Aaron Shaw

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Short Bio: Aaron Shaw is Professor of Communication Studies and Sociology (by courtesy) at Northwestern University; Co-Founder of the Community Data Science Collective; faculty affiliate of the Northwestern Center for HCI+Design, the Institute for Policy Research, and the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs; as well as a Faculty Associate of the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. He studies organizing, participation, and governance in online communities, especially ones that create public information resources and digital infrastructure. His most recent work includes projects on online community governance, LLM-based social science, AI impacts on digital public infrastructure, and a forthcoming book, *Peer Production*, published by MIT Press.

Appointments

Northwestern University
Professor, Department of Communication Studies, 2026-Present
Professor (by courtesy), Sociology
Faculty Member and Co-founder, Community Data Science Collective
Faculty-in-Residence, Northwestern Southwest Area
Faculty Affiliate, Northwestern Center for Human-Computer Interaction + Design
Faculty Associate, Northwestern Institute for Policy Research
Faculty Affiliate, Buffett Institute for Global Studies
Faculty Affiliate, SONIC Lab
Faculty Fellow, Public Affairs Residential College; Willard Residential College

Associate Professor, Department of Communication Studies, 2019-2026
Associate Professor (by courtesy), Sociology, 2019-2026
Director of Graduate Studies, Media, Technology & Society (MTS), 2015-2021
Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, 2013-2019
Assistant Professor (by courtesy), Sociology, 2013-2019

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, 2012-2013
Visiting Assistant Professor (by courtesy), Sociology, 2012-2013

Harvard University
Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society
Faculty Associate, 2013-Present
Fellow, 2008-2013

University of Washington, 2022-2023
Visiting Associate Professor, Department of Communication

King County, Washington, 2022-2023
Scholar-in-Residence

Education

University of California, Berkeley
2012. Ph.D., Sociology.
Dissertation: *An Interactional Account of Online Collective Action*
2010. Master of Arts, Sociology.

Stanford University
2005. Master of Arts, Humanities
2004. Bachelor of Arts (with honors), Humanities

Selected Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

2026. Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Dialogue to sustain online communities & generative AI. Co-PIs Kaylea Champion, Jeremy Foote, Benjamin Mako Hill, Nathan TeBlunthuis ($36,748).

2024-2025. Digital Infrastructure Insights Fund (D//F) Award: FOSS Engineering and Community Impact. Co-PI with Darren Gergle ($75,000).

2024-2025. Buffett Institute for Global Affairs Undergraduate Research Fellowship ($4,000).

2024-2025. Amazon Cloud Credits to support Social Media Analysis and Reasoning Tool (SMART), Co-PI ($59,997.24).

2022. Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Global Working Group Catalyst Grant, AI and Social Movements, Co-PI ($300,000).

2022. ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22), Best Paper Honorable Mention for *The social embeddedness of peer production: A comparative qualitative analysis of three Indian language Wikipedia editions.*

2022. REU Supplement to National Science Foundation Award, IIS:CHS: Modeling the Ecological Dynamics of Online Organizations ($15,984).

2020. Protocol Labs, COVID-19 Open Innovation Grant: Digital observatory for socially produced online COVID-19 information. PI with Jeremy Foote, Purdue University; Benjamin Mako Hill, University of Washington; and Jason Baumgartner, Pushshift.io ($20,000).

2020. Faculty and Administrator Honor Roll, Northwestern University Associated Student Government (ASG).

2019. National Science Foundation, IIS:CHS: Modeling the Ecological Dynamics of Online Organizations, Co-PI with Benjamin Mako Hill, University of Washington ($497,754).

2019. Alfred P. Sloan and Ford Foundations: Critical Digital Infrastructure Research: Modeling Underproduction in Free and Open Source Software. Co-PI with Benjamin Mako Hill, University of Washington ($140,000).

2018. ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2018), Best Paper Honorable Mention for *Managing Organizational Culture in Online Group Mergers.*

2017-2018. Lenore Annenberg and Wallis Annenberg Fellow in Communication. Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University.

2016. National Science Foundation, IIS:CHS: Pathways to Community Success: Advancing a Comparative Science of Online Collaborative Organization, Co-PI with Benjamin Mako Hill, University of Washington ($499,684).

2016. Summer Institute on Organizations and Their Effectiveness. Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University.

2014. Faculty and Administrator Honor Roll, Northwestern University Associated Student Government (ASG).

2014. Microsoft Research, FUSE Labs. Sharing Economy Grant, Co-investigator with Haoqi Zhang and Liz Gerber, Northwestern University ($25,000).

2013. Microsoft Research, FUSE Labs Junior Faculty Research Award ($25,000).

2013-2014. Junior Faculty Fellow, Searle Center for Advancing Teaching & Learning, Northwestern University.

2013. Honorable Mention, Dordick Dissertation Award, Communication & Technology Division, International Communication Association (ICA).

