

STEVEN ULLMAN

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Department of Information Systems and Cyber Security
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2024 – Present	Assistant Professor, Information Systems and Cyber Security	University of Texas at San Antonio
2018 – 2024	Research Associate, Artificial Intelligence (AI) Lab	University of Arizona

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Management Information Systems (MIS) University of Arizona	2024
MS	Management Information Systems (MIS) University of Arizona	2019
MBA	Master of Business Administration Colorado State University-Pueblo	2018
BS	Computer Information Systems Colorado State University-Pueblo	2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Domain: Cybersecurity, Vulnerability Assessment and Management, Enterprise Information Technology (IT) Security, Open-Source Software Security, Internet of Things (IoT) Security.

Methods: Deep Learning (Self-Supervised Learning, Multi-View Representation Learning, Contrastive Representation Learning), Machine Learning, Network Science (Graph Representation Learning, Graph Neural Networks), Design Science.

DISSERTATION

Title: “*Artificial Intelligence-enabled Vulnerability Analysis and Management Enterprise IT Infrastructure: A Computational Design Science Approach*”

Committee Members: Dr. Hsinchun Chen (Chair), Dr. Jay F. Nunamaker Jr. (Member), Dr. Sue Brown (Member)

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Publications

1. **S. Ullman**, S. Samtani, H. Zhu, B. Lazarine, H. Chen, and J.F. Nunamaker, Jr. (2024) “Enhancing Vulnerability Prioritization in Cloud Computing Using Multi-View Representation Learning” *Accepted at Journal of Management Information Systems (JMIS)*.
2. B. Ampel, **S. Ullman**. (2023) “Why Following Friends Can Hurt You: A Replication Study,” *AIS Transactions on Replication Research (TRR)*, 9(1):1–15.

Journal Papers Under Review

1. **S. Ullman**, H. Zhu, S. Samtani, and H. Chen “Linking Vulnerabilities in Cyberinfrastructure With Their Remediations: A Contrastive Representation Learning Approach” **Revise and Resubmit (First Round) at Information Systems Research (ISR)**.

Work-In-Progress Journal Papers

1. C. Yang, **S. Ullman**, S. Samtani, H. Zhu, and H. Chen “Exploring the Propagation of Vulnerabilities in FinTech Payment Applications on GitHub: A Deep Node Ranking Approach” *Preparing for Submission to Information Systems Research (ISR)*.
2. A. Ndubizu, **S. Ullman**, S. Samtani, H. Zhu, and H. Chen “Generating Security Nutrition Labels for Internet of Things Device GitHub Repositories: A Multi-Label Classification Approach” *Preparing for Submission to MIS Quarterly (MISQ)*.
3. B. Lazarine, S. Samtani, H. Zhu, **S. Ullman**, and H. Chen “Detecting and Grouping Vulnerable GitHub Repositories in Scientific Cyberinfrastructure: An Unsupervised Graph Embedding Approach” *Preparing for Submission to Journal of Management Information Systems (JMIS)*.
4. **S. Ullman**, “Replication of Internet Privacy Concerns in the Context of Smart Home Devices” *Preparing for Submission to AIS Transactions on Replication Research (TRR)*.
5. R. Reyes, **S. Ullman**, S. Samtani, and H. Chen “Identifying Vulnerability Persistence on Containers from Docker Hub: A Multi-View Learning Approach” *Preparing for Submission to ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems (TMIS)*.
6. **S. Ullman**, B. Lazarine, S. Samtani, and H. Chen “Securing Software Application Deployments in Cloud Computing: A Graph Contrastive Learning Approach” *Preparing for Submission to MIS Quarterly (MISQ)*.
7. B. Lazarine, **S. Ullman**, H. Zhu, and S. Samtani “Suggesting Alternatives for Insecure Machine Learning Repositories: A Multi-View Graph Transformer Approach” *Preparing for Submission to Information Systems Research (ISR)*.
8. A. Ndubizu, **S. Ullman**, S. Samtani, and H. Chen “Identifying Vulnerability Propagation in Quantum Source Code on GitHub: A Large-Language Model Code Clone Detection Approach” *Preparing for Submission to Information Systems Research (ISR)*.

Refereed Conference Proceedings (* indicates I was the presenting author)

1. ***S. Ullman**, S. Samtani, H. Zhu, B. Lazarine, B. Ampel, M. Patton, and H. Chen “Smart Vulnerability Assessment for Scientific Cyberinfrastructure: An Unsupervised Graph Embedding Approach” *IEEE Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI)*. Rosslyn, VA (Virtual). November 2020.
2. B. Ampel, S. Samtani, H. Zhu, **S. Ullman**, and H. Chen “Labeling Hacker Exploits for Proactive Cyber Threat Intelligence: A Deep Transfer Learning Approach” *IEEE Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI)*. Rosslyn, VA (Virtual). November 2020. (**Winner of the Best Paper Award**).
3. B. Lazarine, S. Samtani, M. Patton, H. Zhu, **S. Ullman**, B. Ampel, and H. Chen “Identifying Vulnerable GitHub Repositories and Users in Scientific Cyberinfrastructure: An Unsupervised Graph Embedding Approach” *IEEE Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI)*. Rosslyn, VA (Virtual). November 2020.

