

Yang Zhang | CV

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Employment

CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security <i>Tenured Faculty, equivalent to full professor</i>	Saarbrücken, Germany 5/2023 -
CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security <i>Tenure-Track Faculty</i>	Saarbrücken, Germany 2/2020 - 4/2023
CISPA Helmholtz Center for Information Security <i>Research Group Leader</i>	Saarbrücken, Germany 1/2019 - 1/2020
CISPA, Saarland University <i>Postdoctoral Researcher</i>	Saarbrücken, Germany 1/2017 - 12/2018

Education

University of Luxembourg <i>Ph.D. in Computer Science, highest honor</i>	Luxembourg, Luxembourg 12/2012 - 11/2016
Shandong University <i>Master in Computer Science</i>	Jinan, China 9/2009 - 6/2012
University of Luxembourg <i>Master in Informatics, exchange student</i>	Luxembourg, Luxembourg 9/2010 - 10/2011
Shandong University <i>Bachelor in Software Engineering</i>	Jinan, China 9/2005 - 6/2009

Research Interests

- Trustworthy AI (Safety, Privacy, and Security)
- Misinformation, Hate Speech, and Memes
- Social Network Analysis

Awards

- AI 2000 Most Influential Scholar Award Honorable Mention (Security and Privacy) 2026
- AI 2000 Most Influential Scholar Award Honorable Mention (Security and Privacy) 2025
- Best Machine Learning and Security Paper in Cybersecurity Award 2025
- Best paper finalist at CSAW Europe 2024
- Best paper finalist at CSAW Europe 2023
- Best paper award honorable mention at CCS 2022
- Busy Beaver teaching award nomination for seminar "Privacy of Machine Learning" at Saarland University (2022 Winter)
- Busy Beaver teaching award nomination for advanced lecture "Machine Learning Privacy" at

Saarland University (2022 Summer)

- Busy Beaver teaching award for seminar “Privacy of Machine Learning” at Saarland University (2021 Winter)
- Distinguished paper award at NDSS 2019

Publication

My publication list can also be found at DBLP and Google Scholar; however, they may not be up to date.

Conference.....

- [1] Zeyuan Chen and Ye Leng and Chi Cui and Mengfei Liang and Bo Shao and Xinyu Zhang and Yun Shen and Michael Backes and Xinyue Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Can We Trust LLM Security Research? A Reproducibility Study of Large Language Model Security Papers in Tier-1 Security Conference. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P)*. IEEE, 2027.
- [2] Xinyu Zhang and Ziqing Yang and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. PersonaHate: A Scalable Persona-Based Data Synthesis Pipeline for Hate Speech Analysis. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*. ACM, 2026.
- [3] Yage Zhang and Yukun Jiang and Zeyuan Chen and Michael Backes and Xinyue Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Real Money, Fake Models: Deceptive Model Claims in Shadow APIs. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*. ACM, 2026.
- [4] Bo Shao and Xinyue Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Does AI Amplify Online Hate? A Multi-Modal Measurement Study on 4chan's /pol/. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*. ACM, 2026.
- [5] Yage Zhang and Xinyue Shen and Yukun Jiang and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. “Shut Up and Let Me Enjoy My Otome”: Understanding and Measuring the Toxicity in Otome Game Communities. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*. ACM, 2026.
- [6] Chia-Yi Hsu and Yu-Lin Tsai and Yu Zhe and Yan-Lun Chen and Chih-Hsun Lin and Chia-Mu Yu and **Yang Zhang** and Chun-Ying Huang and Jun Sakuma. BadTV: Unveiling Backdoor Threats in Third-Party Task Vectors. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*. ACM, 2026.
- [7] Junjie Chu and Mingjie Li and Ziqing Yang and Ye Leng and Chenhao Lin and Chao Shen and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. JADES: A Universal Framework for Jailbreak Assessment via Decompositional Scoring. In *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. ACL, 2026.
- [8] Yicong Tan and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. He Said, She Said, They Simulated: Simulating Situated Gossip with LLM Agents. In *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. ACL, 2026.
- [9] Yichuan Mo and Yukun Jiang and Yanbo Shi and Mingjie Li and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Yisen Wang. TrustDLM: Benchmarking Trustworthiness in Diffusion Language Models. In *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*. ACL, 2026.
- [10] Junjie Chu and Mingjie Li and Zeyuan Chen and Ye Leng and Yisen Wang and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Behavior Carries Over: An AI Sandbagging Detection Method Inspired by Honest Inertia. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (EMNLP Findings)*. ACL, 2026.
- [11] Ye Leng and Junjie Chu and Mingjie Li and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. RW2Unsafe: Towards More Accurate Real-World Unsafe Generation Evaluation for T2I Models. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (EMNLP Findings)*. ACL, 2026.

