Ashlee Milton

Computer Science PhD Candidate, Grouplens at UMN

(They/She)
Minneapolis, MN
milto064@umn.edu
ashleemilton.github.io/

EDUCATION

University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN, 2021 - Present

PhD Student in Computer Science

Advisor: Dr. Stevie Chancellor, GroupLens Lab

Boise State University, Boise, ID, 2018 - 2021

MS in Computer Science, BS in Computer Science

Thesis: Into the Unknown: Exploration of Search Engines' Responses to Users with Depression and Anxiety

Committee: Dr. Maria Soledad Pera, Dr. Michael D. Ekstrand, and Dr. Francesca Spezzano

Advisor: Dr. Maria Soledad Pera, People and Information Research Team

University of Idaho, Moscow, ID, 2012 - 2014

BS in Psychology

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, & AWARDS

ARC Scholar, 2024/2025

Reviewer Recognition for CSCW '25

Reviewer Recognition for CHI '22, CHI '25, CHI '26

UMN Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need (GAANN) Fellowship, 2026

UMN CS Grants to Advance Graduate Education (GAGE) Fellowship, 2021

NSF Steller Engineering Students Graduate Program Scholarship, 2020

CRA Outstanding Undergraduate Research Finalist, 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Full Conference Proceedings

[C8] **Ashlee Milton**, Dan Runningen, Loren Terveen, Harmanpreet Kaur, and Stevie Chancellor. 2026. Unraveling Entangled Feeds: Rethinking Social Media Design to Enhance User Well-being. *To Appear* in Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26).

[C7] Kelly Wang, **Ashlee Milton**, Leah Namisa Rosenbloom, Erika Melder, Ada Lerner, and Michael Ann DeVito. 2026. "How would I know what I would want from or with them?": Supporting A-Spec Approaches to Developing Relationships Through Online Platforms. *To Appear* in Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '26).

[C6] Seraphina Yong, **Ashlee Milton**, Evan Suma Rosenberg, Stevie Chancellor, and Svetlana Yarosh. 2025. 'I'm Petting the Laptop, Which Has You Inside It': Reflecting on Lived Experiences of Online Friendship. In Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (CSCW '25)

[C5] Ruixuan Sun, Ruoyan Kong, **Ashlee Milton**, Daniel Kluver, Ian Paterson, and Joseph A Konstan. 2025. Why They Come And Go: A Case Study of Productive Flyby Users and Their Rating Integrity Challenge in Movie Recommenders. In Proceedings of the 2025 ACM SIGIR Conference on Human Information Interaction and Retrieval (CHIIR '25).

[C4] **Ashlee Milton**, Juan F. Maestre, Abhishek Roy, Rebecca Umbach, and Stevie Chancellor. 2024. Seeking in Cycles: How Users Leverage Personal Information Ecosystems to Find Mental Health Information. In Proceedings of the 2024 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24).

[C3] **Ashlee Milton**, Leah Ajmani, Michael Ann DeVito, and Stevie Chancellor. 2023. "I See Me Here": Mental Health Content, Community, and Algorithmic Curation on TikTok. In Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23). https://doi.org/10.1145/3544548.3581489

[C2] Garrett Allen, **Ashlee Milton**, Katherine Landau Wright, Jerry Alan Fails, Casey Kennington, and Maria Soledad Pera. "Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious: Why Using the "Right" Readability Formula in Children's Web Search Matters." In European Conference on Information Retrieval, pp. 3-18. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 2022.

[C1] **Ashlee Milton**, Oghenemaro Anuyah, Lawrence Spear, Katherine Landau Wright and Maria Soledad Pera, "A Ranking Strategy to Promote Resources Supporting the Classroom Environment," 2020 IEEE/WIC/ACM International Joint Conference on Web Intelligence and Intelligent Agent Technology (WI-IAT), Melbourne, Australia, 2020, pp. 121-128, doi: 10.1109/WIIAT50758.2020.00021.

Journal Papers

[J2] **Ashlee Milton** and Maria Soledad Pera. 2023. Into the Unknown: Exploration of Search Engines' Responses to Users with Depression and Anxiety. ACM Transactions on the Web 17, 4, Article 25 (November 2023), 29 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3580283

[J1] Oghenemaro Anuyah, **Ashlee Milton**, Michael Green, Maria Soledad Pera. 2020. An empirical analysis of search engines' response to web search queries associated with the classroom setting. Aslib Journal of Information Management, 72(1), 88-111.

