

ALEX JIAHONG LU, PhD, MSW, MSI

Rutgers University, School of Communication and Information
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RESEARCH AREAS

Human-computer interaction (HCI); computer-supported cooperative work (CSCW); critical and participatory design; surveillance and marginalization; community-based participatory research (CBPR)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ
Assistant Professor 2024–Ongoing
School of Communication and Information
Department of Library and Information Science

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Information Ann Arbor, MI
University of Michigan, School of Information 2024
Dissertation: *Reimagining Safety and Surveillance with Eastside Detroiters*
Dissertation Committee: Tawanna Dillahunt (Co-chair), Mark Ackerman (Co-chair), John Cheney-Lippold, Roderic Crooks

Master of Science in Information (MSI) Ann Arbor, MI
University of Michigan, School of Information 2019

Master of Social Work (MSW) Ann Arbor, MI
University of Michigan, School of Social Work 2019
Concentration: Social Policy and Evaluation

Bachelor of Information Engineering and Media (BE) Singapore
Nanyang Technological University 2016
First-Class Honors

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan School of Information Ann Arbor, MI
Graduate Researcher 9/2017 – 8/2024

Meta Platforms Menlo Park, CA
User Experience Researcher Intern 6/2022 – 9/2022
Community Growth

University of Michigan School of Social Work Ann Arbor, MI
Policy Analyst 8/2017 – 5/2019
Child and Adolescent Data Lab

Ernst & Young Advisory Singapore
Associate Consultant 7/2016 – 7/2017
Financial Services Office, Digital Solutions

GRANTS & FUNDING

Voices of Parkside: Disseminating Findings of Videovoice on Safety and Surveillance in Public Housing Community (\$5,000*) 2023
Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research Promoting Academic and Community Engagement (PACE) Dissemination Grant (PI)

*All funds are allocated directly to the collaborated communities.

Emancipating Community Futures: Co-Designing Children's Books 2023–2024
 Across Generations in Eastside Detroit (\$5,000*)
University of Michigan 2023 Anti-Racism Graduate Research Grants (PI)

Speculating Community Resilience and Safety through Inter- 2023–2024
 generationally Co-Designing Children's Books in Eastside Detroit (\$5,000*)
Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center (Grant Writer)

Operationalizing Videovoice to Capture and Communicate Lived 2022–2023
 Experiences of Safety and Surveillance among Eastside Detroiters (\$5,000*)
Detroit Community-Academic Urban Research Center (Grant Writer)

EAGER: SAI: Community-Informed Surveillance Infrastructure for 2021–2023
 Public Safety and Equity (\$299,779)
National Science Foundation BCS-2121723 (Grant Writer)

Surveillance Tech and the Racial Divide: Using Videovoice to 2021–2023
 Capture Black Experiences of Policing among Eastside Detroiters (\$49,990)
*University of Michigan Office of Research, Research Catalyst and Innovation
 Program Anti-Racism Grant* (Grant Writer)

Rackham International Student Fellowship (\$10,000) 2020–2021
University of Michigan, Rackham Graduate School

Phi Kappa Phi Project Grant (\$5,000) 2019
Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Michigan Chapter

PUBLICATIONS Journal Articles (Peer-Reviewed, Archival)

- J.6 Chen, Y., **Lu, A.J.**, Wu, A.X. (2023) 'China' as a 'Black Box'? Re-thinking Methods through a sociotechnical perspective. In *Information, Communication & Society*.
- J.5 **Lu, A.J.**, Gilhool, A., Hsiao, J. C.-Y., Dillahunt, T.R.(2022). Emotional labor in everyday resilience: Class-based experiences of navigating unemployment amid the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, Vol.6, No. CSCW2, Article 388. (CSCW 2022)
- J.4 **Lu, A.J.**, Dillahunt, T.R., Marcu, G., Ackerman, M.S. (2021). Data work in education: Enacting and negotiating care and control in teachers' use of data-driven classroom surveillance technology. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, Vol.5, No. CSCW2, Article 452. (CSCW 2021)
- J.3 **Lu, A.J.**, Xu, X. (2020). "Learning for the rise of China": Exploring uses and gratifications of state-owned online platform. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, Vol.4, No. CSCW1, Article 30. (CSCW 2020)
- J.2 Lee, J.Y., Lee, S.Y., Grogan-Kaylor, A., Ammari, T., **Lu, A.**, Davis-Kean, P. (2020). A qualitative analysis of stay-at-home parents' spanking Tweets. In *Journal of Child and Family Studies*.
- J.1 Perron B.E., Victor, B.G., Bushman G., Moore, A., Ryan, J., **Lu, A.J.**, Pielusch, E. (2019). Detecting substance-related problems in narrative investigation summaries of child abuse and neglect using text mining and machine learning. In *Child Abuse and Neglect*.