- [12] Yicong Tan and **Yang Zhang**. Query-Efficient Memory Injection Attacks on LLM Agents. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (EMNLP Findings)*. ACL, 2026.
- [13] Ziqing Yang and Yixin Wu and Yun Shen and Wei Dai and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. The Challenge of Identifying the Origin of Black-Box Large Language Models. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (EMNLP Findings)*. ACL, 2026.
- [14] Tianze Chang and Junjie Chu and Yixin Wu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. GuardrailAgent: An Agentic Framework for Jailbreak Defense. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (EMNLP Findings)*. ACL, 2026.
- [15] Mingjie Li and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Yisen Wang. Long-Short Memory Steering to Mitigate Unfaithful Self-Brainwashing. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (EMNLP Findings)*. ACL, 2026.
- [16] Chi Cui and Yixin Wu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Beyond Text-Intrinsic Features: An Agentic Framework for Evidence-Based AI-Generated Text Detection. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (EMNLP Findings)*. ACL, 2026.
- [17] Bo Shao and Yihan Ma and Yiting Qu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. MemeTrace: A Multimodal LLM-Based Agent for Safety-Aware Meme Provenance Analysis. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EMNLP (EMNLP Findings)*. ACL, 2026.
- [18] Xinyu Zhang and Yixin Wu and Boyang Zhang and Chenhao Lin and Chao Shen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. GEO-Detective: Unveiling Location Privacy Risks in Images with LLM Agents. In *European Conference on Computer Vision (ECCV)*, pages 547–565. Springer, 2026.
- [19] Quan Zhao and Linkang Du and Yuntao Wang and Zhou Su and Zheng Li and Xiangshan Gao and **Yang Zhang**. Unveiling the Pitfalls of Data-Free Backdoor Detection Against Pre-Trained Models. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 261–280. USENIX, 2025.
- [20] Yukun Jiang and Hai Huang and Mingjie Li and Yage Zhang and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Sparse Models, Sparse Safety: Unsafe Routes in Mixture-of-Experts LLMs. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*. PMLR, 2026.
- [21] Isabella Duan and Xudong Pan and Yawen Duan and Adam Gleave and Ranjie Duan and **Yang Zhang** and Xiaojian Li and Chaochao Lu and Naying Hu and Sören Mindermann and Dongrui Liu and Jie Fu and Peng Xu and Tianxing He and Xudong Guo and Chen Zheng and Wenqi Chen and Jianfeng Cao and Geng Hong and Jiarun Dai and Yinpeng Dong and Brian Tse and Xia Hu and Min Yang. Position: Preparing for AI Systems That Deceive Developers. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML Position Paper Track)*. PMLR, 2026.
- [22] Wai Man Si and Mingjie Li and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Pruning Unsafe Tickets: A Resource-Efficient Framework for Safer and More Robust LLMs. In *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 26285–26302. ACL, 2026.
- [23] Yukun Jiang and Xinyue Shen and Michael Backes and Zheng Li and **Yang Zhang**. Open Schrödinger’s Closed Box: Identifying Retrieval Augmented Generation in API-Accessible Large Language Model Services. In *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 4558–4580. ACL, 2026.
- [24] Yage Zhang and Yukun Jiang and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. DE-CLIP: Few-Shot Anomaly Detection via Difference-Guided Embedding Editing. In *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 2396–2407. ACL, 2026.
- [25] Rui Zhang and Hongwei Li and Yun Shen and Xinyue Shen and Wenbo Jiang and Guowen Xu and Yang Liu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. The Art of (Mis)alignment: How Fine-Tuning Methods Effectively Misalign and Realign LLMs in Post-Training. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL (ACL Findings)*, pages 3329–3354. ACL, 2026.

