

Ruipu Hu

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Education

University of Maryland, College Park

2021–Present

Ph.D. in Information Studies; degree expected Fall 2026

Dissertation defended September 18, 2026. Advisor: Dr. Amanda Lazar.

Dissertation: *Studying the Everyday Technology Assets of Older Adults with Cognitive Concerns*.

Virginia Tech

2017–2021

B.S. in Computer Science. Research advisor: Dr. Sang Won Lee.

Research Methods and Technical Skills

Qualitative inquiry and analysis: In-depth interviews, observations of technology use, diary studies, focus groups, longitudinal ethnographic research, and reflexive thematic analysis.

Participatory research and design: Research through design, co-design workshop facilitation, technology probes, illustrated storytelling and story rewriting, and adaptation of methods for people with cognitive concerns.

Evidence synthesis: Literature reviews and synthesis of research findings to inform study design and technology design considerations.

Human-subjects research and coordination: Study design and implementation; participant recruitment, screening, and engagement; community partnerships; IRB processes; accessible study materials; and confidential handling of participant information.

Programming and prototyping: Front-end development and interactive prototyping with JavaScript and HTML; programming in Python.

Languages: English and Mandarin Chinese.

Research Experience

Research support: Graduate research supported in part by the National Science Foundation (NSF IIS-2045679) and the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR 90REGE0024).

Doctoral Researcher, University of Maryland

2022–Present

Everyday Technology Resources of Older Adults with Cognitive Concerns

Advisor: Dr. Amanda Lazar

- Lead a multi-study research program examining how older adults with cognitive concerns use objects, routines, relationships, and digital tools to navigate everyday technology use, including videoconferencing and telehealth.
- Design and conduct interviews, observations, diary studies, and participatory workshops; adapt study materials and activities to support participation among people experiencing cognitive changes.
- Work with senior communities to support recruitment and engagement, and with dementia experts, software engineers, and advocates to inform study design, screening, research materials, and interpretation.
- Develop illustrated-story rewriting activities through which participants articulate challenging experiences, identify existing strategies, and envision technology support. Use reflexive thematic analysis to examine their accounts and proposed changes.
- Translate empirical and methodological findings into first-authored publications at ACM ASSETS 2024, CHI 2025, and CHI 2026, informing designs that build on existing practices and preserve participants' priorities.

Graduate Researcher, University of Maryland

2021–2024

Sustaining an Older Adult-Led Makerspace

Advisor: Dr. Amanda Lazar

- Conducted a 34-month ethnographic study, including observations of 27 classes with 148 participant attendances.
- Examined how people, materials, spaces, and institutional support sustained older adults' participation through organizational changes; published findings as a first-authored CSCW 2024 journal article.

- Contributed to interactive systems for end-user programming, Internet of Things automation, and online task learning, with co-authored publications at UIST Adjunct and IEEE VL/HCC.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- [1] **Sustaining the Usefulness and Appeal of an Older Adult-Led Makerspace through Developing and Adapting Resources.**
Ruipu Hu, Alisha Pradhan, Elizabeth Bonsignore, and Amanda Lazar.
Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW), 2024. [Paper]

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

- [2] **Looking Beyond the Screen to Study the Technology Use of Older People Experiencing Cognitive Concerns.**
Ruipu Hu, Eun Kyoung Choe, and Amanda Lazar.
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2026. [Paper]
- [3] **Interrogating the “Us” Versus “Them” Dichotomy in Technology Research with Older Adults.**
Amanda Lazar, Elissa Carpio, **Ruipu Hu**, Beth Barnett, Kibron Tesfatsion, and Sheena Erete.
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2026. [Paper]
Best Paper Honorable Mention Award
- [4] **Surfacing Technology Routines While Studying Videoconferencing Among Older Adults with Cognitive Concerns.**
Ruipu Hu and Amanda Lazar.
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2025. [Paper]
- [5] **Tracking and its Potential for Older Adults with Memory Concerns.**
Amelia Short, Norman Makoto Su, **Ruipu Hu**, Eun Kyoung Choe, Hernisa Kacorri, Margaret Danilovich, David E. Conroy, Shannon Jette, Beth Barnett, and Amanda Lazar.
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, 2025. [Paper]
Best Paper Award
- [6] **Exploring Videoconferencing for Older Adults with Cognitive Concerns Using a Dramaturgical Lens.**
Ruipu Hu, Ge Gao, and Amanda Lazar.
ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS), 2024. [Paper]
- [7] **Beyond TAP: Piggybacking on IFTTT to Connect Triggers and Actions with JavaScript.**
Daniel Manesh, Marx Boyuan Wang, **Ruipu Hu**, and Sang Won Lee.
IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC), 2024. [Paper]

Workshop and Companion Papers

- [8] **Speculating and Disentangling the Relationship Between Technology and Care Work.**
Ajit G. Pillai, Renxuan Liu, Jung-Joo Lee, Janghee Cho, Insun Baek, Adrian Choi, Kevin Doherty, Christopher Ferguson, **Ruipu Hu**, Sarah Kettley, Seonghoon Kim, Jiashuo Liu, Tse Pei Ng, Adrian Petterson, Matt Ratto, Celeste Seah, Yiming Yao, and Yiyang Wu.
Companion Publication of the ACM Designing Interactive Systems Conference (DIS), 2025. [Paper]

- [9] **Studying Older Adults’ Perceptions on AI Through AI Lectures.**
Ruipu Hu, Nancy Roderer, and Amanda Lazar.
Workshop on Wireless and Mobile Computing for AgeTech (MobiCom4AgeTech), co-located with ACM MobiCom, 2024. Extended abstract. [Paper]

