Nik Sultana

⌂ http://www.cs.iit.edu/~nsultana1/   ✉ nsultana1 at illinoistech.edu

Contents

Research Interests

Distributed systems, Programmable networking, Security, Automated reasoning, Formal methods.

Education

PhD in Computer Science   July 2015
Trinity College, University of Cambridge
   Thesis title: *Higher-order proof translation*
   Supervised by Prof. Lawrence Paulson, FRS
   Examiners: Prof. Mateja Jamnik, Dr Christian Urban

MSc in Computer Science (by research)   November 2008
University of Kent, Canterbury, UK
   Thesis title: *Verification of Refactorings in Isabelle/HOL*
   Supervised by Prof. Simon Thompson
   Examiners: Dr Stefan Kahrs, Prof. Ooge de Moor

BSc in Information Technology (Honours)   December 2005
University of Malta
   Thesis title: *Abductive runtime verification of Lustre programs*
   Supervised by Mr Michael Rosner and Prof. Gordon Pace

Experience

Illinois Institute of Technology — Chicago, USA   August 2021–now
Tenure-track Assistant Professor of Computer Science.

Fermilab (Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory) — Batavia, USA   June–July 2023, 2024–now
Visiting Scientist.

LBNL (Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) — Berkeley, USA   2025–now
Affiliate.

University of Pennsylvania — Philadelphia, USA   March 2017–August 2021
Postdoctoral Researcher working on Denial-of-Service (DoS) mitigation, programmable networking and
software security. I worked with several people at Penn and partner institutions on several released systems
and the publications based on them. Mentors: Boon Thau Loo, André DeHon.

Cambridge University   March 2014–January 2017
Research Associate (post-doc) on the EPSRC-funded Network-as-a-Service project. I worked with several
people at Cambridge and at partner universities on the Flick, Emu, Kneecap, and Pax released systems,
and the publications based on them. Mentors: Andrew W. Moore, Jon Crowcroft, Richard Mortier, Anil
Madhavapeddy.

Microsoft Research — Cambridge, UK   November 2013–January 2014
Internship during which I wrote a model checker to analyze biological networks. Mentors: Hillel Kugler,
Boyan Yordanov, Yousef Hamadi, and Christoph Wintersteiger.

Open Book Publishers — Cambridge, UK   March 2013–December 2016
Prototyped project ideas, wrote bespoke software, configured and maintained a multi-role server, and liaised
on IT-related matters.

Microsoft Research — Cambridge, UK   May–August 2012
Internship with Moritz Becker and Markulf Kohlweiss during which I implemented a logic-based authoriza-
tion system that could be predicated on cryptographic primitives, and contributed to a publication.

Microsoft Research — Cambridge, UK   September–November 2011
Internship with Moritz Becker during which I implemented a theorem-prover for automated reasoning on
Datalog programs, and contributed to a publication.

Mathematical Institute, Ludwig Maximilian University — Munich, Germany   January–August 2008
Research assistant working on constructive proof search. Mentor: Helmut Schwichtenberg.

Selected Publications

**Patchwork: A Traffic Capture and Analysis Platform for Network Experiments
on a Federated Testbed**   October 2025
Nishanth Shyamkumar, Hyunsuk Bang, Bjoern Sagstad, Prajwal Somendyapanahalli Venkateshmurthy, Sean
Cummings, Nik Sultana
Internet Measurement Conference (IMC)
✷ Community Contribution Award

A Survey on Packet Filtering   July 2024
Nik Sultana, Hyunsuk Bang, Elena Yulaeva, Ricky Mok, kc claffy, Richard Mortier
SIGCOMM Computer Communication Review (CCR)

[Towards Practical Application-level Support for Privilege Separation](#) December 2022
Nik Sultana, Henry Zhu, Ke Zhong, Zhilei Zheng, Ruijie Mao, Digvijaysinh Chauhan, Junyong Zhao, Stephen Carrasquillo, Lei Shi, Nikos Vasilakis, Boon Thau Loo
Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC)

[Flightplan: Dataplane Disaggregation and Placement for P4 Programs](#) April 2021
Nik Sultana, John Sonchack, Hans Giesen, Isaac Pedisich, Zhaoyang Han, Nishanth Shyamkumar, Shivani Burad, André DeHon, Boon Thau Loo
USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation (NSDI)

[Emu: Rapid Prototyping of Networking Services](#) July 2017
Nik Sultana, Salvator Galea, David Greaves, Marcin Wójcik, Jonny Shipton, Richard G. Clegg, Luo Mai, Pietro Bressana, Robert Soulé, Richard Mortier, Paolo Costa, Peter Pietzuch, Jon Crowcroft, Andrew W. Moore, Noa Zilberman
USENIX Annual Technical Conference (ATC)

[FLICK: Developing and Running Application-Specific Network Services](#) June 2016
Abdul Alim, Richard G. Clegg, Luo Mai, Lukas Rupprecht, Eric Seckler, Paolo Costa, Peter Pietzuch, Alexander L. Wolf, Nik Sultana*, Jon Crowcroft, Anil Madhavapeddy, Andrew W. Moore, Richard Mortier, Masoud Koleni, Luis Oviedo, Derek McAuley, Matteo Migliavacca
USENIX Annual Technical Conference (ATC)

* *Lead author from Cambridge University*

Other Publications

User Study of a Network Debugger on FABRIC December 2025
Alexander Wolosewicz, Ashish Gehani, Vinod Yegneswaran, Nik Sultana
Cyber Security Experimentation and Test Workshop (CSET)

Network Replay and Consistency Across Testbeds November 2025
Alexander Wolosewicz, Ashish Gehani, Vinod Yegneswaran, Nik Sultana
Innovating the Network for Data-Intensive Science (INDIS)

Complex Parsing for In-Network Acceleration of High-Energy Physics Experiments November 2025
Alexander Wolosewicz, Nishanth Shyamkumar, Sophia Chen, Wesley Ketchum, Roland Sipos, James B Kowalkowski, Michael H L S Wang, Nik Sultana
Innovating the Network for Data-Intensive Science (INDIS)

Debugging Heterogeneous Hardware Research Experiments on a Large-Scale Network Testbed March 2025
Alexander Wolosewicz, Ashish Gehani, Vinod Yegneswaran, Komal Thareja, Mert Cevik, Nik Sultana
Workshop on Languages, Tools, and Techniques for Accelerator Design (LATTE)

Using the FABRIC Testbed to teach a Graduate Computer Networking course March 2025
Alexander Wolosewicz, Prajwal Somendyapanahalli Venkateshmurthy, Nik Sultana
SIGCSE Technical Symposium 2025

Shape-shifting Elephants: Multi-modal Transport for Integrated Research Infrastructure Nov. 2024
Nik Sultana, Yatish Kumar, Chin Guok, James B Kowalkowski, Michael H L S Wang
ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (HotNets-2024)

Towards Testbed-Wide Traffic Profiling for FABRIC   May 2024

Nishanth Shyamkumar, Sean Cummings, Hyunsuk Bang, Nik Sultana

International Workshop on Computer and Networking Experimental Research using Testbeds (CNERT)

A Domain-Specific Language for Reconfigurable, Distributed Software Architecture   January 2024

Henry Zhu, Junyong Zhao, Nik Sultana

International Journal of Networking and Computing, Vol. 14 No. 1

A Domain-Specific Language for Reconfigurable, Distributed Software Architecture   May 2023

Henry Zhu, Junyong Zhao, Nik Sultana

Workshop on Advances in Parallel and Distributed Computational Models (APDCM)

Towards In-Network Semantic Analysis: A Case Study involving Spam Classification   May 2023

Cyprien Gueyraud, Nik Sultana

8th IEEE/IFIP International Workshop on Analytics for Network and Service Management (AnNet)

In-Network Fractional Calculations using P4 for Scientific Computing workloads   December 2022

Shivam Patel, Rigden Atsatsang, Kenneth Tichauer, Michael H L W Wang, James Kowalkowski, Nik Sultana

5th European P4 Workshop (EuroP4)

A Case for Remote Attestation in Programmable Dataplanes   November 2022

Nik Sultana, Deborah Shands, Vinod Yegneswaran

ACM Workshop on Hot Topics in Networks (HotNets-2022)

Demo: The Hangar environment for Teaching and Research in Programmable Networking   Oct. 2022

Nik Sultana

International Conference on Network Protocols (ICNP)

