

John R. Zhang



John R. Zhang is a 2008 International Fulbright Science and Technology grantee from Canada. He is pursuing his Ph.D. in computer science at Columbia University where his research involves exploring problems in computer vision.

During high school, John's advisor and mentor from the University of Calgary supported his development in the field of computer science. John devised a novel method of steganography, a form of cryptography, for which he was awarded the top prize at the regional science fair and a silver medal at the Canada Wide Science Fair.

At the University of Calgary, John continued his research in steganography and video watermarking and was recognized for his project titled, "Chromatel," which developed a method for digital image steganography, as one of four undergraduate finalists from across North America in the Collegiate Inventors Competition. John also became involved in the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest, where he was ranked as a world finalist twice.

In 2008, John was awarded double Bachelor of Science degrees with distinction in computer science and mathematics from the University of Calgary.

At Columbia University, John's Fulbright Science and Technology Award has allowed for him to become engaged in coursework and research with the goal of developing methods for better automatic gesture recognition in videos. These methods involve and affect more generally such areas as object and motion recognition. He hopes his work will eventually lead to advances in image search and improved methods for image and video information retrieval.