

# ZEYA CHEN

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## EDUCATION

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<b>IIT Institute of Design</b> <b>Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Design</b> <i>Segal Family Foundation Fellowship Recipient</i> <b>Master of Design (M.Des) in Human-computer Interaction</b> <i>CSC Scholarship Recipient</i>	Chicago, IL, USA est. 2027  2021
<b>Wuhan University</b> <b>Bachelor of Art (B.A.) in Industrial Design</b> <i>National Scholarship Recipient</i>	Wuhan, China 2019
<b>University of Seoul</b> Honored Certificate Degree in Industrial and Visual Design	Seoul, South Korea 2017
<b>Chiba University</b> Awarded Exchange Program in Industrial Design with Prof. Makoto Watanabe	Chiba, Japan 2016

## SELECTED AWARDS / HONORS

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<b>iF Design Award, User Experience Design,</b> 	2026
<b>Red Dot Design Award, Interface &amp; User Experience Design,</b> 	2025
<b>iF Design Award, User Experience Design,</b> 	2025
<b>Muse Design Award, Gold Winner,</b> 	2025
<b>Muse Creative Award, Gold Winner,</b> 	2025
<b>NY Product Design Award, Gold Winner,</b> 	2025
<b>Creative Communication Award (C2A),</b> 	2025
<b>International Design Award (IDA), Bronze,</b> 	2025
<b>Segal Family Foundation Fellowship</b>	2024
<b>Core 77, Notable Health/Wellness Design Award,</b> 	2023
<b>Fast Company   World Changing Ideas Award 2022, Honorable Mentions,</b> 	2022
<b>Core77, Notable Social Impact Award,</b> 	2022
<b>Core77, Notable Service Design Award,</b> 	2022
<b>Core 77, Notable Health/Wellness Design Award,</b> 	2022
<b>Fast Company   Best Student Design of 2022, Honorable Mentions,</b> 	2022
<b>Master Challenges Competition'21, Winner, IIT Institute of Design &amp; Harvard D-Lab</b>	2021
<b>Master Challenges Competition'20, Winner, IIT Institute of Design &amp; Verizon</b>	2020
<b>Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC) Scholarship, Chinese Ministry of Education</b>	2019
<b>Global Green Efficiency Innovation Challenge Competition, Finalist Award, Schneider Electric SA</b>	2018
<b>Advertisement Creative Competition for College Student, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Hubei Education Bureau</b>	2018
<b>Excellent Student Scholarship, 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, Wuhan University</b>	2018
<b>Excellent Oversea Student Scholarship, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, University of Seoul</b>	2017
<b>Best Web Design Award 2016, Winner, Wuhan University</b>	2016
<b>Best VI Design, Runner-up, East Lake Youth Forum between Taiwan and China Mainland</b>	2016
<b>National Scholarship for Outstanding College Students, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Chinese Ministry of Education</b>	2016
<b>Outstanding College Students Award, 1<sup>st</sup> Prize, Wuhan University</b>	2016

## EXHIBITIONS

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- Milano Design Week 2026** Procaccini, Milano, Italy | Apr 2026  
*The Last Mile at Night*  
*Fish in the Night Mist*
- Florence Annual International Art Exhibition 2026** Casa Abitata, Florence, Italy | Jan 2026  
*Aerodynamic Spectrum*
- World's Best Communication Design 2025/26** Red Dot Design Museum Essen, Berlin, Germany | Jan-May 2026  
*Autonomous Shuttle Experience for Campus Engagement*
- Multicultural Art Festival 2025** Creative Asia Art Center, Melbourne, Australia | Nov 2025  
*NEXUS: An interactive wearable installation for collective survival*
- London Contemporary Art Exhibition: Drifting Selves** Downstairs Brixton, London, UK | Nov 2025  
*TETHER: An interactive wearable installation for collective survival*
- Art Shopping Salon International d'Art Contemporain 2025** Carrousel du Louvre Paris, France | Oct 2025  
*NEXUS: A Human Archipelago*
- 2025 Art Berlin Biennial** Kunstquartier Bethanien, Berlin, Germany | Oct 2025  
*HawkRide: Autonomous Campus HMI/UX*
- NewBauhaus@85 Exhibition: 85 Years of Making the Future** Design Museum of Chicago, IL, USA | Oct 2022  
*Microgrid as a Civil Infrastructure*  
*Digital Ghost: Discursive Design in VR Exhibition*
- IIT Institute of Design EOYS 2021** Online | Nov 2021  
*Digital Ghost: Discursive Design in VR Exhibition*
- Hubei Provincial Art Alliance Outstanding Youth Designers Exhibition** Wanlin Museum, China | Jun 2019  
*Speculative Life Jacket: Design for Multi-Victim Connections*