Experiment Planning for Heterogeneous Programmable Networks   June 2022

Nik Sultana

International Workshop on Test and Evaluation of Programmable Networks

Data Management and Storage over Programmable Networks   January 2022

Nik Sultana, James B. Kowalkowski, Michael H. L. S. Wang, Marc F. Paterno

ASCR Workshop on the Management and Storage of Scientific Data

IPC Evolution thru Declarative Interface Generation   December 2021

Nik Sultana, Saket, Andrew Zhao, Shubhendra Pal Singhal, Michael Kaplan, Rajesh Krishnan, Boon Thau Loo

Workshop on Descriptive Approaches to IoT Security, Network, and Application Configuration (DAI-SNAC)

Leveraging In-Network Application Awareness   August 2021

Nik Sultana

Workshop on Network-Application Integration (NAI)

Meta-level issues in Offloading: Scoping, Composition,Development, and their Automation Apr. 2021

André DeHon, Hans Giesen, Nik Sultana, Yuanlong Xiao

Workshop on Languages, Tools, and Techniques for Accelerator Design (LATTE)

Debugging strongly-compartmentalized distributed systems   May 2020

Henry Zhu, Nik Sultana, Boon Thau Loo

Workshop on Advances in Parallel and Distributed Computational Models (APDCM)

Trace-based Behaviour Analysis of Network Servers   October 2019

Nik Sultana, Achala Rao, Zihao Jin, Pardis Pashakhanloo, Henry Zhu, Vinod Yegneswaran, Boon Thau Loo

International Conference on Network and Service Management (CNSM)

Hashtray: Turning the tables on Scalable Client Classification   April 2019

Nik Sultana, Pardis Pashakhanloo, Zihao Jin, Achala Rao, Boon Thau Loo

International Workshop on Analytics for Network and Service Management

What we talk about when we talk about pcap expressions   February 2019

Nik Sultana

ACM Workshop on Real World Domain Specific Languages

DoSarray: An extensible evaluation system for DoS research   January 2019

Nik Sultana, Shilip Bose, Boon Thau Loo

International Conference on COMmunication Systems & NETworkS (COMSNETS)

Source-level Support for Transforming Legacy Software into a Network of Tasks   October 2018

Nik Sultana, Achala Rao, Zihao Jin, Pardis Pashakhanloo, Henry Zhu, Ke Zhong, Boon Thau Loo

Workshop on Forming an Ecosystem Around Software Transformation (FEAST)

In-network computing to the rescue of faulty links   August 2018

Hans Giesen, Lei Shi, John Sonchack, Anirudh Chelluri, Nishanth Prabhu, Nik Sultana, Latha Kant, Anthony McAuley, Alex Poylisher, André DeHon, Boon Thau Loo

Workshop on In-Network Computing (NetCompute)

Report on Networking and Programming Languages 2017   October 2017

Nikolaj Bjørner, Marco Canini, Nik Sultana

Computer Communication Review, Vol. 47 No. 5

Middleboxes for selective disclosure of network monitoring to distrusted parties   August 2016

Nik Sultana, Markulf Kohlweiss, Andrew Moore

ACM SIGCOMM Workshop on Hot Topics in Middleboxes and Network Function Virtualization (HotMiddlebox)

Kneecap: model-based generation of network traffic   July 2016

Nik Sultana, Richard Mortier

14th International Workshop on Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)

The Higher-Order Prover LEO-II   December 2015

Christoph Benzmüller, Nik Sultana, Lawrence C. Paulson, Frank Theiss

Journal of Automated Reasoning, Vol. 55 No. 4

Proofs and reconstructions   September 2015

Nik Sultana, Christoph Benzmüller, Lawrence C. Paulson

Frontiers in Combining Systems symposium (FroCoS)

Systematic Verification of the Modal Logic Cube in Isabelle/HOL   August 2015

Christoph Benzmüller, Maximilian Claus, Nik Sultana

Proof Exchange between Theorem Provers workshop (PxTP)

Selective Disclosure in Datalog-based Trust Management   September 2013
Nik Sultana, Moritz Y. Becker, Markulf Kohlweiss
Security and Trust Management workshop (STM)

LEO-II 1.5 (System Description)   June 2013
Christoph Benzmüller, Nik Sultana
Proof Exchange between Theorem Provers workshop (PxTP)

LEO-II and Satallax on the Sledgehammer test bench   March 2013
Nik Sultana, Jasmin Christian Blanchette, Lawrence C. Paulson
Journal of Applied Logic, Vol. 11 No. 1

Understanding LEO-II's proofs   March 2012
Nik Sultana, Christoph Benzmüller
International Workshop on the Implementation of Logics (IWIL)

Foundations of Logic-Based Trust Management   May 2012
Moritz Y. Becker, Alessandra Russo, Nik Sultana.
IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy ("Oakland conference")

Mechanical Verification of Refactorings   January 2008
Nik Sultana., Simon Thompson
ACM SIGPLAN Symposium on Partial Evaluation and Program Manipulation (PEPM)

Selected Demos, Videos, and Tutorials

FNAL-NERSC Raw Data Streaming for IRI Demo   November 19, 2025
Michael Wang, Pengfei Ding, Nik Sultana, supported by a broad collaboration across Fermilab,
ESnet and NERSC.
US Department of Energy booth at SC25

Network Debugging for Experiments using Crinkle   October 15, 2025
Alexander Wolosewicz, Nik Sultana.
FABRIC KNIT11

Tutorial on Patchwork   October 14, 2025
Nishanth Shyamkumar, Nik Sultana.
FABRIC KNIT11

In-Network Remote Attestation for Science DMZ   November 2024
Hyunsuk Bang, Chris Neely, Nik Sultana.
Network Research Exhibition at SC24

**Testbed Evaluation of an Attestation-Capable
Programmable Software Switch**   November 2023
Alexander Wolosewicz, Nishanth Shyamkumar, Nik Sultana.
Innovating the Network for Data-Intensive Science (INDIS)

**Flexible Topology and Configuration Generation as a Resource
for Networking Research**   August 2021
Aishwarya Wesanekar, Nik Sultana.
Networking Women Professional Development Workshop (N2Women)

[Demo: Disaggregated Dataplanes](#)   July 2021
    Heena Nagda, Rakesh Nagda, Nik Sultana, Boon Thau Loo.
    ICDCS (International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems)

[FDP: A Teaching and Demonstration Platform for Networking](#)   March 2021
    Heena Nagda, Rakesh Nagda, Nik Sultana, Swapneel Sheth, Boon Thau Loo.
    SIGCSE (Computer Science Education)

[FDP: A teaching and demo platform for P4-based SDN](#)   August 2020
    Heena Nagda, Rakesh Nagda, Isaac Pedisich, Nik Sultana, Boon Thau Loo.
    Networking Women Professional Development Workshop (N2Women)

[A Demonstration of the DeDoS Platform for Defusing Asymmetric DDoS Attacks in Data Centers](#)   August 2017
    by H. Demoulin, T. Vaidya, I. Pedisich, Nik Sultana, B. Wang, J. Qian, Y. Zhang, A. Chen, A. Haeberlen, B. Loo, L. Phan, M. Sherr, C. Shields, W. Zhou.
    SIGCOMM Posters and Demos 2017

Research-related System Releases

Patchwork Dashboard (2025) .... https://packetfilters.cs.iit.edu/patchwork/dashboard

Patchwork (2025) .... https://packetfilters.cs.iit.edu/patchwork/

CREASE (2024) .... https://crease.cs.iit.edu

Pitchfork Project (2022) .... http://pitchfork.cs.iit.edu

(FDP) Flightplan Demo Platform (2021) .... http://www.github.com/eniac/FDP

Flightplan (2020) .... http://flightplan.cis.upenn.edu

Apache httpd Worker Union MPM (2019) .... https://gitlab.com/DeDos/apache_httpd_workers_union

Flowdar (2019) .... https://gitlab.com/DeDos/flowdar

TYM Datalog (2019) .... https://github.com/niksu/tym

Caper (2019) .... https://gitlab.com/niksu/caper

hashtray (2018) .... https://gitlab.com/niksu/hashtray

DoStbin (2018) .... https://gitlab.com/niksu/dostbin/

DoSarray (2018) .... https://github.com/niksu/dosarray

Pax (2016) .... https://github.com/niksu/pax

Kneecap (2016) .... https://github.com/niksu/kneecap

Motto (2016) .... https://github.com/NaaS/motto

Counterdog (2012) https://www.rise4fun.com/Counterdog

Selected Awards

FABRIC Ambassador   November 2025
This award recognized the contribution of my research group to the FABRIC community.

IMC 2025 Community Contribution Award   October 2025
This award recognized the contribution by the Patchwork project.

Universities Research Association's (URA) Visiting Scholars Program (VSP)   April 2025
This award funded part of my collaboration with Fermilab.

