



Department of Computer Science Colloquium Series



Sijia Qian, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor at University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Date: Tuesday, Mar 17, 2026

Time: 11am – 12pm

Location: Eberhart 161 (321 McIver Street)

Title:

Is Seeing Believing? Judging What's Real in the Age of AI

Abstract:

As generative AI transforms how information is produced and consumed, fundamental questions emerge about how people determine what is real, credible, and trustworthy. This talk presents a program of research examining the dynamics of credibility evaluation in multimodal media environments. I will share two lines of work. First, I identify textual and visual features that systematically shape credibility perceptions and demonstrate how large language models can support feature discovery. Second, I present experimental interventions designed to enhance digital media literacy and promote active verification behaviors. By integrating human-centered and AI-assisted approaches, this research aims to strengthen information integrity at both the message and individual levels, contributing to a more resilient and trustworthy information ecosystem.

Biography:

Dr. Sijia Qian is an Assistant Professor in the School of Data Science at UNC Charlotte. She earned her Ph.D. in Communication with a specialization in Computational Social Science from the University of California, Davis. Her research interests encompass social computing, human-computer interaction, and AI-mediated communication. Her work focuses on leveraging technology to build a more reliable and resilient information ecosystem and to advance social good in health, science, and political contexts.