Short Papers, Posters, Workshops, & Demo Papers (Peer-Reviewed)

[P13] Nathalie Alexandra Penglin Tcherdakoff, Grace Jane Stangroome, **Ashlee Milton**, Catherine Holloway, Marta E Cecchinato, Antonella Nonnis, Tessa Eagle, Dena Al Thani, Hwajung Hong, and Rua Mae Williams. 2025. Designing for Neurodiversity in Academia: Addressing Challenges and Opportunities in Human-Computer Interaction. In Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '25).

[P12] Alice Qian Zhang, Ryland Shaw, Jacy Reese Anthis, **Ashlee Milton**, Emily Tseng, Jina Suh, Lama Ahmad, Ram Shankar Siva Kumar, Julian Posada, Benjamin Shestakofsky, Sarah T Roberts, Mary L Gray. 2024. The Human Factor in AI Red Teaming: Perspectives from Social and Collaborative Computing. In Companion Publication of the 2024 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '24 Companion).

[P11] Alice Qian Zhang, **Ashlee Milton**, and Stevie Chancellor. 2023. #Pragmatic or #Clinical: Analyzing TikTok Mental Health Videos. In Companion Publication of the 2023 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '23 Companion). https://doi.org/10.1145/3584931.3607013

[P10] **Ashlee Milton** and Stevie Chancellor. "The Users Aren't Alright: Dangerous Mental Illness Behaviors and Recommendations." 2022. FAccTRec Workshop: Responsible Recommendation Workshop, co-located with the 16th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems. https://arxiv.org/abs/2209.03941

[P9] Lawrence Spear, **Ashlee Milton**, Garrett Allen, Amifa Raj, Michael Green, Michael D Ekstrand, and Maria Soledad Pera. 2021. Baby Shark to Barracuda: Analyzing Children's Music Listening Behavior. In Proceedings of the 15th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys '21). https://doi.org/10.1145/3460231.3478856

[P8] **Ashlee Milton**, Garrett Allen, Maria Soledad Pera. 2021. To Infinity and Beyond! Accessibility is the Future for Kids' Search Engines. In the proceeding of IR for Children 2000-2020: Where Are We Now?, Workshop co-located with the 44th International ACM SIGIR Conference on Research and Development in Information Retrieval. https://arxiv.org/abs/2106.07813

[P7] Amifa Raj, **Ashlee Milton**, Michael D. Ekstrand. 2021. Pink for Princesses, Blue for Superheroes: The Need to Examine Gender Stereotypes in Kid's Products in Search and Recommendations. KidRec '21: 5th International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Children & Recommender and Information Retrieval Systems (KidRec), Co-located with ACM IDC 2021. https://arxiv.org/abs/2105.09296

[P6] **Ashlee Milton**, Levesson Batista, Garrett Allen, Siqi Gao, Yiu-Kai D Ng, and Maria Soledad Pera. 2020. "Don't Judge a Book by its Cover": Exploring Book Traits Children Favor. In Proceedings of the 14th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys '20). https://doi.org/10.1145/3383313.3418490

[P5] **Ashlee Milton** and Maria Soledad Pera. 2020. "What snippets feel: Depression, search, and snippets." The 1st Joint Conference of the Information Retrieval Communities in Europe (CIRCLE).

[P4] **Ashlee Milton** and Maria Soledad Pera. 2020. Evaluating information retrieval systems for kids. KidRec '20: 4th International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Children & Recommender and Information Retrieval Systems (KidRec), Co-located with ACM IDC 2020. https://arxiv.org/abs/2005.12992

[P3] **Ashlee Milton**, Michael Green, Adam Keener, Joshua Ames, Michael D Ekstrand, and Maria Soledad Pera. 2019. StoryTime: eliciting preferences from children for book recommendations. In Proceedings of the 13th ACM Conference on Recommender Systems (RecSys '19). https://doi.org/10.1145/3298689.3347048

[P2] Oghenemaro Anuyah, Michael Green, **Ashlee Milton**, Maria Soledad Pera. 2019. The Need for a Comprehensive Strategy to Evaluate Search Engine Performance in the Classroom. KidRec '19: 3rd International and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Children & Recommender and Information Retrieval Systems (KidRec), Co-located with ACM IDC 2019.