Universities Research Association's (URA) Visiting Scholars Program (VSP)   April 2024
This award funded part of my collaboration with Fermilab.

Universities Research Association's (URA) Visiting Scholars Program (VSP)   April 2023
This award funded part of my collaboration with Fermilab.

Google Research Scholar award   April 2022

Finalist essay in the Tipping Point Prize   May 2019
This competition was organized by the National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts (NESTA) and sought horizon-scanning essays. My essay described how bounded latency could enable more reliable Internet-carried services.

Student Bursary   Summer 2016
Was awarded a grant from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council that funded a 10-week research internship (UROP—Undergraduate Research Opportunities) for a student (Jonny Shipton), and for him to give a talk at the 4th South of England Regional Programming Language Seminar.

Julius Springer award   September 2015
Travel grant from CADE Inc (Conference on Automated Deduction) for the presentation of my paper at the symposium on Frontiers of Combining Systems.

Conference on Automated Deduction, Automated Theorem Prover (ATP) System Competition   August 2015
This is a competition in which ATPs are ranked by their ability to prove the most theorems in the least time. I helped with Satallax, the ATP that came first in the Typed Higher-order Form division.

The Observer Tech Monthly Student Essay Competition   February 2014
Won two weeks work experience at The Observer for an essay on the mixed blessings of hi-tech on modern life.

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) study grant   September–December 2012
This grant funded a three-month research visit to the Free University of Berlin where I worked with Dr Christoph Benzmüller on extending the LEO-II theorem-prover.

Cambridge European Trust Scholarship (Honorary)   2008
Awarded by Cambridge Trusts.
External Research Scholarship   2008
Awarded by Trinity College, Cambridge. This scholarship funded my PhD work.

Marie Curie fellowship   2007
Awarded by MATHLOGAPS, which was a multi-participant Marie Curie Early Stage Research Training Site in MATHematical LOGic and APplicationS. This fellowship funded my eight-month visit to Ludwig Maximilians Universität where I researched constructive proof search. I wrote a logic tool that was open-sourced.

Teaching

Illinois Institute of Technology   Spring 2026
CS451: **Introduction to Parallel and Distributed Computing**.

Illinois Institute of Technology   Fall 2025
CS455: **Data Communication**.

Illinois Institute of Technology   Spring 2024, Spring 2025
CS542: **Computer Networks 1: Fundamentals**.

Illinois Institute of Technology   Fall 2023
CS595: **Applications of Programmable Networking**.

Illinois Institute of Technology   Spring 2023
CS543-1, CS543-2, ITM595-5: **Software-Defined Networking**.

Illinois Institute of Technology   Fall 2022
CS351: **Systems Programming**.

Illinois Institute of Technology   Spring 2022
CS595-1, CS595-2, ITM595-5: **Designing Large-Scale Networked Systems**.

Illinois Institute of Technology   October 7, 2021
Gave guest lecture on **Large-Scale System Development + Research** as part of the Operating
Systems course (CS450) taught by Prof. Francis Leung.

Illinois Institute of Technology   September 28, 2021
Gave guest lecture on **Datacenter Networking and Research** as part of "Computer Networks I:
Fundamentals" (CS542). The course was being taught by Prof. Edward Chlebus.

University of Pennsylvania   November 12, 2019
Gave guest lecture on **Denial-of-Service attacks and mitigations** as part of "Introduction to Net-
works and Security" (CIS331) and formulated exam questions related to my lecture. The course
was being taught by Prof. Sebastian Angel.

Cambridge University Computer Lab   Michaelmas Term 2016
Lectured the course on **Prolog** to provide sabbatical cover. This was taught as a flipped classroom.
I fielded student questions in person and online, ran the exercise assessment, and wrote the exam
question with Dr Alastair Beresford.

Cambridge University (various colleges)   2008–2016
Small-group teaching for the following courses:

- Compiler construction
- Computer networking
- Concepts in programming languages
- Denotational semantics
- Discrete maths
- Foundations of computer science
- Logic and proof
- Operational semantics
- Optimising compilers
- Prolog
- Software and interface design
- Specification and verification
- Unix tools

Initiatives

Networked Systems Tech Talks   2022–now
I started a talk series that focuses on practical or applied research ideas in data networking. This series intended to be a research stimulus and to expose students to practical challenges in networking— beyond the simplified problems that are typically covered in university courses. The series of talks is carefully curated, widely advertized and it is open to all. I maintain the series' webpage: http://www.cs.iit.edu/~nsultana1/techtalks/
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Seminar on the C language   September 8, 2022
I led the preparation of this seminar, which was designed to help students with C programming. The seminar was delivered by Irina Klein who worked with me over the summer, with technical input from another student Henry Zhu and organizational assistance from ACM-W. 49 students attended this event, for which we experimented with a Jupyter-based platform for teaching.
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

"Research Opportunities in Programmable Networking"   January 4, 2022
Gave talk at the COMSJOB event at COMSNETS 2022
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Service to Department or University

Gave presentation during Graduate Preview Day   November 3, 2025
Presentation title: "Ensuring Computer Networking keeps Working"
(Illinois Tech)

PhD Recruitment and Experience Committee (Chair)   2025–now
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Campus Champions (Previously called XSEDE)   2024–now
Started Affinity Group for the FABRIC testbed on ConnectCI.

Faculty Search Committee   2024–now
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Recruitment and Experience Committee (Co-Chair)   2024–2025
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Committee Member for Betiay Babacan   April 11, 2025
Advisor: Prof. Pavel Snopok
(Department of Physics, Illinois Tech)

PhD Oral Qualifying Exam of Xu Yang   February 28, 2025
Advisor: Prof. Gady Agam
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Committee Member for Diego Armando Andrade Aldana   October 30, 2024
Advisor: Prof. Bryce Littlejohn
(Department of Physics, Illinois Tech)

PhD Oral Qualifying Exam of Jane Downer   February 23, 2024
Advisor: Prof. Binghui Wang
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Oral Qualifying Exam of Yueqing Liang   February 21, 2024
Advisor: Prof. Kai Shu
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Computer Science Seminars Committee (Chair)   Fall 2023
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Academic advisor to undergraduate students   2023–now
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Recruitment and Experience Committee   2023–2024
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

MS project viva of Mousam Sarkar   April 14, 2023
Advisor: Prof. Boris Glavic.
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Oral Qualifying Exam of Nanda Velugoti   February 24, 2023
Advisor: Prof. Kyle Hale
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Oral Qualifying Exam of Lan Nguyen   February 24, 2023
Advisor: Prof. Ioan Raicu
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Oral Qualifying Exam of Jiya Su   October 6, 2022
Advisor: Prof. Rujia Wang
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Oral Qualifying Exam of Jie Ye   October 6, 2022
Advisor: Prof. Xian-He Sun
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

MS project viva of Mikel Santana   August 17, 2022
Advisor: Prof. Kyle Hale.
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Committee member for Broadening Participation in Computing (BPC)   2022–2023
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Graduate Studies Committee   2022–2024
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

PhD Comprehensive Exam of Yao Kang   April 21, 2022
Advisor: Prof. Zhiling Lan
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

CS695: Doctoral Seminar   Spring 2022
Students attend talks by external speakers and by their peers, discuss research and write short summaries.
This course helps student develop their communication, presentation, and critical thinking skills.
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

MS project viva of Jorge Gonzalex Lopez   November 29, 2021
Title: "Comprehensive review and evaluation of classification networks for radar and communication
signals". Advisor: Prof. Gady Agam.
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Q&A with Faculty for PhD applicants   November 11, 2021
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Undergraduate Studies Committee   2021–2022
(Department of Computer Science, Illinois Tech)

Admissions interviews   2015, 2016
Helped with undergraduate college admission interviews for the Computer Science program.
(Clare College, Cambridge)

Service to the Profession

*Organizing Committee of **INDIS***
(International Workshop on Innovating the Network for Data Intensive Science)   2024–now

*Technical PC of **ACM EuroSys** (European Conference on Computer Systems)*   2026

*Technical PC of **APNet** (Asia-Pacific Workshop on Networking)*   2025, 2026

*Technical PC of **USENIX ATC** (Annual Technical Conference)*   2022, 2023, 2025

*Technical PC of **INDIS** (International Workshop on Innovating the Network for Data Intensive Science)*   2025

*Panel participant for **NSF** (National Science Foundation)*   2022–2025

*Co-chair for breakout at the **MRI/CIRC PI meeting***   2025
Topic: Infrastructure Support & Applications for Cyber Infrastructure.
Collaborated with David Balenson.