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Chen, Z.**, Pino, Z., & Schmidt, R. (2026) Framing Data Choices: How Pre-Donation Exploration Designs Influence Data Donation Behavior and Decision-Making. In *proceedings of the DRS Biennial Conference Series, DRS2026: Edinburgh, 8-12 June*. DRS Edinburgh, UK. <https://doi.org/10.21606/drs.2026.2558> [DOI link will be active in June 2026. A preprint is currently available at arXiv: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.24995>]
- Chen, Z.**, Wen, J., Li, T. J.-J., Yao, Y., & Li, T. (2026). PrivacyMotiv: Speculative Persona Journeys for Empathic and Motivating Privacy Reviews in UX Design. In *proceedings of the 2026 ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS'26)*. Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3800645.3813014> [DOI link will be active in June 2026. A preprint is currently available at arXiv: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2510.03559>]
- Chen, Y., Fu, Y., **Chen, Z.**, Radesky, J., & Hiniker, A. (2026). The engagement-prolonging designs teens encounter on very large online platforms. In *proceedings of the 2026 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI'26, pp. 1–22)*. Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3790393>
- Chen, Z.**, Wen, J., Li, T. J.-J., Yao, Y., & Li, T. (2025). Speculating unintended creepiness: Exploring LLM-powered empathy building for privacy-aware UX design. In *proceedings of the 2025 ACM-CCS Workshop on Human-Centered AI Privacy and Security (HAIPS '25)*. Association for Computing Machinery. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3733816.3760759>

5. **Chen, Z.**, & Schmidt, R. (2024). Exploring a Behavioral Model of “Positive Friction” in Human-AI Interaction. In A. Marcus, E. Rosenzweig, & M. M. Soares (Eds.), *Design, user experience, and usability* (pp. 3–22). Springer. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-61353-1\\_1](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-61353-1_1)
6. **Chen, Z.**, & Zhang, X. (2024). Research on accessible retrofitting strategies for historic buildings in the context of accessible urban environment design: A case study of The Guangdong Hall. In *Proceedings of the 2024 International Conference on Urban Planning and Design (UPD 2024)* (pp. 347–352). Atlantis Press. [https://doi.org/10.2991/978-94-6463-453-2\\_27](https://doi.org/10.2991/978-94-6463-453-2_27)
7. Schmidt, R., **Chen, Z.**, & Soldan, V. P. (2022). Choice Posture, Architecture, and Infrastructure: Systemic Behavioral Design for Public Health policy. *She Ji: The Journal of Design, Economics, and Innovation*, 8(4), 504–525. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.sheji.2022.08.002>
8. **Chen, Z.** (Ed.) (2022). “Interview with Prof. Patrick Whitney of Harvard University: Winner of DFA Lifetime Achievement Award 2021”, *Package and Design Magazine (China)* 03(2022):4-19
9. Chen, C., Zhang, Z., **Chen, Z.**, Xu, E., Yang, Y., Khalilov, I., Gebreegziabher, S. A., Ye, Y., Xiao, Z., Yao, Y., Li, T., & Li, T. J.-J. (2026). Comparing human oversight strategies for computer-use agents [Preprint]. arXiv. <https://arxiv.org/abs/2604.04918>
10. Gao, C., **Chen, Z.**, Yang, A., Ahuja, K., & Luo, D. (2026). FabDreamer: Exploring Negotiational Seams in Human-AI Hybrid Crafting through Layered Laser-cut Art. [proceeding]

