

ANANTA SONEJI

Tempe, AZ

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SUMMARY

Researcher with extensive expertise in uncovering complex cybersecurity and privacy issues through qualitative methods. Skilled in designing and executing full-cycle research projects across diverse fields, including peer review mechanisms, digital platform safety and privacy, education technology, and other security sub-fields. Adept at engaging with stakeholders through semi-structured interviews, focus groups, concept testing, and surveys to explore user behavior and attitudes. Proven ability to work autonomously in fast-paced, ambiguous environments while managing and prioritizing multiple research initiatives. Committed to advocating for user needs and fostering innovation through a holistic and interdisciplinary approach.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Computer Science 2019 - Present
Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, Arizona State University
GPA: 4.00
Advisor: [Dr. Adam Doupe](#)
Dissertation Title: *A Qualitative Exploration of Stakeholder Reactions to Systemic Changes in Cybersecurity*

Master of Computer Science 2017 - 2019
Ira A. Fulton School of Engineering, Arizona State University
GPA: 4.00

Bachelor of Technology in Information and Communication Technology 2013 - 2017
(Honors with Minor in Computational Science) GPA: 7.81/10
Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology (DA-IICT), India

SKILLS & SOFTWARE

- **Software Experience:** Qualtrics, QuestionPro, Prolific, Miro
- **Qualitative Coding:** MaxQDA, Delve, Google Sheets (coding and analysis)
- **Programming Skills:** Python, R, Excel, MATLAB

WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant May 2018 - Present
Security Engineering for Future Computing lab (SEFCOM), ASU
Tempe, AZ

- Leading qualitative research projects focused on **human-centered security and privacy, utilizing methods such as semi-structured interviews, focus groups, and surveys** to explore user behavior, attitudes, and security practices
- **Guiding undergraduate and graduate students through research processes**, fostering skill development, and providing academic advice
- Designing and **executing several full-cycle research projects**, including conducting extensive literature review, defining research goals and questions, designing the study plan for data collection and analysis, and reporting of results to stakeholders
- Synthesizing **research findings into actionable insights** and effectively **communicated research findings to diverse audiences** (conference talks) to encourage future research and drive engaging discussions
- Collaborating **cross-functionally with peers and mentors in cybersecurity, human-computer interaction (HCI), and user privacy** to design studies that address complex user needs
- Conducting **research in compliance with ethical standards** for human subjects, ensuring adherence to institutional guidelines and best practices for privacy and confidentiality.
- Continuously **expanded expertise in qualitative research methods**, study design, and data analysis tools, demonstrating a proactive approach to learning and adapting to new research challenges.
- Published **six peer-reviewed papers at top-tier conferences** (IEEE S&P, USENIX Security, ACM CCS, ACM CHI)

Applied ELSI Research Intern Jan 2023 - May 2023
Sage Bionetworks, Advisor: [Megan Doerr](#)
Remote

- Selected to **evaluate the “health”** of data collection process for the All of Us research program (NIH)

- Led **interactive remote focus groups with program stakeholders to identify community sourced metrics** and derive novel evaluation criteria for development and testing
- Coded and **analyzed qualitative data using Delve** and shared insights through reports and presentations

Research Intern

Max Planck Institute for Software Systems, Advisor: [Dr. Elissa M. Redmiles](#)

Jan 2022 - April 2022
Saarbrücken, Germany

- Published **two top-tier conference papers** : 1) [the motivations of OnlyFans creators \(new to sex work\) to join the platform; create and share sexual content](#) and 2) [the digital threats and safety practices of OnlyFans creators](#)
- Analyzed and **identified major themes from interviews** with OnlyFans (a web-based social media platform) creators around their motivations, business models, online threat models, and safety strategies
- Developed a **Code System in MaxQDA** through an iterative open coding process

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. [Trust, Because You Can't Verify: Privacy and Security Hurdles in Education Technology Acquisition Practices](#)
Easton Kelso, **Ananta Soneji**, Sazzadur Rahaman, Yan Shoshitaishvili, and Rakibul Hasan
In Proceedings of the 2024 ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS '24), October 14–18, 2024, Salt Lake City, UT, USA.
2. [“I feel physically safe but not politically safe”: Understanding the Digital Threats and Safety Practices of OnlyFans Creators](#)
Ananta Soneji, Vaughn Hamilton, Adam Doupe, Allison McDonald, and Elissa M. Redmiles
In 33rd USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security 24), Philadelphia, PA, August 2024
3. [“Watching over the shoulder of a professional”: Why hackers make mistakes and how they fix them](#)
Irina Ford, **Ananta Soneji**, Faris Bugra Kokulu, Jayakrishna Vadayath, Zion Leonahenahe Basque, Gaurav Vipat, Adam Doupe, Ruoyu Wang, Gail-Joon Ahn, Tiffany Bao, and Yan Shoshitaishvili
Proceedings of the 45th IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (Oakland), San Francisco, CA, May 2024
4. [“Nudes? Shouldn't I charge for these?”: Motivations of New Sexual Content Creators on OnlyFans](#)
Honorable Mention (Top 5%)
Vaughn Hamilton, **Ananta Soneji**, Allison McDonald, Elissa M. Redmiles
Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI'23), Hamburg, Germany, April 2023
5. [“Flawed, but like democracy we don't have a better system”: The Experts' Insights on the Peer Review Process of Evaluating Security Papers](#)
Ananta Soneji, Faris Bugra Kokulu, Carlos Rubio-Medrano, Tiffany Bao, Ruoyu Wang, Yan Shoshitaishvili, Adam Doupe
Proceedings of the 43rd IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (Oakland), San Francisco, CA, May 2022
6. [Matched and Mismatched SOCs: A Qualitative Study on Security Operations Center Issues](#)
Faris Bugra Kokulu, **Ananta Soneji**, Tiffany Bao, Yan Shoshitaishvili, Ziming Zhao, Adam Doupe, and Gail-Joon Ahn
The 26th ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS), London, UK, November, 2019

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Program Committee Member, [USEC 2025](#)

Program Committee Member, [CSET 2024](#)

Poster Jury, [SOUPS 2024](#)

External Reviewer, [CHI 2024](#)

Program Committee Member, [CSET 2023](#)

Mentoring Junior Co-Chair, [SOUPS 2022](#)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Teaching Assistant, CSE 365: Introduction to Information Assurance, ASU Fall 2021
- Teaching Assistant, CSE 110: Principle of Programming (Java), ASU Fall 2017

SCHOLARSHIPS

- ASU Engineering Graduate Fellowship – 2018, 2019, and 2020