2013. Information Technology and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association (APSA). Best Paper Award for *A Tale of Two Blogospheres: Discursive Practices on the Left and Right.*

2012. Communication and Information Technology Section of the American Sociological Association (CITASA), Best Paper Honorable Mention for *Centralized and Decentralized Gatekeeping in an Open Online Collective.*

2012. Communication and Information Technology Section of the American Sociological Association (CITASA), Best Graduate Student Paper Honorable Mention for *A Tale of Two Blogospheres: Discursive Practices on the Left and Right.*

2011. ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW2011), Best Paper Honorable Mention for *Designing Incentives for Inexpert Raters.*

Publications[1]

Books

In-press (manuscript available upon request). Benjamin Mako Hill, Christian Pentzold, and **Aaron Shaw**. *Peer Production.* MIT Press (Essential Knowledge Series).†

Refereed Articles and Archival Conference Papers

2026 (*forthcoming*). Jee, Jonghyun and **Aaron Shaw**.‡ Critical acclaim orientation in large language models: Evidence from film preference elicitation. *Proceedings of the ACM/AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence Ethics and Society (AIES '26).*

2026 (*forthcoming*). Kiene. Charles, Sohyeon Hwang, Nathan TeBlunthuis, Carl Colglazier, **Aaron Shaw**, Benjamin Mako Hill.†‡ The relational origins of rules in online communities. *Proceedings of the ACM Human-Computer Interaction*, CSCW.

2026. Gaughan, Matthew, **Aaron Shaw**, and Darren Gergle. Linguistic Similarity Within Centralized FLOSS Development.†‡ In *Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (CHI EA '26). ACM, New York, NY, USA, Article 436, 1–6. https://doi.org/10.1145/3772363.3798729.

2026. Hwang, Sohyeon, Sophie Rollins, Thatiany Andrade Nunes, Yuhan Liu, Richmond Wong, **Aaron Shaw**, Andrés Monroy-Hernández. Governing Together: Toward

1 The † symbol indicates publications where the attribution of (senior) authorship has been shared jointly, randomly ordered, and/or rotated with collaborators. The ‡ symbol indicates publications where I served as lead senior author. The 🏆 symbol indicates papers that received an award (see previous section for details).

Infrastructure for Community-Run Social Media. In *Proceedings of the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (CHI '26). ACM, New York, NY, USA, Article 334, 1–19. https://doi.org/10.1145/3772318.3790855.

2026. La Gatta, Valerio, Marco Postiglione, Jeremy Gilbert, Daniel W. Linna Jr., Morgan Manella Greenfield, **Aaron Shaw**, and V.S. Subrahmanian. SMART: A Social Movement Analysis & Reasoning Tool with Case Studies on #MeToo and #BlackLivesMatter. In *Proceedings of the ACM Web Conference 2026* (WWW '26). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 9634–9644. https://doi.org/10.1145/3774904.3793043.

2026. Wang, Yixue, **Aaron Shaw**, Stephanie Edgerly, Darren Gergle, Nicholas Diakopoulos. Algorithmic News Content Personalization and Readers' Attitudes. *Digital Journalism*, 1-28. https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2026.2633623.

2026. La Gatta, Valerio, Marco Postiglione, Jeremy Gilbert, Daniel W. Linna Jr., Morgan Manella Greenfield, **Aaron Shaw**, and V.S. Subrahmanian. DEEP: A Discourse Evolution Engine for Predictions about Social Movements. *Proceedings of the AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence*, *40*(47), 40302-40308. https://doi.org/10.1609/aaai.v40i47.41469.

2025. Gaughan, Matt, Kaylea Champion, Sohyeon Hwang, and **Aaron Shaw**. The introduction of README and CONTRIBUTING files in open source software development. *Proceedings of the 2025 IEEE/ACM 18th International Conference on Cooperative and Human Aspects of Software Engineering* (CHASE), Ottawa, ON, Canada, 2025, pp. 191-202, https://10.1109/CHASE66643.2025.00030.‡

2024. Hwang, Sohyeon, Charles Kiene, Serene Ong, and **Aaron Shaw**. Adopting third-party bots for managing online communities. *Proceedings of the ACM Human-Computer Interaction*, 8, CSCW1, Article 216, https://doi.org/10.1145/3653707.‡

2024. Colglazier, Carl, Nathan TeBlunthuis, and **Aaron Shaw**. The effects of group sanctions on participation and toxicity: Quasi-experimental evidence from the Fediverse. *Proceedings of the International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media*, *18*(1), 315-328. https://doi.org/10.1609/icwsm.v18i1.31316.‡

2023. Foote, Jeremy, **Aaron Shaw**†, and Benjamin Mako Hill. Communication networks do not predict success in attempts at peer production. *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 28(3), zmad002, https://doi.org/10.1093/jcmc/zmad002.