*Coach for **CRA** (Computing Research Association) CSGrad4US Program*   2024

*PC member of **ACM SIGCSE** (Technical Symposium on Computer Science Education): Poster Track*   2024

*Technical PC of **ACM SoCC** (Symposium on Cloud Computing)*   2023, 2024

*Publicity Co-Chair and Technical PC member of **CANS** (Cryptology and Network Security)*   2024

*Technical PC of **APSys** (Asia-Pacific Workshop on Systems)*   2024

*Technical PC of **EuroP4** (The European P4 Workshop)*   2023, 2024

*Reviewing for **ToN** (IEEE/ACM Transactions on Networking)*   2022, 2023

*Technical PC of **COMSNETS** (International Conference on COMmunication Systems & NETworkS)*   2020–2024

*Contributed to drafting the [workshop report](#) for **ASCR's** (Advanced Scientific Computing Research)*
Workshop on the Management and Storage of Scientific Data   2022

*Reviewing for **PADS** (IEEE Transactions on Parallel and Distributed Systems)*   2021, 2022

*PC of **FEAST** (Workshop on Forming an Ecosystem Around Software Transformation)*   2020

*Grant reviewing for **ETH Zurich Research Commission***   October 2019

*PC of **SIGCOMM Posters+Demos*** 2018, 2019

*Reviewing for **TRETS** (ACM Transactions on Reconfigurable Technology and Systems)* 2018

*External reviewing for **ANCS** (ACM/IEEE Symposium on Architectures for Networking and Communications Systems)* 2015

Networks and Programming Languages (NetPL) workshop 2016, 2017
Led the submission of the proposal to hold this workshop at SIGCOMM 2016, then helped with the workshop's organization when the proposal was accepted.

Posters

Prototyping DAQ network functions on FABRIC July 2025
Bjoern Sagstad, Nishanth Shyamkumar, Michael H. L. S. Wang, James B. Kowalkowski, Nik Sultana
58th Annual Users Meeting, Fermilab (Abstracts)

High-throughput Custom Monitoring for the Mu2e TDAQ System July 2024
Sean Cummings, Nishanth Shyamkumar, Michael H. L. S. Wang, James B. Kowalkowski, Ryan Rivera, Nik Sultana
57th Annual Users Meeting, Fermilab (Abstracts)

In-Network DAQ Functions June 2023
Nik Sultana, James B. Kowalkowski, Michael H. L. S. Wang
56th Annual Users Meeting, Fermilab (Abstracts)

Compiling Natural Language Expressions to Extended BPF Programs for Stateful Network Policy Enforcement April 2023
Mohammad Firas Sada, Nik Sultana
Symposium on the Science of Security (HotSoS)

Securing Software through Network Slicing December 2021
Neil Dhote, Nik Sultana
SPACE 2021: Eleventh International Conference on Security, Privacy and Applied Cryptographic Engineering

The Usability of a Debugger Designed for Compartmentalized Systems December 2020
Junyong Zhao, Henry Zhu, Nik Sultana, Boon Thau Loo
Annual Computer Security Applications Conference 2020

A Case Study of Fine-Grained Software Compartmentalization using cURL December 2020
Stephen Carrasquillo, Junyong Zhao, Henry Zhu, Nik Sultana, Boon Thau Loo
Annual Computer Security Applications Conference 2020

FDP: A teaching and demo platform for P4-based SDN December 2020
Heena Nagda, Rakesh Nagda, Isaac Pedisich, Nik Sultana, Boon Thau Loo.
International Conference on emerging Networking EXperiments and Technologies (CoNEXT)

Trace-based Behaviour Analysis of Network Servers October 2019
Nik Sultana, Achala Rao, Zihao Jin, Pardis Pashakhanloo, Henry Zhu, Vinod Yegneswaran, Boon Thau Loo.
International Conference on Network and Service Management (CNSM)

Interfacing Isabelle with other systems   October 2009
Verification Technology, Systems & Applications (VSTA), INRIA Nancy, France.

Burden of Proof   June 2009
Microsoft Summer School, Microsoft Research, Cambridge.

Mechanical Validation of Refactorings   June 2007
KentPGC (Postgraduate workshop), the Computing Laboratory, University of Kent.

Technical Reports

Towards In-Network Semantic Analysis: A Case Study involving Spam Classification   March 2023
Cyprien Gueyraud, Nik Sultana.
IIT Repository, Islandora 1012248

Semantics and further Use-Cases and Evaluation of the C-Saw language   March 2023
Henry Zhu, Junyong Zhao, Nik Sultana.
IIT Repository, Islandora 1012250

Foundations of Logic-Based Trust Management   February 2012
Moritz Y. Becker, Alessandra Russo, Nik Sultana.
Microsoft Research MSR-TR-2012-10

Invited Talks

URA's Council of Presidents Annual Meeting and Policy Forum   February 12, 2026
I was invited to participate on a panel by the Universities Research Association, on the theme of *Strengthening University–Laboratory Research Collaborations*.

FABRIC as a Research Gateway   June 9, 2025
NSF Site Visit, RENCI (Chapel Hill, NC, USA)
(Online)

A Duality between Experiments and Tools   March 11, 2025
KNIT10 workshop keynote
Chapel Hill, NC, USA

Evidence-based Data Networking   October 23, 2024
NIST SRR (Security Research Review)
(Online)

Debuggable, Programmable Networking   July 16, 2024
FABRIC "Stitching Together Innovation" webinar series
(Online)

Leveraging FABRIC's Hardware Resources for Programmable Networking   March 21, 2024
KNIT8/NRP5 workshop keynote
UC San Diego, CA, USA

A Case for Remote Attestation in Programmable Dataplanes
Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK   August 4, 2023
Computer Science Lab, SRI International   October 27, 2022

Torches on Pitchfork: Multi-feature Evaluation of a Security-oriented Programming Toolchain December 6, 2022
Learning from Authoritative Security Experiment Results (LASER) Workshop
Austin, TX, USA

Disaggregation and Placement of In-Network Programs
Hunt Group, UT Austin	December 6, 2022
NetLab, University of Kentucky	November 3, 2022
Department of Computer Science, Santa Clara University	October 20, 2022
ECE department, Illinois Institute of Technology	September 23, 2022
Software Analysis Seminar, University of Illinois in Chicago	September 6, 2022
Networked Systems Group, ETH Zurich	February 23, 2022
Data Science Research Platform seminar, University of Malta	February 23, 2022
Microsoft Research, Cambridge	February 22, 2022
SRI International	February 17, 2022
ESNet/LBL Network and Edge Reading Group	February 16, 2022
AMD Inc.	January 25, 2022
ANTLab and NECSTLab, Politecnico di Milano	December 10, 2021
Barefoot Division (BXD), Intel Inc.	December 9, 2021
CINI Cybersecurity Lab, University of Catania	December 3, 2021
Eötvös Loránd University	November 23, 2021
VMware Research	November 3, 2021
DePaul University	October 22, 2021

Experiment Planning for Heterogeneous Programmable Networks August 31, 2022
Focus Group on Autonomous Networks, 9th virtual meeting
International Telecommunications Union

Flightplan: Dataplane Disaggregation and Coordination for In-network Computing
Internet Research Task Force's "Compute in the Network" Research Group	February 10, 2022
Google	October 12, 2021

Research and Teaching Resources for Programmable Networking January 27, 2022
Focus Group on Autonomous Networks, 6th virtual meeting
International Telecommunications Union

Flexibility and Performance in Programmable Data Networks November 30, 2021
Database Systems Group
University of Bozen-Bolzano

Balancing Needs and Resources in Programmable Networking November 3, 2021
Focus Group on Autonomous Networks, 5th virtual meeting
International Telecommunications Union

Disaggregation and Placement of In-Network Programs September 2, 2021
Focus Group on Autonomous Networks, 4th virtual meeting
International Telecommunications Union

Programming for Distributed and Heterogeneous Resources March 1, 2021
CS Seminar
George Mason University

Flightplan: Dataplane Disaggregation and Coordination for In-network Computing
Trinity College, Dublin	July 2, 2019
Edinburgh University	June 25, 2019

Flexible and performant network programming December 7, 2018
Programmable Storage meeting
UC Santa Cruz

Flightplan: Dataplane Disaggregation and Coordination for In-network Computing
Distributed Systems Lab seminar, University of Pennsylvania December 10, 2018
ONF Connect 2018 December 5, 2018
CMU Silicon Valley December 4, 2018

High-level development and debugging of FPGA-based network programs
Advanced Programming Specialist Group, British Computing Society, London January 26, 2017
Programming Languages and Systems seminar, University of Kent January 23, 2017
Systems Research Group Seminar, Cambridge University January 19, 2017