Conference Proceedings (Peer-Reviewed, Archival)[†]

- C.13 **Lu, A.J.**, Wikstrom, E., Dillahunt, T.R. (In Press). Contamination, otherness, and negotiating bottom-Up sociotechnical imaginaries in participatory speculative design. In *Proceedings of the 2024 Participatory Design Conference - Volume 1*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (PDC 2024).
- C.12 **Lu, A.J.**, Moy, C., Ackerman, M.S., Morenoff, J., Dillahunt, T.R. (2024). Perceptions of policing surveillance technologies in Detroit: Moving beyond “better than nothing”. In *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (FAccT 2024)
- C.11 Dillahunt, T.R., **Lu, A.J.**, Velazquez, J. (2023). Eliciting alternative economic futures with working-class Detroiters: Centering Afrofuturism in speculative design. In *Proceedings of Designing Interactive Systems*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (DIS 2023) [Acceptance rate: 24%]
- C.10 **Lu, A.J.**, Sannon, S., Moy, C., Brewer, S., Green, J., Jackson, K.N., Reeder, D., Wafer, C., Ackerman, M.S., Dillahunt, T.R. (2023). Participatory noticing: Engaging arts- and community-based approaches in design research. In *Proceedings of Designing Interactive Systems*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (DIS 2023) [Acceptance rate: 24%] [**Best Paper Award, Top 1%**]
- C.9 **Lu, A.J.**, Sannon, S., Moy, C., Brewer, S., Green, J., Jackson, K.N., Reeder, D., Wafer, C., Ackerman, M.S., Dillahunt, T.R. (2023). Shifting from surveillance-as-safety to safety-through-noticing: A photovoice study with Eastside Detroit residents. In *Proceedings of ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2023) [Acceptance Rate: 28.4%]
- C.8 Ankenbauer, S.A., **Lu, A.J.** (2022). Making space for cultural infrastructure: The breakdown and maintenance work of independent movie theaters during crisis. In *Proceedings of ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2022) [Acceptance rate: 24.6%]
- C.7 Dillahunt, T.R., **Lu, A.J.**, Israni, A., Lodha, R., Brewer, S., Robinson, T.S., Wilson, A.B., Wheeler, E. (2022). The village: Infrastructuring community-based mentoring to support adults experiencing poverty. In *Proceedings of ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2022) [Acceptance rate: 24.6%] [**Best Paper Honorable Mention, Top 5%**]
- C.6 Cherubini, M., **Lu, A.J.**, Hsiao, J.C.-Y., Zhao, M., Aggarwal, A., Dillahunt, T.R. (2021). Elucidating skills for job seekers: Insights and critical concerns from a field deployment in Switzerland. In *Proceedings of Designing Interactive Systems*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (DIS 2021) [Acceptance rate: 26%]
- C.5 **Lu, A.J.**, Marcu, G., Ackerman, M.S., Dillahunt, T.R. (2021). Coding bias in the use of behavior management technologies: Uncovering socio-technical consequences of data-driven surveillance in classrooms. In *Proceedings of Designing Interactive Systems*. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (DIS 2021) [Acceptance rate: 26%] [**Best Paper Honorable Mention, Top 5%**]
- C.4 **Lu, A.J.**, Dillahunt, T.R. (2021). Uncovering the promises and challenges of social media use in the low-wage labor market: Insights from employers. In

[†]In information science and human-computer interaction, conference articles are considered archival (journal-equivalent) publications. See: <https://doi.org/10.1145/1743546.1743569>

Proceedings of ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2021) [Acceptance rate: 25.7%]

- C.3 Dillahunt, T.R., Israni, A.*, **Lu, A.J.***, Cai, M., Hsiao, J.C.-Y. (2021). Examining the Internet and social media use for employment: A survey of U.S. job seekers. In *Proceedings of ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.* ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2021) [*Contributed equally, Acceptance rate: 25.7%]
- C.2 Dillahunt, T.R., **Lu, A.** (2019). DreamGigs: Designing a tool to empower low-resource job seekers. In *Proceedings of ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.* ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2019) [Acceptance rate: 23.8%]
- C.1 Dillahunt, T.R., Lam, J., **Lu, A.**, Wheeler, E. (2018). Designing future employment applications for underserved job seekers: A speed dating study. In *Proceedings of Designing Interactive Systems.* ACM, New York, NY, USA. (DIS 2018). [Acceptance rate: 23%] [**Best Paper Honorable Mention, Top 5%**]

