

Veronica A. Rivera

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Research Overview

I study the digital safety needs of marginalized and vulnerable populations, with an eye towards designing more effective digitally-mediated protections. I focus on those who face increased risk of harm online due to personal risk factors and/or engagement in high-risk contexts, such as certain labor. I employ a mixed-methods approach to data collection and analysis, including user interviews and large-scale surveys.

Academic Appointments

- Fall 2023- **Stanford University**, *Embedded Ethics Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Human-Centered AI (HAI) & McCoy Family Center for Ethics in Society*
Advisor: Zakir Durumeric
- 2023 **University of Florida**, *Visiting Researcher, Computer and Information Science and Engineering*
- 2022-2023 **Max Planck Institute for Software Systems**, *Visiting Researcher, Safety and Society Group*

Education

- 2017-2023 **PhD, University of California Santa Cruz**, *Computational Media*
Dissertation: Safety & Harm in Social Computing Systems that Support Matching Markets
Committee: David Lee, Chris Benner, Elizabeth Gerber, Elissa M. Redmiles, Norman Makoto Su
- 2013-2017 **BSc, Harvey Mudd College**, *Joint Computer Science and Mathematics*
Concentration in Psychology

Fellowships and Awards

- 2024 **Rising Star in AI Ethics**, *Women in AI Ethics (WAIE)*
- 2021 **ARCS Scholarship**, *UC Santa Cruz*, excellence in academics and STEM research
- 2019 **Chancellor's Graduate Internship Fellowship**, *UC Santa Cruz*
1 out of 5 recipients in the university
- 2019 **CRA Travel Scholarship**, *CRA*, To attend CRA-W Grad Cohort Workshop for Women
- 2019 **CRA Travel Scholarship**, *CRA*, To attend CRA-URMD Grad Cohort Workshop for under-represented students
- 2018 **Summer Regent's Fellowship**, *UC Santa Cruz*
- 2013 **President's Scholarship**, *Harvey Mudd College*, 4-year full-tuition
1 out of 8 recipients in the graduating class of 2017

Publications

* denotes equal first-authorship, listed alphabetically by last name

Peer-Reviewed Conference & Journal Papers

- CSCW 2024 Huang, J., Ma, N.F., **Rivera, V.A.**, Somani, T., McGrenere, J., Yoon, D. *Design Tensions in Online Freelancing Platforms: Using Speculative Participatory Design to Support Freelancers' Relationships with Clients*. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction.

SIGCSE 2024 **Rivera, V.A.**, Su, N.M. *Teaching Ethics and Activism in a Human-Computer Interaction Professional Master's Program*. The 2024 ACM Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education

CHI 2022 Ma, N.F.*, **Rivera, V.A.***, Yao, Z., Yoon, D. *"Brush it Off": How Women Workers Manage and Cope with Bias and Harassment on Gender-agnostic Gig Platforms*. The 2022 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.

CSCW 2021 **Rivera, V.A.**, Lee, D.T. *I Want to, but First I Need to: Understanding Crowdworkers Career Goals, Challenges, and Tensions*. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction.

[In Review](#)

2023 **Rivera, V.A.**, Wilkinson, D., Redmiles, E.M., Strohmayer, A. *Safer Algorithmically-Mediated Offline Introductions: Harms and Protective Behaviors*

[Peer-Reviewed Workshop & Consortia Papers](#)

CSCW 2019 **Rivera, V.A.**, Lee, D.T. *It Takes a Village to Change Jobs: Towards Workplace Relationships that Support Reskilling in Crowdwork*. The Future of Work(places): Creating a Sense of Place for On-Demand Work. Workshop at ACM CSCW.

ITS 2018 **Rivera, V.** *A New Approach to Testing Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Using Affect*. Doctoral Consortium at the International Conference on Intelligent Tutoring Systems.

[Policy White Papers](#)

Georgetown MDI 2024 Elissa M. Redmiles, Sarah Adel Bargal, Grace (Natalie) Brigham, Nina Grgic-Hlaca, Tadayoshi Kohno, Jaron Mink, **Veronica A. Rivera**, Carmela Troncoso, Lucy Qin, Miranda Wei. *Formal Response on NIST AI Executive Order*. Published via the Georgetown University McCourt School of Public Policy's Massive Data Institute.

[Mathematics & Computer Vision Publications](#)

JKTR 2017 Nelson, S., Orrison, M., **Rivera, V.** *Quantum Enhancements and Biquandle Brackets*. The Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications.

ISVC 2015 Tenorio, D., **Rivera, V.**, Medina, J., Leondar, A., Gaumer, M., Dodds, Z. *Visual Autonomy via 2D Matching in Rendered 3D Models*. The International Symposium on Visual Computing.