Light at the Middle of the Tunnel: Middleboxes for Selective Disclosure of
Network Monitoring to Distrusted Parties December 7, 2016
Constructive Security group, Microsoft Research
Cambridge, UK

Verification of Refactorings in Isabelle/HOL
ProVal group, INRIA-Futurs, Paris November 2007
Semantics and Verification Research Group, University of Malta October 2007

Conference/Workshop Talks

Complex Parsing for In-Network Acceleration of High-Energy Physics Experiments November 16, 2025
INDIS Workshop
St Louis, MO, USA

Canary in the Wires: Research Testbeds as Policy Labs October 27, 2025
IMC PRIME Workshop
Madison, WI, USA

CREASE: Causal REasoning and Attestation for Scientific Experimentation September 24, 2024
FABRIC KNIT9
Kansas City, MO, USA

Multi-modal Transport for Integrated Research Infrastructure November 19, 2024
HotNets 2024
Irvine, CA, USA

A Domain-Specific Language for Reconfigurable, Distributed Software Architecture May 8, 2023
Workshop on Advances in Parallel and Distributed Computational Models (APDCM)
St Petersburg, FL, USA

Towards In-Network Semantic Analysis: A Case Study involving Spam Classification May 15, 2023
8th IEEE/IFIP International Workshop on Analytics for Network and Service Management
Miami, FL, USA

Towards Practical Application-level Support for Privilege Separation April 4, 2023
Symposium on the Science of Security (HotSoS)
(Online)

A Case for Remote Attestation in Programmable Dataplanes April 4, 2023
Symposium on the Science of Security (HotSoS)
(Online)

Towards Practical Application-level Support for Privilege Separation   December 6, 2022
Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC)
Austin, TX, USA

A Case for Remote Attestation in Programmable Dataplanes   November 15, 2022
HotNets 2022
Austin, TX, USA

The Hangar environment for Teaching and Research in Programmable Networking   October 31, 2022
(Demo)
International Conference on Network Protocols
Lexington, KY, USA

Thrifty Workload Planning for Datacenter Sustainability and Efficiency   October 19, 2022
OCP Future Technologies Symposium
San Jose, CA, USA

Experiment Planning for Heterogeneous Programmable Networks   June 1, 2022
International Workshop on Test and Evaluation of Programmable Networks
Marina Del Rey, LA, California

Leveraging In-Network Application Awareness   August 23, 2021
Workshop on Network-Application Integration
(Held online)

Meta-level issues in Offloading: Scoping, Composition,Development, and their Automation   April 15, 2021
Workshop on Languages, Tools, and Techniques for Accelerator Design
(Held online)

Flightplan: Dataplane Disaggregation and Placement for P4 Programs   April 13, 2021
18th USENIX Symposium on Networked Systems Design and Implementation
(Held online)

What we talk about when we talk about pcap expressions   February 17, 2019
ACM Workshop on Real World Domain Specific Languages
Washington, DC, USA

An extensible evaluation system for DoS research   January 10, 2019
11th International Conference on COMmunication Systems & NETworkS (COMSNETS)
Bengaluru, India

Making Break-ups Less Painful: Source-level Support for Transforming Legacy Software into a Network of Tasks   October 19, 2018
Workshop on Forming an Ecosystem Around Software Transformation (FEAST)
Toronto, Canada

In-Network Computing to the Rescue of Faulty Links   August 20, 2018
ACM SIGCOMM Morning Workshop on In-Network Computing (NetCompute)
Budapest, Hungary

Light at the Middle of the Tunnel: Middleboxes for Selective Disclosure of Network Monitoring to Distrusted Parties   August 26, 2016
ACM SIGCOMM Workshop on Hot Topics in Middleboxes and Network Function Virtualization (HotMiddlebox)
Florianopolis, Brazil

Kneecap: Model-based Generation of Network Traffic July 1, 2016
14th International Workshop on Satisfiability Modulo Theories (SMT)
Coimbra, Portugal

Proofs and reconstructions September 23, 2015
International Symposium on Frontiers of Combining Systems (FroCoS)
Wroclaw, Poland

Flick: A DSL for middleboxes July 7, 2015
Workshop on Domain-Specific Language Design and Implementation (DSLDI)
Prague, Czech Republic

Kneecapping considered more productive than pcapping July 2, 2015
Cosener's Workshop
Abingdon, UK

Functional Programming meets Reconfigurable Hardware: Train wreck? July 10, 2014
Cosener's Workshop
Abingdon, UK

Selective Disclosure in Datalog-based Trust Management September 13, 2013
Security and Trust Management (STM)
Egham, UK

Solving trust issues using Z3 3rd November 2011
Z3 Special Interest Group
Microsoft Research, Cambridge, UK

Work in progress: A prototype refactoring tool based on a mechanically-verified core July 18, 2011
21st International Symposium on Logic-based Program Synthesis and Transformation (LOPSTR)
Odense, Denmark

Logic and Automation November 30, 2009
RCSU/TCSS Symposium
Imperial College, London, UK

Peripheral Scope of Science August 5, 2009
Science in Society Conference
Cambridge, UK

Logic leaps and boundaries June 26, 2009
Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference 2009
Cambridge, UK

Combining proof tools March 8, 2009
Trinity College Science Symposium (TCSS)
Cambridge, UK

Refactoring May 2007
Canterbury-Littoral Doctoral Conference
Canterbury, UK

Seminar Talks

Patchwork: A Traffic Capture and Analysis Platform for Network Experiments on a Federated Testbed
University of Illinois, Chicago   February 6, 2026
Illinois Institute of Technology   January 28, 2026

Examples of FABRIC extensions: by researchers, for researchers   November 19, 2025
RENCI booth
SC25

Fantastic Research Ideas and Where to Find Them   September 9, 2025
ACM-W Show & Tell Event
Illinois Institute of Technology

Multi-modal Transport for Integrated Research Infrastructure
New Perspectives 2025, Fermilab   July 15, 2025
Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG) Network Discussion   April 10, 2025
Systems Research Group Seminar, Cambridge University   April 4, 2025

Patchwork: Profiling the Network of a Federated Testbed
Multiscale Network Systems (MNS) group seminar, University of Amsterdam   May 26, 2025
Greater Chicago Area Systems Research Workshop (GCASR), Loyola University   May 8, 2025
Network Operations and Internet Security Lab, University of Chicago   May 1, 2025
Worldwide LHC Computing Grid (WLCG) Network Discussion   May 1, 2025

In-Network Compute for DAQ Network Transfers   June 11, 2025
Fermilab

Network Profiling in a Federated Research Testbed   January 17, 2025
Cyber Infrastructure Engineering Lunch & Learn Series
ESnet

Using CREASE Tooling to smoothen your Testbed Experiment experience   November 20, 2024
RENCI booth
SC24

Research on Clouds and Networking: An introduction to FABRIC   November 8, 2024
ACM-W Show & Tell Event
Illinois Institute of Technology

Seeing through the Cloud: An introduction to FABRIC   February 28, 2024
ACM-W Show & Tell Event
Illinois Institute of Technology

In-Network DAQ Functions   June 14, 2023
Fermilab

A Case for Remote Attestation in Programmable Dataplanes   May 2, 2023
Security/Privacy Seminar
Georgetown University

In-Network DAQ Functions   February 3, 2023
In-Storage LDRD Weekly Meeting
Fermilab

Towards Practical Application-level Support for Privilege Separation   October 25, 2022
Software Analysis Seminar
University of Illinois in Chicago

Towards Practical Application-level Support for Privilege Separation   September 30, 2022
Security Reading Group
Illinois Institute of Technology

Edge Computing for Big Science   March 30, 2022
Argonne—Illinois Tech Spring Research Seminar
Illinois Institute of Technology

Outline of ongoing research   December 3, 2022
CS Faculty Research Intro Workshop
Illinois Institute of Technology

Flexibility and Performance in Programmable Data Networks   November 23, 2021
Center for Interdisciplinary Scientific Computation
Illinois Institute of Technology

FDP: a student-built learning tool for data networking   November 12, 2021
Center for Learning Innovation's Virtual Faculty Lounge
Illinois Institute of Technology

Denial-of-Service mitigations & research   November 11, 2021
ACM-W Show & Tell Event
Illinois Institute of Technology

Paper pitch: Distributed State and Language Primitives for Reconfigurable Software Architecture   November 10, 2021
PEnn Automated Reasoning and Learning (PEARL) Group
University of Pennsylvania

Disaggregation and Placement of In-Network Programs   October 20, 2021
PEnn Automated Reasoning and Learning (PEARL) Group
University of Pennsylvania