Refereed Workshop Papers (No Proceedings; * indicates I was the presenting author)

1. ***S. Ullman** and H. Chen “VulnSSL: Identifying Relevant Vulnerability Remediation Strategies Using Self-Supervised Learning” *International Conference on Secure Knowledge Management (SKM)*. Tempe, AZ (Virtual). September 2023.
2. B. Ampel, S. Samtani, **S. Ullman**, H. Chen “Linking Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures to the MITRE ATT&CK Framework: A Self-Distillation Approach” *ACM KDD Workshop on AI-enabled Cybersecurity Analytics*. Virtual Event. August 2021.

Poster Presentations

1. M. Wisniewski, L. Irizarry, A. Hayes, S. DeHeart, K. Shu, **S. Ullman** “Automated Vulnerability Classification Using Supervised Machine Learning Methods” Colorado State University Pueblo 9th Annual Spring Symposium: A Celebration of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity. Pueblo, CO. April 2023.

2. M. Wisniewski, L. Irizarry, A. Hayes, S. DeHeart, K. Shu, **S. Ullman** “Cybersecurity Advisory Data Collection for Data-Driven Tools” Colorado State University Pueblo 9th Annual Spring Symposium: A Celebration of Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity. Pueblo, CO. April 2023.

INVITED TALKS AND EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

1. *University of Arizona MIS Department 50th Anniversary – Future of MIS*. **Presentation Title:** “Vulnerability Management for IT Infrastructure: An Artificial Intelligence-enabled Approach” March 22, 2024.
2. *INFORMS Annual Meeting*. **Presentation Title:** “Using Computational Design Science and Contrastive Self-Supervised Learning to Link Vulnerabilities and Their Remediations” October 15, 2023.
3. *Open Data Science Conference (ODSC) East 2023*. **Presentation Title:** “AI4Cyber: An Overview of Artificial Intelligence for Cybersecurity and an Open-Source Virtual Machine” May 9, 2023.
4. *56th Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)*. **Symposium Title:** “AI in Cybersecurity – Machine Learning/Deep Learning Data Analytics” January 3, 2023.
5. *Open Data Science Conference (ODSC) West 2022*. **Presentation Title:** “AI4Cyber: An Overview of the Field and an Open-Source Virtual Machine for Research and Education” November 2, 2022.
6. *Inaugural University of Arizona MS Cybersecurity Board of Advisors Meeting*. **Presentation Title:** “Detecting and Grouping Vulnerable Virtual Machines in Public Clouds: A Multi-View Representation Learning Approach” April 8, 2022.
7. *NSF Cybersecurity Summit Vulnerability Management Workshop*. **Presentation Title:** “Detecting and Grouping Vulnerable Virtual Machines in Scientific Cyberinfrastructure” October 19, 2021.
8. *NSF Cybersecurity Summit Vulnerability Management Workshop*. **Presentation Title:** “Detecting and Linking Vulnerabilities in Scientific Cyberinfrastructure to MITRE ATT&CK” October 19, 2021.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Conference Committees

- Program Co-Chair, 4th Workshop on Artificial Intelligence-enabled Cybersecurity Analytics (AI4Cyber-KDD), 2024.
- Program Committee, INFORMS Workshop on Data Science (WDS), 2022.
- Program Committee, ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS) AISec Workshop, 2021.
- Program Committee, Workshop on Artificial Intelligence-enabled Cybersecurity Analytics (AI4Cyber-KDD), 2021, 2023.

Ad-hoc Reviewer: Journal Publications

- Journal of Management Information Systems (JMIS), 2024.
- IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management (TEM), 2024.
- Information Systems Frontiers, 2024.
- Computers & Security, 2022, 2023.
- IEEE Transactions on Dependable and Secure Computing (TDSC), 2021, 2023.
- IEEE Internet of Things Journal (IoTJ), 2023.
- ACM Digital Threats: Research and Practice (DTRAP), 2022, 2023.
- ACM Transactions on Management Information Systems (TMIS), 2019.

Ad-hoc Reviewer: Refereed Conference Proceedings

- Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), 2021, 2023.
- Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems (PACIS), 2020-2023.
- International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS), 2020, 2021.
- IEEE Security and Privacy Deep Learning and Security Workshop (DLS) 2020.

