

## Message from the SOUPS 2021 Program Co-Chairs

Welcome to SOUPS 2021!

With the conference in its 17th year, our SOUPS community has collectively ensured an excellent and exciting conference program despite the challenges and obstacles caused by the global pandemic. With a record 36 papers accepted out of 136 submissions (26% acceptance rate), the technical program covers a wide range of topics within usable privacy and security. The conference also includes workshops, posters, lightning talks, mentorship activities, and a keynote.

In 2016, SOUPS became an independent conference body. For the last five years, we have partnered with USENIX for hosting and administrative support, a move that has enabled continued growth for the conference. We thank all the members of the USENIX staff for their work in organizing SOUPS and supporting our community. We particularly appreciate their support and flexibility this year, including managing the virtual event. Their team has been fantastic at making the process seamless. In 2018, we co-located with the USENIX Security Symposium for the first time, and we have continued that co-location virtually for 2021. Co-locating the two conferences allows for interactions and shared ideas between SOUPS and USENIX Security attendees. We have found this beneficial for both conferences and look forward to the opportunity again this year. While we miss in-person interactions, a virtual conference format has also facilitated participation for many, and we believe that this can lead to richer discussions and wider perspectives within the community. We hope that you will find SOUPS 2021 engaging and meaningful.

SOUPS relies on a range of volunteers for all of its activities. Steering Committee members provide oversight and guidance and are elected for three-year terms. Organizing Committee members help determine the conference content for a particular year, often serving two-year terms to facilitate the transition of knowledge. This year, we introduced corresponding junior co-chairs for each of our chairing roles within the Organizing Committee, to offer senior students or early career researchers a voice in the organization of SOUPS and to prepare them to take on leadership roles in upcoming years, whether with SOUPS or other conferences. Technical Papers Committee members are chosen by the Technical Papers Co-Chairs each year. This year, the on-going pandemic continued to create obstacles for many of us, including members of the Technical Papers Committee. As a result, other members of the committee and external reviewers stepped in to assist with reviews. SOUPS is a product of the hard work by many people, starting with researchers who decide to submit their work to SOUPS, and including all of the SOUPS Organizers, the SOUPS Steering Committee, the technical paper reviewers, the workshop organizers, the poster jury, and the USENIX staff. We are grateful and thank each and every one of you for your contributions to SOUPS 2021.

Sonia is serving as General Chair of SOUPS and Chair of the Steering Committee for 2021 and 2022. A Vice Chair will be appointed for 2022, who will then take on the role of General Chair for the following two years. If you are interested in helping with SOUPS 2022 in any way, please contact Sonia.

SOUPS would not be possible without the generous support of our sponsors – thank you. Please visit our website to view the recipients of the SOUPS 2021 awards. Congratulations to all recipients for their outstanding work.

Sonia Chiasson, *Carleton University*  
General Chair

Joe Calandrino, *Federal Trade Commission*  
Technical Papers Co-Chair

Manya Sleeper, *Google*  
Technical Papers Co-Chair