

Elijah Bouma-Sims

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Education

- 2021 – Present 📖 **Ph.D. Societal Computing**, Carnegie Mellon University.
- 2021 – 2023 📖 **M.S. Societal Computing**, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2017 – 2021 📖 **B.S. Computer Engineering, B.A History**, North Carolina State University

Research Experience

- 08/2021 – Present 📖 **Graduate Research Assistant**, Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Supervisor: Dr. Lorrie Cranor
Conduct research on a variety of topics in usable security and privacy, with a focus on at-risk populations; supervise undergraduate research assistants; presented research results at CHI 2023, SOUPS 2024, PETS 2024, and NDSS 2025.
- 05/2021 – 08/2021 📖 **Research Assistant**, Max Planck Institute for Security and Privacy. Bochum, DE.
Supervisor: Dr. Yasemin Acar
Conducted research on gender data practices among developers that was presented at PEPR 2022 and CSCW 2023.
- 08/2019 – 05/2021 📖 **Research Assistant**, North Carolina State University. Raleigh, NC, USA
Supervisor: Dr. Brad Reaves
Contributed as an author to measurement study on robocalls and analysis of account remediation advice presented at USENIX Security 2020 and SOUPS 2021, respectively; conducted a measurement study on YouTube scams that I presented at MADWeb 2021.

Teaching Experience

- 11/2022 – Present 📖 **Future Faculty Program**, Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Attend regular seminars on pedagogy; I have completed a syllabus design project, multiple teaching observations, and other activities to practice teaching skills.
- 04/2023 – Present 📖 **Guest Lecturer**, Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Course: Engineering Privacy in Software (19-605)
Developed and routinely deliver lectures on using Consent Management Platforms.
- 08/2024 – 12/2024 📖 **Teaching Assistant**, Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Course: Privacy Policy, Law and Technology (17-733)
Held office hours, wrote course materials, and graded assignments; developed and delivered lectures on “Privacy for At-risk Populations” and “Privacy Notice and Choice”
- 01/2024 – 05/2024 📖 **Head Teaching Assistant**, Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburgh, PA, USA
Course: Usable Privacy and Security (17-734)
Held office hours, wrote course materials, graded assignments, and managed other teaching assistants; developed and delivered a lecture on “Statistics for User Studies.”

Other Work Experience

- 05/2020 — 07/2020  **Technical Intern**, Cisco. Raleigh, NC, USA
Worked on the Security Automation and Visibility team to improve dependency scanning tools
- 06/2019 — 08/2019  **Technical Intern**, SAS. Cary, NC, USA
Worked on the Development and Life-cycle Testing team to automate tests for SAS enterprise software.
- 01/2018 — 12/2018  **Writing Assistant**, North Carolina State University. Raleigh, NC, USA
Tutored undergraduate students in writing at the University Tutorial Center
- 05/2018 — 06/2018  **Residential Engineering Camp Counselor**, North Carolina State University. Raleigh, NC, USA
I was responsible for a group of 20 high school rising juniors and seniors each week of camp; I planned and implemented a variety of social and recreational activities.

Publications

Conference / Workshop Proceedings

- 1** E. Bouma-Sims, L. Klucinec, M. Lanyon, L. F. Cranor, and J. Downs, “The kids are all right: Investigating the susceptibility of teens and adults to youtube giveaway scams,” in *Proceedings of the Network and Distributed System Security (NDSS) Symposium 2025*.  [Online]. Available: <https://www.ndss-symposium.org/wp-content/uploads/2025-342-paper.pdf>.
- 2** E. Bouma-Sims, H. Hassan, A. Nisenoff, L. F. Cranor, and N. Christin, ““it was honestly just gambling”: Investigating the experiences of teenage cryptocurrency users on reddit,” in *Twentieth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2024)*, Philadelphia, PA: USENIX Association, Aug. 2024, pp. 333–352, ISBN: 978-1-939133-42-7.  [Online]. Available: <https://www.usenix.org/conference/soups2024/presentation/bouma-sims>.
- 3** E. Bouma-Sims, S. Ananda Kumar, and L. Cranor, “Exploring the privacy experiences of closeted users of online dating services in the us,” in *Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies*, 2024.  DOI: 10.56553/popets-2024-0046.  [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.56553/popets-2024-0046>.
- 4** E. Bouma-Sims, L. Klucinec, M. Lanyon, L. F. Cranor, and J. Downs, “Recruiting teenage participants for an online security experiment: A case study using peachjar,” in *9th Workshop on Inclusive Privacy and Security*, 2024.  [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2408.00864>.
- 5** S. Jiwani, R. Sasheendran, A. Abhyankar, E. Bouma-Sims, and L. Cranor, “Crumbling cookie categories: Deconstructing common cookie categories to create categories that people understand,” in *Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies*, 2024.  DOI: 10.56553/popets-2024-0093.  [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.56553/popets-2024-0093>.
- 6** E. Bouma-Sims and Y. Acar, “Beyond the boolean: How programmers ask about, use, and discuss gender,” in *Proceedings of the 2023 ACM SIGCHI Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing*, New York, NY, USA: Association for Computing Machinery, 2023.  DOI: 10.1145/3579461.  [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3579461>.
- 7** E. Bouma-Sims, M. Li, Y. Lin, A. Sakura-Lemessy, A. Nisenoff, E. Young, E. Birrell, L. F. Cranor, and H. Habib, “A US-UK usability evaluation of consent management platform cookie consent interface design on desktop and mobile,” in *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, Hamburg, Germany: Association for Computing Machinery, 2023, ISBN: 9781450394215.  DOI: 10.1145/3544548.3580725.  [Online]. Available: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3580725>.
- 8** L. Neil, E. Bouma-Sims, E. Lafontaine, Y. Acar, and B. Reaves, “Investigating web service account remediation advice,” in *Seventeenth Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security (SOUPS 2021)*,

<https://www.usenix.org/conference/soups2021/presentation/neil>, USENIX Association, Aug. 2021, pp. 359–376, ISBN: 978-1-939133-25-0.

