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Mr. Acquisti is an associate professor at the Heinz College at Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), and the co-director of the CMU Center for Behavioral Decision Research. His research focuses on the economics of privacy. He has been the recipient of the PET Award for Outstanding Research in Privacy Enhancing Technologies, the IBM Best Academic Privacy Faculty Award, the Heinz College Award for Teaching Excellence and multiple best paper awards.

He is a member of the National Academies' Committee on Public Response to Alerts and Warnings Using Social Media and Associated Privacy Considerations. He has had visiting positions at Harvard University and the Universities of Rome, Paris and Freiburg, at Microsoft Research in New England, and at Google.