

Neilly H. Tan

nhtan [at] uw [dot] edu ✉

<https://neillytan.com> 📄

I am a sociotechnical scholar and design researcher studying the ethical, social, and political implications of personal data and technology systems. My work focuses on multi-stakeholder settings involving Internet of Things (IoT) and artificial intelligence (AI) sensors to address privacy and surveillance vulnerabilities. In human-computer interaction (HCI), I employ qualitative, participatory, and design-based approaches to explore, evaluate, and enact techniques that support advocacy and agency in everyday computing technologies.

Education

- 2027 Ph.D. at University of Washington, Human-Centered Design & Engineering (expected)
Committee: Sean A. Munson (co-chair), Audrey Desjardins (co-chair), Richmond Y. Wong, Lindah Kotut.
- 2022 M.S. at University of Washington, Human-Centered Design & Engineering
- 2018 B.Sc. at Brown University, Cognitive Science (focus in Human-Computer Interaction)
Extended coursework in Visual Art. Advised by Jeff Huang.
- 2018 Coursework at Rhode Island School of Design, Graphic & Industrial Design
Cross-registered at Brown University.

Awards & Honors

- 2026-27 Martha H. Duggan Fellowship in Caring Labor, UW Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies — \$10,000
- 2021-26 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (GRF) — \$37,000 annual stipend, tuition, and health insurance for 3 years (\$159,000 total)
- 2023 HCDE Doctoral Grant Award — "Contextualizing Information Seeking, Authenticity, and Safety Practices on Intimate Platforms," co-authored with Liang
- 2022 UW Graduate Student Conference Presentation Award
- 2021 UW HCDE Graduate Student Association Team Award
- 2020 UW Resilience Lab Seed Grant — \$2,500, co-authored with Cunningham, Pistorus, Beers, & Lustig
- 2018 LINK Award, Brown University — \$2,500
- 2016, 2017 Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Research & Teaching Award (UTRA), Brown University — \$2,500, two-time recipient

Conference & Journal Publications (Refereed)¹

* indicates equal contribution.

- P1. **Neilly H. Tan**, Audrey Desjardins, & Sean A. Munson. 2027. *Everyday Layers of Resistance to Smart Camera Surveillance*. — IN PREPARATION.
- P2. Shengzhi Wang, **Neilly H. Tan**, & Sean A. Munson. 2026. *Negotiating Autonomy, Control, and Privacy in Always-On Home IoT Technology-Mediated Care Relationships with Older Adults*. Proc. ACM Interact. Mob. Wearable Ubiquitous Technol. (UbiComp '26). — [PDF](#). [ONLINE](#).
- P3. Gabrielle Benabdallah, Ashten Alexander*, Sourojit Ghosh*, Chariell Glogovac-Smith*, Lacey Jacoby*, Caitlin Lustig*, Anh Nguyen*, Anna Parkhurst*, Kathryn Reyes*, **Neilly H. Tan***, Edward Wolcher*, Afroditi Psarra, & Daniela Rosner. 2022. *Slanted Speculations: Material Encounters with Algorithmic Bias*. Proc. ACM Conf. on Designing Interactive Systems (DIS '22). — [PDF](#). [ONLINE](#).

¹ Top-tier publication venues in HCI research include the ACM conferences CHI, CSCW, DIS, and UbiComp. In computer science and HCI research, students are typically named first, and faculty/senior authors are named last.

- P4. **Neilly H. Tan**, Richmond Y. Wong, Audrey Desjardins, Sean A. Munson, & James Pierce. 2022. *Monitoring Pets, Detering Intruders, and Casually Spying on Neighbors: Everyday Uses of Smart Home Cameras*. Proc. ACM Conf. on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22). — [PDF](#). [ONLINE](#).
- P5. **Neilly H. Tan**, Brian Kinnee, Dana Langseth, Sean A. Munson, & Audrey Desjardins. 2022. *Critical-Playful Speculations with Cameras in the Home*. Proc. ACM Conf. on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22). — [PDF](#). [ONLINE](#).
- P6. Shaun Wallace, Alexandra Papoutsaki, **Neilly H. Tan**, Hua Guo, & Jeff Huang. 2021. *Case Studies on the Motivation and Performance of Contributors who Verify and Maintain In-Flux Tabular Datasets*. Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact. 5, CSCW2, Article 448 (Oct. '21). — [PDF](#). [ONLINE](#).
- P7. **Neille-Ann H. Tan***, Han Sha*, Eda Celen*, Phucanh Tran, Kelly Wang, Gifford Cheung, Philip Hinch, & Jeff Huang. 2018. *Rewind: Automatically Reconstructing Everyday Memories with First-Person Perspectives*. Proc. ACM Interact. Mob. Wearable Ubiquitous Technol. 2, 4, Article 191 (Dec. '18). — [PDF](#). [ONLINE](#).

