions. Research equipment and suppliers, liaise with excavator suppliers, and prepare reports on supply chain options.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

---

- **Excellent PhD Thesis Award**, University of Luxembourg, academic year 2025.
- **Best Paper Honorable Mention Award** from ACM CHI '26, ACM CHI '25.
- Research Support Grants, Doctoral School in Humanities and Social Sciences (DSHSS), University of Luxembourg, 2024 & 2025.
- Travel Grant (for Academic Guest), Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy, 2025.
- **Young Academic Grant**, the Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Luxembourg, 2021.
- The Karl Engvers Foundation scholarship for degree project, Sweden, 2021.
- Erasmus+ Scholarship, the European Commission, 2020.
- The Second Prize Scholarship, NAU, China, 2007.

## LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

---

### Papers under Review

12. Zhiqing Guo, Lixin Jia, Luning Sun, **Xiaowei Chen**, et al. David Stillwell, Thorsten Holz, Shujun Li. From GANs to GPT-5: A Taxonomy-Guided Study of Human Deepfake Detection. Under review.
11. Marianne Junger, Paweł Olber, Rafał Płocki, et al. **Xiaowei Chen**, Abhishta Abhishta, Taylor Fisher, and Steven Furnell. Relationships between cultural orientations, phishing victimization, and phishing recognition: a cross-cultural experiment. Under Review.

### Conference Papers<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>In Human-Computer Interaction and Computer Science, top-tier conferences are considered A-ranked venues with prestige and impact equal to that of leading journals.

10. **Xiaowei Chen**, Mindy Tran, Yue Deng, Bhupendra Acharya and Yixin Zou. 2026. From Harm to Healing: Understanding Individual Resilience after Cybercrimes. *To appear in Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26)*, April 13–17, 2026, Barcelona, Spain. ACM. (A\* CORE Ranking).
9. Yue Deng, **Xiaowei Chen**, Junxiang Liao, Bo Li and Yixin Zou. 2026. Experiencer, Helper, or Observer: Online Fraud Intervention for Older Adults Through a Role-based Simulation Approach. *To appear in Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26)*, April 13–17, 2026, Barcelona, Spain. ACM. (A\*).
8. **Xiaowei Chen**, Verena Distler, Chloe Gordon, Yaxing Yao, and Ziwen Teuber. 2025. Empowering Parents to Support Children’s Online Security and Privacy: Findings from a Randomized Controlled Trial. In *Proceedings of the ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS '25)*, October 13–17, 2025, Taipei, Taiwan. ACM. (A\*)
7. **Xiaowei Chen**, Lorin Schöni, Verena Distler, and Verena Zimmermann. 2025. Beyond Deterrence: A Systematic Review of the Role of Autonomous Motivation in Organizational Security Behavior Studies. In *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '25)*, April 26–May 01, 2025, Yokohama, Japan. ACM. (A\*)
6. **Xiaowei Chen**, Sophie Doublet, Anastasia Sergeeva, Gabriele Lenzini, Vincent Koenig, and Verena Distler. 2024. What Motivates and Discourages Employees in Phishing Interventions: An Exploration of Expectancy-Value Theory. In *Twentieth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2024)*. USENIX Security. (A)
5. **Xiaowei Chen**, Margault Sacre, Gabriele Lenzini, Samuel Greiff, Verena Distler, and Anastasia Sergeeva. 2024. The Effects of Group Discussion and Role-playing Training on Self-efficacy, Support-seeking, and Reporting Phishing Emails: Evidence from a Mixed-design Experiment. In *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24)*, May 11–16, 2024, Honolulu, HI, USA. ACM. (A\*)
4. Ziming Wang, Yiqian Wu, Shiwei Yang, **Xiaowei Chen**, Björn Rohles, and Morten Fjeld. 2024. Exploring Intended Functions of Indoor Flying Robots Interacting With Humans in Proximity. In *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24)*, May 11–16, 2024, Honolulu, HI, USA. ACM. (A\*)
3. **Xiaowei Chen**, Sophie Doublet, and Verena Distler. 2024. Making Motivation Theories Accessible: Introducing Motivation Cards to Map Motivators for Security and Privacy Education. In *S&PEI Workshop of the Twentieth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security*.

### Journal Papers

Note: † indicate co-first author

2. Anna Metreveli†, **Xiaowei Chen**†, Anders Hedman, and Anastasia Sergeeva. “Who will be left behind?": A Swedish case of learning AI in vocational education. *International Journal of Educational Research* 133 (2025): 102697. (SJR Q1)
1. **Xiaowei Chen**, Anders Hedman, Verena Distler, and Vincent Koenig. 2023. Do persuasive designs make smartphones more addictive?-A mixed-methods study on Chinese university students. *Computers in Human Behavior Reports*, 10, 100299. (SJR Q1)

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

---

### Program Committee

- The Annual Symposium on Human-Computer Interaction for Work (CHIWORK 2026 & 2025)
- The European Symposium on Usable Security (EuroUSEC '25)

### Associate Chair

- *User Experience & Usability* Subcommittee of ACM CHI '26

### Reviewer

- Distinguished reviewer board member of *ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction*
- The 34th European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS 2026)
- ACM DIS '26, CHI '25, CSCW '25, and NordiCHI '24
- 20th International Conference on Wirtschaftsinformatik (WI '25)
- Computers in Human Behavior (2023)

## SKILLS

---

### Computer Skills

Python, R Programming, SPSS  
L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, TextMaker, Final Cut Pro

### Research Methods

Longitudinal field experiments  
Surveys, interviews, mixed-methods analysis

### Language Skills

Chinese (Native), English (Professional)  
Swedish (Beginner), French (Beginner)

## TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

---

### Lecturer for “Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction”

- I have experience independently designing, delivering, and assessing undergraduate teaching in Computer Science, with a focus on User Experience design and persuasive technology. I have coordinated course modules, developed assessments, and supervised Master’s students on research- and design-oriented projects.

### Supervision

- **Ramya Kandula**, KTH Royal Institute of Technology & Ruhr University Bochum.  
Master’s thesis: *A Research Through Design Approach to Mitigate Filter Bubble Effects on Social Media*.  
**Doctoral dissertation project:** Explore the application of LLM-enhanced Chatbot for Social Support
- **Stefanie Pham**, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München.  
Master’s thesis: *How Johnny Experiences Phishing Warnings*.

## REFEREES

---

### Professor Dr. Verena Distler

Aalto University  
Email: verena.distler@aalto.fi

### Professor Dr. Verena Zimmermann

ETH Zürich  
Email: verena.zimmermann@gess.ethz.ch

### Faculty member Dr. Yixin Zou

Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy  
Email: yixin.zou@mpi-sp.org

### Scientific Director Prof. Dr. Thorsten Holz

Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy  
Email: thorsten.holz@mpi-sp.org