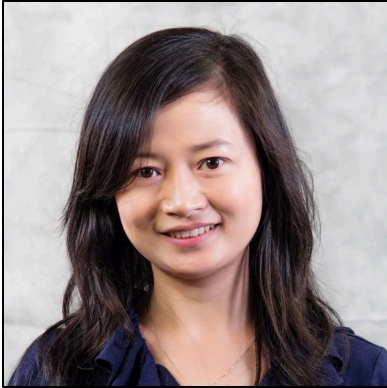


Candidate for Member-at-Large
(1 July 2026 – 30 June 2030)



Yunyao Li

Director of Machine Learning
Adobe
San Jose, CA
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BIOGRAPHY

Yunyao Li is a Director of Machine Learning at Adobe Experience Platform, where she leads strategic initiatives to integrate Generative AI and Knowledge Graphs into scalable enterprise systems. She previously served as Head of Machine Learning for the Apple Knowledge Platform, delivering ML solutions that power Siri and Spotlight for billions of users. Earlier, as a Distinguished Research Staff Member and Master Inventor at IBM Research – Almaden, she founded the Scalable Knowledge Intelligence department and transitioned foundational research into over 20 commercial products.

Yunyao has made significant contributions to scalable natural language processing (NLP) and human–computer cooperation. She has authored over 100 peer-reviewed publications and holds 36 patents. She is the co-author of two books, including the recent *Natural Language Interfaces to Databases* (2024).

Deeply committed to bridging industry and academia, Yunyao serves on advisory boards for academic programs at the University of Michigan, UC Santa Cruz, and the University of Colorado Boulder, where she helps shape curriculum and mentors future computing professionals. Her global influence is reflected in her frequent keynote addresses and invited talks at leading institutions and conferences.

Her leadership is further defined by her role in architecting the venues where the computing community connects, including her work pioneering the establishment of Industry Tracks at premier conferences such as NAACL (2018, 2021, 2022), EMNLP (2022), and ACL (2025, 2026).

An ACM Distinguished Member, Yunyao has served on more than 20 organizing committees for premier conferences and as a guest editor for leading ACM journals. Beyond ACM, she served on the NAACL Executive Board (2022–2024) and was selected for the American National Academies' inaugural New Voices program. She holds undergraduate degrees from Tsinghua University and a Ph.D. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

STATEMENT

I am honored to be nominated for ACM Member at Large. We are at a pivotal moment where AI is fundamentally reshaping the computing landscape. In this era of rapid change, ACM has a unique and essential duty to bridge disparate communities, cultivate diverse talent, and provide the trusted leadership our field requires.

Bridging the Industry-Academia Gap in AI: My top priority is expanding ACM's relevance to the industry, which today encompasses both researchers and practitioners deploying systems at a global scale. Having pioneered the inaugural Industry Track at NAACL 2018 and expanded this model across other premier venues, I have seen how intentional industry integration enriches our scientific discourse. I will champion the expansion of ACM venues to better welcome practitioner participation, fostering a tighter feedback loop between foundational discovery and real-world deployment across all ACM SIGs.

Empowering the Next Generation: As early-career professionals navigate a landscape of technical uncertainty, ACM must be their most reliable partner in professional development. I will lead efforts to create inclusive leadership opportunities and cross-sector mentoring programs. My goal is to equip the next generation with the networks and skills required for success across academia, industry, and engineering.

Enhancing Global Impact and Public Voice: We must broaden ACM's reach to better support emerging research communities globally. Simultaneously, as AI raises profound societal questions, ACM must serve as the preeminent evidence-based voice for the public. I will leverage my experience with the National Academies to support efforts that translate technical expertise into accessible, actionable guidance for policymakers and the global community.

I look forward to collaborating with ACM's leadership and volunteers to ensure our organization remains the premier, inclusive home for those shaping the future of computing.