## **RESEARCH POSITIONS**

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<b>Northeastern University</b>   Privacy-Enabling AI & Computer-Human Interaction (PEACH) Lab <i>Visiting Researcher, advisor: Dr. Tianshi Li</i>	Boston, MA Aug 2024 – Present
<b>Northwestern University</b>   Sensing, Perception, Interactive Computing & Experiences (SPICE) Lab <i>Visiting Researcher, advisor: Dr. Karan Ahuja</i>	Evanston, IL Aug 2025 – Present
<b>Institute for Translational Medicine</b>   Trial Recruitment Innovation Office (TRIO) <i>Graduate Research Assistant, advisor: Dr. Santosh Basapur, Prof. Zach Pino</i>	Chicago, IL Mar 2025 – Jun 2025
<b>Harvard University</b>   D-Lab at T.H. Chan School of Public Health <i>Graduate Research Assistant, advisor: Prof. Patrick Whitney, Dr. André Nogueira</i>	Boston, MA Dec 2021 – Dec 2023
<b>IIT Institute of Design &amp; ideas42</b> <i>Graduate Research Assistant, advisor: Prof. Ruth Schmidt, CIO Piyush Tantia</i>	Chicago, IL Jan 2021- Mar 2022
<b>Illinois Institute of Technology</b>   Department of Civil and Architectural Engineering <i>Graduate Research Assistant, advisor: Dr. Ivan Mutis</i>	Chicago, IL Feb 2020 - Jun 2021

## **INDUSTRIAL EXPERIENCE**

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<b>EBEN Education Consulting Co., Ltd.</b> <i>Instructor, Group of Human-Computer Interaction and Experience Design</i>	Remote 2023– present
<b>IIT Institute of Design</b> <i>Design Facilitator, Shapeshift Summit: Responsible AI</i>	Chicago, IL Jan – May 2023
<b>Superfeed Technologies, Inc.</b> <i>UX Design Intern, Department of Design</i>	Phoenix, AZ Jun – Dec 2020

**Rush University Medical Center**  
*UX Design Intern, Health+Design Integration Lab*

Chicago, IL  
Sep – Dec 2020

**Multi-Creative, Inc.**  
*Product Designer, Department of VI System*

Wuhan, CN  
2017 – 2019

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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**IIT Institute of Design | IDN 556: Strategic Communication**  
*Graduate Level Teaching Assistant for Prof. Ruth Schmidt*

Chicago, IL  
Jan – May 2025

**IIT Institute of Design | IDN 501: Data Visualization Studio**  
*Graduate Level Teaching Assistant for Prof. Zach Pino*

Chicago, IL  
Aug – Dec 2024

**IIT Institute of Design | IDN 501: Visualizing Contexts of AI Studio**  
*Graduate Level Teaching Assistant for Dr. Jessica Merharry and Prof. Tomoko Ichikawa*

Chicago, IL  
Jan – May 2024

**IIT Institute of Design | IDN 597: Applied Behavioral Design Workshop**  
*Graduate Level Teaching Assistant for Prof. Ruth Schmidt*

Chicago, IL  
Aug – Dec 2023

**IIT Institute of Design | IDN 542: Behavioral Design**  
*Graduate Level Teaching Assistant for Prof. Ruth Schmidt*

Chicago, IL  
Jan – May 2023

**Harvard University | MPH 295: Design of Social Innovation**  
*Undergraduate Level Teaching Assistant for Prof. Patrick Whitney and Dr. André Nogueira*

Boston, MA  
Jan – May 2022

**Illinois Institute of Technology | IPRO 497-109: Digital Service Design**  
*Undergraduate Level Teaching Assistant for Prof. Martin Schray and Prof. Jenni Schneiderman*

Chicago, IL  
Jan – May 2020

## **INVITATIONAL SERVICE**

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### **Membership**

- **Committee Member**, Industrial Design Branch of Chongqing Engineers Association, 2026
- **Professional Member**, the Design Society, 2025-2026

### **Program Committee**

- **Associate Chair**, 26' Tangible Embedded and Embodied Interaction Conference, WiP paper track, 2025
- **Associate Chair**, 25' Tangible Embedded and Embodied Interaction Conference, WiP paper track, 2024
- **Publication Committee Member**, 22' International Conference on Design Futures, 2022

### **Organizing Committee**

- **Event Organizer**, Endowed Executive Event: Lucas J. Daniel Series in Sustainable Systems at Illinois Institute of Technology, 2025-2026
- **Event Organizer**, Endowed Executive Workshop “Design for Social Prescribing: Bridging Silos for Health Promotion” at Harvard University, 2022-2023
- **Workshop Facilitator**, Endowed Academic Workshop “Just Infrastructures Speaker Series: Design Justice” at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2021

### **Volunteer**

- **Event Volunteer**, 24' DRS Biennial Conference Series, DRS2024 Boston, 2024
- **Event Volunteer**, 23' Ethnographic and Peoples' International Conference, 2023