- [26] Ziqing Yang and Yixin Wu and Rui Wen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Peering Behind the Shield: Guardrail Identification in Large Language Models. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL (ACL Findings)*, pages 11663–11676. ACL, 2026.
- [27] Yixin Wu and Rui Wen and Chi Cui and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. InferPilot: Autonomous Inference Attacks Against ML Services With LLM-Based Agents. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL (ACL Findings)*, pages 11781–11801. ACL, 2026.
- [28] Zeyuan Chen and Ziqing Yang and Yihan Ma and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. PeerCheck: Enhancing LLM-Generated Academic Reviews Towards Human-Level Quality. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL (ACL Findings)*, pages 23362–23386. ACL, 2026.
- [29] Chi Cui and Yixin Wu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Rethinking Assessments of Prompt Injection Attacks. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL (ACL Findings)*, pages 23773–23799. ACL, 2026.
- [30] Mingjie Li and Wai Man Si and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Reward Yourself: Efficient Self Rewards for Trustworthy Sampling. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: ACL (ACL Findings)*, pages 31070–31086. ACL, 2026.
- [31] Ye Leng and Junjie Chu and Mingjie Li and Chenhao Lin and Chao Shen and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. When Understanding Becomes a Risk: Authenticity and Safety Risks in the Emerging Image Generation Paradigm. In *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, pages 39372–39382. IEEE, 2026.
- [32] Boyang Zhang and Istemi Ekin Akkus and Ruichuan Chen and Alice Dethise and Klaus Satzke and Ivica Rimac and **Yang Zhang**. Defeating Cerberus: Privacy-Leakage Mitigation in Vision Language Models. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: EACL (EACL Findings)*, pages 2952–2965. ACL, 2026.
- [33] Hanwei Zhang and Luo Cheng and Rui Wen and **Yang Zhang** and Lijun Zhang and Holger Hermanns. SL-CBM: Enhancing Concept Bottleneck Models with Semantic Locality for Better Interpretability. In *AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)*, pages 38093–38101. AAAI, 2026.
- [34] Yukun Jiang and Mingjie Li and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Adjacent Words, Divergent Intent: Jailbreaking Large Language Models via Task Concurrency. In *Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. NeurIPS, 2025.
- [35] Mingjie Li and Wai Man Si and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Yisen Wang. Finding and Reactivating Post-Trained LLMs’ Hidden Safety Mechanisms. In *Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NeurIPS)*. NeurIPS, 2025.
- [36] Boyang Zhang and Yicong Tan and Yun Shen and Ahmed Salem and Michael Backes and Savvas Zannettou and **Yang Zhang**. Breaking Agents: Compromising Autonomous LLM Agents Through Malfunction Amplification. In *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, pages 34964–34976. ACL, 2025.
- [37] Yiting Qu and Ziqing Yang and Yihan Ma and Michael Backes and Savvas Zannettou and **Yang Zhang**. Hate in Plain Sight: On the Risks of Moderating AI-Generated Hateful Illusions. In *IEEE International Conference on Computer Vision (ICCV)*. IEEE, 2025.
- [38] Yiting Qu and Xinyue Shen and Yixin Wu and Michael Backes and Savvas Zannettou and **Yang Zhang**. UnsafeBench: Benchmarking Image Safety Classifiers on Real-World and AI-Generated Images. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 3221–3235. ACM, 2025.
- [39] Yiting Qu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Bridging the Gap in Vision Language Models in Identifying Unsafe Concepts Across Modalities. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 957–976. USENIX, 2025.

