

Alisha Ukani

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Academic Appointments

University of Washington - Center for an Informed Public (CIP)

Postdoctoral Scholar

Advisor: Franziska Roesner

Seattle, WA

2026 – Present

Education

University of California San Diego

Ph.D. in Computer Science

Advisor: Alex C. Snoeren. GPA: 4.0

Thesis: Empirically Analyzing Web Privacy Defenses

San Diego, CA

2020 – 2026

University of California San Diego

M.S. in Computer Science

Advisor: Alex C. Snoeren. GPA: 4.0

San Diego, CA

2020 – 2022

Harvard University

A.B. in Computer Science

Graduated with honors and cum laude in field. GPA: 3.81

Cambridge, MA

2016 – 2020

Papers

Refereed Conference Papers.....

[Sec 26]: A. Ukani, R. Greer, K. Izhikevich, E. Fernandes, A.C. Snoeren, S. Savage, “WarrInt: Integrity Validation for Criminal Legal Process” USENIX Security 2026. **Distinguished Paper Award Runner-Up (top 10% of accepted papers)**

[IMC 26]: K. Izhikevich, B. Du, S. Rao, M. Tran, **A. Ukani**, R. Bellis, L. Izhikevich, “Rooting Out Incorrect Locations: Examining RIPE Atlas Probe Geolocations” ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC) 2026.

[CCS 25]: A. Ukani, H. Haddadi, A.C. Snoeren, P. Snyder, “Local Frames: Exploiting Inherited Origins to Bypass Content Blockers” ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS) 2025.

[WWW 24]: A. Senol*, **A. Ukani***, D. Cutler, I. Bilogrevic, “The Double Edged Sword: Identifying Authentication Pages and their Fingerprinting Behavior” ACM Web Conference (WWW) 2024. *Equal contributions

[IMC 22]: A. Randall, P. Snyder, **A. Ukani**, A.C. Snoeren, G. Voelker, S. Savage, A. Schulman, “Measuring UID Smuggling in the Wild.” ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC) 2022.

[IMC 21]: A. Ukani, A. Mirian, A.C. Snoeren, “Locked-In during Lock-Down: Undergraduate Life on the Internet in a Pandemic.” ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC) 2021.

Workshop Papers.....

[PP-MisDet 26]: V. Inukollu, P. Montoya, R. Greer, **A. Ukani**, K. Izhikevich, E. Fernandes, A.C. Snoeren, S. Savage, “Countering Fabricated Legal Documents: Aligning Verification Attention to Salient Objects through Zero-Shot Detection of Confounding or Obscuring Symbols” From Perception to Persuasion: Challenges and Advances in Misinformation Detection in Society (PP-MisDet) 2026.

[CSET 23]: A. Mirian, **A. Ukani**, I. Foster, G. Akiwate, T. Halicioglu, C. Moore, A.C. Snoeren, G. Voelker, S. Savage, A. Schulman, "In the Line of Fire: Risks of DPI-triggered Data Collection" Cyber Security Experimentation and Test Workshop (CSET) 2023.

In-Progress Papers.....

[1]: **A. Ukani**, H. Haddadi, A.S. Shamsabadi, P. Snyder, "Privacy Practices of Browser Agents" (In Preparation, Preprint Available)

Preprints and Reports.....

[1]: **A. Ukani**, K. Izhikevich, S. Mittal, M. Patel, S. Srinath, K. Ly, k. claffy, A.C. Snoeren, "Country-in-the-Middle: Measuring Paths between People and their Governments." arXiv 2025.

[2]: R. Greer, **A. Ukani**, K. Izhikevich, E. Fernandes, A.C. Snoeren, S. Savage, "Words as Geometric Features: Estimating Homography using Optical Character Recognition as Compressed Image Representation." arXiv 2025.

[3]: **A. Ukani**, N. Sinai, "Data, Not Documents: Modernizing the Regulatory State." Harvard Belfer Center Report 2019.

Posters.....

[PETS 25]: "WarrInt: Integrity Validation for Criminal Legal Process" Privacy Enhancing Technology Symposium 2025. **Best Poster Award Runner-Up**

[CS&Law 25]: "Practical Support for Integrity Validation of Criminal Legal Process" ACM Symposium on Computer Science and Law 2025

Awards and Honors

2026-2028: UW CIP Postdoctoral Fellowship

2026: USENIX Security Distinguished Paper Award Runner-Up (top 10% of accepted papers)

2025: PETS Best Poster Award Runner-Up

2024: UCSD CSE Award for Service/Leadership

2022: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship

2022: UCSD CSE Award for Contributions to Diversity

2021-2024: ARCS Foundation San Diego Fellowship

2021: Invited to join Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu engineering honor societies (top 20% of graduate students)

2020: Harvard University Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching

2019: Google Peer Bonus Award (x2)

2017-2019: Charles J. Paine Scholarship Award Recipient

2018: Harvard University Office of Student Life Spirit of Harvard College Award

2017: Harvard University Office of Student Life Emerging Leader Award

Industry Experience

Brave Software

San Diego, CA

Computer Science Intern

June 2025 – September 2025

- Researched the security and privacy properties of eight AI-powered browser automation tools (e.g. Claude for Chrome, ChatGPT Agent, Perplexity Comet, Browser Use)
- Creating actionable recommendations for improving the privacy of such tools
- Work is in submission and a preprint is available on arXiv