2022. Hagar, Nick and **Aaron Shaw**. Concentration without cumulative advantage: The distribution of news source attention in online communities. *Journal of Communication*, 72(6), 675–686. https://doi.org/10.1093/joc/jqac032.‡

2022. **Shaw, Aaron**, Floor Fiers, and Eszter Hargittai. Participation inequalities in the gig economy. *Information, Communication & Society*, 1–18. https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2022.2085611.‡

2022. Hwang, Sohyeon and **Aaron Shaw**. Rules and rule-making in the five largest Wikipedias. In *Proceedings of the 16th International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-22)*, 347-357. Atlanta, GA. https://doi.org/10.1609/icwsm.v16i1.19297.‡

2022. Khatri, Sejal, **Aaron Shaw**, Sayamindu Dasgupta, Benjamin Mako Hill. The social embeddedness of peer production: A comparative qualitative analysis of three Indian language Wikipedia editions. In *CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '22)*, April 29-May 5, 2022, New Orleans, LA, USA. ACM, New York, NY. https://doi.org/10.1145/3491102.3501832. 🏆

2021. **Shaw, Aaron** and Eszter Hargittai. Do the Online Activities of Amazon Mechanical Turk Workers Mirror Those of the General Population? A Comparison of Two Survey Samples. *International Journal of Communication*, 15: 4383-4398. https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/16942.†

2021. Fiers, Floor, **Aaron Shaw**, and Eszter Hargittai. Generous attitudes and online participation. *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 1. https://doi.org/10.51685/jqd.2021.008.†‡

2021. Hill, Benjamin Mako and **Aaron Shaw**. Hidden costs of requiring accounts online: Quasi-experimental evidence from peer production. *Communication Research*, 48(6): 771-795. https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650220910345.†

2020. Hargittai, Eszter and **Aaron Shaw**. Comparing Internet Experiences and Prosociality in Amazon Mechanical Turk and Population-Based Survey Samples. *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 6 (January, 2020). https://doi.org/10.1177/2378023119889834.†

2019. Narayan, Sneha, Nathan TeBlunthuis, Wm Salt Hale, Benjamin Mako Hill, and **Aaron Shaw**. All Talk: How Increasing Interpersonal Communication on Wikis May Not Enhance Productivity. *Proceedings of the ACM: Human-Computer Interaction* 3, CSCW, Article 101 (November 2019), ACM, New York, NY.‡

2018. Kiene, Charles, **Aaron Shaw**, and Benjamin Mako Hill. Managing organizational culture in online group mergers. *Proceedings of the ACM Human-Computer Interaction* 2, CSCW, Article 89 (November 2018), ACM, New York, NY. 🏆

2018. **Aaron Shaw** and Eszter Hargittai. The pipeline of online participation inequalities: The case of Wikipedia editing. *Journal of Communication* 68(1): 143–168.

2018. Nathan TeBlunthuis, **Aaron Shaw**, and Benjamin Mako Hill. Revisiting "The rise and decline" in a population of peer production projects. *Proceedings of the 2018 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18).*

2017. Foote, Jeremy, Darren Gergle, and **Aaron Shaw**. Starting online communities: Motivations and goals of wiki founders. *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17).*‡

2017. Kim, Yongsung, **Aaron Shaw**, Haoqi Zhang, and Elizabeth Gerber. Understanding trust amid delays in crowdfunding. *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '17).*

2017. Narayan, Sneha, Jake Orlowitz, Jonathan Morgan, Benjamin Mako Hill, and **Aaron Shaw**. The Wikipedia Adventure: Field evaluation of an interactive tutorial for new users. *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '17).*‡

2017. Twyman, Marlon, Brian C. Keegan, and **Aaron Shaw**. Black Lives Matter in Wikipedia: Collaboration and collective memory around online social movements. *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '17).*‡

2016. Burgess, Eleanor R. and **Aaron Shaw**. Evaluating open collaboration opportunities in the fire service with FireCrowd. *Proceedings of the 12th International Symposium on Open Collaboration* (*OpenSym '16).*‡

2016. Kim, Yongsung, Emily Harburg, Shana Azria, **Aaron Shaw**, Elizabeth Gerber, Darren Gergle, and Haoqi Zhang. Studying the effects of task notification policies on participation and outcomes in on-the-go crowdsourcing. *Proceedings of thje Fourth AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP '16).*

2015. Hargittai, Eszter and **Aaron Shaw**. Mind the skills gap: The role of internet know-how and gender in contributions to Wikipedia. *Information, Communication, and Society* 18(4): 424-442.