Posters and Extended Abstracts

- [10] **IThem: Programming Internet of Things Beyond Trigger-Action Pattern.**
 Marx Boyuan Wang, Daniel Manesh, **Ruipu Hu**, and Sang Won Lee.
Adjunct Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST), 2022. [Paper]
- [11] **Remo: Generating Interactive Tutorials by Demonstration for Online Tasks.**
 Amber Aftab, **Ruipu Hu**, and Sang Won Lee.
Adjunct Proceedings of the ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST), 2020. [Paper]

Manuscripts Submitted for Peer Review

- [12] **Older Adults Re-envision Challenging Technology Experiences Through Story Rewriting.**
Ruipu Hu, Temitope Wemida, Nancy K. Roderer, and Amanda Lazar.
Submitted to ACM CHI 2027.
- [13] **Looking Inward in Aging HCI: A Collaborative Autoethnography of Student Researchers’ Everyday Fieldwork Judgments.**
 Reina Sze-yi Chan, **Ruipu Hu**, Yuxiang Zhai, Jianrui Zhao, and Xiang Zhi Tan.
Submitted to ACM CHI 2027.
- [14] **A Systematic Review of Approaches to Support Older Adults’ Technology Use through Augmenting Existing Interfaces with Information or Cues.**
 Nupur Wagle, **Ruipu Hu**, Debaleena Chattopadhyay, Caro Williams-Pierce, and Amanda Lazar.
Submitted to ACM CHI 2027.

Honors and Fellowships

Best Paper Honorable Mention Award, ACM CHI	2026
Best Paper Award, ACM CHI	2025
Maryland Way Award Honorable Mention for Research Excellence, HCIL	2025
Dean’s Fellowship Award	2021

Community Engagement and Partnerships

Committee Member, Volunteer, and Collaborator	2021–Present
Knollwood Independent Living and Assisted Living, Washington, DC	
Participate in committee meetings and help organize technology-related services for older adults.	
Committee Member and Volunteer	2024–Present
Hyattsville Aging in Place, Maryland	
Participate in the steering committee and help plan community programs.	
One-on-One Technology Consultant for Older Adults	2024–Present
Chinese Culture and Community Service Center (CCACC), Maryland	
Provide weekly virtual technology consultations, supporting older adults with individual technology questions and challenges.	
Instructor, Senior Computer Training	April–June 2024
Benjamin Gaither Senior Citizen Center, Maryland	
Designed and taught an eight-week technology training course for residents of the City of Gaithersburg.	

Selected Talks and Presentations

Invited Research Talks

- [1] **Exploring Capacities of Older Adults and People with Cognitive Impairments in Using Technology** 2026
Dr. Stephanie Valencia's Lab, University of Maryland.
- [2] **Exploring Videoconferencing Technology While Navigating Aging and Cognitive Changes** 2025
HCI Seminar, Columbia University.
- [3] **Supporting Meaningful Activities While Navigating Aging and Cognitive Changes** 2025
Dr. Ge Gao's Lab, University of Maryland. March 2025.

Conference and Symposium Presentations

- [4] **Looking Beyond the Screen to Study the Technology Use of Older People Experiencing Cognitive Concerns** 2026
ACM CHI, Barcelona, Spain.
- [5] **Surfacing Technology Routines While Studying Videoconferencing Among Older Adults with Cognitive Concerns** 2025
ACM CHI, Yokohama, Japan.
- [6] **Sustaining the Usefulness and Appeal of an Older Adult-Led Makerspace through Developing and Adapting Resources** 2024
ACM CSCW, San José, Costa Rica.
- [7] **Exploring Videoconferencing for Older Adults with Cognitive Concerns Using a Dramaturgical Lens** 2024
ACM ASSETS, St. John's, Canada.
- [8] **Research Presentations** 2022–2024
HCIL Annual Symposium, University of Maryland.
- [9] **Presentation** 2020
ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST), online.

Invited Panels

- [10] **Community-Based Research** 2026
University of Maryland; invited by Dr. Sheena Erete to discuss community-based research with graduate students.
- [11] **A Panel on Graduate School** 2025
University of Maryland; invited by Dr. Eun Kyoung Choe for the course “Do You Like Research?”
- [12] **Academic Writing and Research Development** 2025
INST 802: Pragmatic and Methodological Foundations for Information Studies, University of Maryland; invited by Dr. Sheena Erete.

Teaching and Mentoring

Co-Instructor, University of Maryland 2025
INST 808: Seminar in Research Methods and Data Analysis
Designed and taught course content on qualitative research examining behavioral and social aspects of technology use, including study design, data collection, and analysis.

Student Mentoring	
Maggie Xu, Ph.D. Student, College of Information, University of Maryland	2026
Mital Shardaben, M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction, University of Maryland	2024
Wan-Ting Lo, M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction, University of Maryland	2023

Academic Service

Leadership and Committee Roles	
Program Committee Member, ACM ASSETS	2026
Associate Chair, ACM CHI Late-Breaking Work	2025

Reviewing Recognition	
Special recognition for outstanding reviews:	
ACM CHI Papers	2026
ACM CHI Case Studies	2025
ACM IMWUT	February 2025

Peer Review

Journals	
Journal of Primary Care and Community Health	2026
ACM Transactions on Accessible Computing (TACCESS)	2025
ACM IMWUT	2022, 2025, 2026

Conferences and Symposia	
ACM CHI	2023–2026
ACM CSCW	2023, 2024, 2026
ACM Creativity & Cognition	2026
ACM GROUP	2027 cycle
AAAI Symposium Series	2024

Other Service	
Student Volunteer, ACM CSCW	2022