Google

Cambridge, MA

Privacy Sandbox Research Intern / Student Researcher

June 2022 – February 2023

- Measured the prevalence of browser fingerprinting on the home, login, and sign-up pages of 100K websites to determine if sites are fingerprinting for tracking and/or authentication
- Developed novel techniques to detect login and sign-up pages
- Work was published at The Web Conference (WWW) 2024

Google

San Diego, CA

Research Intern

June 2021 – September 2021

- Determined a signal to detect network outages, which was added to a new anomaly detection system
- Analyzed network outage data and classified events in dataset as network black holes or congestion
- Discovered congestion from an internal tool, and proposed a solution that also increases availability

Talks

“Local Frames: Exploiting Inherited Origins to Bypass Content Blockers”:

- IETF 123 Privacy Enhancements and Assessments Research Group (PEARG): July 2025
- Brave Research Team: July 2025

“Practical Support for Integrity Validation of Criminal Legal Process”:

- UCSD Center for Networked Systems (CNS) Research Review: May 2025
- UCSD Women in Data Science Lunch: February 2025

“Country-in-the-Middle: Measuring Paths between People and their Governments”:

- CAIDA GMI-AIMS-5 Workshop: February 2025

“The Double Edged Sword: Identifying Authentication Pages and their Fingerprinting Behavior”:

- University of Maryland: September 2024
- UCSD Center for Networked Systems (CNS) Research Review: May 2024
- MIT PDOS Group: March 2024
- Northeastern University: March 2024
- Boston University Security Seminar: March 2024

“Trusted Computing”:

- Guest lecture for UCSD Graduate Security class (CSE 227): October 2023

“Locked-In during Lock-Down: Undergraduate Life on the Internet in a Pandemic”:

- UCSD CSE Research Open House: March 2022
- Stanford Empirical Security Seminar: November 2021
- Google: September 2021
- Google PhD Intern Research Conference: July 2021
- MIT Security Seminar: May 2021

Leadership and Service

Program Committees.....

2024: ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC)

Other Academic Service.....

2026-2027: Web Chair for Privacy Enhancing Technology Symposium (PETS)

Department and Other Service.....

UCSD Graduate Women in Computing (GradWIC)

San Diego, CA

Co-President

July 2023 – June 2025

- Led a student organization of 500+ members across five departments at UCSD
- Expanded a one-off scholarship to academic conferences into a quarterly scholarship, enabling 16 students to attend conferences and advance their research careers

UCSD Early Research Scholars Program

San Diego, CA

Research Mentor

September 2023 – June 2024

- Mentored three undergraduate students; taught advanced computer networking topics, how to analyze data, and academic writing skills
- Students contributed to a paper submitted to a top-tier conference
- Students were selected to present their work at the ERSP National Conference

NSF GRFP Application Assistance

San Diego, CA

Co-Founder and Mentor

October 2022 – October 2023

- Started a committee to advise NSF GRFP applicants from UC San Diego and UC Santa Cruz
- Gave two presentations on an overview of GRFP and its criteria, and reviewed applicants' essays

UCSD Graduate Women in Computing (GradWIC)

San Diego, CA

Mentorship Program Co-Chair

June 2021 – June 2022

- Managed a mentorship program for graduate students with 145 participants
- Restarted partnership with a campus coffee shop to provide free coffee for mentorship program participants
- Helped write grant proposals to acquire \$25k in funding

City of Cambridge Open Data Review Board

Cambridge, MA

Member

August 2018 – August 2020

- Advised the City about residents' concerns on publication of open data and privacy concerns

Teaching Experience

UC San Diego

TA: Graduate Operating Systems (CSE 220)

Winter 2026

- Responsible for holding office hours and discussion sections, grading projects, and helping to design exams
- Received 4.71/5.0 average rating for helping students learn and engage with the course material
- Student comments:
 - "Alisha was really good at asking questions to lead me to a solution rather than just giving a solution for something right off the bat"
 - "[Office hours] felt like a supportive environment for asking for help. I thought that her knowledge of the material and the projects, and her effective time management, made her one of the best TAs I've ever had!"

UC San Diego

TA: Graduate Computer Security (CSE 227)

Fall 2023

- Gave a guest lecture “Trusted Computing” (October 3, 2023)
- Responsible for holding office hours, assisting with evaluating reading responses, and mentoring students’ final projects

Harvard University

TA: Intro to Systems Programming and Machine Organization (CS 61)

Fall 2019

- Received 4.73/5.0 average rating for teaching effectiveness from student evaluations
- Awarded Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching
- Led biweekly discussion sections, held weekly office hours, and graded homeworks and exams
- Student comments:
 - “Very open and available. Whenever I had a problem conceptually understanding what was going wrong in my code, Alisha would ensure that I thoroughly understand relevant concepts rather than just telling me what was wrong directly, which really helped solidify concepts for me.”

Harvard University

TA: Intro to Systems Programming and Machine Organization (CS 61)

Fall 2018

- Received 4.70/5.0 average rating for teaching effectiveness from student evaluations
- Student comments:
 - “Awesome section. Loved how you always checked to make sure everyone was following along and understanding the material, and you also covered the most pertinent parts that people were interested in. Greatly appreciated.”