2015. Hill, Benjamin Mako and **Aaron Shaw**. Page protection: Another missing dimension of Wikipedia research. *Proceedings of the 11th International Symposium on Open Collaboration* (*OpenSym '15).*†

2014. Hill, Benjamin Mako and **Aaron Shaw**. Consider the redirect: A missing dimension of Wikipedia research. *Proceedings of the International Symposium on Open Collaboration (OpenSym '14).*†

2014. **Shaw, Aaron** and Benjamin Mako Hill. Laboratories of oligarchy? How the iron law extends to peer production. *Journal of Communication* 64(2): 215–38.†

2014. Zhang, Haoqi, Andres Mónroy-Hernandez, **Aaron Shaw**, Sean Munson, Elizabeth Gerber, Benjamin Mako Hill, Peter Kinnaird, and Shelley Farnham. WeDo: Exploring computer supported collective action. *Proceedings of the International Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM).*

2013. Hargittai, Eszter and **Aaron Shaw**. Digitally savvy citizenship: The role of internet skills and engagement in young adults' political participation around the 2008 presidential election. *Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media (JoBEM) 57*(2):115-134.

2013. Hill, Benjamin Mako and **Aaron Shaw**. The Wikipedia gender gap revisited: Characterizing survey response bias in peer production communities. *PLOS ONE*. 8(6):e65782.†

2013. Kittur, Aniket, Jeffrey V. Nickerson, Michael S. Bernstein, Elizabeth Gerber, **Aaron Shaw**, John Zimmerman, Matt Lease, and John J. Horton. The future of crowd work. *Proceedings of the 2013 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '13)*.

2012. **Shaw, Aaron**. Centralized and decentralized gatekeeping in an open online collective. *Politics & Society. 40*(3): 349-388.🏆

2012. Antin, Judd and **Aaron Shaw**. Social desirability bias and self-reports of motivation: A cross-cultural study of Amazon Mechanical Turk in the US and India. *Proceedings of the 2012 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '12)*.

2012. **Shaw, Aaron** and Yochai Benkler. A tale of two blogospheres: Discursive practices on the left and right. *American Behavioral Scientist. 56*(4): 459-487.🏆

2011. **Shaw, Aaron**. Insurgent expertise: The politics of free/livre and open source software in Brazil. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*. 8 (3): 253-272.

2011. **Shaw, Aaron**, John Horton and Daniel Chen. Designing incentives for inexpert human raters. *Proceedings of the 2011 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW '11)*.

2010. Hester, Vaughn, **Aaron Shaw**, and Lukas Biewald. Scalable crisis relief: Crowdsourced sms translation and categorization with Mission 4636. *Proceedings of the 2010 ACM Conference on Development (ACM DEV 2010)*.

Commentary, Book Chapters, Reviews, and Invited Articles

2025. Porter, Ethan, **Aaron Shaw**, and Emma Spiro. Misinformation research continues to be urgent science. *Science Advances,* **11**, eady9839(2025).† https://10.1126/sciadv.ady9839.

2025. Kharazian, Zarine, Benjamin Mako Hill, and **Aaron Shaw**. (2025). Online Community Resilience: Governing Public Information Goods Under Attack. Community Data Science Collective Research Briefs (No. 4). https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.15603491.

2024. Fiers, Floor and **Aaron Shaw**. Digital inequality: Implications for online communities and platforms. Community Data Science Collective Research Briefs (No. 3). https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13769808.‡

2023. **Shaw, Aaron**. Social media, extremism, and radicalization. *Science Advances.* 9,eadk2031. https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.adk2031.

2023. **Shaw, Aaron**. Review of Kevin Driscoll, *The Modem World: A Prehistory of Social Media. International Journal of Communication, 17, 4. https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/21215*.

2020. Hill, Benjamin Mako and **Aaron Shaw**. The most important laboratory for social scientific and computing research in history. In *Wikipedia@20: Stories of an incomplete revolution*, edited by Joseph Reagle and Jackie Koerner. MIT Press. https://wikipedia20.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/fgas2h4l.†

2020. Hill, Benjamin Mako and **Aaron Shaw**. Studying populations of online communities. In *Oxford Handbook of Networked Communication*, edited by Brooke Foucault Welles and Sandra González-Bailón. Oxford University Press.†

2020. Hill, Benjamin Mako and **Aaron Shaw**. Wikipedia and the end of open collaboration. In *Wikipedia@20: Stories of an incomplete revolution*, edited by Joseph Reagle and Jackie Koerner. MIT Press. https://wikipedia20.mitpress.mit.edu/pub/lifecycles.†

2019. Hill, Benjamin Mako, Kaylea Champion, **Aaron Shaw**, Jeremy Foote, Nora McDonald, Andrea Forte, Sneha Narayan, and Rachel Greendstadt. Value of IP editing in Wikimedia. Community Data Science Collective Research Briefs (No. 2). https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.13769816.

2017. Foote, Jeremy, **Aaron Shaw**, and Benjamin Mako Hill. A computational analysis of social media scholarship. In *Sage Handbook of Social Media*, edited by Jean Burgess, Thomas Poell, and Alice Marwick, Russell Sage Foundation.†‡

2015. Benkler, Yochai, **Aaron Shaw**, and Benjamin Mako Hill. Peer production: A form of collective intelligence. In *The Handbook of Collective Intelligence*, edited by Michael Bernstein and Thomas Malone. MIT Press.