- [40] Rui Wen and Yiyong Liu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. SoK: Data Reconstruction Attacks Against Machine Learning Models: Definition, Metrics, and Benchmark. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 5601–5620. USENIX, 2025.
- [41] Xinyue Shen and Yixin Wu and Yiting Qu and Michael Backes and Savvas Zannettou and **Yang Zhang**. HateBench: Benchmarking Hate Speech Detectors on LLM-Generated Content and Hate Campaigns. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 221–240. USENIX, 2025.
- [42] Yihan Ma and Xinyue Shen and Yiting Qu and Ning Yu and Michael Backes and Savvas Zannettou and **Yang Zhang**. From Meme to Threat: On the Hateful Meme Understanding and Induced Hateful Content Generation in Open-Source Vision Language Models. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 4703–4722. USENIX, 2025.
- [43] Yixin Wu and Ning Yu and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. On the Proactive Generation of Unsafe Images From Text-To-Image Models Using Benign Prompts. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 917–936. USENIX, 2025.
- [44] Yixin Wu and Ziqing Yang and Yun Shen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Synthetic Artifact Auditing: Tracing LLM-Generated Synthetic Data Usage in Downstream Applications. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 1689–1708. USENIX, 2025.
- [45] Dayong Ye and Tianqing Zhu and Shang Wang and Bo Liu and Leo Yu Zhang and Wanlei Zhou and **Yang Zhang**. Data-Free Model-Related Attacks: Unleashing the Potential of Generative AI. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 1709–1727. USENIX, 2025.
- [46] Dayong Ye and Tianqing Zhu and Jiayang Li and Kun Gao and Bo Liu and Leo Yu Zhang and Wanlei Zhou and **Yang Zhang**. Data Duplication: A Novel Multi-Purpose Attack Paradigm in Machine Unlearning. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 6399–6418. USENIX, 2025.
- [47] Hao Li and Zheng Li and Siyuan Wu and Yutong Ye and Min Zhang and Dengguo Feng and **Yang Zhang**. Enhanced Label-Only Membership Inference Attacks with Fewer Queries. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 5465–5483. USENIX, 2025.
- [48] Yuke Hu and Zheng Li and Zhihao Liu and **Yang Zhang** and Zhan Qin and Kui Ren and Chun Chen. Membership Inference Attacks Against Vision-Language Models. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 1589–1608. USENIX, 2025.
- [49] Atilla Akkus and Masoud Poorghaffar Aghdam and Mingjie Li and Junjie Chu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Sinem Sav. Generated Data with Fake Privacy: Hidden Dangers of Fine-tuning Large Language Models on Generated Data. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 8075–8093. USENIX, 2025.
- [50] Yule Liu and Zhiyuan Zhong and Yifan Liao and Zhen Sun and Jingyi Zheng and Jiaheng Wei and Qingyuan Gong and Fenghua Tong and Yang Chen and **Yang Zhang** and Xinlei He. On the Generalization Ability of Machine-Generated Text Detectors. In *ACM Conference on Knowledge Discovery and Data Mining (KDD)*, pages 5674–5685. ACM, 2025.
- [51] Junjie Chu and Yugeng Liu and Ziqing Yang and Xinyue Shen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. JailbreakRadar: Comprehensive Assessment of Jailbreak Attacks Against LLMs. In *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 21538–21566. ACL, 2025.
- [52] Xinyue Shen and Yun Shen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. When GPT Spills the Tea: Comprehensive Assessment of Knowledge File Leakage in GPTs. In *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 19096–19111. ACL, 2025.
- [53] Zhen Sun and Zongmin Zhang and Xinyue Shen and Ziyi Zhang and Yule Liu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Xinlei He. Are We in the AI-Generated Text World Already? Quantifying and Monitoring AIGT on Social Media. In *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 22975–23005. ACL, 2025.

- [54] Rui Zhang and Yun Shen and Hongwei Li and Wenbo Jiang and Hanxiao Chen and Yuan Zhang and Guowen Xu and **Yang Zhang**. The Ripple Effect: On Unforeseen Complications of Backdoor Attacks. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*. PMLR, 2025.
- [55] Junjie Chu and Yugeng Liu and Xinlei He and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Ahmed Salem. Neeko: Model Hijacking Attacks Against Generative Adversarial Networks. In *IEEE International Conference on Multimedia and Expo (ICME)*. IEEE, 2025.
- [56] Xinyue Shen and Yun Shen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. GPTracker: A Large-Scale Measurement of Misused GPTs. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P)*, pages 317–335. IEEE, 2025.
- [57] Yicong Tan and Xinyue Shen and Yun Shen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. On the Effectiveness of Prompt Stealing Attacks on In-The-Wild Prompts. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P)*, pages 355–373. IEEE, 2025.
- [58] Mingjie Li and Wai Man Si and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Yisen Wang. SaLoRA: Safety-Alignment Preserved Low-Rank Adaptation. In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2025.
- [59] Yan Pang and Aiping Xiong and **Yang Zhang** and Tianhao Wang. Towards Understanding Unsafe Video Generation. In *Network and Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS)*. Internet Society, 2025.
- [60] Rui Wen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Understanding Data Importance in Machine Learning Attacks: Does Valuable Data Pose Greater Harm? In *Network and Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS)*. Internet Society, 2025.
- [61] Yihan Ma and Xinyue Shen and Yixin Wu and Boyang Zhang and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. The Death and Life of Great Prompts: Analyzing the Evolution of LLM Prompts from the Structural Perspective. In *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, pages 21990–22001. ACL, 2024.
- [62] Yukun Jiang and Zheng Li and Xinyue Shen and Yugeng Liu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. ModScan: Measuring Stereotypical Bias in Large Vision-Language Models from Vision and Language Modalities. In *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, pages 12814–12845. ACL, 2024.
- [63] Junjie Chu and Zeyang Sha and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Reconstruct Your Previous Conversations! Comprehensively Investigating Privacy Leakage Risks in Conversations with GPT Models. In *Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP)*, pages 6584–6600. ACL, 2024.
- [64] Rui Wen and Zheng Li and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Membership Inference Attacks Against In-Context Learning. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 3481–3495. ACM, 2024.
- [65] Yixin Wu and Yun Shen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Image-Perfect Imperfections: Safety, Bias, and Authenticity in the Shadow of Text-To-Image Model Evolution. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 4837–4851. ACM, 2024.
- [66] Jinghuai Zhang and Jianfeng Chi and Zheng Li and Kunlin Cai and **Yang Zhang** and Yuan Tian. BadMerging: Backdoor Attacks Against Model Merging. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 4450–4464. ACM, 2024.
- [67] Zeyang Sha and Yicong Tan and Mingle Li and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. ZeroFake: Zero-Shot Detection of Fake Images Generated and Edited by Text-to-Image Generation Models. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 4852–4866. ACM, 2024.
- [68] Hao Li and Zheng Li and Siyuan Wu and Chengrui Hu and Yutong Ye and Min Zhang and Dengguo Feng and **Yang Zhang**. SeqMIA: Sequential-Metric Based Membership Inference Attack. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 3496–3510. ACM, 2024.

