

Statement on Service

Over the last eleven years, I have spent a significant amount of time in service of Northeastern and the broader academic community. I view this effort as time well spent, as it improves the University, the discipline, and my own scholarship. Here, I present a brief overview of my internal and external service activities.

Service to the Institution

Since joining Northeastern in 2012, I have served on six major committees within Khoury College: the Ph.D. Committee (2012–2014), the Hiring Committee (2014–2015), the Program Design Principals Reform Committee (2016–2017), the Undergraduate Committee (2017–present), the Tenure Committee (2017–present), and as Chair of the Interdisciplinary Hiring Committee (2021–2022). During my time at Northeastern, the Khoury faculty has more than doubled in size, and the Hiring Committee plays a pivotal role in this process. When I served on the Hiring Committee, I reviewed hundreds of faculty candidates, and participated in dozens of Skype interviews, on-site interviews, hiring talks, and hiring dinners. I remain actively involved in hiring; for example, I reviewed 19 candidates, met with over a dozen candidates, and hosted Laura Edelson during the 2023 season. The Program Design Principals Reform Committee focused on revising the curriculum for a key Masters-level required course. I produced a report containing a series of recommendations to streamline the course and update the material that was endorsed by many members of the committee.

Between Fall 2017 and Summer 2023, I served as the Director of the BS in Cybersecurity program. In this role I oversaw the growth of the program, evangelized it to potential students, advised students, and helped maintain the curriculum. I designed a new course, CY 2550, that serves as the introduction to the program. During the pandemic, I designed a fully-online and asynchronous version of this class.

Beginning in Summer 2023 I will be serving as the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs in Khoury College.

In addition to my service on major committees, I have also served as a representative on four minor committees within the College: the Faculty Merit Committee (2014), the Teaching Award Committee (2017), the Academic Integrity Committee (2017–2020), and the Khoury Postdoctoral Scholar Committee (2023).

I am frequently asked to speak at events and classes at Northeastern. Within the college, I have spoken at numerous Ph.D. student open houses, nuACM lectures, freshman Overview 1 classes, and . Outside the college, I have participated in conferences hosted by School of Law (Connected Futures Conference) and the Society of Asian Scientists and Engineers (SASE Regional Conference), as well as participating in alumni events for the University's Empower campaign. I have been a regular guest speaker in Joseph Reagles' "Communication in the Digital Age" undergraduate class and in CY 2550 Foundations of Cybersecurity (when I'm not teaching it). Perhaps my favorite speaking engagement was a live demonstration of the insecurity of IoT devices to the Northeastern University Board of Trustees and President (which involved unboxing and then hacking an internet-connected camera).

Lastly, I am co-maintainer of a compute cluster, along with Alan Mislove, that is used by eight Northeastern faculty, various research scientists and postdocs, and associated PhD students. I am also the sole maintainer of a shared Apache Spark cluster that is used by six faculty and their students, in addition to my own, spanning Khoury College and the Network Science Institute. The cluster has grown to 20 nodes as more faculty have "bought in" and contributed resources. As the Security and Privacy Institute at Northeastern has grown I have made the Spark cluster available to new faculty.

Service to the Discipline

Over the last eleven years, I have served on over 20 Program Committees of conferences and workshops. This includes top-tier conferences like the ACM Internet Measurement Conference (IMC), the IW3C2 World Wide Web Conference (WWW), the ACM Web Search and Data Mining Conference (WSDM), the AAAI International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), the ACM Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency Conference (FAccT), the Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium (PETS), and IEEE Security & Privacy (Oakland). I have also served as a reviewer for journals like *Nature*, *Nature Human Behavior*, *ACM TWEB*, *TNET*, *TOIT*, *TISSEC*, and *TKDD*.

In addition to reviewing for conferences and journals, I have served on numerous NSF proposal review panels, and as an external reviewer for specific NSF proposals. I maintain active relationships with NSF program managers in NETS and CHS.

In 2018 I helped co-found the ACM Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency Conference (FAccT, formerly known as FAT*). I served as the inaugural co-Program Committee Chair, served for three years on the Conference's Executive Committee, and I continue to serve on the Conference's Steering Committee. FAccT has grown tremendously since its inception; for example, the 2023 conference received over 2,000 paper submissions.

Post-tenure I have had the opportunity to serve in many other conference organizational roles. I was co-General Chair of the Privacy Law Scholars Conference in 2022, the ACM Conference on Web Science in 2018, and the ACM Internet Measurement Conference in 2018. I served as co-General Chair of the Workshop on Technology and Consumer Protection (ConPro), which is co-located with IEEE Security & Privacy.

Pre-tenure, in 2016, I served as Track Co-Chair for the *Crowdsourcing and Social Media Track* at WWW. I was deeply involved with the founding of the ACM Conference on Social Networks (COSN), serving as the registration chair in its inaugural year, and as budget and poster chair in its second year. In 2015, I served as the local chair for the inaugural Data Transparency Lab workshop in Boston. In 2015, I co-organized a workshop at ICWSM 2015 entitled "Auditing Algorithms From the Outside: Methods and Implications" with Mike Ananny (USC), Karrie Karahalios (UIUC), and Christian Sandvig (U. Mich). This was one of the first workshops to introduce the concept and goals of *algorithm auditing* to a broad audience. The workshop was very successful, drawing over two dozen attendees and spurring many interesting discussions.

Broader Impacts

Much of my research involves investigating online platforms. This research was hindered, however, by the primary anti-hacking law in the US: the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act (CFAA) of 1986. Historically, some courts in the US considered breaches of terms of service agreements to also be violations of the CFAA. This, in turn, meant that my research could be construed as a federal crime.

Along with Alan Mislove and two other academics, we sued the federal government in 2016 to seek relief for all good-faith researchers whose work was being chilled by the CFAA. We received pro-bono representation from the American Civil Liberties Union. As part of these proceedings I was deposed by Department of Justice lawyers. We won our suit in 2020. Also in 2020, the US Supreme Court took up the *Van Buren v. US* case, which was the first CFAA case to reach the high court. We filed an amicus brief in favor of *Van Buren*. The Court's ruling in 2021 confirms that terms of service violations do not trigger CFAA liability, and cites our lawsuit and our amicus brief in support of this finding. We received the Outstanding Applied or Public Research Award from the International Communication Association in 2023 in recognition of our efforts.