

This page contains information about each of the faculty who have agreed to meet with Ph.D. students, including a short description of their research, their availability, and the Zoom link to join their virtual meeting room.

Important Note on Dates/Times!

All times below are displayed in your local time zone. You can download a PDF version of the schedule with all times in EST [here](#).

Current Time Zone

Your current detected local time zone is **America/New_York (EDT)**

Dr. Antonios Anastasopoulos



- **Bio:** Antonis Anastasopoulos is an assistant professor at George Mason Computer Science. He is interested in various aspects of multilingual Natural Language Processing and Machine Learning, with a main focus on Machine Translation and Speech Recognition for endangered languages and low-resource settings in general.
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Dr. Foteini Baldimtsi



- **Bio:** I am an assistant professor in the Computer Science Department at George Mason University. My research interests are in cryptography, security and data privacy with a special focus in signature schemes, accumulators, ZK proofs, private authentication techniques and blockchain technologies. My research is supported by NSF, NSA, DHS and Facebook and IBM faculty award. I received my Ph.D. from Brown University in May 2014 where I was supervised by Anna Lysyanskaya. During my

time at Brown I was fortunate to spent a semester at Microsoft Research in Redmond, WA working in the Cryptography group with Melissa Chase and a summer at IBM Research in Zurich working as a member of the Cryptography and Security group. From 2014 to 2016 I was a postdoctoral researcher in the BU Security group at Boston University and also had a research affiliation with the Crypto.Sec group at University of Athens.

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Dr. Alex Brodsky



- **Bio:** Dr. Alex Brodsky is Professor in the Department of Computer Science, Volgenau School of Engineering, at George Mason University. Alex's current research interests include Decision Support, Guidance and Optimization (DSGO) systems, and DSGO applications, including to Energy, Power, Manufacturing, Sustainability and Supply Chain. He teaches classes in Database Management and Decision Guidance Systems, and advises PhD students, of whom 15 have earned, and four are currently pursuing, their degree. Alex earned his Ph.D. and prior degrees in Computer Science and/or Mathematics from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.
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The banner is split into two vertical panels. The left panel has a dark green background and contains the text 'GMU CS Virtual Open House' and 'Spring 2022' in white. Below this is the George Mason University logo and name. The right panel has a black background and contains the text 'Faculty Research Highlights' in white. A play button icon is centered between the two panels, and a yellow and purple icon representing research or technology is in the bottom right corner.

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Highlights*



Dr. Songqing Chen



- **Bio:** Songqing joined Department of Computer Science at George Mason University in August, 2004 after he obtained his Ph.D. from The College of William and Mary, Department of Computer Science, High Performance Computing and Software Lab in July, 2004, under the supervision of Prof. Xiaodong Zhang. He received his B.S. (June, 1997) and M.S. (June, 1999) degrees in Computer Science and Engineering from Huazhong University of Science and Technology in China. His research interests mainly focus on design, analysis, and implementation of algorithms and experimental systems in the distributed and networking environment, particularly in the areas of Distributed Systems and Internet Measurement, Modeling, and Content Delivery, Operating Systems, and System Security. He is the recipient of an NSF CAREER Award, an Air Force Office of Scientific Research's Young Investigator (YIP) Award, a Mason Emerging Researcher, Scholar, and Creator Award, a VSE Rising Star Faculty Research Award, a CS Rising Star Faculty Research Award, and three CS Outstanding Research Awards.
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Faculty Research Highlights



Dr. Yue Cheng



- **Bio:** I am an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at George Mason University. I am broadly interested in computer systems. My research covers a range of topics including distributed systems, storage systems, container-based virtualization, serverless/cloud computing, and the internet of things. Currently I am working on: (1) improving serverless computing using a full-stack approach spanning applications, to middleware, to the lower-level OS (watch this Youtube video summarizing our recent focus on serverless computing); and (2) building better (computing and storage) systems

for distributed machine learning. I received my Ph.D. degree from the Computer Science Department at Virginia Tech. During my Ph.D. I spent two summers at IBM Research Almaden in 2013 and 2014, and six months at Dell EMC Princeton Office in 2015.