- [69] Xinlei He and Xinyue Shen and Zeyuan Chen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. MGTBench: Benchmarking Machine-Generated Text Detection. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 2251–2265. ACM, 2024.
- [70] Xinyue Shen and Zeyuan Chen and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. “Do Anything Now”: Characterizing and Evaluating In-The-Wild Jailbreak Prompts on Large Language Models. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 1671–1685. ACM, 2024.
- [71] Rui Zhang and Hongwei Li and Rui Wen and Wenbo Jiang and Yuan Zhang and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Instruction Backdoor Attacks Against Customized LLMs. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*. USENIX, 2024.
- [72] Xinyue Shen and Yiting Qu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Prompt Stealing Attacks Against Text-to-Image Generation Models. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*. USENIX, 2024.
- [73] Boyang Zhang and Zheng Li and Ziqing Yang and Xinlei He and Michael Backes and Mario Fritz and **Yang Zhang**. SecurityNet: Assessing Machine Learning Vulnerabilities on Public Models. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*. USENIX, 2024.
- [74] Yixin Wu and Rui Wen and Michael Backes and Pascal Berrang and Mathias Humbert and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Quantifying Privacy Risks of Prompts in Visual Prompt Learning. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*. USENIX, 2024.
- [75] Hai Huang and Zhengyu Zhao and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Composite Backdoor Attacks Against Large Language Models. In *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics: NAACL (NAACL Findings)*. ACL, 2024.
- [76] Yukun Jiang and Xinyue Shen and Rui Wen and Zeyang Sha and Junjie Chu and Yugeng Liu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Games and Beyond: Analyzing the Bullet Chats of Esports Livestreaming. In *International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM)*, pages 761–773. AAAI, 2024.
- [77] Yiting Qu and Zhikun Zhang and Yun Shen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. FAKEPCD: Fake Point Cloud Detection via Source Attribution. In *ACM Asia Conference on Computer and Communications Security (ASIACCS)*, pages 930–946. ACM, 2024.
- [78] Xinlei He and Savvas Zannettou and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. You Only Prompt Once: On the Capabilities of Prompt Learning on Large Language Models to Tackle Toxic Content. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P)*, pages 770–787. IEEE, 2024.
- [79] Tianshuo Cong and Xinlei He and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Test-Time Poisoning Attacks Against Test-Time Adaptation Models. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P)*, pages 1306–1324. IEEE, 2024.
- [80] Minxing Zhang and Ning Yu and Rui Wen and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Generated Distributions Are All You Need for Membership Inference Attacks Against Generative Models. In *IEEE/CVF Winter Conference on Applications of Computer Vision (WACV)*. IEEE, 2024.
- [81] Zeyang Sha and Zheng Li and Ning Yu and **Yang Zhang**. DE-FAKE: Detection and Attribution of Fake Images Generated by Text-to-Image Generation Models. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 3418–3432. ACM, 2023.
- [82] Yiting Qu and Xinyue Shen and Xinlei He and Michael Backes and Savvas Zannettou and **Yang Zhang**. Unsafe Diffusion: On the Generation of Unsafe Images and Hateful Memes From Text-To-Image Models. In *ACM SIGSAC Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS)*, pages 3403–3417. ACM, 2023.
- [83] Joann Qiongna Chen and Tianhao Wang and Zhikun Zhang and **Yang Zhang** and Somesh Jha and Zhou Li. Differentially Private Resource Allocation. In *Annual Computer Security Applications Conference (ACSAC)*, pages 772–786. ACM, 2023.

