

# Zhiwei Steven Wu

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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4-192 Keller Hall  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455 USA

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Data Privacy, Algorithmic Fairness, Machine Learning, Algorithmic Economics

## EMPLOYMENT

**University of Minnesota**, Twin Cities, Minnesota USA

Assistant Professor of Computer Science

August 2018 –

**Microsoft Research**, New York City, New York USA

Postdoctoral Researcher,

July 2017 – June 2018

- Research Groups: Machine Learning & Algorithmic Economics

## EDUCATION

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USA

Ph.D., Computer Science

September 2012 – June 2017

- Advisors: Michael Kearns & Aaron Roth

**Bard College**, Annandale, NY USA

B.A., Mathematics

May 2012

B.A., Computer Science

May 2012

Distinguished Scientist Scholarship (four-year full scholarship)

Overall GPA: 3.92/4.0

**Budapest Semesters in Mathematics (BSM)**, Budapest, Hungary

Study-abroad program in mathematics

Fall 2010

## JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

(Unless specified otherwise, authors in all papers are listed in alphabetical order.)

- Michael Kearns, Aaron Roth, Zhiwei Steven Wu, and Grigory Yaroslavtsev. Private algorithms for the protected in social network search. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, 113(4), 2016
- Justin Hsu, Zhiyi Huang, Aaron Roth, Tim Roughgarden, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Private matchings and allocations. *SIAM Journal on Computing (SICOMP)*, 2016. To appear. Previously published in ACM SIGACT Symposium on Theory of Computing (STOC 2014)
- Marco Gaboardi, Emilio Jesús Gallego Arias, Justin Hsu, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Dual query: Practical private query release for high dimensional data. *Journal of Privacy and Confidentiality (JPC)*, 2016. To appear. Previously published in International Conference on Machine Learning (ICML 2014)
- Paul W. Goldberg, Francisco J. Marmolejo Cossío, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Logarithmic query complexity for approximate nash computation in large games. *Theory of Computing Systems (TOCS)*, 2018. Special issue for selected papers from SAGT 2016

- Michael J. Kearns, Seth Neel, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. An empirical study of rich subgroup fairness for machine learning. In *Proceedings of the second Annual ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency*, **FAT\***, 2019
- Sampath Kannan, Jamie Morgenstern, Aaron Roth, Bo Waggoner, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. A smoothed analysis of the greedy algorithm for the linear contextual bandit problem. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 30: Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, **NIPS (Spotlight)**, 2018
- Manish Raghavan, Aleksandrs Slivkins, Jenn Wortman Vaughan, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. The unfair externalities of exploration. In *The 31st Annual Conference on Learning Theory*, **COLT**, 2018
- Michael J. Kearns, Seth Neel, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Preventing fairness gerrymandering: Auditing and learning for subgroup fairness. In *Proceedings of the 35th International Conference on Machine Learning*, **ICML**, 2018
- Akshay Krishnamurthy, Zhiwei Steven Wu, and Vasilis Syrgkanis. Semiparametric Contextual Bandits. In *Proceedings of the 35th International Conference on Machine Learning*, **ICML**, 2018. (Contributational order)
- Jinshuo Dong, Aaron Roth, Zachary Schutzman, Bo Waggoner, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Strategic classification from revealed preferences. In *The 19th ACM conference on Economics and Computation* **EC**, 2018
- Yishay Mansour, Aleksandrs Slivkins, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Competing bandits: Learning in competition. In *Proceedings of the 2018 ACM Conference on Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science*, **ITCS**, 2018
- Katrina Ligett, Seth Neel, Aaron Roth, Bo Waggoner, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Accuracy first: Selecting a differential privacy level for accuracy-constrained ERM. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 29: Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, **NIPS**, 2017
- Sampath Kannan, Michael Kearns, Jamie Morgenstern, Mallesh M. Pai, Aaron Roth, Rakesh V. Vohra, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Fairness incentives for myopic agents. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, **EC**, 2017
- Aaron Roth, Aleksandrs Slivkins, Jonathan Ullman, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Multidimensional dynamic pricing for welfare maximization. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, **EC**, 2017. Invited to the special issue of ACM Transactions on Economics and Computation
- Michael Kearns, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Meritocratic fairness for cross-population selection. In *Proceedings of the 34th International Conference on Machine Learning*, **ICML**, 2017
- Michael Kearns and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Predicting with distributions. In *Proceedings of the 30th Conference on Learning Theory*, **COLT**, 2017
- Shahin Jabbari, Ryan Rogers, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Learning from rational behavior: Predicting solutions to unknown linear programs. In *Advances in Neural Information Processing Systems 28: Annual Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems*, **NIPS**, 2016
- Yishay Mansour, Aleksandrs Slivkins, Vasilis Syrgkanis, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Bayesian exploration: Incentivizing exploration in bayesian games. In *Proceedings of the 2016 ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, **EC**, 2016. Invited to the special issue of ACM Transactions on Economics and Computation (declined)

