Wei-Lu Wang

PH.D. STUDENT · COMPUTER SCIENCE · HUMAN-COMPUTER INTERACTION

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Education

Virginia Tech *Virginia, USA*

PH.D. - COMPUTER SCIENCE *2022.09 - present*

- Chair: Dr. D. Scott McCrickard
- Committee: Dr. James Ivory
- Committee: Dr. Yan Chen
- Committee: Dr. Ihudiya Finda Williams
- Committee: Dr. Jacob Thebault-Spieker

New York University *New York, USA*

M.S. - COMPUTER SCIENCE *2019.09 - 2020.05*

National ChengChi University *Taipei, Taiwan*

B.S. - COMPUTER SCIENCE *2014.08 - 2018.05*

Research Experiences

Virginia Tech *Blacksburg, VA*

ADVISOR: DR. SCOTT MCCRICKARD *2022 - Present*

- Dissertation: "A Design-Oriented Framework for Relatedness Technologies: Balancing Structural Guidance and Flexibility in Relational Interaction"

Professional Experiences

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES

2021.05-2022.04 **Research Assistant**, Full time | West Virginia State University | West Virginia | United States

2018.06-2019.06 **Research Assistant**, Full time | National ChengChi University | Taipei | Taiwan

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES

2026.08-current **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS3114 Introduction to Database Management Systems | Virginia Tech

2026.01-05 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS4604 Introduction to Database Management Systems | Virginia Tech

2025.08-12 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS3714 Mobile Software Design | Virginia Tech

2025.01-05 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS4104 Data and Algorithm Analysis | Virginia Tech

2024.08-12 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS4104 Data and Algorithm Analysis | Virginia Tech

2024.01-05 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS4104 Data and Algorithm Analysis | Virginia Tech

2023.08-12 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS3724 Introduction to Human-Computer Interaction | Virginia Tech

2023.06-07 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS2114 Software Design & Data Structures | Virginia Tech

2023.01-05 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS3754 Introduction to Data Analytics & Visualization | Virginia Tech

2022.08-12 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, CS5204 Operating Systems | Virginia Tech

Publications

Conference Full Papers

[CSCW] Wang, W. L., Yan, Z., Fan, J., Hassan, T., Zheng, X., Haqq, D., ... & McCrickard, D. S. (2026). Kinspire: Exploring Game-Mediated Prompts to Foster Communication in Distant Families. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction. (Full Paper, forthcoming).

[CHI PLAY] Haqq, D., **Wang, W. L.**, Yan, Z., Zheng, X., Saaty, M., & McCrickard, D. S. (2026). Playing Apart with Mission Realms: Exploring Shared Leisure Across Distance Through Location-Based Play. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction. (Full Paper, forthcoming).

[FutureHCI] Zhong, K., Xia, L., Fan, J., **Wang, W. L.**, & McCrickard, D. S. (2026). Folded Presence: An Origami-Inspired Pneumatic Wearable for Ambient Emotional Support Across Distance. Future of HCI Workshop (FutureHCI). (Full Paper, forthcoming).

[EduCHI] Fan, J., **Wang, W. L.**, Xia, L., Chen, Y., Liu, S., & McCrickard, D. S. (2026, May). Between Evaluation and Facilitation: Teaching Assistants' Challenges in HCI Education. In *Proceedings of the 8th Annual Symposium on HCI Education* (pp. 1–6).

[ASEE] Fan, J., Song, J., **Wang, W. L.**, Chen, Y., & McCrickard, D. S. (2026, June). Cultivating Design Empathy through the PCAR Diary Framework. In *2026 ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition*.

[CSCW] Wang, W. L., Andrus, N., Hassan, T., Fan, J., Cao, Y., Asante, J., ... & McCrickard, D. S. (2025). Writing Home From Afar: Connecting Distant Families through Sharing of Outdoor Experiences with Digital Diaries. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 9(7), 1-26.

[SIGCSE TS] Fan, J., Haqq, D., Saaty, M., **Wang, W. L.**, & McCrickard, S. (2025). Diary Study as an Educational Tool: An Experience Report from an HCI Course. Proceedings of the 56th ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education (SIGCSE TS 2025), V. 1, 311–317. Association for Computing Machinery.

[EduCHI] Fan, J., **Wang, W.L.**, Andrus, N., Cao, Y., Saaty, M., Ghasemi, S., Xia, L. and McCrickard, S., 2025, July. Enhancing HCI Capstone Courses Through Diary Study Methods: Feedback and Insights from Graduate-Undergraduate Collaboration. In Proceedings of the 7th Annual Symposium on HCI Education (pp. 1-9).

[IEEE FIE] Fan, J., Cao, Y., **Wang, W. L.**, Andrus, N., Saaty, M., Ghasemi, S., Xia, L., Liu, S., & McCrickard, S. (2025). Enhancing Cross-level Collaboration in HCI Education through Diary Studies. Frontiers in Education 2025

[IEEE FIE] Haqq, D., Fan, J., Saaty, M., **Wang, W. L.**, Andrus, N., & McCrickard, D. S. (2024, October). Understanding Development of Social Games Through Diary Studies. Proceedings of the Frontiers in Education 2024, Washington DC, USA.