JKTR 2014 Nelson, S., **Rivera, V.** *Quantum Enhancements of Involutory Birack Counting Invariants*. The Journal of Knot Theory and its Ramifications

[Teaching Experience](#)

[Instructor of Record](#)

Ethics in Technology, *Stanford University Pre-Collegiate Summer Institutes*, Summer 2023
10 day intensive high school course I designed based on my UCSC HCI 220 course

Ethics & Activism in Technology & Design, *UCSC HCI 220*, Spring 2022; Winter 2023
I designed the course in Spring 2022 as an elective in the HCI Professional Master's program; it was made a required course in the program after the first offering

[Teaching Assistant](#)

Human-Centered Design Research, *UCSC CMPM 178*, Winter 2021; Winter 2022

Data Structures for Interactive Media, *UCSC CMPM 35*, Fall 2021

Beginning Programming in Python, *UCSC CSE 20*, Spring 2021

Introduction to Programming, Accelerated, *UCSC CMPS 12A*, Fall 2018

Introduction to Programming in Java, *UCSC CMPS 5J*, Winter 2018; Spring 2018

Introduction to Computer Science, *Harvey Mudd College CS 05*, Fall 2014

[Embedded Ethics Teaching Fellow](#)

Programming Methodology, *Stanford University CS 106A*, Winter 2024

Programming Abstractions, *Stanford University CS 106B*, Spring 2024

Computer Organization and Systems, *Stanford University CS 107*, Spring 2024; Winter 2024; Fall 2023

From Languages to Information, *Stanford University CS 124*, Winter 2024

Human-Centered Product Management, *Stanford University CS 177*, Fall 2023

Artificial Intelligence: Principles and Techniques, *Stanford University CS 221*, Spring 2024; Fall 2023

[Guest Lectures](#)

Data Ethics: Choices and Values, *Stanford University CS 106A*, March 2024

Privacy and End-to-End Encryption, *Stanford University CS 106A*, February 2024

Ethics and Problem Selection in Security, *Stanford University CS 356*, December 2023

Academic Service

[Program Committees](#)

2024 **CSCW 2024**, *Associate Chair*

[Paper Reviewing](#)

2023 **USENIX Security 2024**, *Paper sub-reviewer*

2023 **CSCW 2024**, *Paper reviewer*

2023 **New Media and Society**, *Invited paper reviewer*

2023 **IMC 2023**, *Student travel grant application review committee*

2021 **CHI 2022**, *Paper reviewer*, Outstanding reviewer recognition

2021 **CSCW 2021**, *Paper reviewer*, Outstanding reviewer recognition

2020 **CSCW 2020**, *Paper reviewer*

2019 **CSCW 2019**, *Paper reviewer*

2019 **Human-Computer Interaction Journal**, *Invited paper reviewer*

[Department and University Service](#)

2023 **Ethics & Society Review Coordinating Panelist**, *Stanford University, HAI Seed Grants Review Committee*

2020-2021 **Assistant Community Manager**, *UC Santa Cruz Computational Media Department*

2018, 2020 **Alumni Admissions Interviewer**, *Harvey Mudd College*

2018 **Graduate Student Mentor**, *UC Santa Cruz Department of Computational Media*
Helped first year graduate student navigate the department and grad school

Research Mentoring

Sasha Ronaghi, *Stanford University CS BS/MS '25*

Annika Lin, *Georgetown University CS BS '24*

Leah Rosenbloom, *Brown University CS PhD '24*

Betros Abraha, *UC Santa Cruz BS '23*

Ashvini Bhupatiraju, *UC Santa Cruz BS '22*, Now: Software Engineer at Wells Fargo

Jason Chan, *UC Santa Cruz BS '20*, Now: Product Designer at Adobe
Mark Gonzales, *UC Santa Cruz BS '22*, Now: Electronic Engineer at ZaiNar Tech
Gurdikhia Kaur, *UC Santa Cruz BS '19*, Now: MSc Student at UCL
Sonali Malik, *UC Santa Cruz BS '21*, Now: Product Manager at Microsoft
Taylor McPherson, *UC Santa Cruz BS '20*, Now: Frontend Engineer at Hightouch
Benjamin Paulsen, *UC Santa Cruz BS '23*, Now: Associate Game Designer at Blizzard
Mathew Raju, *UC Santa Cruz BS '24*
Saki Yokokawa, *UC Santa Cruz BS '23*, Now: Web Developer at Cubic Transportation
Celeste Zhao, *UC Santa Cruz BS '22*, Now: MS Student at Univeristy of Washington HCDE
Su Zin, *UC Santa Cruz BS '23*

Invited Talks

Safety in Algorithmically-Mediated Offline Introductions

- Stanford Computer Forum Security Workshop (April 2024)
- Stanford HAI Fellows Workshop (March 2024)
- NSF Site Visit for the Center on Privacy and Security of Marginalized and Vulnerable Populations (March 2024)
- Georgetown University Massive Data Institute Tea Time (February 2024)
- University of Maryland HCIL Brown Bag Lunch Seminar (February 2024)
- Stanford University HCI Lunch (February 2024)

Post-Digital Safety in Digitally-Mediated Offline Interactions

- UC San Diego HCI Seminar (March 2023)
- Stanford University Security Lunch (February 2023)
- Stanford University Computing & Society Seminar (January 2023)
- Mensch und Computer (MuC) Workshop on Inclusive Security by Design (September 2022)

Long-Term Worker Well-Being in the Future of Work

- Stanford University HCI Lunch (April 2022)

Invited Panel Moderator

- Stanford University, Beyond Content Moderation Workshop (November 2023)

Professional Development

- 2021 **Teaching for Equity Certificate**, UC Santa Cruz Center for Innovations in Teaching and Learning
- 2020 **Graduate Student Leadership Certificate**, UC Santa Cruz Graduate Division
- 2019 **Invited workshop attendee**, JobKit Developer's Conference at the US White House
- 2019 **Invited workshop attendee**, Human-Computer Interaction Consortium on the Futures of Work