Sangseok You is among the UMSI doctoral students conducting research with world-renowned faculty.
Welcome to our community of scholars

As a doctoral student at the University of Michigan School of Information, you will join a community of scholars devoted to understanding and improving the ways in which information is collected, preserved, organized, analyzed, shared, and used.

The problems and opportunities of contemporary information use have both social and technical aspects, so we approach our research from a highly interdisciplinary perspective. The flexibility and scope of our doctoral program attract students from a wide variety of disciplines, from history and psychology to economics and computer science. Our world-class faculty have international reputations for cutting-edge research in human-computer interaction, social computing, experimental economics, digital archiving, and more.

While here, you will work closely with some of the leading thinkers in the information world and be involved in research from the day you arrive on campus. If your research interests extend beyond UMSI, you also have access to the broad range of expertise that exists across the University of Michigan campus.

I encourage you to learn more about us. Consider joining our spirited community of students and scholars who work together to connect people, information, and technology in valuable, transformative ways.

Sincerely,

Paul Resnick
Doctoral Program Director
what is the UMSI difference?

The answer is simple: We are unique in our combination of social and technical approaches to understand fundamental phenomena of the digital age. As one of the first iSchools in the nation, we continue to break new ground as we explore major issues that exist at the intersection of people, information, and technology.

We examine questions such as:

- How to design online communities to motivate broader civic engagement.
- How to use social network data to improve the accuracy and speed of search engines.
- How to encourage scientists to integrate independent datasets to better understand large-scale phenomena like climate change.
- How to facilitate the flow of vital information between practitioners and patients within our health care systems.

We conduct research on the innovative systems and services that are transforming the ways people socialize, learn and work. Areas of current interest include social networking apps like Facebook and Twitter, user-contributed content on websites such as Wikipedia, search engines like Google and Yahoo, crowdsourcing, and virtual collaboration technologies.

At UMSI, you will work alongside researchers who are producing the essential knowledge that businesses, government, schools, and universities are applying to shape the emerging information society. As a faculty member or researcher in government or industry, you will influence the future of the digital revolution.

Turn the page to meet some of our students and learn more about the UMSI difference.

si.umich.edu
Devan Donaldson

Working today to benefit the archivists of tomorrow

- Digital curation and preservation
- Preservation repositories/management

“I don’t know of any other school in the U.S. that has as many faculty as Michigan does in the field of digital preservation and archival management — we have tremendous expertise here.”

Following his undergraduate degree in history and master’s in library science, Devan Donaldson is pursuing Ph.D. studies in digital preservation and archive management. His first doctoral research project investigated the decision-making processes developers undergo when deciding what metadata to include in trusted digital repositories.

A Rackham Merit Fellow, Gates Millennium Scholar, and academic chair of the Rackham Students of Color (SCOR), Devan still finds time outside of studies to advise minority undergraduates interested in pursuing higher degrees. In 2012, he became the first UMSI student ever inducted into the Edward A. Bouchet Graduate Honor Society, which recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and excellence in doctoral education.

Doctoral Advisory Committee: Paul Conway, Chair; Soo Young Rieh; Elizabeth Yakel

“This is the perfect environment for me to learn and conduct my research. I feel completely supported here — personally, professionally, financially.”
KATHLEEN FEAR

Making future research easier for scientists

● Digital reuse ● Digital preservation and curation ● Health informatics

“Be open to change and accept that your research goals may shift over time as new interests and opportunities arise.” That’s the advice that Kathleen Fear shares with incoming doctoral students and her own academic career is a perfect case in point. Though she worked in the Yale library throughout most of her undergraduate program, Kathleen was a physics major who had no intention of pursuing information studies. That all changed when she was hired as a preservation assistant in the Historical Library of the Yale Medical School. “I was working hard on my senior thesis in physics,” she remembers, “and at the same time, I was working in preservation — and decided I was much more interested in the latter.” She entered the doctoral program at Michigan because her experience as an intern at Iowa State University led her to realize the need for solid research in digital preservation.

Her work focuses on how to preserve research data for the long term and make it accessible for scientists to repurpose for new kinds of research. Her research is supported by a National Science Foundation fellowship to train doctoral students in open data sharing and data reuse in e-science.

In 2012, Kathleen received the Gary M. Olson Outstanding Doctoral Student award, which recognizes progress in the doctoral program, achievements in publications and presentations, and service to fellow students.

DOCTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: BETH YAKEL, CHAIR; MARGARET HEDSTROM; EYTAN ADAR; GEORGE ALTER

“One of the best things about Michigan is that you have the freedom and flexibility to pursue interests outside your area of specialization. In fact, you’re encouraged to do so.”
“The academic curriculum at UMSI really prepares you intellectually, while the doctoral development seminars and student research talks teach the more practical aspects of academia, such as the importance of collaboration and communicating about your work.”
SEAN MUNSON, PH.D. ’12

Connecting from anywhere to everywhere

● Social software for behavioral change ● Political diversity online

“Like many at UMSI, I study and build systems that can improve people's lives while also teaching researchers more about people's preferences and behaviors.”

While studying engineering at Olin College, Sean Munson developed an interest in designing systems to benefit people. In his first year as a master's student in information science at Michigan, he realized that he wanted to explore social computing in greater depth and transferred into the Ph.D. program. He studies how software can help people make and maintain pro-social behavior changes. Three Good Things, a Facebook application, tests whether adding social features to a happiness exercise can make it more effective. He also collaborated with the university’s Department of Family Medicine on a Facebook app that encourages people to walk more. While at UMSI, Sean received the Yahoo! Innovative Teaching with Technology Award (2009), the Gary M. Olson Outstanding Doctoral Student Award (2010), and an Intel Ph.D. Fellowship (2011).

CURRENT POSITION: In 2012, he joined the University of Washington’s Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering as an assistant professor.

DOCTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: PAUL RESNICK, CHAIR; EYTAN ADAR; MARK W. NEWMAN

“When the faculty come from different disciplines, and the University as a whole is strong in so many areas, you don’t have to look very far if you want to talk with an expert in just about any field. This has been an incredible asset for me.”
Understanding how cultural differences affect performance

“Experimental economics ● Behavioral economics ● Incentive-centered design in online communities

“This place is fantastic. The people at Michigan are very open-minded. Our program wants to train students, to help them develop, to realize their potential. The faculty know you and care about your success. Your fellow students are also helpful and cooperative.”

After graduating with an interdisciplinary degree in management information systems from Renmin University of China, Tracy Liu was accepted into the Ph.D. program at her number one choice: the University of Michigan School of Information. Tracy’s research focused on incentive-centered design and information economics. Using game theory and experimental methods, she studied efficient mechanisms to motivate participation and high-quality contribution on crowdsourcing sites, learning transfer in individuals’ decisions across different contexts, as well as the effect of social identity and stereotypes on coordination and cooperation in organizations and communities. She plans to use her knowledge and skills to inform economic and social policies in China and to improve the performance of economic institutions there.

In addition to her Ph.D., Tracy earned a master’s in economics while at Michigan.

CURRENT POSITION: She is now an assistant professor of economics at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

DOCTORAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE: YAN CHEN, CHAIR; LADA ADAMIC; JEFF MACKIE-MASON

“The whole scope of your research here is much broader than in many more traditional disciplines. You’re solving some real-world problems.”
Assistant Professor Joyojeet Pal has done research on a range of topics from how technology displayed in films affects women’s roles in Indian and Nigerian society, to how children can share computer screens with multiple mice.

But it was his work with Microsoft in Latin America that first led to his current research direction: assistive technologies for persons with disabilities, especially in the developing world. He was researching Microsoft’s Corporate Social Responsibility initiative in Latin America that primarily focused on youth at risk and those with disabilities. “As I worked on the project, I got more and more excited about the adoption of assistive technology,” he says, and especially its role in what people think they can achieve.

Now his work focuses on topics in this space from how people with vision impairments select their tech to what impact it has on their lives. “Technology has the potential to better include and even more significantly exclude people with disabilities from the public sphere,” he says. “This is the thing that ties in all the work I have done: how computers are tied into the aspirational globe of what people want to do with their lives.”
How younger folks use digital media — and how parents can keep up with them — has been a major focus for Assistant Professor SARITA YARDI SCHONEBECK. “How can you teach parents about technology so they can keep up with what their kids do? How do you set rules and encourage kids to be responsible? How can you help them use it in a safe, socially productive way?” she asks, and she’s spent a good portion of her career — at the University of California-Berkeley, Georgia Tech and now at UMSI — identifying the answers.

She’s studied where parents ask questions online, especially via social media, what questions they ask and how people with know-how can best provide help. She also examines how people in general set boundaries around their own social media use: why they give up using Twitter, for example.