Case Studies and Extended Abstracts (Lightly Reviewed, Archival)

- EA.6 **Lu, A.J.**, Sannon, S., Brewer, S., Jackson, K.N., Green, J., Reeder, D., Wafer, C., Dillahunt, T.R. (2023). Organizing community-based events in participatory action research: Lessons learned from a Photovoice exhibition. In *Companion of the 2023 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.* ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2023 Case Study)
- EA.5 **Lu, A.J.** (2022). Toward everyday negotiation and resistance under data-driven surveillance. In *Interactions*, Vol.29, Issue 2.
- EA.4 Pine, K.H., Bossen, C., Møller, N.H., Miceli, M., **Lu, A.J.**, Chen, Y., Horgan, L., Su, Z., Neff, G., Mazmanian, M. (2022, April). Investigating Data Work Across Domains: New Perspectives on the Work of Creating Data. In *Companion of the 2022 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.* ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CHI 2022)
- EA.3 Ankenbauer, S.A., **Lu, A.J.** (2021). Navigating the “glimmer of hope”: Challenges and resilience among U.S. older adults in seeking COVID-19 vaccination. In *Companion of the 2021 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing.* ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CSCW 2021)
- EA.2 Ankenbauer, S.A., **Lu, A.J.** (2020). Engaging offline communities online: A case study of independent theaters amid Covid-19. In *Companion of the 2020 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing.* ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CSCW 2020)
- EA.1 **Lu, A.**, Brill, J., Dillahunt, T.R. (2018). DreamGigs: A “stepping stone” for low-resource job seekers to reach their ideal job. In *Companion of the 2018 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing.* ACM, New York, NY, USA. (CSCW 2018)

Conference Abstracts and Workshop Position Papers (Lightly Reviewed, Non-Archival)

- A.13 **Lu, A.J.** (2023). ‘Better than Nothing’: Detroit residents’ contested perceptions and imaginaries of ubiquitous surveillance technologies. In *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting — Sea, Sky, and Land: Engaging in Solidarity in Endangered Ecologies.* Honolulu, HI. (4S 2023)

- A.12 **Lu, A.J.** (2023). Toward the relationality and ethics of producing alternative research outcomes and knowledge dissemination. In Workshop *Beyond Academic Publication: Alternative Outcomes of HCI Research*. ACM Designing Interactive Systems. Pittsburgh, PA. (DIS 2023)
- A.11 **Lu, A.J.** (2022). From Fordist labor control to policing surveillance: Surveillance as racial infrastructure in modern Detroit. In *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting — Reunion, Recuperation, Reconfiguration: Knowledges and Technosciences for living together*. Cholula, Mexico. (4S 2022)
- A.10 **Lu, A.J.** (2022). From wearing disguise to wearing masquerade: Reconceptualizing everyday resistance to control and surveillance. In *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting — Reunion, Recuperation, Reconfiguration: Knowledges and Technosciences for living together*. Cholula, Mexico. (4S 2022)
- A.9 Dillahunt, T.R., **Lu, A.J.**, Couch, J. (2022). Negotiating the boundaries of futures through speculative design. In *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting — Reunion, Recuperation, Reconfiguration: Knowledges and Technosciences for living together*. Cholula, Mexico. (4S 2022)
- A.8 **Lu, A.J.**, Chen, Y. (2022). Conceptualizing performative ideology labor in navigating dataist political communication surveillance in China. In *University of Washington Graduate Conference: Media, Power, Technological Determinism*. Seattle, WA.
- A.7 **Lu, A.J.**, Chen, Y. (2021). Conformity and obfuscation: Infrapolitical impression management under data-driven state surveillance. In *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting — Good Relations: Practices and Methods in Unequal and Uncertain Worlds*. Toronto and World-wide. (4S 2021)
- A.6 Chen, Y., **Lu, A.J.**, Riley, J. (2021). A dystopian China imagined: Rhetorics and practices in the resistance of surveillance technologies in the U.S. In *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting — Good Relations: Practices and Methods in Unequal and Uncertain Worlds*. Toronto and World-wide. (4S 2021)
- A.5 Ankenbauer, S.A., **Lu, A.J.** (2021). Maintenance work of the independent movie theater during Covid-19. In *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting — Good Relations: Practices and Methods in Unequal and Uncertain Worlds*. Toronto and World-wide. (4S 2021)
- A.4 **Lu, A.J.**, Chen, Y., Kim, Y. (2020). Science and rumor of virus: the politics of information legitimacy of coronavirus in China. In *Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting — Locating and Timing Matters: Significance and Agency of STS in Emerging Worlds*. Prague, Czech Republic. (4S 2020)
- A.3 Victor, B., Perron, B., Bushman, G., Moore, A., Ryan, J., **Lu, A.**, Piellusch, E (2020). Development and validation of text mining and machine learning models to maximize the research value of narrative summaries in administrative child welfare records. In *Society for Social Work and Research 24th Annual Conference — Reducing Racial and Economic Inequality*. Washington, DC, USA. (SSWR 2020)
- A.2 **Lu, A.** & Lee, J.Y. (2019). Geocoding stay-at-home parents' self-defined locations. In *#UMTweetCon2019*. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