Summary of recent research   October 5, 2021
Scalable Computing Software (SCS) seminar
Illinois Institute of Technology

What we talk about when we talk about pcap expressions   February 15, 2019
Joint seminar of the Distributed Systems Lab (DSL) and Programming Languages club (PLclub)
University of Pennsylvania

An extensible evaluation system for DoS research   January 3, 2019
Distributed Systems Lab seminar
University of Pennsylvania

FLICK: Developing and Running Application-Specific Network Services   April 13, 2017
Distributed Systems Lab seminar
University of Pennsylvania

A programming model for application-level middleboxes   November 25, 2014
Networks and Operating Systems (NetOS) talklet
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Trip report from S-REPLS 4   October 11, 2016
Networks and Operating Systems (NetOS) talklet
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Light at the Middle of the Tunnel: Middleboxes for Selective Disclosure of
Network Monitoring to Distrusted Parties   August 9, 2016
Networks and Operating Systems (NetOS) talklet
Cambridge University Computer Lab

A new packet filtering technique   March 11, 2016
Security Group
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Trip report from DSLDI   July 14, 2015
Networks and Operating Systems (NetOS) talklet
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Interfacing and improving proof tools   March 4, 2014
Automated Reasoning Group
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Interpreting Leo-II's proofs in Isabelle/HOL   October 23, 2013
Interruption Club
University of Malta

Selective Disclosure in Datalog-based Trust Management   August 30, 2013
Security Group
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Proof Assistants   October 12, 2012
Free University
Berlin, Germany

Selective Disclosure in Datalog-based Trust Management   August 3, 2012
Microsoft Research
Cambridge, UK

Isabelle and THF   August 16, 2011
Technical University of Munich
Munich, Germany

Work in progress: A prototype refactoring tool based on a mechanically-verified core   June 7, 2011
Automated Reasoning Group
Cambridge University Computer Laboratory

Little Languages   May 16, 2011
Interruption Club
University of Malta

Rough-and-ready proof reconstruction   March 1, 2011
Automated Reasoning Group
Cambridge University Computer Lab

First prototype of an Isabelle/HOL-to-LeoII interface   November 23, 2010
Automated Reasoning Group
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Introduction to Isabelle/HOL — Minicourse April 14–16, 2010
Interruption Club
University of Malta

Interfacing two similar HOLs March 9, 2010
Automated Reasoning Group
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Solving HOL problems using FOL tools June 2, 2009
Automated Reasoning Group
Cambridge University Computer Lab

Combining proof tools April 9, 2009
Interruption Club
University of Malta

Professional Membership

Association for Automated Reasoning   *Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (IEEE)*
Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)   *Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)*
British Logic Colloquium (BLC)   *USENIX Association*

Volunteering

Student mentoring SC (Supercomputing) 2023-2025

Student mentoring CoNEXT 2021

Student mentoring SIGCOMM 2017, 2021

Student mentoring ASPLOS 2021

NetOS reading group 2015–2016
Organizer

Debate on the Axiom of Choice 2012
Organizer, in collaboration with the Trinity Mathematical Society

Principia Mathematica anniversary symposium 2010
Organizer

Trinity College Science Society 2009–2010
President

StreetBite, Cambridge 2008–2009
Volunteer

Outreach

ENVISION science competition Fall 2020, Spring 2022
Helped judge entries in the ENVISION science-proposal competition organized by WiSTEM
(Women in STEM) for female high school students interested in STEM careers.

University of Pennsylvania   Summers 2018, 2019
Gave presentation on *Denial-of-Service attacks and mitigations* as part of a varied seminar series for summer interns organized by Prof. Norm Badler at the School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Science communication inquiry   April 2016
Collaborated with Dr Jat Singh and Prof. Jon Crowcroft on a submission to an inquiry by the House of Commons' Science and Technology Committee. The inquiry looked into improving trust and understanding of science by the public.

Computer Science 2008   December 15–17, 2008
As a grad student I served as a "big brother" to undergrads at a student research conference. From its website: "Computer Science 2008 will be the first research conference for undergraduate students. It aims to challenge, entertain, inform and above all, to enthuse students with the excitement of research in computer science." This event was organized by Prof. Anthony Finkelstein at Homerton College, Cambridge.

Non-academic Publications

Virtually Integrating Research Infrastructure   April 2025
Blog entry for the CREASE Project Blog.

The first four months of the CREASE project   November 2024
Blog entry for the CREASE Project Blog.

Trip Report: A Research Visit to Fermilab   January 2024
Blog entry for the The Chicago Council on Science and Technology.

Flightplan: Dataplane Disaggregation and Placement for P4 Programs   April 2021
Wrote a post about the Flightplan paper (see above) in the P4 blog.

Online revolution: Building an Internet you can rely on   May 2019
This was my entry for the Tipping Point Prize, later published online by NESTA UK.

Codebreaking after the Second World War   October 2017
Chapter in *Codebreakers and Groundbreakers*, published by the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge University. This was co-authored with Markulf Kohlweiss and Sir Tony Hoare FRS.

Hard truths about science software   November 2015
Varsity

Cool Arctic squirrels may hold key to Alzheimer's cure   April 2015
The Observer Tech Monthly

What we're Like   January 2015
Varsity

Lab in a vat   October 2014
Varsity

Ivan Oransky: Science needs a medical   October 2014
Varsity

Interview with Karel Janaček   May 2014
The Cambridge Student Online

Dissertation Advising

(In progress) PhD dissertation   2024–
    Alexander Wolosewicz, Illinois Tech
    Topic: Remote Network Attestation. This work generalizes Alexander's earlier CS497 project.
    ✸ Alexander's project was the key component in the work that received the Best Demo award at
    INDIS 2023. This work, done in close collaboration with Nishanth Shyamkumar, was featured on
    FABRIC's Threading the Needle blog. To evaluate ideas for Alexander's PhD thesis, this work was
    developed further to produce a demo and poster at KNIT8 (for which Alexander received a travel
    stipend from FABRIC), a demo and poster at HotSoS 2024, and a talk given to ACM students at
    IIT during Spring 2024.
    ✸ Alexander received the Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA) award for 2023-2024 from the Department of Computer Science at IIT. He TA'd for CS542 with me in Spring'24 and made important contributions to new material that was developed for that course. This resulted in a paper being published at SIGCSE 2025, which Alexander presented.
    ✸ In 2025, Alexander received the IIT Department of Computer Science Best Paper award for the SIGCSE 2025 paper.

Bachelor dissertation project: "*Secure tamper-evident logging*"   2015–2016
    Daniel Spencer, Emmanuel College (Cambridge University).
    Co-supervised with Dr Richard Mortier (Cambridge University).

Bachelor dissertation project: "*Encrypted Keyword Search Using Path ORAM on MirageOS*"   2015–2016
    Rupert Horlick, Homerton College (Cambridge University).
    Co-supervised with Dr Richard Mortier (Cambridge University).
    Code: `https://github.com/ruhatch/mirage-oram`
    Dissertation: `https://github.com/ruhatch/dissertation`
    Rupert carried out a research internship at Microsoft Research Cambridge after his bachelors, before starting postgraduate studies.

Bachelor dissertation project: "*Investigating Resolution Provers for Propositional Logic*"   2015–2016
    Thomas Le Feuvre, Emmanuel College (Cambridge University).
    Code: `https://github.com/thomaslefeuvre/TProver`

Bachelor dissertation project: "*Protocol Buffers in Standard ML*"   2015–2016
    Radu Voroneanu, Queens' College (Cambridge University).
    Co-supervised with Dr Lucas Dixon (Google).

Project Advising

MS project (CS597): "Network Processing on Programmable Switches for High-Energy Physics" Spring 2025
    Bjoern Sagstad, Illinois Tech
    This project adapted earlier work that was done by Sean Cummings related to Fermilab's Mu2e project, and ported it to use a Tofino switch on the FABRIC testbed. Additionally, Bjoern implemented a parser on the Tofino for the packet format used by Fermilab's DUNE project.

MS project (CS597): "Fuzzing eBPF"   Fall 2024
    Tyree Spears, Illinois Tech
    In this project, Tyree used Google's Buzzer tool to reproduce a vulnerability in the Linux kernel that had originally been found by Google using that tool. Additionally, Tyree explored how Buzzer could be further extended to find different classes of vulnerabilities.

MS project (CS597): "Custom monitoring using FABRIC's MFlib"   Summer 2024
    Bjoern Sagstad, Illinois Tech
    This project was the first to use MFlib's API extension that was released during Summer 2024. Bjoern developed an interface that extracted statistics for use by the Patchwork network dataplane profiler that was being developed by our research group at the time, and to which Bjoern contributed. Bjoern gave a demo of his work at KNIT9/MERIF 2024 and presented a poster.