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Dr. Sanmay Das



- **Bio:** Sanmay Das is a Professor of Computer Science at George Mason University. He has broad interests across AI, machine learning, and computational social science. His research interests are in designing effective algorithms for agents in complex, uncertain environments, and in understanding the social or collective outcomes of individual behavior. His recent work focuses on algorithmic allocation of scarce societal resources, with an eye towards the distributive justice implications of different policies and mechanisms. He holds a Ph.D. from MIT, and a Bachelor's degree from Harvard.
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Dr. Carlotta Domeniconi



- **Bio:** Carlotta Domeniconi has taught at George Mason University since 2002. Her research interests include machine learning, data mining, classification, clustering, and big data, with applications in text mining, social network analysis, financial data mining, and learning analytics.
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Dr. Zoran Duric



- **Bio:** Zoran Duric is the program coordinator for the Master of Computer Science Degree. He has taught at George Mason University since 1995. His main research interests are applying computer vision and video image processing to analyze movements of humans and vehicles. He is a deputy editor of Pattern Recognition Journal and a member of the editorial board of IEEE Transactions on

Intelligent Transportation Systems.

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Dr. Evgenios Kornaropoulos



- **Bio:** I am Evgenios (pronounced ev-YEN-ee-os) and I am an Assistant Professor in the Computer Science Department at George Mason University. My research is in computer security and applied cryptography and focuses on analyzing and designing efficient encrypted systems using techniques from cryptography and algorithms. I am the head of the Encrypted Systems Group at George Mason. Before Mason, I was a postdoctoral researcher at the EECS Department at UC Berkeley working with Dawn Song from 2019-2021. I obtained my PhD in 2019 from the Computer Science Department at Brown University working under the supervision of Roberto Tamassia. My doctoral dissertation received the Joukowsky Outstanding Dissertation Award from the Graduate School of Brown University.
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- **Bio:** Jana Kosecka is an Professor in the Department of Computer Science at George Mason University, where her research explores Computer Vision and Robotics. She focuses on 'seeing' systems engaged in autonomous tasks and the acquisition of static and dynamic models of environments by means of visual sensors and human-computer interaction. Prof. Kosecka has published over 100 publications in refereed journals and conferences and is a co-author of a monograph titled Invitation to 3D vision: From Images to Geometric Models. Prof. Kosecka is a chair of the IEEE RAS Technical Committee of Robot Perception, Associate Editor of IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters and International Journal of Computer Vision, former editor of IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence. She has held visiting positions at Stanford University, Google, and Nokia Research. Prior to joining George Mason, she was a postdoctoral fellow at the EECS Department at University of California, Berkeley, affiliated with Robotics Laboratory and PATH. and earned her Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia. Prof. Kosecka has received the Marr Prize in Computer Vision and a National Science Foundation CAREER Award.

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- **Bio:** Fei Li has taught at George Mason University since 2007. His areas of research interests and expertise include design and analysis of online algorithms, approximation algorithms, randomized algorithms, and scheduling algorithms. He has been on the editorial board of the Sustainable Computing: Informatics and Systems (SUSCOM).
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Dr. Thomas LaToza



- **Bio:** I study how humans interact with code and design new ways to build software. I work at the intersection of software engineering and human-computer interaction. I use behavioral methods to study developers as users of their programming tools, understand what makes designing, implementing, and debugging software hard, and re-envision the relationship between developers and code. A key focus of my work has been designing new techniques to view and manipulate code. I have pioneered the design of crowdsourced programming environments, which reify developer's design knowledge, strategies, and mental models in explicit forms which can be manipulated by program analysis tools and connected to code.
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Dr. Kevin Moran



- **Bio:** Kevin Moran is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Computer Science at George Mason University. He graduated with his B.A. in Physics with a Computer Science Minor from the College of the Holy Cross in 2013. He graduated with his M.S. in Computer Science from William & Mary in 2015, and his Ph.D. in Computer Science from William & Mary in 2018, advised by Dr. Denys Poshyvanyk. Kevin currently directs the SAGE research group at GMU. His main research interests include software engineering, maintenance, and evolution with a focus on mobile platforms. Additionally, he explores applications of machine learning to data mined from software repositories in order to create practical automation for developers.
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Faculty Research Highlights



Dr. ThanVu (Vu) Nguyen



- **Bio:** I am an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science at George Mason University. I am part of the Mason Software Engineering Group. Prior to joining GMU, I was at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. I obtained my Ph.D. in Computer Science at the University of New Mexico-

Albuquerque and did a postdoc at the University of Maryland-College Park. My research is at the intersection of Software Engineering and Programming Languages. My work focuses on invariant/specification discovery, configurable system analysis, and automatic program repair.