In her private time, she travels extensively — recent trips took her to Cambodia, South Korea, North Korea, the Marshall Islands, Peru, Belize, Spain, and China — and plays tennis. Sarita still holds the record for most matches played at Dartmouth, and until recently held the record for most games won.

CHARLES FRIEDMAN, Director of the Health Informatics Program, Professor; Ph.D., North Carolina. Health informatics; learning health systems; national interoperability for health information.

MARGARET HEDSTROM, Director of the Master of Science in Information Program, Professor; Ph.D., Wisconsin. Archives and records management; sustainable digital data preservation; science and big data.

JAMES HILTON, University Librarian and Dean of Libraries, Professor; Ph.D., Princeton. Digital preservation; information technology policy.

JOHN L. KING, Director of the Undergraduate Program, William Warner Bishop Collegiate Professor of Information; Ph.D., California-Irvine. Public policy and computer science; requirement development for information systems design and implementation; organizational and institutional influences on information technology development.

PREDRAG “PEDJA” KLASNJA, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Washington. Human-computer interaction; ubiquitous computing for chronic disease management; health informatics.

ERIN L. KRUPKA, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon. Economics and social psychology; effect of social and environmental factors on behavior; how social norms modify self-interest.

CARL LAGOZE, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Cornell University. Library and information science; digital libraries, metadata, and sociotechnical infrastructure for scholarly communication; scientific collaboration.

CLIFF LAMPE, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Michigan. Computer-supported cooperative work and communication studies; social computing; outcomes of participating in social network sites.

SYLVIA LINDTNER, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., California-Irvine. DIY “maker” and open source culture; IT development in urban China; global processes of work and labor. (September 2014)

JEFFREY K. MACKIE-MASON, Dean, Arthur W Burks Collegiate Professor of Information and Computer Science; Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Economics and computer science; incentive-centered design of networked information systems; economics of information technology and content.

KAREN MARKEY, Professor; Ph.D., Syracuse. Library and information science; subject searching; visual persuasion; gaming for teaching information literacy.

QIAOZHU MEI, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Illinois. Computer science; information retrieval; text, Web, and social data mining.

MARKUS MOBIUS, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Economics social networks; belief formations in labor market outcomes. (September 2014)

MARK W. NEWMAN, Associate Professor; Ph.D., California-Berkeley. Human-computer interaction; ubiquitous computing; end-user programming.

JOYOEET PAL, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., California-Berkeley. Information and communication technology for development; assistive technology; computer-aided learning.

MARTHA E. POLLACK, University Provost, Professor; Ph.D., Pennsylvania. Artificial intelligence; automated planning and reasoning; assistive technology for people with cognitive impairment.
Assistant Professor Lionel Robert was set on studying management until he completed his master’s degree and was offered a full time job — teaching information technology. It wasn’t long before he brought his interests together, focusing on virtual teams as part of his doctoral work at the Indiana University Bloomington Kelley School of Business. “Everything we know about what makes teams work was totally different than what had to happen online,” he says. “To me, that was fascinating. I like being on the cutting edge of human society.”

Robert, an Army Reserve Captain, was just settling into his second year of study when he was called up to serve overseas, leaving a wife and toddler son in the States. “It was a very intense time. To leave and then come back, knowing what you’re in for in a Ph.D. program, that was tough. I had to get readjusted.” But he finished the degree, taking a teaching position at the University of Arkansas business school before joining UMSI in 2011. His research here focuses on those virtual teams — everything from how diverse groups can better work together to “social loafing.”

“I’ve always had one foot in the world of practical information problems and one in the academic world,” says Professor Margaret Hedstrom, faculty director of the MSI program. Her Ph.D. was in history, but even then she was working with a project involving electronic records at the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

After graduation, she redesigned the records management program in New York State to handle electronic records and provided access to government information via Gopher in the early days of the Internet.

Her focus then was on electronic records and digital preservation. “It was the right place at the right time,” she says. “Now big data is the currency of the day.” Once again, she’s on the leading edge. Hedstrom has the lead role in the $8 million Sustainable Environment – Actionable Data (SEAD) project, which explores how to bring together massive, wildly varying datasets between scientific fields to further environmental research. She also heads up the Open Data project, which provides graduate training for data sharing and reuse in e-science.
Assistant Professor **Julia Adler-Milstein**'s interest in healthcare started early: her father is a doctor, her mother a social psychologist. No matter how much time and energy she invested in other fields, “I found that everything I wanted to do involved healthcare,” she says. This led her to an interdisciplinary Ph.D. program in Health Policy at Harvard University.