MS project (CS597): "Integration and Tutorial of pmacct Toolset into FABRIC Testbed" Spring-Summer 2024
Pilar Fernandez Gayol, Illinois Tech (on exchange from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid)
Code: https://github.com/fabric-testbed/jupyter-examples/tree/main/fabric_examples/
complex_recipes/pmacctd
✳ Pilar's code was merged into the FABRIC code example repository. In Spring 2024, Pilar presented a poster on this work at the College of Computing research exhibition.

MS project (CS597): "Extending tpcdump to anonymize packets using Prefix-preserving Anonymization" Spring-Summer 2024
Alberto Perez Bogantes, Illinois Tech (on exchange from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid)
Code: https://github.com/aperezb21/tcpdump
Alberto extended tcpdump to use the cryptopANT implementation of Crypto-PAn to anonymize various kinds of traffic. In Spring 2024, Alberto presented a poster on this work at the College of Computing research exhibition.

MS project (CS597): "Development, Implementation and Deployment of an Experimental Tool for the Teaching of Protocols and Network Programming using P4."   Spring-Summer 2024
Laura Serrano Velázquez, Illinois Tech (on exchange from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid)
Code: https://github.com/LauSeVe/TFM/
In Spring 2024, Laura presented a poster on this work at the College of Computing research exhibition and at the Greater Chicago Area Systems Workshop. Laura was the first FABRIC user to upload her code to the Artifact Manager.

MS project (CS597): "GraphBLAS on FABRIC"   Spring 2024, Spring 2025
Vaneshi Ramdhony, Illinois Tech
Code: https://gitlab.com/d-r-r/release/gbf
In Spring 2024, Vaneshi presented a poster on this work at the College of Computing research exhibition. During Summer 2024, she interned at RENCI (mentored by Komal Thareja) to work on integrating P4 switches with the FABRIC testbed. During Fall 2024, Vaneshi gave a talk to ACM-W members at IIT about her research and her summer internship.
✳ We submitted a paper to IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing (HPEC) 2024 based on Vaneshi's CS597 project, and this paper received an Oustanding Short Paper Award.
Vaneshi presented her work at HPEC 2024, and presented a talk, poster, and demo at KNIT10 about this work. She also packaged her work as a FABRIC Artifact. As outreach, Vaneshi contributed a blog post to C2ST based on this work.
✳ Based on her CS597 work, Vaneshi was a finalist for a research award at KNIT10.
✳ During Spring 2025, Vaneshi received a scholarship to attend WiCyS in Dallas and give a presentation.
Vaneshi also contributed to other ongoing research (Patchwork and CREASE) by providing technical feedback.

MS project (CS597): "Hardware Acceleration Support for Network Profiling on FABRIC"   Spring 2024
Prajwal Somendyapanahalli Venkateshmurthy, Illinois Tech
In Spring 2024, Prajwal presented a poster and demo on this work at KNIT8.

MS project (CS597): "Remote Attestation using AMD-Xilinx U280 on FABRIC"   Spring and Fall 2024
Hyunsuk Bang, Illinois Tech
This project was co-mentored by Chris Neely at AMD/Xilinx and builds on Hyunsuk's Spring 2023 CS595 project. In Spring 2024, Hyunsuk presented a poster and demo on this work at KNIT8 (for which Hyunsuk received a travel bursary from FABRIC).
✳ Hyunsuk won runner-up best poster at KNIT8.
Hyunsuk presented his work at the Network Research Exhibition at SC24, and packaged his implementation as a FABRIC Artifact.
✳ Hyunsuk contributed to a paper submitted to IEEE High Performance Extreme Computing (HPEC) 2024 based on a collaboration with Vaneshi Ramdhony, and this work received an Oustanding Short Paper Award.

MS project (CS597): "High-throughput Custom Monitoring for the Mu2e TDAQ System"   Fall'23-Spring'24
Sean Cummings, Illinois Tech
This work was co-mentored by collaborators at Fermilab.
✼ Sean gave a presentation about this project at CPAD 2023, and a follow-up poster was presented at Fermilab.

BS project (CS497): "Improving Caper's documentation"   Fall 2023
Aditi Kumar, Illinois Tech
Aditi gave a talk to ACM-W about her project. She was co-advised by Prof Jeremy Hajek (IIT).

BS project (CS497): "Converting between English and pcap expressions"   Spring 2023
Marelle León, Illinois Tech
Code: `https://gitlab.com/niksu/caper/-/merge_requests/32`
✼ Marelle's project was merged into Caper and deployed on the third-party BPF Exam service.

BS project (CS497): "Prototype of an Attesting Switch"   Spring 2023
Alexander Wolosewicz, Illinois Tech
Code: `https://github.com/awolosewicz/bmv2-remote-attestation`

BS project (CS497): "Translating pcap expressions into BPF"   Spring 2023
Hyunsuk Bang, Illinois Tech
Code: `https://gitlab.com/niksu/caper/-/merge_requests/31`
✼ Hyunsuk's project was merged into Caper and deployed on the third-party BPF Exam service.
✼ Hyunsuk received an Honorable Mention from the 2023 CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award program for his work on this project and related follow-up work: a performance evaluation of Caper and the BPF Simulator site that he built. Hyunsuk also contributed the prototype presented at CPAD 2023.

BS project (CS497): "TCP session tracking in BPF"   Fall 2022
Mohammad Firas Sada, Illinois Tech
Mohammad gave a presentation and demo of this project at HotSoS 2023 (the Symposium on the Science of Security).

BS project (CS497): "Analyzing network experiments on FABRIC"   Fall 2022
Sean Cummings, Illinois Tech

MS project (CS597): "In-Network Spam Filtering with P4"   Spring and Summer 2022
Cyprien Gueyraud, Illinois Tech (on exchange from EISTI-CyTech)
Cyprien presented posters on his work at Illinois Tech's Research Showcase and at the College of Computing poster competition, both in Spring 2022.
✼ This project resulted in a paper at AnNet'23, and its code was open sourced.
✼ Cyprien won the award for best MS poster at the College of Computing poster competition.

MS project (CS597): "Application hand-over in Edge Computing using SDN"   Spring and Summer 2022
Luis Casarrubios Elez, Illinois Tech (on exchange from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid)
Co-supervised with Dr Luis Bellido Triana (UPM).
Luis presented a poster on his work at Illinois Tech's Research Showcase and at the College of Computing Poster competition, both in Spring 2022.

Independent study project: "*Disaggregations of switch.p4*"   Fall 2020
Rakesh Nagda, University of Pennsylvania.

Research Mentoring

Leelavathi Raja (2024, Masters, Illinois Tech) worked on a RES-MATCH project titled "Higher-Accuracy Calculations for Light Propagation Modeling", which built on an earlier RES-MATCH project by Prajwal Venkateshmurthy. Leelavathi extended the IIT-CODES system with a more detailed model of light propagation. Code: `https://gitlab.com/d-r-r/release/iit-codes`

Prajwal Somendyapanahalli Venkateshmurthy (2023, Masters, Illinois Tech) worked on a RES-MATCH project titled "Distributed Computation for Light Propagation Modeling", which built on an earlier RES-MATCH project by Rigden Atsatsang. Prajwal undertook deep technical work to create a fork of the CODES network simulator that supported programmable hardware. This work was co-advised by Dr Kevin Brown at Argonne National Laboratory. Code: `https://gitlab.com/d-r-r/release/iit-codes`
Prajwal later TA'd for CS542 with me in Spring'24 and made important contributions to new material that was developed for that course, which resulted in a paper being published at SIGCSE 2025.

Sean Cummings (2023, Undergrad, Illinois Tech) developed his CS497 project further to improve workload generation, graphing and result analysis of FABRIC experiments.
He was awarded a travel bursary by the FABRIC project to attend the KNIT6 workshop and contributed to an article on the Chicago Council on Science and Technology (C2ST) blog based on this trip. Sean was also awarded a travel bursary by the FABRIC project to attend the KNIT7 workshop where he presented a demo. During Summer 2023, Sean interned at ESnet and later contributed to a presentation about his work at the DPDK Summit in September 2023.
✷ Sean received an Honorable Mention from the 2023 CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Research Award program.
✷ In Spring 2024, Sean received the College of Computing undergraduate award for Outstanding Research.

Willow Carlson-Huber (2023, Undergrad, Illinois Tech) packaged Caper for OPAM, Debian, and Nix.