2015. **Shaw, Aaron**. Hired hands and dubious guesses: Adventures in crowdsourced data collection. In *Digital Research Confidential*, edited by Eszter Hargittai and Christian Sandvig. MIT Press.

2014. **Shaw, Aaron**, Haoqi Zhang, Andrés Monroy-Hernández, Sean Munson, Liz Gerber, Benjamin Mako Hill, Peter Kinnaird, and Patrick Minder. Computer supported collective action. *Interactions*, Social Media Forum. 21(4):74-77.

2009. **Shaw, Aaron**. The access divide: Brazil and the United States struggle to balance innovation and equality in the information age. *Americas Quarterly,* Winter Issue.

2008. **Shaw, Aaron**. The problem with the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (and what to do about it). *Knowledge Ecology Studies*, Vol. 2. Available at: http://kestudies.org/ojs/index.php/kes/issue/view/3/showToc.

2008. **Shaw, Aaron**. Cultura livre, movimentos e humanização do Capital, *Le Monde Diplomatique Brasil*, 12 December, Available at: http://diplo.uol.com.br/2008-12,a2690

2008. **Shaw, Aaron**. Why politics and institutions (still) matter for ICT4D, Publius Project, Berkman Center for Internet & Society, Available at: http://publius.cc/2008/09/26/shaw-why-politics-and-institutions-still-matter-for-ict4d/.

Preprints and working papers

2026. Jee, Jonghyun and **Aaron Shaw**.‡ Critical acclaim orientation in large language models: Evidence from film preference elicitation. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2608.06955.

2026. Hullman, Jessica, David Broska, Huaman Sun, **Aaron Shaw**. This human study did not involve human subjects: Validating llm simulations as behavioral evidence. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2602.15785.

2025. Johnson, Isaac, Yu-Ming Liou, Jacob Rogers, **Aaron Shaw**, Leila Zia. Recommended practices for NPOV research on Wikipedia. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2510.21526.

2025. Kiene. Charles, Sohyeon Hwang, Nathan TeBlunthuis, Carl Colglazier, **Aaron Shaw**, Benjamin Mako Hill.†‡ The relational origins of rules in online communities. https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2505.18318.

2024. Park, Joon Sung, Carolyn Zou, Jonne Kamphorst, Niles Egan, **Aaron Shaw**, Benjamin Mako Hill, Carrie Cai, Meredith Ringel Morris, Robb Willer, Percy Liang, Michael S. Bernstein. LLM Agents Grounded in Self-Reports Enable General-Purpose Simulation of Individuals (formerly titled: Generative agent simulations of 1,000 people). https://doi.org/10.48550/arXiv.2411.10109.

Selected Invited Lectures and Presentations

Peer Production

2026 (upcoming). School of Information, UT Austin, Austin, TX

2026 (upcoming). Critical Tech Cafe, Notre Dame University

How research can strengthen the movement: Understanding & assessing threats to fundamental Wikimedia values

2026. Keynote presentation, Research track, Wikimania. Paris, France, July. [Video]

Generative agent simulations of 1,000 people

2025. Public Interest Technology Working Group, Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society, Harvard University, February (remote).

2025. Artificially Intelligent Social Science Workshop. Nuffield College, Oxford University, Oxford, UK, February.

Replication strategies for more robust human simulations (with Carolyn Zou)

2024. Stanford Human-Computer Interaction Seminar Series, Stanford, CA, May. [Video]

Trustworthy information governance: Some preliminary concepts and evidence (with Floor Fiers and Amy Zhang)

2024. Center for Information and Democracy (CIND) Workshop, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April.

Content moderation in decentralized social media (with Benjamin Mako Hill)

2023. Summer Institute in organizations and their effectiveness. Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS), Stanford, CA, July.

Participation inequality in the gig economy (with Floor Fiers and Eszter Hargittai)

2021. Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Held remotely.

Online participation and *Beyond digital divides*

2019. National Taiwan Study Center, National Chengchi University (NCCU), Taipei, Taiwan. Invited lectures.

The governance of digital commons

2018. Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, December.

2018. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (APSA), Boston, MA, September.

2018. International Conference on Complex Systems, Crowdsourcing and Collective Intelligence Workshop, Cambridge, MA, July.

2018. HCI Lunch Speaker Series, Computer Science Department, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, February.

2018. CASBS Seminar Series, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, January.

The Pipeline of Online Participation Inequalities: The Case of Wikipedia Editing
(with Eszter Hargittai)

2017. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Montreal, Canada, August.

2017. Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), San Diego, CA, May.

2017. Colloquium Series, Department of Media and Communications, The London School of Economics & Political Science (LSE), May.

The Hidden Costs of Requiring Account Creation: Evidence from Peer Production
(with Benjamin Mako Hill)

2017. Management of Organizations (MORS) Colloquium Series, Haas School of Management, UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, October.