- Aaron Roth, Jonathan Ullman, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Watch and learn: optimizing from revealed preferences feedback. In *Proceedings of the 48th Annual ACM SIGACT Symposium on Theory of Computing*, **STOC**, 2016
  - Rachel Cummings, Katrina Ligett, Kobbi Nissim, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Adaptive learning with robust generalization guarantees. In *Proceedings of the 29th Conference on Learning Theory*, **COLT**, 2016
  - Paul W. Goldberg, Francisco J. Marmolejo Cossío, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Logarithmic query complexity for approximate nash computation in large games. In *Proceedings of the 9th International Symposium on Algorithmic Game Theory*, **SAGT**, 2016. Invited to the special issue of Theory of Computing Systems
  - Justin Hsu, Zhiyi Huang, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Jointly private convex programming. In *Proceedings of the Twenty-Seventh Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms*, **SODA**, 2016
  - Rachel Cummings, Katrina Ligett, Jaikumar Radhakrishnan, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Coordination complexity: Small information coordinating large populations. In *Proceedings of the 2016 ACM Conference on Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science*, **ITCS**, 2016
  - Rachel Cummings, Michael Kearns, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Privacy and truthful equilibrium selection for aggregative games. In *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Web and Internet Economics*, **WINE**, 2015
  - Ryan Rogers, Aaron Roth, Jonathan Ullman, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Inducing approximately optimal flow using truthful mediators. In *Proceedings of the Sixteenth ACM Conference on Economics and Computation*, **EC**, 2015
  - Rachel Cummings, Katrina Ligett, Aaron Roth, Zhiwei Steven Wu, and Juba Ziani. Accuracy for sale: Aggregating data with a variance constraint. In *Proceedings of the 2015 Conference on Innovations in Theoretical Computer Science*, **ITCS**, 2015
  - Sampath Kannan, Jamie Morgenstern, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Approximately stable, school optimal, and student-truthful many-to-one matchings (via differential privacy). In *Proceedings of the Twenty-Sixth Annual ACM-SIAM Symposium on Discrete Algorithms*, **SODA**, 2015
  - Marco Gaboardi, Emilio Jesús Gallego Arias, Justin Hsu, Aaron Roth, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Dual query: Practical private query release for high dimensional data. In *Proceedings of the 31th International Conference on Machine Learning*, **ICML**, 2014
  - Justin Hsu, Zhiyi Huang, Aaron Roth, Tim Roughgarden, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Private matchings and allocations. In *Proceedings of the 46th ACM Symposium on Theory of Computing*, **STOC**, 2014. Invited to the special issue of ACM Transactions on Economics and Computation (declined)
- DRAFTS/PRE-PRINTS
- Nicole Immorlica, Jieming Mao, Alex Slivkins, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Incentivizing Exploration with Unbiased Histories *Manuscript*, 2018
  - Brett K. Beaulieu-Jones, Zhiwei Steven Wu, Chris Williams, and Casey S. Greene. Privacy-preserving generative deep neural networks support clinical data sharing. *Manuscript*, 2017. (Contributinal order)
  - Aaron Schein, Zhiwei Steven Wu, Alexandra Schofield, Mingyuan Zhou, and Hanna Wallach. Locally private bayesian inference for count models. *Manuscript*, 2017. (Contributinal order)
  - Miruna Oprescu, Vasilis Syrgkanis, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Orthogonal Random Forest for Heterogeneous Treatment Effect Estimation *Manuscript*, 2018

