

CHENGJUN (RAINA) ZHANG

Bloomington, IN 47405 | (740)-281-8150 | cz1@iu.edu | [GitHub](#) | Last update: Jan 9th, 2026

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)

Indiana University Bloomington, Kelley Business School

Advisor: Dr. Sagar Samtani

Major: Management Information System

Minor: Data Science

August 2024 – 2029 (expected)

Bloomington, IN

Master of Science (M.S.)

Johns Hopkins University, Whiting Engineering School

Advisor: Dr. Yinzhi Cao & Dr. Lanier Watkins

Major: Security Informatics

Thesis: Explainable Autonomic Cybersecurity System for Smart Power Grid

August 2022 - December 2023

Baltimore, MD

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)

Denison University

Major 1: Computer Science

Major 2: Data Analytics (Economics Concentration)

August 2018 - May 2022

Granville, OH

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Applications:** (1) Cybersecurity; (2) AI Security and Trustworthy; (3) Multi-class Classification;
- Methods:** (1) Deep Learning; (2) Large language models; (3) Self-supervised learning; (4) Parameter Efficient Fine-tuning; (5) In-context Learning

PUBLICATIONS

Referred Conference Proceedings (* Indicates first authorship)

- C. Zhang***, B. Ampel, and S. Samtani “A Domain-Adaptive Soft Prompting Framework for Multi-Type Bias Detection in News,” In Proceedings of 2026 Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), Maui, Hawaii, January 2026.
- C. Zhang***, W. Shao*, X. Wang*, Y. Cao, A. H. J. Alhamadah, Y. Lin. Lin, P. Satam, and L. Watkins, “Explainable Autonomic Cybersecurity System for Smart Power Grid,” In Proceedings of 2024 IEEE Conference on Communications and Network Security (CNS), Taipei, Taiwan, September 2024.

INVITED TALKS AND EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

- Fall 2024 Critical Infrastructure Protection Group within the Asymmetric Operations Sector of the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory. Presentation Title: “Explainable Autonomic Cybersecurity System for Smart Power Grid” December 3rd, 2024
- ASA StatFest 2019. Presentation Title: An Interactive Web App to Visualize Police Traffic Pulling. Huston, TX. September 21st, 2019.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Reviewer:

- AAAI Workshop on Workshop on Reproducible AI (RAI), 2026
- Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), 2026

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- AAAI Workshop on Artificial Intelligence for Cyber Security (AICS), 2025
- IEEE Global Communications Conference (GLOBECOM), 2024

Volunteer:

- Volunteer, Workshop on Technologies and Systems (WITS), 2025. Nashville, Tennessee. December 2025.
- Website Editor and Volunteer, The Conference on Applied Machine Learning in Information Security (CAMLIS). Arlington, Virginia. October 2025.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Role	Term	Course	Form	Course Level	Number of Students	Location
Teaching Assistant	Spring 2024	BU.232.701 : Investments	In Person	Graduate	60	Johns Hopkins University
Teaching Assistant	Fall 2023	BU.232.620 : Linear Econometrics for Finance	In Person	Graduate	60	Johns Hopkins University
Teaching Assistant	Spring 2023	BU.232.640 : Empirical Finance	In Person	Graduate	60	Johns Hopkins University
Teaching Assistant	Spring 2022	DA299 : Intermediate Topics in Data Analytics: Cultural Analysis	In Person	Undergraduate	15	Denison University

AWARDS AND HONORS

1. **Anderson Science Scholars Award (\$8000)**, Denison University, 2020
2. **Young Scholar Award (\$4000)**, Denison University, 2019
3. **Best Visualization Award**, DataFest of American Statistical Association, 2019

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SOCIETIES

- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Member
- Association for Information Systems (AIS), Member
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Member
- The Institute for Operations Research and the Management Sciences (INFORMS), Member
- American Statistical Association (ASA), Member

RELEVANT TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

1. **Programming Language:** Python, C/C++, C#, Java, R, Shell/Bash, Go, HTML, CSS, JavaScript
2. **Databases:** MySQL, MongoDB, DynamoDB, Redis, Snowflake, Spark
3. **Web Development Tools:** Django, Flask, React, Vue.js
4. **Data Mining & ML Tools:** Pandas, PyTorch, TensorFlow, HuggingFace, Transformers
5. **Cloud & Data Infrastructure:** AWS (S3, EC2, Lambda, SageMaker), Docker, Kubernetes, Apache Airflow, Apache Kafka, SLURM

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Indiana University, Kelley Business School

Graduate Research Assistant

Bloomington, Indiana

August 2024 – Present

Johns Hopkins University, Carey Business School

Graduate Research Assistant & Teaching Assistant

Baltimore, Maryland

December 2022 – May 2024

Johns Hopkins University, Whiting Engineering School

Graduate Research Assistant

Baltimore, Maryland

August 2022 – December 2024

YunChang Technology Co., Ltd (NebulaJoy)

Data Scientist Intern

Beijing, China

March 2021 – August 2021

Wuhan Zhongyu World Technology Co., Ltd

Data Engineer & Data Scientist Intern

Wuhan, Hubei, China

March 2020 – March 2021

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Sagar Samtani, Ph.D.

Associate Professor and Arthur M. Weimer Faculty Fellow

Executive Founding Director, Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab

Founding Editor-in-Chief, *ACM Transactions on AI Security and Privacy*

Kelley School of Business

Indiana University, Bloomington

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