2017. Law and Technology Speaker Series, The Information Society Project at Yale Law School, New Haven, CT, January.

2016. Workshop and Lecture Series on the Law & Economics of Innovation, ETH Zurich, Center for Law & Economics, Department of Humanities, Social and Political Science, November.

2016. Voice, Technology & Impact Workshop, Department of Communication, University of Washington, Seattle, May.

2015. ANN-SONIC-NICO 7th Annual International Workshop on Network Theory, Northwestern University, October.

Social Structures of Productive Online Volunteer Communities
(with Jeremy Foote and Benjamin Mako Hill)

2016. Organizational Communication Mini-Conference (OCMC), Evanston, IL, October.

2016. Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Seattle, WA, August.

2016. Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Fukuoka, Japan, June.

The Wikipedia Adventure: Field Evaluation of an Interactive Tutorial for New Users

(with Sneha Narayan, Jake Orlowitz, Jonathan Morgan, and Benjamin Mako Hill)

2016. Workshop and Lecture Series on the Law & Economics of Innovation, ETH Zurich, Center for Law & Economics, Department of Humanities, Social and Political Science, November.

2016. Annual Meeting of the International Communication Association (ICA), Fukuoka, Japan, June.

Beyond Access: How User Research in Online Communities Can Empower Libraries

2015. Keynote Presentation, "Library in the Life of the User," OCLC Research partners' meeting, Chicago, IL, October. [Video][Slides]

Learning from Populations of Online Organizations

(with Benjamin Mako Hill)

2015. International Communication Association (ICA) Pre-conference: Communication in a Networked Age. San Juan, Puerto Rico, May.

2015. International Communication Association (ICA) Pre-conference: Computational Approaches to Advance Communication Research. San Juan, Puerto Rico, May.

2015. Computational Social Science Summit, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, May.

Freedoms of Access and Engagement?

2015. Center for Diaspora and Transnational Studies, University of Toronto, January.

2014. Hermanns Lecture, English and Philosophy Departments, University of Texas at Arlington, October.

Laboratories of Oligarchy? How the Iron Law Extends to Peer Production

(with Benjamin Mako Hill)

2014. Collective Intelligence Conference, MIT, Cambridge, MA, June.
2014. Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April.
2013. Computational Social Science Workshop, University of Chicago, November.
2013. Chinese University of Hong Kong, C-Centre, August.
2013. Center for Information Technology Policy, Princeton, April.
2013. European Consortium of Political Researchers (ECPR), Joint Workshop Sessions. Mainz, Germany, March.

Internet Skills and Wikipedia's Gender Inequality

(with Eszter Hargittai)

2014. Annual Conference of the International Communication Association, Seattle, May.
2014. Wikimania, Barbican Center, London, August.
2014. Berkman Center for Internet & Society Luncheon Series, Harvard University, January.

Selected Panels, Workshops, Guest Lectures, and Public Talks

2025. Human subjects research in in the age of generative AI: Opportunities and challenges of applying LLM-simulated data to HCI studies. ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI). April 26-May 1, Yokohama, Japan. https://doi.org/10.1145/3706599.3716299.

2024. Decentralizing social media. Thought-leader dialogue (Convener and moderator). Northwestern Center for HCI+Design. Virtual. May 23.

2024. Decentralized social media workshop (DSM-W). Content moderation and integrity panel (Session chair). Princeton University, March.

2021. The importance of thinking big: Convergence, divergence and interdependence among wikis and peer production communities. WikiResearch Showcase, January 21. [Video].

2018. The pipeline of online participation inequalities. WikiResearch Showcase (with Eszter Hargittai), October 18. [Video].

2017. Research Workshop: Online communities & crowds. Department of Media and Communications, The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), May 3.

2016. The Internet and Politics. Learning for Life Lectures. Northwestern University, November 9.

2016. Teaching and Learning with Small Group Projects. Searle Center Faculty Fellows Presentation, Northwestern University, March 10.

2015. Teaching with Wikipedia. Searle Center for for Advancing Teaching & Learning Faculty Round table, Northwestern University, Spring.

2014. Welcoming new voices vs. defending the world's knowledge: The future of Wikipedia's open community. National Communication Association (NCA), Human Communication and Technology Division Panel. Chicago, November.

2013. Wiki ecology: Understanding wiki-success through comparative analysis. Wikimania 2013, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, China, August.

2012. Fail whaling: Designing from deviance and failures in social computing. ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, (with Michael Bernstein, Michael Conover, Benjamin Mako Hill, Andrés Monroy-Hernández, Brian Keegan, Sarita Yardi, R. Stuart Geiger, and Amy Bruckman), Austin, TX, March.