- [84] Boyang Zhang and Xinlei He and Yun Shen and Tianhao Wang and **Yang Zhang**. A Plot is Worth a Thousand Words: Model Information Stealing Attacks via Scientific Plots. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 5289–5306. USENIX, 2023.
- [85] Wai Man Si and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Ahmed Salem. Two-in-One: A Model Hijacking Attack Against Text Generation Models. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 2223–2240. USENIX, 2023.
- [86] Zheng Li and Ning Yu and Ahmed Salem and Michael Backes and Mario Fritz and **Yang Zhang**. UnGANable: Defending Against GAN-based Face Manipulation. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 7213–7230. USENIX, 2023.
- [87] Min Chen and Zhikun Zhang and Michael Backes and Tianhao Wang and **Yang Zhang**. FACE-AUDITOR: Data Auditing in Facial Recognition Systems. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 7195–7212. USENIX, 2023.
- [88] Haiming Wang and Zhikun Zhang and Tianhao Wang and Shibo He and Michael Backes and Jiming Chen and **Yang Zhang**. PrivTrace: Differentially Private Trajectory Synthesis by Adaptive Markov Model. In *USENIX Security Symposium (USENIX Security)*, pages 1649–1666. USENIX, 2023.
- [89] Yihan Ma and Zhikun Zhang and Ning Yu and Xinlei He and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Generated Graph Detection. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, pages 23412–23428. PMLR, 2023.
- [90] Ziqing Yang and Xinlei He and Zheng Li and Michael Backes and Mathias Humbert and Pascal Berrang and **Yang Zhang**. Data Poisoning Attacks Against Multimodal Encoders. In *International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML)*, pages 39299–39313. PMLR, 2023.
- [91] Kai Mei and Zheng Li and Zhenting Wang and **Yang Zhang** and Shiqing Ma. NOTABLE: Transferable Backdoor Attacks Against Prompt-based NLP Models. In *Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*, pages 15551–15565. ACL, 2023.
- [92] Zeyang Sha and Xinlei He and Ning Yu and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang**. Can't Steal? Cont-Steal! Contrastive Stealing Attacks Against Image Encoders. In *IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR)*, pages 16373–16383. IEEE, 2023.
- [93] Yiting Qu and Xinlei He and Shannon Pierson and Michael Backes and **Yang Zhang** and Savvas Zannettou. On the Evolution of (Hateful) Memes by Means of Multimodal Contrastive Learning. In *IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy (S&P)*, pages 293–310. IEEE, 2023.
- [94] Rui Wen and Zhengyu Zhao and Zhuoran Liu and Michael Backes and Tianhao Wang and **Yang Zhang**. Is Adversarial Training Really a Silver Bullet for Mitigating Data Poisoning? In *International Conference on Learning Representations (ICLR)*, 2023.
- [95] Yugeng Liu and Zheng Li and Michael Backes and Yun Shen and **Yang Zhang**. Backdoor Attacks Against Dataset Distillation. In *Network and Distributed System Security Symposium (NDSS)*. Internet Society, 2023.
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Journal

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- [153] Rui Zhang and Yun Shen and Hongwei Li and Wenbo Jiang and Hanxiao Chen and Yuan Zhang and Guowen Xu and **Yang Zhang**. Backdoor Complications: A Comprehensive Analysis and Mitigation of the Unforeseen Consequences of Backdoor Attacks. *IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing*, 2026.
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- [159] Xiaokuan Zhang and **Yang Zhang** and Yinqian Zhang. VERITRAIN: Validating MLaaS Training Efforts via Anomaly Detection. *IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing*, 2024.
- [160] Yixin Wu and Xinlei He and Pascal Berrang and Mathias Humbert and Michael Backes and Neil Zhenqiang Gong and **Yang Zhang**. Link Stealing Attacks Against Inductive Graph Neural Networks. *Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies*, 2024.
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TrustAIRLab

Our lab is fully committed to open science, which led to the establishment of TrustAIRLab.

