

# Alisha Ukani

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## Education

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### University of California San Diego

*Ph.D. in Computer Science*

Advisor: Alex C. Snoeren. GPA: 4.0

San Diego, CA

2020 – Present

### 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

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Refereed Papers.....

\* Indicates equal contributions

**[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" The Web Conference (WWW) 2024.**

**[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.**

**[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.**

In-Progress Papers.....

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

**[2]: A. Ukani, R. Greer, K. Izhikevich, E. Fernandes, A.C. Snoeren, S. Savage, "WarrInt: Integrity Validation for Criminal Legal Process" (In Submission)**

**[3]: K. Izhikevich, B. Du, M. Tran, S. Rao, A. Ukani, R. Bellis, L. Izhikevich, "Trust, But Verify, Operator-Reported Geolocation" (In Submission)**

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

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**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)

**2017,2018,2019:** 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

## Program Committees

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**2024:** ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC)

## Industry Experience

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### 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**  
*Research Intern*

**San Diego, CA**  
*June 2021 – September 2021*

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

## Talks

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

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

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

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

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

- o CAIDA GMI-AIMS-5 Workshop: February 2025

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

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

**“Trusted Computing”:**

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

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

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

## Leadership and Service

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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**  
*July 2023 – June 2025*

*Co-President*

- o Led a student organization of 500+ members across five departments at UCSD
- o 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**

*Research Mentor*

**San Diego, CA**  
*September 2023 – June 2024*

- Mentored four undergraduate students
- Taught advanced computer networking topics, how to analyze data, academic writing
- Students contributed to a paper submitted to a top-tier conference

## **NSF GRFP Application Assistance**

*Co-Founder and Mentor*

**San Diego, CA**  
*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)**

*Mentorship Program Co-Chair*

**San Diego, CA**  
*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**

*Member*

**Cambridge, MA**  
*August 2018 – August 2020*

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

## **Teaching Experience**

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### **UC San Diego**

*TA: Graduate Operating Systems (CSE 220)*

*Winter 2026*

- Responsible for holding office hours and discussion sections, designing exams, and grading projects

### **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."
  - "She is good at explaining the material and encouraging student participation and independent thinking in section."

### **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."