Teaching & Mentoring

Student Awards[2]

Carolyn Zou, NSF GRFP (2024).
Carl Colglazier, NSF GRFP Honorable Mention (2021).
Jeremy Foote, Herbert Dordick Dissertation Award, Communication and Technology Division of the International Communication Association; Best Dissertation Award, Information Systems Division of the International Communication Association (2019).
Sohyeon Hwang, NSF GRFP (2019).
Eleanor Burgess, Fulbright Fellow (2016).

Postdoctoral Supervision

Nathan TeBlunthuis, (2021-2022), Assistant Professor, Information, University of Texas, Austin.

Graduate Advising (Dissertation Chair or Co-Chair)

Eric Fassbender, MTS, PH.D., Northwestern (2026-Present)
Jonghyun Jee, MTS, Ph.D., Northwestern (2025-Present)
Thatiany Andrade Nunes, MTS, Ph.D., Northwestern (2024-Present)
Matt Gaughan, TSB, Ph.D., Northwestern (2023-Present)
Kevin Ackermann, MTS, Ph.D., Northwestern (2022-Present)
Carl Colglazier, TSB, Ph.D., Northwestern (2020-Present)
Sohyeon Hwang, (MTS 2024), Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Information Technology Policy, Princeton University.
Floor Fiers, (MTS 2024), Assistant Professor, Communication, University of Amsterdam
Thomas Rousse, (MTS, J.D./Ph.D 2024). Northwestern.
Jeremy Foote, (MTS 2019), Assistant Professor, Communication, Purdue University
Sneha Narayan, (TSB 2019), Assistant Professor, Computer Science, Carleton College

Graduate Dissertation Committee

Shambhobi Bhattacharya, Industrial Engineering and Management Science, Northwestern
Gus Umbelino, TSB, Northwestern
Charles Kiene, Communication, University of Washington
Yixue Wang, TSB, Northwestern

2 Students for whom I served as primary advisor or research mentor at the time of selection for the award.

Nick Hagar, MTS, Northwestern
Nick Vincent, TSB, Northwestern
Jim Maddock, TSB, Northwestern
Nathan TeBlunthuis, Communication, University of Washington
Yongsung Kim, TSB, Northwestern
Erin Klawitter, MTS, Northwestern

Graduate Qualifying Exam Supervision
Molly de Blanc, MTS, Northwestern (2024-2025)
Gus Umbelino, TSB, Northwestern (2023)
Charles Kiene, Communication, University of Washington (2021)
Nick Vincent, TSB, Northwestern (2020)
Nick Hagar, MTS, Northwestern (2019)
Jim Maddock, TSB, Northwestern (2019)
Ilya Gokhman, MTS, Northwestern (2017)
Yongsung Kim, TSB, Northwestern (2016, 2017)
Ashley Niler, MTS, Northwestern (2017)
Ashley Walker, MTS, Northwestern (2017)
Miriam Boon, TSB, Northwestern (2016)
Marlon Twyman, TSB, Northwestern (2016)
Sabrina Connell, MTS, Northwestern (2015)
Michael Greenberg, TSB, Northwestern (2014)
Erin Klawitter, MTS, Northwestern (2013)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Supervision
Carolyn Zou, Communication Studies (2024)
Emily Zou, American Studies (2024)

Undergraduate Research Assistant Supervision
Vaibhav Rangan, Katie Chen, Marianne Cano,Aidan Klinges, Grace Zhu, Carolyn Zou, Emily Zou, Davida Yalley, Eric Rosin, Amy Guo, Marlene Alanis, Dylan Griffin, Donny Tou, Serene Ong, Siying Luo, Daryn McElroy, Matthew Holleran Meyer, Hannah Yang, Ellie Coleman, Gabrielle Alava, Bria Marie Royal, Amiko Krisa Bunag Lagrimas, Eleanor Burgess.

Courses Taught
The Crisis in Information Integrity (undergraduate 2026)
Northwestern University, Communication Studies 101-2-6

Social Science and Generative AI (graduate 2026)
Northwestern University, MTS 525

Communication & Technology (undergraduate 2025, 2026)
Northwestern University, Communication Studies 227

Online Communities and Crowds (undergraduate, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2022, 2025; graduate, 2022).
Northwestern University, Communication Studies 378; MTS 525.

History and Theory of Information (undergraduate, 2020, 2024; graduate 2024)
Northwestern University, Communication Studies 395; MTS 525

Introduction to Graduate Research in TSB and MTS (graduate, 2016, 2021, 2023).
Northwestern University, Media, Technology & Society 501.

The Practice of Scholarship (graduate, 2016, 2019)
Northwestern University, Media, Technology & Society 503.

Statistics and Statistical Programming (graduate, 2019, 2020)
Northwestern University, Media, Technology & Society 525; Communication Studies 395.

Online Collective Action (graduate, 2013, 2014, 2015).
Northwestern University, Media, Technology & Society 525.

Research Design for Causal Inference (graduate, 2013, 2014, 2015).
Northwestern University, Media, Technology & Society 525.