- Much of the code developed by our lab is accessible through our GitHub organization
- A curated selection of datasets collected by our lab can be found on our Hugging Face organization and our Zenodo community

Teaching

- 2026 Summer, Seminar: Data-driven Understanding of the Disinformation Epidemic
- 2025 Winter, Seminar: AI Safety
- 2025 Summer, Advanced Lecture: Attacks Against Machine Learning Models
- 2025 Summer, Seminar: Data-driven Understanding of the Disinformation Epidemic
- 2024 Winter, Seminar: Privacy of Machine Learning
- 2024 Summer, Advanced Lecture: Attacks Against Machine Learning Models
- 2024 Summer, Seminar: Data-driven Understanding of the Disinformation Epidemic
- 2023 Winter, Seminar: Privacy of Machine Learning
- 2023 Summer, Advanced Lecture: Attacks Against Machine Learning Models
- 2023 Summer, Seminar: Data-driven Understanding of the Disinformation Epidemic
- 2022 Winter, Seminar: Privacy of Machine Learning
- 2022 Summer, Advanced Lecture: Machine Learning Privacy
- 2022 Summer, Seminar: Data-driven Understanding of the Disinformation Epidemic
- 2021 Winter, Seminar: Privacy of Machine Learning
- 2021 Summer, Advanced Lecture: Privacy Enhancing Technologies
- 2021 Summer, Seminar: Data-driven Understanding of the Disinformation Epidemic
- 2020 Winter, Seminar: Data Privacy
- 2020 Summer, Advanced Lecture: Privacy Enhancing Technologies
- 2020 Summer, Seminar: Data-driven Approaches on Understanding Disinformation
- 2019 Winter, Seminar: Data Privacy
- 2019 Summer, Advanced Lecture: Privacy Enhancing Technologies
- 2019 Summer, Seminar: Biomedical Privacy
- 2018 Winter, Seminar: Data Privacy
- 2018 Summer, Advanced Lecture: Privacy Enhancing Technologies
- 2018 Summer, Seminar: Adversarial Machine Learning

Students

Postdoc

Yiting Qu

11/2025 -

Zihan Wang	11/2025 -
Mingjie Li	10/2023 -
Ph.D. Students	
Xinyu Zhang	6/2026 -
Shengyun Si	3/2026 -
Yage Zhang	8/2025 -
Bo Shao	5/2025 -
Mengfei Liang	5/2025 -
Zeyuan Chen	3/2025 -
Ye Leng	10/2024 -
Yukun Jiang	6/2024 -
Chi Cui	4/2024 -
Yicong Tan	4/2024 -
Junjie Chu	11/2022 -
Ziqing Yang	11/2022 -
Xinyue Shen	10/2022 -
<i>(Abbe Grant 2024, KAUST Rising Star in AI 2025, MLCommons ML and Systems Rising Star 2025)</i>	
Yugeng Liu	1/2022 -
Boyang Zhang	12/2021 -
Hai Huang	11/2021 -
Wai Man Si	11/2021 -
Yihan Ma	7/2021 -

Ph.D. Preparatory Phase

Tianze Chang

5/2025 -

Alumni

Yixin Wu <i>Ph.D. student</i> now assistant professor at HKUST (GZ) (MLCommons ML and Systems Rising Star 2025, Abbe Grant 2025, Rising Stars in EECS 2025)	11/2022 - 5/2026
Chia-Yi Hsu <i>visiting Ph.D. student from National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University</i>	12/2024 - 9/2025
Rui Wen <i>Ph.D. student</i> now assistant professor at Institute of Science Tokyo	10/2021 - 4/2025
Yuke Hu <i>visiting Ph.D. student from Zhejiang University</i> now postdoc at KAUST	5/2024 - 12/2024
Zeyang Sha <i>Ph.D. student</i> now senior algorithmic engineer at Ant Financial (Ant Star)	3/2023 - 11/2024
Zhuoran Liu <i>visiting Ph.D. student from Radboud University</i> now assistant professor at University of Amsterdam	1/2024 - 4/2024
Zheng Li <i>Ph.D. student</i> now full professor at Shandong University (ERCIM WG STM Best Ph.D. Thesis Award 2024)	2/2021 - 10/2023
Xinlei He <i>Ph.D. student</i> now full professor at Wuhan University (Norton Labs Graduate Fellowship 2022)	2/2020 - 9/2023
Zhengyu Zhao <i>postdoc</i> now full professor at Xi'an Jiaotong University	1/2022 - 8/2023
Tianshuo Cong <i>visiting Ph.D. student from Tsinghua University</i> now research-track professor at Shandong University	8/2021 - 12/2022
Shannon Pierson <i>research intern</i> now senior fellow at UC Berkeley Center for Long-Term Cybersecurity	3/2022 - 6/2022
Ahmed Salem <i>Ph.D. student</i> now senior researcher at Microsoft Security Response Center	2/2017 - 1/2022
Bartlomiej Surma <i>Ph.D. student</i> now software engineer at Google	10/2016 - 9/2021