9 **E. Bouma-Sims** and B. Reaves, “A first look at scams on youtube,” in *The 2021 Workshop on Measurements, Attacks, and Defenses for the Web*, <https://dx.doi.org/10.14722/madweb.2021.23001>, 2021, ISBN: 1-891562-67-3.

10 S. Prasad, **E. Bouma-Sims**, A. K. Mylappan, and B. Reaves, “Who’s calling? characterizing robocalls through audio and metadata analysis,” in *29th USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 20)*, <https://www.usenix.org/conference/usenixsecurity20/presentation/prasad>, USENIX Association, Aug. 2020, pp. 397–414, ISBN: 978-1-939133-17-5.

Posters / Presentations

1 **E. Bouma-Sims**. “The kids are all right: Investigating the susceptibility of teens and adults to youtube giveaway scams.” (Sep. 2024). Presented at the 2024 CyLab Partners Conference https://www.cylab.cmu.edu/events/partners_conference/2024/index.html.

2 **E. Bouma-Sims**. “Exploring the privacy experiences of closeted users of online dating services in the us.” (Apr. 2024). Presented at CMU’s Current Topics in Privacy Seminar <https://privacy.cs.cmu.edu/masters/seminar/index.html>.

3 **E. Bouma-Sims**. “A US-UK usability evaluation of consent management platform cookie consent interface design on desktop and mobile.” (Mar. 2023). Presented at CMU’s Current Topics in Privacy Seminar <https://privacy.cs.cmu.edu/masters/seminar/index.html>.

4 **E. Bouma-Sims**, J. Gursky, S. Kumar, R. Stevens, J. Tesfa, S. Yan, and L. F. Cranor. “Poster: Out of their control: Investigating privacy attitudes and behaviors among tinder users.” (Aug. 2022). Presented at the 2022 USENIX Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security in Boston, MA. <https://www.usenix.org/conference/soups2022/presentation/bouma-sims-poster>.

5 **E. Bouma-Sims**. “How developers (don’t) think about gender privacy,” USENIX Association. (Jun. 2022). Presented at the 2022 USENIX Conference on Privacy Engineering Practice and Respect in Santa Clara, CA. <https://www.usenix.org/conference/pepr22/presentation/bouma-sims>.

Awards and Achievements

- 2024  **Andreas Pfitzmann Best Student Paper Award Runner up** for “Exploring the Privacy Experiences of Closeted Users of Online Dating Services in the US,” *24th Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium*
- 2023  **Presidential Fellowship**, Carnegie Mellon University, CyLab
- 2021  **Outstanding Senior Award for the Humanities**, North Carolina State University, College of Engineering.
 **Best Paper Runner-up** for “A First Look at Scams On YouTube,” *Workshop on Measurements, Attacks, and Defenses for the Web 2021*
- 2020  **Internet Defense Award** for “Who’s Calling? Characterizing Robocalling Campaigns through Audio and Metadata Analysis,” *29th USENIX Security Symposium*
 **Distinguished Paper Award** for “Who’s Calling? Characterizing Robocalling Campaigns through Audio and Metadata Analysis,” *29th USENIX Security Symposium*
- 2018  **Undergraduate Research Grant**, North Carolina State University
- 2017  **Park Scholarship**, North Carolina State University

Academic Service

- 2022–2024 **CHI External Reviewer**, the 2023, 2024, and 2025 SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems
- CSCW External Reviewer**, the 25th, 26th, and 28th ACM SIGCHI Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing
- SOUPS Poster Jury**, The 18th, 19th, and 20th Symposium on Usable Privacy and Security
- 2024 **CCS Artifact Evaluation Committee**, the 31st ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security
- Reviewer for *Scientific Reports* and *Interacting with Computers*

Other Service Activities

- 2024–Present **Student Seminar Committee Member**, Cylab, Carnegie Mellon University
- Community Committee Member**, Cylab, Carnegie Mellon University
- 2022–Present **TechNights Volunteer and Session Lead**, Women@SCS, Carnegie Mellon University
Volunteer for a free STEM outreach program targeting female students from grades 6-8; developed and taught session on ethical hacking
- 2022–2025 **REUSE Admissions Committee Member**, Carnegie Mellon’s Research Experiences for Undergraduates in Software Engineering
- 2022–2024 **OurCS Volunteer**, School of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University
Team mentor for the 3-day OurCS undergraduate research workshop in 2022 and 2024
- 2021–2022 **Joint Financial Committee Member**, Carnegie Mellon Student Government
- 2019–2021 **Diversity Committee Member**, Park Scholarship Program, North Carolina State University
- 2017–2021 **Krispy Kreme Challenge Committee Member**
Student-run charity race benefiting UNC Children’s Hospital

Skills

- Coding **Python, C++, C, R, L^AT_EX, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Dafny**
- Other tech. **OneTrust CMP, Wireshark, AFL++, GDB, Valgrind, Infer, Apache, Docker**
- Research **Experimental design, qualitative analysis, statistical analysis, internet measurement, human-subjects research, academic writing, public speaking**
- Teaching **Lesson planning, active learning strategies, learning management systems, mentoring students**