- ICDM Workshop on Deep Learning for Cyber Threat Intelligence (DL-CTI), 2020.
- INFORMS Workshop on Data Science (WDS), 2022.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Awards:

- Moshe Dror Research Excellence Award. 2024.
- James F. LaSalle Teaching Excellence Award. 2024.
- Doctoral Consortium, Americas Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS). 2023.
- Paul S. and Shirley Goodman Award in International Computer Technology. 2022.
- Samtani-Garcia MIS Ph.D. Commitment Scholarship. 2022.
- Best Paper Award, IEEE Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI). 2020.
- Nunamaker-Chen Doctoral Student Scholarship. 2020.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:

University of Texas at San Antonio – IS 4893 “**Cyber Security Capstone**”

- Fall 2024 (15 students, online synchronous)

University of Arizona – MIS 689 “**Cyber Warfare Capstone**”

- Spring 2024 (22 students, online asynchronous)
- Fall 2023 (10 students, online asynchronous)
- Spring 2023 (27 students, online asynchronous)
- Fall 2022 (11 students, online asynchronous)
- Spring 2022 (16 students, online asynchronous)
- Fall 2021 (13 students, online asynchronous)
- Spring 2021 (4 students, online asynchronous)

Colorado State University-Pueblo – CIS 490 “**Special Projects: AI for Cybersecurity**”

- Spring 2024 (14 students, online synchronous)
- Spring 2023 (5 students, online synchronous)

Graduate Teaching Assistant:

University of Arizona – MIS 611D “**Topics in Data and Web Mining**”

- Spring 2023, Instructor: Dr. Hsinchun Chen (12 students)

University of Arizona – MIS 464 “**Data Analytics**”

- Spring 2023, Instructor: Dr. Hsinchun Chen (43 students)

University of Arizona – MIS 689 “**Cyber Warfare Capstone**”

- Fall 2020, Instructor: Dr. Hsinchun Chen (17 students)
- Spring 2020, Instructor: Dr. Hsinchun Chen (3 students)
- Fall 2019, Instructor: Dr. Hsinchun Chen (15 students)
- Spring 2019, Instructor: Dr. Hsinchun Chen (3 students)

External:

- **AZ Cyber Initiative – Cyber Bootcamp** (High School Bootcamp). 2021 (Inaugural Year), 2022. Instructor.

GRANT EXPERIENCE

- **Year:** 2024. **Funding Source:** National Science Foundation. **Grant Title:** “CICI: TCR: Enhancing the Resilience of Open Source Artificial Intelligence Software: Vulnerability Detection and Deep Learning-based Linkage and Remediation” **Funding Amount:** \$1,199,998. **Role:** Co-PI. **Status:** Under Review.

- **Year:** 2023. **Funding Source:** National Science Foundation. **Grant Title:** “CICI: UCSS: Enhancing the Usability of Vulnerability Assessment Results for Open-Source Software Technologies in Scientific Cyberinfrastructure: A Deep Learning Perspective” **Funding Amount:** \$600,000. **Role:** Assisting Grant Writer. **Status:** Awarded.
- **Year:** 2022. **Funding Source:** National Science Foundation. **Grant Title:** “CICI: UCSS: Enhancing the Usability of Vulnerability Assessment Results for Open-Source Software Technologies in Scientific Cyberinfrastructures: A Deep Learning Perspective” **Funding Amount:** \$600,000. **Role:** Assisting Grant Writer. **Status:** Not Funded (Low Competitive).
- **Year:** 2022. **Funding Source:** National Science Foundation. **Grant Title:** “CISE-MSI: DP: SaTC: MSI Research Capacity Building for Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled Vulnerability Assessment and Remediation in Cyberinfrastructure” **Funding Amount:** \$600,000. **Role:** Lead Author. **Duration:** 2022-2025. **Status:** Awarded.
- **Year:** 2021. **Funding Source:** National Science Foundation. **Grant Title:** “CCRI: New: CCRI for Cybersecurity: An Artificial Intelligence (AI)-enabled Cybersecurity Analytics Perspective” **Funding Amount:** \$2,000,000. **Role:** Assisting Grant Writer. **Status:** Not Funded (Competitive).
- **Year:** 2020. **Funding Source:** National Science Foundation. **Grant Title:** “CICI: SIVD: Proactively Detecting and Categorizing Configuration and Social Coding Vulnerabilities in Scientific Cyberinfrastructure: An AI-enabled Vulnerability Discovery Approach” **Funding Amount:** \$492,000. **Role:** Assisting Grant Writer. **Status:** Not Funded (Competitive).
- **Year:** 2020. **Funding Source:** NSF XSEDE. **Grant Title:** “Exploratory Study of Scientific Cyberinfrastructure for Information Systems Research” **Funding Amount:** \$2,000. **Role:** Allocation Manager. **Status:** Awarded.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of Arizona <i>Graduate Research/Teaching Assistant</i>	2018 – 2024
The MITRE Corporation <i>Cybersecurity Intern</i>	2019 – 2019
Institutional Research (CSU-Pueblo) <i>Data Analytics Assistant</i>	2017 – 2018

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Association for Information Systems (AIS), Member.
- Institute for Operations Research and Management Sciences (INFORMS), Member.
- Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), Member.
- Association for Computing Machinery (ACM), Member.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Databases:** Oracle, MySQL, MongoDB.
- **Programming Languages:** Python, R, Bash.
- **Visualization:** Tableau, Gephi.
- **Data Mining Tools:** RapidMiner, SPSS, scikit-learn.
- **Deep Learning Modules:** TensorFlow, Keras, PyTorch.
- **Security Tools:** Nmap, Wireshark, SQLMap, Metasploit, Meterpreter, Hydra, Nessus, BurpSuite.
- **Operating Systems:** Linux (Ubuntu, CentOS, Kali), Windows.