[IEEE FIE] Andrus, N., Smith, A., Tarashiyoun, H., **Wang, W. L.**, Williams, I., & McCrickard, S. (2025, November). Ageism in the Computer Science University Classroom: A Service Learning Case Study. In 2025 IEEE Frontiers in Education Conference (FIE) (pp. 1-8). IEEE.

[IEEE FIE] Oh, S., Zhao, J., Russo, C., Bolmer, M., Jeong, J., Fan, J., Cao, Y., **Wang, W. L.**, Andrus, N., & McCrickard, S. (2025). Optimizing Diary Studies Learning Outcomes with Fine-tuned Large Language Models on the DiaryQuest Platform. Frontiers in Education 2025.

Conference Short Papers

[OzCHI] Wang, W. L., Yan, Z., Zheng, X., Zhang, W., Cao, Y., & McCrickard, D. S. (2025, November). PlateMate: Structured Guidance Design in Relatedness Technology for Remote Joint Activity. In Proceedings of the 37th Australian Conference on Human-Computer Interaction (pp. 755-762).

[CHI PLAY] Wang, W. L., Haqq, D., Saaty, M., Cao, Y., Fan, J., Patel, J. V., & McCrickard, D. S. (2023, October). Chatterbox Opener: A Game to Support Healthy Communication and Relationships. In Companion Proceedings of the Annual Symposium on Computer-Human Interaction in Play (pp. 43-48).

[CHI] Fan, J., Cao, Y., Saaty, M., **Wang, W. L.**, Xia, L., Liu, H., & McCrickard, D. S. (2025, April). Understanding the Creation of Human-Virtual Entity Bonds through the AR Mobile Game Peridot. In Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-7).

[CHI] Cao, Y., Hassan, T., Fan, J., Saaty, M., **Wang, W. L.**, Stelter, T. L., & McCrickard, S. (2025, April). Listening to the Wild: Risk and Preparedness in Hiker-Wildlife Conflicts during Outdoor Recreation. In Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-8).

[VLHCC] Ko, M., Bose, D. B., **Wang, W.**, Seyam, M., & Brown, C. (2024, September). Understanding the Performance of Large Language Model to Generate SQL Queries. In 2024 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC) (pp. 359-361). IEEE.

[CHI PLAY] Saxena, R., Gaydos, Z., Saaty, M., Haqq, D., Nair, P., Grutzik, G.,**Wang, W. L.**, & Patel, J. (2023, October). Fit to Draw: An Elevation of Location-Based Exergames. In Companion Proceedings of the Annual Symposium on Computer-Human Interaction in Play (pp. 312-317).

Presentations

Paper Presentations

Wang, W. (2026). Kinspire: Exploring Game-Mediated Prompts to Foster Communication in Distant Families. Oral presentation: CSCW 2026, Salt Lake City, USA.

Wang, W. (2026). The Future of Relatedness Technology. Seminar talk, Center for Human Computer Interaction, Virginia, USA.

Wang, W. (2025). Writing Home From Afar: Connecting Distant Families through Sharing of Outdoor Experiences with Digital Diaries. Oral presentation: CSCW 2025, Bergen, Norway.

Wang, W. (2023). Chatterbox Opener: A Game to Support Healthy Communication and Relationships. Oral presentation: CHI PLAY 2023, Stratford, Canada.

Mentoring

2026.01-05	**Justin, Z.**, Human-AI-Pet Interaction | HCI Undergraduate Research	*Virginia Tech*
2025.08-12	**Justin, Z.**, Platemate | HCI Undergraduate Research | **OzCHI 2025 LBW**	*Virginia Tech*
2025.08-12	**Boyd, C., Cha, V., Kuo, C., Osei, A., Pyun, D., Tatum, B., & York, N.**, LandLink: Strengthening Long Distance Relationships Through Nature Exploration | Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research in Computer Science (VTURCS) program | **VTURCS People's Choice 1st Winner**	*Virginia Tech*
2025.01-05	**McDaniel, C., Chan, O., Kazmierczak, K., Pajjur, R., & Woody, P.**, Distant Family Outdoor Game Design-Bun Appétit | Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research in Computer Science (VTURCS) program | **VTURCS People's Choice 1st Winner**	*Virginia Tech*
2023.01-05	**Saxena, R., Gaydos, Z., Nair, P.,& Grutzik, G.**, Fit to Draw: An Elevation of Location-Based Exergames | Virginia Tech Undergraduate Research in Computer Science (VTURCS) program | **VTURCS People's Choice 1st Winner** | **CHI PLAY 2023 Student Game Competition**	*Virginia Tech*

Professional Development

Conference Reviewer

2026 **CHI2027, CHI 2026, DIS 2026**,
2024 **GROUP 2024**,

Conference Service

2025 **CSCW 2025**, Conference Student Volunteer — *Bergen, Norway*