

Sang-Wha Sien

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Research Interests

My interests lie in the intersection of inclusive & accessible designs, health informatics, and the intricate needs of diverse users.

Education

University of British Columbia | Vancouver, BC, Canada

PhD in Computer Science (HCI)

Sep 2019 - Aug 2024 expected

University of Washington | Seattle, WA, USA

M.S. in Human Centered Design and Engineering (HCDE) GPA 3.97

Sep 2015 - Jun 2018

B.S. in Computer Engineering GPA 3.72

Sep 2010 - Dec 2014

Work Experience

University of British Columbia | Vancouver, BC, Canada

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT - EDAPT LAB

Sep 2019 - present

Supervisor: Dr. Joanna McGrenere

Thesis Committee: Drs. Skye Barbic, Stephen Heine, Dongwook Yoon

Doctoral Thesis - Designing for accessibility of mental health technologies

- Conditionally accepted to CHI 2023 Doctoral Consortium
- Qualitatively explored minority students' perceptions and barriers with mental health technologies - methods: semi-structured interviews, Speed Dating method, thematic analysis ■ Paper CHI 2022
- Codesigned with international students and campus mental health experts - methods: collaborative persona development, remote co-design sessions, analysis that produced design dimensions, developed medium-fidelity mockups, survey feedback on the mockups ■ Paper under submission CSCW 2023
- Current project: design, implementation, evaluation of a novel storytelling social support platform (medium-fidelity prototype) for students to inclusively participate in an online health community site

UX RESEARCH AND DESIGN LEAD - UBC SCHOOL OF NURSING

Apr 2022 - present

Principal Investigators: Drs. Kristen Haase & Leanne Currie

Designing technology-assisted aids for older adults to manage their cancer diagnoses and other comorbidities

- Currently leading a team to iteratively develop a low-fidelity prototype (Sketch, Figma, Axure)
- Usability and user tests with 20 older adults living with cancer, caregivers, clinicians

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT - HCI

- Computers and Society (CPSC 430)
- Advanced Methods for Human-Computer Interaction (CPSC 444)
- Human-Computer Interaction (CPSC544)
- Methods of Research and Evaluation in Information Organizations (LIBR 507)
(currently planning the course with School of Information instructor)

Sep-Dec 2019

Jan-Apr 2020

Sep-Dec 2020-2022

Dec-Apr 2023

University of Washington | Seattle, WA, USA

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT - HCDE

Mar 2016 - Sep 2019

- Family sleep health informatics (in collaboration with *Dr. Laura Pina*): explored how families navigated technologies for sleep and other health tracking - methods: family interviews and participatory design with young children ■ Paper CHI 2017
- Family sleep health informatics (in collaboration with *Dr. Laura Pina*): designed, implemented, and deployed a technology probe to understand how families track sleep together - methods: interviews with families who used the probe for 15-50 days ■ Paper CSCW 2020
- Explored user perceptions in a formative study about sleep sensors (in collaboration with *Drs. Laura Pina and Ruth Ravichandran*) - methods: expert interviews, surveys, product reviews ■ Paper CHI 2017
- Explored collaborative social planning with multiple organizers (in collaboration with *Dr. Ray Hong*) - methods: diary study, interviews ■ Paper CSCW 2019

Publications

<https://dl.acm.org/profile/99659130655>

- 2017 Laura R. Pina, **Sang-Wha Sien**, Teresa Ward, Jason C. Yip, Sean A. Munson, James Fogarty, and Julie A. Kientz. 2017. From Personal Informatics to Family Informatics: Understanding Family Practices around Health Monitoring. In Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '17). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 2300–2315. <https://doi.org/10.1145/2998181.2998362>
- Ruth Ravichandran, **Sang-Wha Sien**, Shwetak N. Patel, Julie A. Kientz, and Laura R. Pina. 2017. Making Sense of Sleep Sensors: How Sleep Sensing Technologies Support and Undermine Sleep Health. In Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 6864–6875. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025557>
- 2019 Sungsoo (Ray) Hong, Minhyang (Mia) Suh, Tae Soo Kim, Irina Smoke, **Sang-Wha Sien**, Janet Ng, Mark Zachry, and Juho Kim. 2019. Design for Collaborative Information-Seeking: Understanding User Challenges and Deploying Collaborative Dynamic Queries. Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact. 3, CSCW, Article 106 (November 2019), 24 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3359208>
- 2020 Laura Pina, **Sang-Wha Sien**, Clarissa Song, Teresa M. Ward, James Fogarty, Sean A. Munson, and Julie A. Kientz. 2020. DreamCatcher: Exploring How Parents and School-Age Children can Track and Review Sleep Information Together. Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact. 4, CSCW1, Article 70 (May 2020), 25 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3392882>
- 2022 **Sang-Wha Sien**, Shalini Mohan, and Joanna McGrenere. 2022. Exploring Design Opportunities for Supporting Mental Wellbeing Among East Asian University Students in Canada. In Proceedings of the 2022 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 330, 1–16. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3491102.3517710>
- 2023 **Sang-Wha Sien**. 2023. Designing for Inclusivity and Accessibility of Mental Health Technologies. *Conditionally accepted at CHI 2023 Doctoral Consortium.*
- Sang-Wha Sien**, Jessica Ahn, and Joanna McGrenere. Co-designing Mental Health Technologies with International University Students in Canada. *Under submission at CSCW 2023.*

Awards and Honors

HCDE Capstone Showcase 2018 Best in Show | University of Washington
Designing for People DFP 2019 Graduate Entrance Grant Award | University of British Columbia
DFP CREATE Design Showcase 2021 Best Poster | University of British Columbia
DFP CREATE Design Showcase 2022 Best Poster | University of British Columbia
UBC Computer Science 2022 Best Teaching Assistant | University of British Columbia

Extracurriculars

CAN-CWIC 2022 attendee Toronto, ON, Canada	<i>Oct 2022</i>
ACM CSCW (2023) Reviewer	<i>Aug 2022</i>
ACM CHI 2022 Student Volunteer New Orleans, LA, USA	<i>May 2022</i>
ACM CHI (2020, 2022) Reviewer	<i>2019, 2021</i>
DFP Executive Committee Student Volunteer University of British Columbia	<i>Sep 2021 - present</i>
CS Grad Wellbeing Representative University of British Columbia	<i>Sep 2019 - Aug 2020</i>

Mentoring Experience

Ireena Baro (UBC undergrad in Computer Science)	<i>Oct 2022-present</i>
Jessica Ahn (UBC research assistant in Educational Psychology and Special Education)	<i>Mar 2021-present</i>
Edward Lin (UBC undergrad in Cognitive Systems)	<i>Jan-Sep 2021</i>
Shalini Mohan (UBC undergrad in Cognitive Systems)	<i>Jan-Sep 2020</i>