David Kao (2023, TRAC, Fermilab) teaches math and computer science at Hinsdale Central High School, and during the summer he participated in the Teacher Research Associates (TRAC) program at Fermilab. During this program, he applied network calculus to model the Mu2e workload and gave a presentation about his work. David was co-advised also by Michael Wang and James Kowalkowski at Fermilab.

Yun Zi (2023, Masters, Illinois Tech) wrote an article on the Chicago Council on Science and Technology (C2ST) blog based her project from the CS543 course that she took with me.

H. E. Greenblatt (2023, Undergrad, Illinois Tech) participated in the RES-MATCH program in which she improved the Python prototype that was written by Rigden in Spring 2022 for his RES-MATCH project, and started modelling the system using the SST simulator. Co-advised with Dr Claude Bajada and Dr Ken Scerri of the University of Malta.

Irina Klein (2022, Masters, Illinois Tech) prototyped a tutorial for the C language that was delivered using Jupyter and collaborated with Henry Zhu on leveraging Jupyter's features to teach the language. Irina presented this tutorial to 49 CS students at an event organized with ACM-W at Illinois Tech in September 2022.

Simrat Kaur (2022, Masters, Illinois Tech, ECE) prototyped an FPGA design that carried out reconfigurable packet filtering.

Shivam Patel (2022, Masters, Illinois Tech) collaborated with Rigden Atsatsang to port his photon propagation model to P4, and implemented approximations of real-valued functions.
The system is open-sourced at `https://github.com/ShivamPatelShivamPatel/Photon`. Shivam gave talks about this work at a P4 developers' meeting and at Illinois Tech's CS Department Research Showcase, and presented posters about this work twice at the Illinois Tech Research Showcase. He carried out a summer internship at SRI International where he applied his P4 skills to develop an in-network security tool prototype for the FABRIC project.
✷ Shivam contributed to a paper on this work that was accepted at EuroP4 2022 and presented it in person in Rome. He also filed a Technical Report at Illinois Tech's library. The TR expanded on the technical content of the EuroP4 paper.

Mohammad Firas Sada (2022-2023, Masters, Illinois Tech) built a new toolchain that converts English expressions into network configuration instructions.
Mohammad presented a poster on this work at Illinois Tech's Research Showcase and at the College of Computing poster competition, both in Spring 2022, and at the Symposium on the Science of Security (HotSoS) in April 2023.
He was awarded a travel bursary by the FABRIC project to attend the KNIT6 workshop.

Rigden Atsatsang (2022, Undergrad, Illinois Tech) developed and evaluated a model of photon propagation as a RES-MATCH project in collaboration with Shivam Patel, Nadia Netolicky, and Dr Kenneth Tichauer (the latter two from Illinois Tech's Department of Biomedical Engineering). Rigden presented a poster on this work at Illinois Tech's Research Showcase and at the College of Computing poster competition, both in Spring 2022. He contributed to a paper on this work that was accepted at EuroP4 2022.

Mohamad Dib Fares (2022, Undergrad, Illinois Tech) developed a conversion between Flightplan's configuration format and SVG (in both directions) to prototype a network configuration approach that can be provided as a visual sketch. Mohamad presented a poster on his work at Illinois Tech's College of Computing poster competition in Spring 2022.

Neil Dhote (2021-2022, Masters, Illinois Tech) helped prototype a P4-based network slicing approach as part of the GAPS CLOSURE project. Neil presented a poster on his work at SPACE in December 2021, at Illinois Tech's Research Showcase and at the College of Computing poster competition, the latter two in Spring 2022.

Xue Zhang (2022, Masters, Illinois Tech) implemented a prototype of a P4-based network slicing approach as part of the GAPS CLOSURE project in collaboration with Neil Dhote, and contributed to the presentation of this work at Illinois Tech's Research Showcase and at the College of Computing poster competition, both in Spring 2022.

Shubhendra Pal Singhal (2021, Masters, UPenn) improved the GAPS CLOSURE system and presented our position paper on IPC evolution at DAI-SNAC'21.

Aishwarya Wesanekar (2020–2021, Masters, UPenn) extended the topology-generation script in Flightplan to handle other types of topologies, and presented a poster at N2Women'21 on this project.

Saket (2020–2021, Masters, UPenn) extended the RPC of the GAPS CLOSURE system prototype to tolerate bounded disruption such as delays, reordering, and peer restarts.

Andrew Zhao (2020–2021, Undergrad, UPenn) extended the RPC of the GAPS CLOSURE system prototype to optimize the calling of pure cross-domain functions through memoization.
✷ Andrew joined Princeton's PhD program in Fall 2023.

Henry Zhu (2017–2021, Undergrad then Masters, UPenn) worked on trace navigation and replay for Flowdar and on various aspects of the Pitchfork project: software compartmentalization examples, compartment-aware debugging, and de/marshalling for C.
✷ Henry won an Outstanding Research award in 2020 from Penn's Computer and Information Science department for his achievements, which included writing a paper, releasing code, guiding other Research Assistants and contributing to other papers.
✷ Henry joined the PhD program at UIUC in Fall 2022.

Stephen Carrasquillo (2020, Masters, UPenn) worked on demos and use-cases for software compartmentalization as part of the Pitchfork project. He presented a poster at ACSAC'20 about his work.

Junyong Zhao (2020-2021, Undergrad, UPenn) worked on the following aspects of the Pitchfork project: automatic marshalling-related memory-leak elimination for compartmentalized software; improving usability of compartment-aware debugging. He presented a poster at ACSAC'20 on his work.
✷ Junyong joined the PhD program at University of Arizona in Fall 2022.

Heena Nagda (2020-2021, Masters, from Georgia Tech) worked on the online demo for Flightplan, and on the off-shoot project FDP (Flightplan Demo Platform), both of which were open-sourced. She presented posters at N2Women'20 and CoNEXT'20, and demos at SIGCSE'21 and ICDCS'21 on her projects.
✵ Heena's poster at N2Women'20 won the runner-up best poster award.
✵ Heena joined UPenn's PhD program in Spring 2022.

Rakesh Nagda (2020, Masters, UPenn) helped with Flightplan's code release, fixing various issues, documenting the setup and checking its reproducibility. He contributed to posters presented at N2Women'20 and CoNEXT'20, and worked on an individual project to port switch.p4 from $P4_{14}$ to $P4_{16}$: https://github.com/rakeshnagda/switch_in_p4_16.

Ritvik Sadana (2020, Masters, UPenn) worked on virtualized toolchain setups and reproducible experimentation related to the CLOSURE system.

Garvit Khandelwal (2020, Masters, UPenn) worked on virtualized toolchain setups and reproducible experimentation related to the CLOSURE system.

Zhilei Zheng (2019, Undergrad, UPenn) worked on use-cases for software compartmentalization as part of the Pitchfork project.

Shivani Burad (2019, Masters, UPenn) worked on virtual network experimentation for Flightplan.

Nishanth Shyamkumar (2019, Masters, UPenn) worked on workload profiling for Flightplan.

Digvijaysinh Chauhan (2019, Masters, UPenn) worked on use-cases for de/marshalling in software compartmentalization as part of the Pitchfork project.

Ruijie Mao (2019, Undergrad, UPenn) worked on use-cases for software compartmentalization as part of the Pitchfork project.

Zhaoyang Han (2018-2019, Masters, UPenn) worked on an FPGA implementation of an in-network Memcached cache.

Ke Zhong (2018, Undergrad, visiting from Shanghai Jiao Tong University) worked on thread-oriented software splitting.
✵ In 2019 Ke joined UPenn's PhD program, advised by Prof. Sebastian Angel.

Shilpi Bose (2018, Masters, UPenn) helped develop DoSarray.

Nishanth Prabhu (2018, Masters, UPenn) worked on virtual network experimentation using ns3 for datacenter-like workloads as part of our work on Wharf.

Anirudh Chelluri (2018, Masters, UPenn) worked on virtual network experimentation for network boosting research as part of our work on Wharf.

Zihao Jin (2017, Undergrad, visiting from Tsinghua University) worked on low-overhead trace generation and processing as part of Flowdar.

Achala Rao (2017, Masters, UPenn) worked on trace analysis and visualization as part of Flowdar.

Jonny Shipton (2016, Undergrad, Selwyn College, Cambridge University) carried out a summer research internship on the topic of "*Using C# for High Performance Network Programming*" (Code), and funded by an Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) grant.
✵ Jonny gave a presentation on this work at the 4th South of England Regional Programming Language Seminar, and later built on this project for his bachelor dissertation project—a transpiler from P4 to C#—which was supervised by Dr David Greaves: https://github.com/TMVector/P4ToCSharp.