- A.1 Lee, J.Y. & **Lu, A.** (2018). "Spank, Smack, & Whoop": Stay-at-home parents' spanking Tweets. In *Social Justice in Social Work Research Symposium*. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI. [**Doctoral Poster Award**]

Policy Briefs, Public-facing Articles and Zines

- P.4 Baker, R., Blackmer, P., **Lu, A.**, Smith, R. (2023). Recommendations for civic disinvestment in surveillance technology in Detroit, MI. *Urban Praxis Workshop*
- P.3 Baker, R., Blackmer, P., **Lu, A.**, Smith, R. (2022). Building Black futures by knowing what keeps us safe: A report on the Green Light Black Futures community safety survey. In *Riverwise Detroit*
- P.2 Baker, R., Blackmer, P., **Lu, A.**, Smith, R., Watkins, P.G. (2023). We want safety, not surveillance: What safety means and what residents want. *Urban Praxis Workshop*
- P.1 Dillahunt, T.R., **Lu, A.J.**, Branche-Wilson, A. (2021). The promises and perils of technology for marginalized job seekers. *University of Michigan Poverty Solutions Policy Briefs*

Thesis and Technical Reports

- TR.2 **Lu, A.J.** (2019). Design practices and guidelines for empowerment. *Master's Thesis, School of Information, University of Michigan*.
- TR.1 **Lu, A.J.** (2015). Socio-feedback: The context analysis. *Bachelor's Thesis, School of Information Engineering and Media, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*.

PANELS AND TALKS

Workshops and Panels Organized

- W.2 Chen, Y., Liu, C., Liu, C., **Lu, A.J.** (2022). Reconfiguring knowledge production of China in the "New Normal". Open panel in 4S 2022
- W.1 Pine, K.H., Bossen, C., Møller, N.H., Miceli, M., **Lu, A.J.**, Chen, Y., Horgan, L., Su, Z., Neff, G., Mazmanian, M. (2022). Investigating data work across domains: New perspectives on the work of creating data. Workshop in CHI 2022

Invited Talks and Panels

- T.5 Dillahunt, T.R. & **Lu, A.J.** (April, 2023). Reenvisioning Surveillance Infrastructure through Speculative Design and Photovoice. *BostonCHI*
- T.4 **Lu, A.J.** (February, 2023). Shifting from surveillance-as-safety to safety-through-noticing: A photovoice study with Eastside Detroit residents. *STREET Lab, University of Toronto*
- T.3 **Lu, A.J.** (October, 2022). Aligning Technology Design with Community Values and Strengths. In *Digital Inclusion Week. Connect 313*. Detroit, MI.
- T.2 **Lu, A.J.** (November, 2021). Towards representing lived experiences and everyday negotiation with surveillance. *Digital Study Institute. University of Michigan*.
- T.1 **Lu, A.J.** (April, 2019). #Parenting projects: Using Twitter to understand mothering and fathering. *Methods Hour, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan*.