[P1] **Ashlee Milton**, Emiliana Murgia, Monica Landoni, Theo Huibers, Maria Soledad Pera. 2019. Here, There, and Everywhere: Building a Scaffolding for Children's Learning Through Recommendations. 1st Workshop on the Impact of Recommender Systems with ACM RecSys 2019.

Other Publications and Presentations

[O2] **Ashlee Milton** and Stevie Chancellor. ""Borderline Triggering vs. Being Helpful": How TikTok is Both Helping and Harming Trauma Survivor". 2023. Trauma-Informed Design: A Collaborative Approach to Building Safer Online Spaces: A Workshop at CSCW 2023.

[O1] **Ashlee Milton** and Stevie Chancellor. "Windows into Walled Gardens: Community Accessibility verse Toxicity". 2023. Combating Toxicity, Harassment, and Abuse in Online Social Spaces: A Workshop at CHI 2023.

INVITED TALKS

Summer Institute in Adolescent Health: Cultivating Adolescent Well-Being in the Digital Age. Invited Speaker, 2024

EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant

GroupLens Lab, University of Minnesota, 2021 - present

> Advisor: Dr. Stevie Chancellor

Boise State University, 2020 - 2021

> Advisor: Dr. Maria Soledad Pera

Graduate Teaching Assistant

Internet Programming, University of Minnesota, 2025

> Responsible for coordinating and contributing to homework, project, and quiz grading, as well as managing the grade book for a class of over 175 students.

Introduction to Algorithms and Data Structures, University of Minnesota, 2022

> Head TA supervising and coordinating 11 undergraduate TA's, several lab sections, and office hours. Responsible for coordinating and contributing to homework, project, and test grading, as well as managing the grade book for a class of over 175 students.

Introduction to the Theory of Computation, Boise State University, 2020 - 2021

> Responsible for coordinating and contributing to homework and project grading for 60 to 70 and holding regular office hours. In charge of maintaining and updating course projects each semester.

Computer Science II, Boise State University, 2020

> Responsible for contributing to homework and project grading for 30-40 students and holding regular office hours.

Reviewing & Mentoring

Reviewing

CHI 2022-2026 (Reviewer Recognition '22, '25, & '26)

CSCW 2023-2025 (Reviewer Recognition '25)

ACM Transactions on Recommender Systems (TORS) 2025

International Journal of Human-Computer Studies 2025

Social Media + Society 2023, 2024

ICWSM 2025

MobileHCI 2023

ECIR 2023

SigIR 2022

Workshop FAccTRec 2023 at RecSys

Workshop on Perspectives 2021

Mentoring

Masters:

> Audrey Gasser, University of Minnesota, 2024

> Surabhi Sunil, University of Minnesota, 2025

Undergraduate:

Harshini Bellamkonda, University of Minnesota, 2023 - 2024

Elizabeth Teveen, Carnegie Mellon University, 2023 - 2024

Alice Zhang, University of Minnesota, 2022 - 2024

Service & Leadership

CHI SC Assistant for IBTI subcommittee, 2024 - 2025

Student Representative (Student Lab Lead) for GroupLens Lab, 2023 - 2024

Mentor in the Queer Peer Mentorship Program, 2023

Space/Lab Resource Manager for GroupLens Lab, 2022 - 2023

Boise State University ACM-W Vice President, 2019 - 2021

Student Volunteer, RecSys 2019

Selected Press

TikTok's mental health 'rabbit hole'? It's not in your head, 2025

Online Users Navigate Mental Health Information, Empowered to Help Make Changes, 2024

How is TikTok affecting our mental health? It's complicated, new U of M study shows, 2023

> **Story picked up by:**
>
> Star Tribune:
> https://www.startribune.com/minnesota-researchers-study-tiktok-benefits-harms-on-mental-health/600268140/
>
> KARE 11:
> https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/umn-researchers-look-into-tiktok-affect-on-mental-health/89-f02ec4b9-59ba-41e0-835b-6d9b1b8cafec
>
> CBS Minnesota WCCO: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KXMrfGLjnj4