Service and Engagement

Professional Service

2026. Panelist, United States National Science Foundation, Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate.
2025-Present. Research Lead, Neutral Point of View (NPOV) Working Group, Common Global Standards for Neutral Point of View (NPOV), Wikimedia Foundation.
2024. Sage-CASBS Award Selection Committee. Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University.
2024. Panelist United States National Science Foundation, Human-Centered Computing (HCC) Program.
2023-Present. Co-Organizer, Science of Community Track, Free Open Source Software Yearly Conference (FOSSY).
2022-2024. Co-Chair, Technical Review Committee, Wikimedia Research Fund.

2022. Panelist, United States National Science Foundation, Human-Centered Computing (HCC) Program; Future of Work at the Human Technology Frontier (FW-HTF) Program.
2021-Present. Associate Editor, Social and Interdisciplinary Science, *Science Advances*.
2021-Present. Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*.
2019-2021. Applied/Public Policy Research Award Committee Member, International Communication Association.
2020. Panelist, United States National Science Foundation, Cyber-Human Systems Program, Information and Intelligent Systems Division.
2019-2020. Selection Committee Member, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University (CASBS).
2019. Program Committee Member (Associate Chair), ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI).
2018-Present. Founding Editorial Board Member, *Computational Communication Research*.
2017. Panelist, United States National Science Foundation, Cyber-Human Systems Program, Information and Intelligent Systems Division.
2017. Program Committee Member, Collective Intelligence Conference.
2017. Program Committee Member, AAAI Conference on Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (HCOMP).
2017. Senior Program Committee Member, ACM Symposium on Open Collaboration.
2016-2017. Program Committee Member, International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2).
2016. Faculty discussant, Research Escalator Session, Organizational Communication Division, Annual Conference of the International Communication Association.
2016. Program Committee Co-Chair, ACM Symposium on Open Collaboration, Wikipedia Research Track.
2015. Organizer, ANN-SONIC-NICO 7th Annual International Workshop on Network Theory, Fall.
2015-Present. Founding Editorial Board Member, *Social Media & Society*.
2015. Program Committee Member (Associate Chair), ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW).
2012-2015. Program Committee Member, SoHuman Workshop on Crowdsourcing and Human Computation (SocInfo).
2010-2012. Program Committee and Conference Co-Chair. *CrowdConf: The Future of Crowdsourcing and Distributed Work*. San Francisco, CA.
2006-2007. Business Manager and Editorial Collective Member, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*.

Ad hoc reviewer for MIT Press, Sage Press, Wiley-Blackwell, the National Science Foundation of the United States (Directorate for Computer and Information Sciences and Engineering, Directorate for Social, Behavioral, and Economic

Sciences), the Sloan Foundation, as well as publications and conferences including:

Science
Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences (PNAS)
Journal of Communication
Journal of Computer Mediated Communication
Social Media & Society
Communication Theory
Communication Research
International Journal of Communication
American Journal of Sociology
ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW)
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)
ACM Collective Intelligence Conference
International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2)
Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICCS)
AAAI Workshop on Human Computation (HCOMP)
ACM Transactions on Computer-Human Interaction (ToCHI)
ACM Transactions on Social Computing.

Department and University Service

Northwestern University

2025-Present. Faculty-in-Residence, Southwest Area.
2025-Present. Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Communication Studies Department.
2026. Campus Nomination Selection Committee, Google Ph.D. Fellowship.
2025-2026. Faculty Senate Representative (Interim), Communication Studies Department.
2025-Present. Fellow, Willard Residential College.
2023-2025. Faculty Chair (Interim), Public Affairs Residential College (PARC).
2022-2023; 2024-2025. Technology & Social Behavior Program, Graduate Admissions Committee.
2021-2023; 2025-Present. Fellow, Public Affairs Residential College (PARC).
2021-2022. Member and Institutional Equity Representative, Human-Centered Design Faculty Search Committee.
2020-2022; 2023-2024. Communication Studies Department Graduate Curriculum Committee (Chair 2021-2022; 2023-2024).
2020-2021. Communication Studies Department Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force.
2020-2021. Communication Studies Department Advisory Committee.
2015-2021. Director of Graduate Studies, Media, Technology & Society.
2015-2017; 2018-2021. Media, Technology & Society Graduate Admissions Committee (Chair).

2015-2016. Member, Computation and Communication Faculty Search Committee.
2015-2016. Advisory Committee, Master of Science in Communication; Communication Studies Department.
2014-2015; 2016-2017; 2018-2019; 2020-2021. Coordinator, Media, Technology & Society Speaker Series.
2014-2015. Communication Studies Undergraduate Curriculum Committee.
2013-2024. Communication Studies, Digital Media Module Steering Committee.

Professional Affiliations
International Communication Association
Association of Computing Machinery
American Sociological Association
American Association of University Professors

(Last updated: 08/31/26)