AWARDS

Spirit of Detroit Award, which recognizes “exceptional achievement, outstanding leadership, and dedication to improving the quality of life” <i>City Council of Detroit, Michigan</i>	2024
Volunteer Appreciation Award, which recognizes the “outstanding dedication and tireless efforts in supporting the Parkside community” <i>Friends of Parkside, Detroit</i>	2024
Best Paper Award for [C.10], DIS 2023 <i>ACM Designing Interactive Systems</i>	2023
Best Paper Honorable Mention Award for [C.7], CHI 2022 <i>ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems</i>	2022
Best Paper Honorable Mention Award for [C.5], DIS 2021 <i>ACM Designing Interactive Systems</i>	2021
Pre-candidacy Project Milestone Distinction Award (Top 10%) <i>University of Michigan, School of Information</i>	2020
Margaret Mann Award, which honors one or more Master’s students who demonstrate exceptional academic ability and professional promise <i>University of Michigan, School of Information</i>	2019
Dean’s Mission Scholarship <i>University of Michigan, School of Social Work</i>	2018
Best Paper Honorable Mention Award for [C.1], DIS 2018 <i>ACM Designing Interactive Systems</i>	2018
Doctoral Poster Award <i>University of Michigan, School of Social Work</i>	2018
President Research Scholar <i>Nanyang Technological University</i>	2013
Full Scholarship for Undergraduate Studies <i>Nanyang Technological University</i>	2012–2016

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant

University of Michigan School of Information, SI 582: Introduction to Interaction Design, Winter 2021, Fall 2020

Guest Lectures

University of Michigan School of Information, SI 840: Introduction to Research from a Methods Perspective. “Community-based participatory action research and photovoice.” Instructor: Prof. Mark Ackerman, Winter 2024, Winter 2023

MIT, 11.236: Participatory Action Research (PAR). “Every photo has a story: An Eastside story on safety from behind the lens and organizing community-based events in participatory action research” Instructor: Prof. Katrin Kaeufer, Fall 2023

University of Michigan Department of Communication and Media, COMM 101: The Mass Media. “Unpacking the promise of safety through policing surveillance.” Instructor: Yuchen Chen, Summer 2022

University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, QMSS 301: Quantitative Social Science Analysis and Big Data. “What ethics? How ethics?” Instructor: Prof. Jan Van Den Bulck, Winter 2022

University of Michigan School of Information, SI 110: Introduction to Information Science. “Designing employment tools with underserved communities.” Instructor: Prof. Erin Krupka, Winter 2019

ADVISING

Master’s Students

Anandita Aggarwal* (M.S. in Information Science, UM), Winter 2021
Ruchita Lodha* (M.S. in Information Science, UM), Winter 2020
Xuecong Xu* (M.S. in Human Centered Design & Eng., University of Washington), Summer 2019–Winter 2020

Undergraduate Students

Cameron Moy* (B.S. in Information Science, UM), Summer 2022–Winter 2024
Eleanor Wikstrom* (B.A. in Social Studies, Harvard University), Winter 2023–Winter 2024
Camille McMurtry (B.A. in Community and Global Public Health, UM), Summer 2023
Emilia O’Brien (B.S. in Information Science, UM), Summer 2022
Julia Couch (B.S. in Information Science, UM), Winter 2022
Anna Gilhool* (B.S. in Information Science, UM), Summer 2020–Winter 2021
Muhan Zhao* (B.S. in Computer Science, UM), Summer 2020–Winter 2021
Mingzhi Cai* (B.S. in Data Science, UM), Summer 2020
Haonan Li (B.S. in Mathematics and Computer Science, UM), Summer 2019

SERVICE

Peer Reviewing

ACM CHI: 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 (Special Recognition for Outstanding Review 2022, 2023)
ACM CSCW: 2020, 2021, 2022 (Special Recognition for Outstanding Review 2020, 2022)
ACM DIS: 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024
ACM TOCHI: 2021, 2024
ECSCW: 2023

Groups and Activities

Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Michigan Chapter 2019 – 2020
Student Vice President
Community Technical Assistance Collaborative (CTAC) 2017 – 2019
University of Michigan, Edward Ginsberg Center
Student Coordinator

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service Volunteer Detroit, MI, USA
Friends of Parkside 6/2022 – Present
Community Service Volunteer Ann Arbor, MI, USA
Our House 11/2017 – 07/2018
Child Education Volunteer Ramecchap, Nepal
Nepal Orphans Home 02/2016 – 05/2016, 01/2017

SKILLS

Language

Mandarin (Native), Xiang Chinese (Native), German (Basic)

*Co-authored peer-reviewed publication(s)

Coding

Front-end Development (Ionic, Angular, JavaScript)

Back-end Development (Python)

Data Analysis (R)

Graphic Design & Data Visualization

Figma, Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator/InDesign

Tableau, d3.js, R (ggplot2)

Sketching, Photography, Photo and Video Editing

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS Member; ACM Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction (SIGCHI)

Member; Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)

Last Updated: May 2024