Workshop Papers & Proposals

- W1. Richmond Y. Wong, **Neilly H. Tan**, Nathaniel Gray, Jason Valdez, & James Pierce. 2021. *Material Experiments and Playful Disruptions: Interrogating Boundaries, Meanings, and Aesthetics of the Smart Camera*. 4S, Making and Doing Session. — [ONLINE](#).
- W2. Calvin Liang, Emily Tseng, Sachin Pendse, Crystal Lee, Kimberley Allison, **Neilly H. Tan**, Ruotong Wang, Alexandra To, & Amy Zhang. 2021. *Subtle CSCW Traits: Tensions Around Identity Formation and Online Activism in the Asian Diaspora*. CSCW '21 Companion. — [ONLINE](#).

Teaching

Courses

University of Washington, Seattle, WA.

Teaching Assistant: Foundations of HCDE (HCDE 302), Prof. Arpita B.	Fall 2026
Teaching Assistant: Interaction Design & Prototyping (HCDE 536), Prof. Paula Te.	Spring 2026
Teaching Assistant: Research Methods (INFO 300), Prof. Spencer Williams.	Summer 2025
Teaching Assistant: Slow Interaction Design (HCDE 418), Prof. Tyler Fox.	Spring 2025
Teaching Assistant: Interaction Design for Everyday Reflection (HCDE 418), Prof. Jennifer Turns.	Spring 2021

Brown University, Providence, RI.

Teaching Assistant: Statistical Methods (CLPS 0900), Prof. Kathryn Spoehr.	Fall 2018
Head Teaching Assistant: User Interfaces & User Experiences (CSCI 1300), Prof. Jeff Huang.	Fall 2017
Teaching Assistant: User Interfaces & User Experiences (CSCI 1300), Prof. Jeff Huang.	Fall 2016
Design Software Instructor, Brown University Computer Education	Spring 2016–18

Directed Research Groups

I have led the following “Directed Research Groups” (DRGs) across HCDE and School of Art + Art History + Design (DESIGN) at the University of Washington. DRGs are small, project-based courses offered for 2-3 credits.

Instructor: Careful Data Infrastructures in Home Childcare Work DRG (HCDE 496/596). 3 students · Organized with Daniela Rosner, Sean Munson.	Win–Spr 2025
Co-instructor (w/ Shengzhi Wang): Older Adults and IoT DRG (HCDE 496/596). 4 students · Organized with Sean Munson.	Spring 2022
Co-instructor (w/ Richmond Wong): Non-Primary IoT Users DRG (DESIGN 596). 2 students · Organized with James Pierce.	Winter 2021
Instructor: Discursive Design Inquiry with Home Cameras DRG (HCDE 496/596). 4 students · Organized with Audrey Desjardins, Sean Munson.	Fall 2020

Invited Lectures

Panelist on Qualitative Research: Design Field Studies (DESIGN 481)	Fall 2025
Guest Critique: Design Field Studies (DESIGN 481)	Fall 2025
Guest Critique: Design Field Studies (DESIGN 481)	Spring 2023
Panelist on Interview Methods: Qualitative Research Methods (HCDE 519)	Winter 2022
Presentation on Sousveillance Theory Lineage: Theoretical Foundations (HCDE 542)	Spring 2021

Presentations & Workshops

Invited Talks

2026	<i>Caring Labor Futures in the Home</i> . Reclaiming the Futures of Work panel, Society for Social Studies of Science (4S). Toronto, Canada.
2025	<i>Subjectivities of/within Surveillance</i> (with Claire Weizenegger). The Rise of Research Security panel, 4S. Seattle, WA.
2022	<i>Exploring, Enacting, Questioning: Critical and Design Research Perspectives on Sensing Technologies in the Home</i> . ACM CHI Manila. Virtual.