Service

- PC Member
 - 2027: ICLR (Area Chair), KDD (Area Chair), AAAI (Area Chair), SaTML
 - 2026: ICML (Area Chair), ICLR (Area Chair), ACL ARR (Area Chair), CVPR, ECCV, KDD (Area Chair), AAAI (Senior PC), ACM AI Summit, MM, SaTML
 - 2025: USENIX Security, NDSS, ICML (Area Chair), NeurIPS (Area Chair), ICLR (Area Chair), ACL ARR (Area Chair), ICCV, WWW, KDD (Area Chair), SaTML

- 2024: IEEE S&P, CCS, ICML, NeurIPS, ICLR, ACL ARR (Area Chair), CVPR, ECCV, WWW, KDD, ACSAC, SaTML
- 2023: IEEE S&P, CCS, NDSS, ICML, NeurIPS, ICLR, WWW, KDD, SaTML
- 2022: CCS, USENIX Security, NeurIPS, ICLR, WWW, KDD, AAAI, PETS, ASIACCS
- 2021: CCS, USENIX Security, WWW, AAAI, Euro S&P, PETS, ASIACCS
- 2020: CCS, WWW, ICWSM, RAID, PETS
- 2019: CCS, ISMB/ECCB
- Editorial Board
 - Transactions on Machine Learning Research (TMLR)
 - IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing (TDSC)
 - IEEE Transactions on Information Forensics and Security (TIFS)
 - ACM Transactions on Privacy and Security (TOPS)
- Ph.D. Thesis Committee
 - Bokang Zhang, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (Shenzhen), 2026
 - Yiyi Chen, Aalborg University, 2026
 - Quentin Le Roux, University of Rennes, 2025
 - Salijona Dyrnishi, University of Luxembourg, 2024
 - Hailong Hu, University of Luxembourg, 2024
 - Bang Wu, Monash University, 2024
 - Sinem Sav, EPFL, 2023
 - Inken Hagestedt, Saarland University, 2021
 - Benjamin Zhao, University of New South Wales, 2021

Talks

Keynote.....

- 2026, GI Sicherheit
- 2025, International Conference on Knowledge Science, Engineering and Management (KSEM)
- 2025, Large Model Safety Workshop
- 2024, International Conference on Algorithms and Architectures for Parallel Processing (ICA3PP)
- 2024, Australasian Conference on Information Security and Privacy (ACISP)
- 2024, ACNS Workshop on Security in Machine Learning and its Applications (SiMLA)
- 2023, Information Security Conference (ISC)
- 2023, The AsiaCCS Workshop on Secure and Trustworthy Deep Learning Systems
- 2023, Backdoor Attacks and Defenses in Machine Learning (BANDS)
- 2022, PAIR2Struct: Privacy, Accountability, Interpretability, Robustness, Reasoning on Structured Data

Seminar and School.....

- 2025, Lecturer at Graz Security Week
- 2024, Talk at Nanyang Technological University
- 2023, Lecturer at Summer School on Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning
- 2023, Talk at EPFL
- 2022, Lecturer at Summer School on Privacy-Preserving Machine Learning
- 2022, Distinguished Lecture in ViSP (Vienna Cybersecurity and Privacy Research Center) Distinguished Lecture Series
- 2021, Vector Visitor Talk at Vector Institute

- 2021, Talk at Privacy and Security in ML Seminars
- 2021, Talk at Inria
- 2020, Talk at University College London

In the Press

- 8/2023, Tricks for making AI chatbots break rules are freely available online, *New Scientist*
- 8/2023, Wie Chatbots die eigenen Regeln vergessen, *Deutschlandfunk Nova*
- 12/2022, The internet loves ChatGPT, but there's a dark side to the tech, *Fast Company*
- 4/2020, As the coronavirus spreads, so does online racism targeting Asians, new research shows, *The Washington Post*