

Diversity Statement

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Progress in every field, especially in academia, relies heavily on collaboration among people from diverse backgrounds. Diversity — in gender, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, and religious beliefs — not only enriches innovation but also enhances problem-solving, as challenges are often best approached not just with hard work but by viewing them from different perspectives.

Throughout my PhD journey, I have continuously experienced this and profoundly appreciated the immense benefits of diversity. It has been my true privilege to collaborate and form friendships with talented researchers of various backgrounds around the world, including Belarus, China, France, India, Iran, Israel, Spain, the United States, and Vietnam. These remarkable people have not only broadened my understanding of the world but also shaped my personal and professional development. Without their diverse perspectives and unwavering support, I would not be anywhere near where I am today.

Drawing from my experiences, I believe it is essential not only to acknowledge the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) but also to dedicate myself to actively promoting and enhancing these principles — in my roles as advisor, lecturer, researcher, and contributor to society:

Building a diverse research lab. I am committed to creating a diverse research lab that brings together individuals from a wide range of backgrounds.

Through my experiences in various research groups, I have learned to promote DEI as a lab leader. I was fortunate to be mentored by two outstanding female cryptographers, Prof. Carmit Hazay and Prof. Tal Rabin, over two summers. Their mentorship inspired me to advocate for free thinking, foster open communication, and actively incorporate diverse perspectives — qualities they exemplified as leaders.

I will actively seek students from underrepresented groups to join my lab. I will support their research with dedicated mentorship and by connecting them with valuable resources, including conference grants for underrepresented groups (e.g., grants for women at ACM CCS and grants for Black CS students at USENIX Security) and workshops aimed at historically marginalized or underrepresented genders (e.g., the EECS Rising Stars program and the Women in Cryptography community).

Lecturing people-oriented classes. Promoting DEI in the classroom is essential. As a lecturer, my goal extends beyond knowledge sharing; I strive to inspire and support students from all backgrounds to engage with and pursue studies in cryptography, security, and privacy.

I plan to offer personalized, appointment-based one-on-one and small-group sessions to help students from diverse backgrounds better understand the course material. I will create opportunities for anonymous feedback to ensure open communication and receive input on the course content and my teaching approach. Additionally, I will offer all students — including those who are still exploring their interests — resources, guidance, and insights into both academic and industry job markets.

Improving inclusivity via ZKP and MPC. My research on Zero-Knowledge Proofs (ZKP) and Secure Multi-Party Computation (MPC) is naturally aligned with improving inclusivity within our society by enabling people to voice their opinions while maintaining necessary confidentiality. For example, MPC can be used to improve student disability accommodations through more comprehensive, secure data collection and analysis. I look forward to developing such applications.

Hosting inclusive events for the next generation. I believe that promoting DEI extends beyond the campus, and it is very important to create inclusive environment for younger generations.

I am the Manager of the Georgia Tech Center for Math Kangaroo, an international math competition for K-12 students. My center is one of only two public centers in GA. In 2024, we hosted 45 participants representing diverse ages, races, and genders. This competition resonates with me because it offers problems of varying difficulty levels, making math accessible and engaging for a broad audience. It was a true joy to witness the interaction, excitement, and pride shared by the kids and their parents.

In the future, beyond managing this and similar competitions, I plan to offer free math and computer science lectures to younger generations, welcoming children from diverse backgrounds. My aim is to foster teamwork and collaboration through thoughtfully designed teaching materials.