Invited Workshop Participation

2026	Workers Confront Racial Capitalism, UW Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Summer School
2025	Consortium for the Science of Sociotechnical Systems (CSST) Summer Research Institute
2023	Back-to-Back to Labor Workshop, ACM CSCW Conference
2023	Human-Computer Interaction Consortium (HCIC)
2023	UW DUB (Design, Use, Build) Doctoral Colloquium
2023	The Future of HCI-Policy Collaboration, ACM CHI Conference
2021	Human-Data Interaction Through Design, ACM CHI Conference
2021	Alternative Care Translations: Using Care as a Lens for Speculative Fabulating Workshop

Posters

2026	<i>Building Power in Surveilled Workspaces</i> . UW Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies Awards Celebration.
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Public Scholarship

2026	Interviewed for Vox article, <i>Your Ring camera isn't stopping crime. But it might be making you paranoid</i> . Allie Volpe, July 2026. — ONLINE .
2026	Co-designed a zine with nannies on workplace surveillance, <i>Creating Connected Caregiving</i> . — IN PREPARATION.

Academic Service

Department & University Leadership

2026	Student Co-organizer, HCDE Distinguished Lecture Keynote Speaker
2021-25	Ph.D. Mentor, HCDE Peer Mentorship Program
2022-23	DUB Student Coordinator
2021-22	DUB Seminar Coordinator
2022	HCDE Ph.D. Grant Reviewer
2020	Ph.D. Representative, HCDE Graduate Student Association
2020	Student Organizer, HCDE Ph.D. Visit Days
2015-16	Peer Academic Advisor, Brown University Meiklejohn Program
2014-15	Hope High School Math Tutor, Brown University Algebra-in-Motion

Workshop Organization

2021 ACM CSCW. Co-organizer, "Subtle CSCW Traits: Identity Formation and Online Activism in the Asian Diaspora."

Program Committee Membership

2023 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability & Transparency (FACCT)

Reviewing

2026, 2025 ACM Conference on Designing Interactive Systems (DIS)

2021–25 (4×)* ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)
**Special Recognition for Outstanding Reviews: 2021, 2022*

2024 ASIS&T Information Needs, Seeking and Use (SIG-USE) Symposium

Student Volunteer

2025 Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Local Support Network

2019 ACM Ubicomp-ISWC, International Symposium on Wearable Computing

2016 Workshop on the Impact of Pen and Touch Technology in Education (WIPTTE)

Mentoring

2024-25 Priya Dhawka, HCDE Ph.D. Student
Cindy Te, Interaction Design Undergraduate

2022-23 Samuel So, HCDE Ph.D. Student

2022 Nathaniel Gray, M.S. Human-Computer Interaction + Design
Jason Valdez, M.S. Human-Computer Interaction + Design

2021-22 Shengzhi Wang, HCDE Ph.D. Student
Dana Langseth, HCDE M.S. Student

2021 Yuna Shin, Interaction Design Undergraduate
Joyce Lim, Interaction Design Undergraduate

Industry Experience

Meta, Menlo Park, CA May–Aug 2022

UX Research Intern, Data Infrastructure

- Spearheaded product research and direction on board-level Privacy & Security initiatives across Data Infrastructure through two studies: (1) Concept testing with 5 data engineers and 3 machine learning developers, and (2) Content analysis of ~300 employee experiences about privacy enhancing technologies.
- Collaborated with PMs, engineers, and designers horizontally across multiple teams and organizations.
- Results impacted product strategy with senior-level product and engineering managers.

Bolster (formerly TextUp), Providence, RI Jan–Aug 2019

UX Researcher and Designer

- Designed a secure cloud-based communication platform used by social workers and healthcare providers under HIPAA and FERPA constraints.

Affect Mental Health, Cambridge, MA May–Aug 2018

UI/UX Intern

- Led the UX design team in creating a mental healthcare startup's first resource website through user interviews, wireframing, and high-fidelity prototyping, with support from MIT and the Harvard Innovation Lab.