A research position at Partners HealthCare in Boston studying the value of health information technology helped her discover her passion, which she pursued in her Ph.D. work, initially raising some eyebrows. “It’s one of the top policy issues now, but just six or seven years ago, it was not a thing that one studied;” she says. Now federal government stimulus money for electronic health records is driving big changes, and not always for the better. “We’re investing billions of taxpayer dollars in this. We have to get it right,” she says.

Her research focuses on how organizations exchange (and don’t) patients’ electronic records, whether that’s affected by competition, and whether the use of electronic records improves healthcare quality and reduces cost.
“I’ve been working on information retrieval since I was 12,” says Associate Professor KEVYN COLLINS-THOMPSON, who created an Apple II program to organize more than 500 papers — on cassette tape — written by his father, a professor. “I was fascinated by the potential computers had to change the way people accessed and used information.”

During his undergraduate computer science degree at the University of Waterloo, he did an internship for Microsoft that would start more than a decade of collaboration with the company. He played key roles in developing search and display technology used by dozens of products, including Office, Windows, and a groundbreaking multimedia encyclopedia: Encarta. He also earned his PhD from Carnegie Mellon University’s Language Technologies Institute. Before joining UMSI he spent five years as a research scientist at Microsoft Research.

That work has led to a current scholarly interest: understanding and predicting people’s search needs, and using that to explore new advances in search technology, from systems that can use more time to find better results, to search engines that help people learn and explore by finding results on the right topics, at the right level of difficulty.

“I’d like to make a difference,” Collins-Thompson says. “So I felt at home at the School of Information right away.”

DOUGLAS E. VAN HOUWELING, Associate Dean for Research and Innovation, Professor; Ph.D., Indiana. Public policy and management; information systems management and planning; large-scale network management; public policy for the information society.

COLLEEN VAN LENT, Lecturer III; Ph.D., Pittsburgh. Artificial intelligence; entertainment in games; reminder systems; robotics in education.

TIFFANY C.E. VEINOT, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Western Ontario. Health informatics and library and information science; health information behavior within marginalized communities; social studies of health information technologies, policy, and practice.

DAVID A. WALLACE, Clinical Associate Professor; Ph.D., Pittsburgh. Archives and records management; connections between archiving and the shaping of present and past; role of archives in enabling and denying accountability.

ELIZABETH YAKEL, Professor; Ph.D., Michigan. Archives and records management; access to digital archives; Web 2.0 and cultural heritage institutions; archival metrics and evaluation.

SARITA YARDI SCHOENEBECK, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., Georgia Institute of Technology. Computer-supported cooperative work; social computing; youth and digital media.

LYNN JOHNSON, Professor; Ph.D., Iowa. Dental education; e-learning; dental informatics.

JESSICA LITMAN, Professor; JD, Columbia. Law; copyright; Internet law; trademarks and unfair competition.

YUSUFCAK MASATLOGLU, Assistant Professor; Ph.D., New York University. Economics; individual decision theory, game theory, microeconomic theory; experimental economics.

CHRISTIAN SANOVIG, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Stanford. Communications studies; social computing; information and infrastructure policy.

KAIZHENG, Associate Professor; Ph.D., Carnegie Mellon. Health informatics and management; information systems in health care; human-computer interaction.

For a complete list of all faculty, please see our website at umsi.umich.edu/people
How to apply…

The School of Information doctoral program is administered by the Rackham School of Graduate Studies, which offers a convenient online application process. Details are linked from umsi.info/apply.

www.rackham.umich.edu

Applicant criteria
Ideal doctoral applicants will have

• At least a bachelorís degree, preferably in a field relevant to their proposed area of research
• A superior academic record, with evidence of ability to engage in independent and original study in an information field
• A distinguished record of scholarship, maturity, integrity, intellectual honesty, leadership potential, professional promise and the capability of making substantive and scholarly research contributions to the field

Application deadline
Admission is in the fall semester only. Submit applications by December 15. Apply online today: umsi.info/apply

For more information about our program, please visit umsi.info/phd or contact us at umsi.phd.admissions@umich.edu or call (734) 763-2285.

Program funding
All students admitted to the School of Information doctoral program receive financial support, including tuition, a stipend, and a health plan. Funding is guaranteed for four years, contingent on satisfactory progress in the program. Additional funding may be available. Support comes from a combination of fellowships, research, or teaching assistantships.