## Reviewer/Judger (\*special recognition for outstanding review)

- 2026: CHI posters\*, DIS papers\*\*, CUI papers
- 2025: CHI papers, DRS papers, TEI posters
- 2024: CHI case studies, CSCW posters, DIS posters, TEI posters
- 2023: DRS papers, DIS papers, HAI papers

## SELECTED PRESS

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- [Why UX Designers Keep Missing Privacy Problems and What It Takes to Fix It](#), *Tech Times*, Carl Williams, May 2026
- [Red Dot Award-Winning Autonomous Shuttle Design Featured in “World’s Best Communication Design 2025”](#), *1883 Magazine*, Eli Porter, May 2026
- [Un'esposizione audace, di notte ed interamente al buio, da vivere solo con la luce del proprio smartphone](#), *Fuorisalone.it*, Apr 2026
- [iF DESIGN AWARD 2026: Y.H. Studio’s Revolutionary Medical Solution “Clarity” Honored with World-Renowned Design Excellence](#), *AP News*, Apr 2026
- [Asia Design Milano di notte](#), *Dol’s Magazine*, Apr 2026
- [Think Nothing of It: Outsourcing cognitive tasks to the bots](#), *The Baffler*, Webb Wright, Mar 2026
- [Designing for what data does to people: Making invisible systems understandable with Zeya Chen](#), *Digital Journal*, Jon Stojan, Mar 2026
- [Beyond the Interface: Behavioral Design in the Age of Data and AI with Zeya Chen](#), *The Village Voice*, Will Jones, Mar 2026
- [Another Approach to Behavior: Thinking in Systems](#), *Bescy Magazine*, Gabriel Freitas et al., Feb 2026
- [2025/2026 "GENERATIVE METAMORPHOSIS" 3rd Florence Annual International Art Exhibition](#), *Associazione Nazionale di Belle Arti d'Italia*, Feb 2026
- [学术引领·文明互鉴：第三届佛罗伦萨国际年度艺术展盛大启幕](#), 时尚芭莎中国, Feb 2026
- [Friction and Education: The Discussion](#), *The Writing Transformers*, Bali et al., Jan 2026
- [Multicultural Art Festival 2025: Australasian Contemporary Artist Talk And Exhibition](#), *Creative Asia Foundation*, Dec 2025
- [Drifting Selves - a group exhibition bringing together 50 artists from across the world](#), *FAD Magazine*, Mark Westall, Nov 2025
- [ID Team Wins Red Dot Award for Autonomous Shuttle Experience](#), *IIT Institute of Design*, Kristin Gecan, Nov 2023
- [Zeya Chen Discusses the Vision Behind the NEXUS Life Jacket System](#), *Muse World*, Maizura, Nov 2025
- [Mind the Gap: Age Assurance and the Limits of Enforcement under EU Law](#), *Interface*, Jessica Galissaire, Oct 2025
- [NEXUS : quand l’art rencontre la technologie au Carrousel du Louvre](#), *Snurl.com*, Louis, Oct 2025
- [From content to context: A behavioural design lens for L&D](#), *L&D Shaker Community*, Sejaal, Jul 2025
- [The Choice Triad: Paper by Ruth Schmidt and Zeya Chen Featured on Thinking about Behavior](#), *IIT Institute of Design*, Nuria Sheehan, Apr 2025
- [Ep.5: The Choice Triad](#), *Thinking About Behavior*, Elina Halonen, Apr 2025
- [Better Feeds: Algorithms that Put People First](#), *Knight-Georgetown Institute*, Moehring et al., Mar 2025
- [Behavioral Systems: a conversation between a behavioral scientist and a system thinker](#), *Bescy*, Aug 2024
- [ID Community Leads Discussion on Design and Public Health in SheJi](#), *IIT Institute of Design*, Kristin Gecan, Mar 2023
- [Interaction, Integration, Interconnectivity, and Iteration: A New Model for Designing Infrastructure Change](#), *Sheji*, André Nogueira, Feb 2023
- [Bridging Silos between Design and Public Health](#), *SheJi*, Nogueira et al., Dec 2022
- [FastCo honors two ID projects in 2022 Innovation by Design Awards](#), *IIT Institute of Design*, Kristin Gecan, Oct 2023
- [Institute of Design spotlights five postgraduate design project](#), *Dezeen*, Dezeen Staff, Jul 2022
- [A New Model for Hybrid Life](#), *IIT Institute of Design*, Kristin Gecan, Sep 2021