

ZEYNEP SAHIN

Postdoctoral Researcher
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U.S. Permanent Resident (Green Card Holder; authorized to work in the U.S. permanently)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Business Information Technology (2021–2026)

Virginia Tech, Pamplin College of Business, Blacksburg, VA, USA

Dissertation: “Exploring Challenges of the Cybersecurity Workforce: Perspectives from Legitimacy and Professional Identity Theories”

Committee: Anthony Vance (Chair), Jason Bennett Thatcher, Viswanath Venkatesh, and Michelle R. Lowry

M.S., Information Technology Auditing and Cybersecurity (2019–2020)

Temple University, Fox School of Business and Management, Philadelphia, PA, USA

B.S., Electrical and Electronics Engineering (2008–2013)

Anadolu University, Faculty of Engineering, Eskisehir, Turkey

WORK EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Researcher, Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado Boulder (Aug 2026–July 2027)

- Collaborate with CU Boulder faculty on research, present research, and participate in departmental workshops and events.

Postdoctoral Researcher, Business Information Technology Department, Virginia Tech (May 2026–Aug 2026)

- Revise and prepare manuscripts for MIS Quarterly and Journal of Management Information Systems on cybersecurity governance.

Graduate Research Assistant, Business Information Technology Department, Virginia Tech (Aug 2021–May 2026)

- Research cybersecurity governance and workforce issues with Dr. Anthony Vance.

Research Assistant, Management Information Systems Department, Temple University (Oct 2020–Aug 2021)

- Researched Chief Information Security Officers with Dr. Anthony Vance.

Internal Auditor, Informatics and Information Security Research Center of Turkey (TUBITAK-BILGEM), Kocaeli, Turkey (Apr 2015–Sep 2016)

- Planned and conducted ISO 9001 and AQAP 2110 NATO Quality Assurance compliance audits across all departments and laboratories.
- Prepared audit reports and followed up on corrective actions.
- Coordinated with external auditors on audit scope and timelines; provided on-site support during audits.
- Led business process modeling and improvement initiatives in collaboration with all institutional units.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Organizational and behavioral aspects of cybersecurity, with a particular focus on cybersecurity management at the managerial and executive levels and cybersecurity workforce issues.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Sahin, Z., and Vance, A. (2025). “What Do We Need to Know about the Chief Information Security Officer? A Literature Review and Research Agenda.” *Computers & Security*, 148, 104063, pp. 1-19. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cose.2024.104063>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Sahin, Z., Vance, A., and Thatcher, J. B. “Security is a Noble Cause”: How Calling Drives Meaningfulness and Identity in the Cybersecurity Profession. Invited for **second round** of review at *MIS Quarterly*.

Lowry, M.R., **Sahin, Z.**, and Vance, A. “Chief” in Name Only: The Legitimation of the Chief Information Security Officer. Under **first round** of review at *Journal of Management Information Systems*.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PUBLICATIONS

Sahin, Z., Vance, A., and Thatcher, J. B. “‘Security is a Noble Cause’: How Calling Drives Meaningfulness and Identity in the Cybersecurity Profession,” *2025 IFIP Working Group 8.11/11.13 Dewald Roode Information Security Workshop*, Nairobi, Kenya.

Lowry, M. R., **Sahin, Z.**, and Vance, A. (2024). “Running Up That Hill: The Legitimacy of the Chief Information Security Officer,” *2nd International Workshop on Organizational Legitimacy*, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Sahin, Z., Vance, A., and Thatcher, J. B. (2023). “The Problem of CISO Turnover: Toward a Theory of CISO Turnover,” *Proceedings of 2023 IFIP 8.11/11.13 Dewald Roode Information Security Research Workshop*, Glasgow, Scotland, UK.

Lowry, M. R., **Sahin, Z.**, and Vance, A. (2022). “Taking a Seat at the Table: The Quest for CISO Legitimacy.” *ICIS 2022 Proceedings*. 14.

POPULAR PRESS

Anthony Vance and **Zeynep Sahin**. “Why Do Employees Keep Ignoring Workplace Cybersecurity Rules?” *The Wall Street Journal*, September 26, 2023, <https://wsj.com/tech/cybersecurity/cybersecurity-risks-employees-training-c7415183>.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

2025 The International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS), Nashville, TN
2025 Conference on Information Systems and Technology (CIST), Atlanta, GA
2025 IFIP 8.11/11.13 Dewald Roode Information Security Research Workshop, Nairobi, Kenya
2024 AMCIS Doctoral Consortium (late stage), Salt Lake City, Utah
2024 QCA Workshop, University of St. Gallen, Switzerland
2024 QCA Conference of the Americas, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL
2023 MISQ Reviewer Development Workshop, Virtual
2023 Security and Human Behavior Workshop, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer: *MIS Quarterly*, *Journal of Management Information Systems*, *European Journal of Information Systems*, *Information Systems Journal*, *Computers & Security*, *HICSS*, *IFIP 8.11/11.13 Dewald Roode Information Security Research Workshop*.

AWARDS

- Virginia Tech Security, Privacy, and Trust Research Funding Grant, Total award \$6,500, (2022)
- Pamplin College of Business Scholarship and Fellowship Awards, Ph.D. program, Virginia Tech, (2021–2026)
- Dean’s Merit-Based Tuition Scholarship Award, Fox School of Business and Management, M.S. Program, Temple University, (2019–2020)
- High Distinction Graduation Award—Graduated with honors and ranked 3rd in the Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department, B.S. program at Anadolu University (2013), Turkey.

SKILLS

Software & Tools: SPSS, R, SAS JMP, NVivo

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor: BIT 4604—Data Governance, Privacy, and Ethics, Virginia Tech, Pamplin College of Business, Summer 2025.

Teaching effectiveness score: 5.75/6.00

Students learned to analyze the security, economic, ethical, and privacy dimensions of data analytics and AI across various technological and business domains.

Teaching Assistant: BIT 5534—Applied Business Intelligence and Analytics, Virginia Tech, Pamplin College of Business, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, and Fall 2025.

Graded data analytics assignments completed in SAS JMP.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

AIS, Association for Information Systems, SIG SEC (Special Interest Group on Security), SIG PHIL, SIG GTM, IFIP Working Group 8.11/11.13, “Information Systems Security Research,” INFORMS Information Systems Society.

REFERENCES

Dr. Anthony Vance, Ralph Medinger Lenz Professor, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech

Email: anthony@vance.name

Dr. Jason Bennett Thatcher, Tandean Rustandy Esteemed Endowed Chair Professor, Leeds School of Business, University of Colorado-Boulder

Email: jason.thatcher@colorado.edu

Dr. Viswanath Venkatesh, Eminent Scholar and Verizon Chair Professor, Pamplin College of Business, Virginia Tech

Email: vvenkatesh@vt.edu

PERSONAL

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