UMSI address and contact information
School of Information Admissions
University of Michigan
3360 North Quad
105 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1285
Voice: (734) 763-2285
Fax: (734) 615-3587
umsi.info/phd
si.phd.admissions@umich.edu

Steps in the Ph.D. admission process
Complete these online:
• $65 application fee (U.S. or permanent residents)
• $75 application fee (international applicants)
• Rackham School of Graduate Studies application
• Statement of purpose essay (see below)
• Personal history statement (see Rackham)
• Three letters of recommendation
• Current resumé

• One scanned or electronic transcript (can be unofficial) for all undergraduate and graduate programs attended
• GRE scores
• TOEFL or IELTS score (international applicants only)

Designate U-M for the following tests:
• GRE Scores
• TOEFL or IELTS score (international applicants)

Mail to Rackham:
• One official transcript from all undergraduate and graduate programs attended. E-mail rackadmis@umich.edu

Guidelines for the required statement of purpose essay
Your essay, including a statement of your specific area of research interest, should address the following:
• An explanation of why you think UMSI is a good place for you to pursue your studies
• A list of your research topic areas and the faculty with whom you would like to work
• A statement of your understanding of what it means to learn how to do original research
• A description of any experience doing research — and courses or projects that you have been involved with — to show your preparation for doctoral study
Program facts …

School of Information doctoral program graduates have gone on to teach or do research at top universities and major corporations, including:

**Faculty positions — U.S.**
- Arizona State University, Public Affairs
- Cornell University, Department of Communications
- Michigan State University, Telecommunications, Information Studies and Media
- Ohio State University, College of Communications and School of Public Health
- Pennsylvania State University, Information Science and Technology
- Rutgers University, Department of Library and Information Science
- University of Illinois, Graduate School of Library and Information Science
- University of Maryland, Information Studies
- University of North Carolina, School of Library and Information Science
- University of Pittsburgh, School of Information Sciences
- University of Southern California, Annenberg School of Communications

**Faculty positions — international**
- Ewha Womans University, Seoul
- Shanghai University of Finance and Economics
- Singapore National University
- Tsinghua University, Beijing
- University College Dublin

**Research positions**
- The Boeing Company
- Northrup Grumman
- Facebook
- Pitney-Bowes
- Google
- University of California Irvine, Informatics
- Microsoft
- University of Southern California, Economics
- MIT Lincoln Labs
- University of Washington Medical School

**Demographics**
- Total students: 55 (26 female, 29 male)
- International students: 26 (from seven countries)
- Average entering class size: 10

**Time to degree**
- Two years to candidacy
- Two to four years writing dissertation
- Five years average time to completion

**Research expenditures**
- More than $4.5 million in fiscal year 2012

For the latest information
To ensure that you receive the most current information about School of Information academic programs and requirements, please review our website at si.umich.edu.

© 2013 by the Regents of the University of Michigan
Printed August 2013

**University of Michigan regents**
Mark J. Bernstein, Ann Arbor
Julia Donovan Darlow, Ann Arbor
Laurence B. Deitch, Bloomfield Hills
Shauna Ryder Diggs, Grosse Pointe
Denise Ilitch, Bingham Farms
Olivia P. Maynard, Goodrich
Andrea Fischer Newman, Ann Arbor
Andrew C. Richner, Grosse Pointe Park
Katherine E. White, Ann Arbor
Mary Sue Coleman, ex officio

**University of Michigan non-discrimination policy**
The University of Michigan, as an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer, complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding nondiscrimination and affirmative action. The University of Michigan is committed to a policy of equal opportunity for all persons and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, disability, religion, height, weight, or veteran status in employment, educational programs and activities, and admissions. Inquiries or complaints may be addressed to the senior director for institutional equity, and Title IX/Section 504/ADA coordinator, Office of Institutional Equity, 2072 Administrative Services Building, Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1432, (734) 763-0235, TTY (734) 647-1388. For other University of Michigan information call (734) 764-1817.

**Accreditation**
The University of Michigan is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, 30 N. LaSalle St., Suite 2400, Chicago, IL 60602-2504. Phone: (800) 621-7440 or (312) 263-0456; fax (312) 263-7462.

**Smoke-free campus**
The University of Michigan is a smoke-free campus. You can learn more at www.hr.umich.edu/smokefree.
ON THE COVER: Doctoral student Sangseok You studies people’s information behavior when participating on virtual teams or in virtual environments such as Facebook and Second Life. He earned his BA, BBA and MS degrees at Korea’s Sungkyunkwan University before coming to Michigan. His faculty advisors are Lionel Robert and Soo Young Rieh. umsi.info/sangseok