- SURVEYS/  
NEWSLETTERS
- Aaron Roth, Jonathan Ullman, and Zhiwei Steven Wu. Watch and learn: optimizing from revealed preferences feedback. *SIGecom Exchanges*, 2015
- HONORS AND  
AWARDS
- 2017 Morris and Dorothy Rubinoff Dissertation Award  
 Simons-Berkeley Research Fellowship (declined)  
 Doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2012 – 2017  
 Kenneth Bush Memorial Scholarship in Mathematics, 2011  
 BSM Mathematics Competition Honorable Mention, 2010  
 Mathematical Association of America Presentation Prize Winner, 2010  
 Distinguished Scientist Scholarship (DSS): four-year full scholarship, 2008 – 2012
- PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICES
- Program Committee: FAT\* 2019 (Track chair on ML/Stats/Data Mining), AAAI 2019, EC 2018, WWW 2018, ICML 2018, ICML 2017,
- Conference Reviewer: STOC 2019, SODA 2018, ITCS 2018, NIPS 2017, ALT 2017, FOCS 2017, EC 2017, ICALP 2017, SODA 2017, COLT 2016, ESA 2016, TEAC, WINE 2015, ISAAC 2015, NIPS 2015, FOCS 2015, STOC 2015, FOCS 2014, WINE 2014, WINE 2013
- Journal Reviewer: Machine Learning, Journal of Machine Learning Research.
- SELECTED TALKS
- Preventing Fairness Gerrymandering: Auditing and Learning for Subgroup Fairness
- Google Research Seminar, April 2018
  - CalTech Theory Seminar, March 2018
- A Smoothed Analysis of the Greedy Algorithm for the Linear Contextual Bandit Problem
- Rutgers/DIMACS Theory of Computing Seminar, Oct 2017
  - UMass Machine Learning and Friends Lunch (MLFL), Nov 2017
- Differential Privacy: A Rigorous Notion for Data Privacy
- Muhlenberg College Math/CS Colloquium, May 2017
- Leveraging No-Regret Algorithms in Private Data Analysis
- Princeton CS theory lunch, Feb 2017
- Social Norms for Data-Driven Algorithms: Privacy, Incentive-Compatibility and Fairness
- SIGAI CNC, Boston, MA, Oct 2016
  - NY Area Theory Day, New York, NY, Dec 2016
- Adaptive Data Analysis and Differential Privacy
- Guest Lecture in the course Computational Learning Theory at UPenn
- Adaptive Learning with Robust Generalization Guarantees
- COLT, New York City, June 2016
- Coordination Complexity: Small Information Coordinating Large Populations
- Northeastern University Theory Seminar, January 2016
  - UPenn Theory Lunch, September 2015
  - University of Hong Kong, Theory Seminar, December 2015
- Bayesian Exploration: Incentivizing Exploration in Bayesian Games
- Harvard EconCS Seminar, September 2016
  - EC, Maastricht, July 2016

- Microsoft Research NYC Tea Talk, July 2015

Watch and Learn: Optimizing from Revealed Preferences Feedback

- STOC, Cambridge, June 2016
- Caltech Theory Lunch, April 2015
- The First Workshop on Algorithmic Game Theory and Data Science, Portland, June 2015

Inducing Approximately Optimal Flow Using Truthful Mediators

- EC, Portland, June 2015

Privacy for the Protected (Only)

- Columbia CS Seminar, Dec. 2016
- Cornell Theory Seminar, Nov. 2016
- Workshop on The Theory of Bringing Privacy into Practice, Pasadena, April 2015

Privacy and Truthful Equilibrium Selection in Aggregative Games

- UPenn Theory Lunch, September 2014
- WINE, December 2015

Dual Query: Practical Private Query Release for High Dimensional Data

- ICML, Beijing, June 2014

Private Matchings and Allocations

- STOC, New York, June 2014
- UPenn Theory Lunch, May 2014

INTERNSHIP  
EXPERIENCES

**Microsoft Research**, New York, NY

*PhD research intern*

Supervisor: Alex Slivkins

Summer 2015, Spring 2016

**Microsoft Research**, Cambridge, MA

*PhD research intern*

Supervisor: Robert Kleinberg

Summer 2016

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCES

**University of Minnesota**, Twin-Cities, MN

*Instructor*

- CSCI 8980: The Algorithmic Foundations of Data Privacy

Fall 2018

**University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA

*Teaching Assistant*

- NETS-412 Algorithmic Game Theory
- CIS-320 Introduction to Algorithms

Fall 2013, Spring 2014

**Bard Prison Initiative**, Eastern Correctional Facility, NY

*Teaching Fellow*: gave math tutorials to inmates

Spring 2011