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Dr. Jeff Offutt



- **Bio:** Jeff Offutt has published over 195 refereed research papers, has an h-index of 69 (Google Scholar), and has received funding from many government agencies and companies. Offutt is currently co-PI on an NSF project on integrating Computer Science Standards of Learning into K-5 classrooms. He is also leading projects on making smart tests smarter and exploring the ramifications of minimal mutation. Recent projects include the Google-funded SPARC project, which created a new teaching model for CS1 and CS2 to increase scalability, retention, and diversity, while reducing cheating, and the Testing of Critical System Characteristics (TOCSYC) and PILOT projects at University of Skövde, Sweden. His current research interests include software testing, test automation, usable security, software engineering education, analysis and testing of web applications.
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Dr. Erion Plaku



- **Bio:** My research increases the ability of robots to plan and act on their own or assist in human-machine cooperative tasks. Our long-term goal is to make the supervision of robots similar to that of humans so as to increase productivity and capabilities. Our research brings together concepts from

robotics, AI, and logic to develop planning frameworks that enable supervisors to describe tasks in high-level languages and have such frameworks plan the actions and motions for robots to safely complete their assigned tasks.

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Dr. Xuesu Xiao



- **Bio:** I envision future after-disaster missions to be efficiently conducted by fully autonomous robots, which are (1) highly capable of reliably moving through challenging and most likely adversarial environments, and (2) highly intelligent so that involvement of human rescuers, both physically and intellectually, can be effectively minimized. Therefore, my research goal is to develop highly capable and intelligent mobile robots that are robustly deployable in the real world with minimal human supervision. As a roboticist with unique expertise evenly grounded in motion planning and machine learning, and vast experience working on real-world problems in the field with disaster responders, I build advanced robot platforms, develop complex sensing and actuation systems, design sophisticated motion planning algorithms, and set up standardized testbeds and metrics in order to create highly capable and intelligent robots to loco- mote on land, in air, and at sea.

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Dr. Ziyu Yao



- **Bio:** I am an Assistant Professor of the Department of Computer Science at George Mason University, where I co-lead the George Mason NLP group. I am also affiliated with the C4I & Cyber Center at GMU. I received my PhD degree from Department of Computer Science and Engineering at the Ohio State University (OSU) in 2021. I have spent time interning at Microsoft Semantic Machines, Carnegie Mellon University, Microsoft Research, Fujitsu Lab of America, and Tsinghua University. I

work in natural language processing (NLP) and artificial intelligence (AI), particularly building natural language interfaces that can reliably assist humans in knowledge acquisition and task completion.

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Dr. Jinwei Ye



- **Bio:** I am an assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science at George Mason University, and an adjunct faculty at LSU. I was with the Division of Computer Science and Engineering at LSU from 2017 to 2021, where I spent four wonderful years. Before entering academia, I worked with Canon U.S.A., US Army Research Laboratory (ARL) and Bosch Research. I obtained my Ph.D. in computer science from the University of Delaware in 2014 and B.Eng. in electrical engineering from Huazhong University of Science and Technology in 2009. My research interests are in the areas of computer vision, computational photography, computer graphics, and machine learning. I'm particularly interested in designing novel imaging systems and computational algorithms to acquire and process the rich visual information in our environment.
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- **Bio:** I lead the Design Computing and Extended Reality (DCXR) Group at George Mason University. Before joining GMU, I was an Assistant Professor at UMass Boston where I founded and directed the Graphics and Virtual Environments Lab. I received my Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from UCLA, where I was advised by Demetri Terzopoulos. I received my B.Eng and M.Phil. degrees in Computer Science from the HKUST. I was a visiting scientist at the International Design Center at MIT and a visiting scholar at the Computer Graphics Lab at Stanford. I also worked at the Internet Graphics Group at Microsoft Research Asia. My lab receives generous support from the National Science Foundation, Microsoft, Google, Adobe, Nvidia, Oracle, and Wayfair.
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Dr. Xiaokuan Zhang



- **Bio:** I am currently a postdoc researcher at Georgia Tech, working with Prof. Taesoo Kim. I have graduated from The Ohio State University (OSU) with a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering in Aug. 2021. My advisor at OSU is Prof. Yinqian Zhang. Before coming to OSU, I graduated from Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU) with a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science in 2015. I am interested in different areas of security & privacy, including system security, side-channel security, mobile security, IoT security, etc. I am one of the recipients of the NortonLifeLock Research Group Graduate Fellowship in 2020. I have interned at Google and Microsoft Research. I will join George Mason University as an assistant professor in Aug. 2022. If you are interested in working with me at GMU, please send me an email.
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