Kelsea Schulenberg

Curriculum Vitae

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Education

2021–Dec. 2025	**Ph.D., Human Centered Computing**, *GPA: 4.00, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina - Advisor: Dr. Guo Freeman* Dissertation Working Title: *Through Her Eyes: Centering Women's Experiences in the Design, Evaluation, and Integration of Human-AI Interaction in the Workplace*
2019–2021	**M.A., Communication, Technology, and Society**, *GPA: 4.00, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina - Advisor: Dr. Erin M. Ash* Thesis Title: *"You're in a Cult, Call Your Dad." An Investigation Into the True Crime Podcast My Favorite Murder and Its Online Fan Communities*
2013–2017	**B.S., Psychology**, *Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina*
Spring 2016	**Minor, Global Politics**, *University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Science, Belgrade, Serbia*

Work Experience

Summer 2025   **Clemson University**, **Office of University Compliance and Ethics**, *Graduate Student Worker*.

- Working alongside Clemson University's Chief Privacy Officer to develop and draft university-level policies and practices for HIPAA compliance and AI use.

2024–Present   **Clemson University**, **School of Computing**, *Graduate Teaching Assistant*.

- Assignment grading, student advisement, and course instruction as needed to assist professor.
- **Spring 2025:** HCC8500: Science of Teamwork and Technology, *Dr. Nathan McNeese*; CPSC4/6820: Web Accessibility, *Dr. Emma Dixon*.
- **Fall 2024:** CPSC4/6820: Game Design and HCC 8330: Research Methods for Human-Centered Computing, *Dr. Guo Freeman*

2022–2024   **Clemson University**, **Clemson University Gaming and Mediated Experience (CUGAME) Lab**, *Graduate Research Assistant*.

- Lead Ph.D. student researching harassment in social Virtual Reality (VR), specifically investigating minority individuals' (i.e., women, LGBTQ+, ethnic minorities, etc.) experiences with harassment and strategies for mitigating harassment.

2021 Summer-Fall	**Clemson University**, **Team Research and Analytics in Computational Environments (TRACE) Research Group**, *Graduate Research Assistant*.

- Researched perceptions of bias and bias mitigation in the context of Artificial Intelligence (AI) system development amongst military and civilian contractors, a project funded by the Department of Defense (DOD).

2019–2021	**Clemson University**, **Department of Communication**, *Graduate Teaching Assistant*.

- Independently taught one section of COMM 1501 - Introduction to Communication Laboratory per semester, focusing on instructing students in the practice and performance of public speaking.

2019–2021	**Clemson University**, **Clemson Debate Society, Department of Communication**, *Graduate Assistant Debate Coach*.

- Coached a cohort of competitors in competitive collegiate Worlds-Style debate, as well as traveled nationally and internationally with the team to instruct and judge debates.

2019	**Dority & Manning, P.A.**, *Intellectual Property Specialist*.

- Lead Specialist in implementing change management of over 500 national and international patent cases from a Fortune 500 multinational conglomerate's in-house legal team to Dority & Manning, P.A.'s legal team, amongst other varied legal assistant duties.

2017-2018	**Dority & Manning, P.A.**, *Junior Legal Assistant*.

- Crafted and maintained patent file cases for a Fortune 500 multinational conglomerate, amongst other clerical and administrative duties.

Research Interests

Human-Artificial Intelligence (AI) Collaboration, AI in the Workforce, Women in the Workforce, Human-Centered Computing (HCC), Feminist HCI, Women and AI, Computer-Mediated Communication (CMC), Social Virtual Reality (VR), Harassment and Online Safety for Minority Individuals

Research Skills

Data Collection	Experimental Design, Interviewing, Focus Groups, Usability Testing, Survey Design, Observation, Affordance Design, A/B Testing, Content Analysis
Data Analysis	ANOVA, Linear Mixed Effects Modeling, Grounded Theory, Thematic Analysis, Interpretivist Phenomenological Analysis
Tools	Qualtrics, Prolific, R, Stata, SPSS, Figma, LaTeX

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

[J.8] Freeman, G., Li, L., & **Schulenberg, K.**. (2025). "I Have Abused Someone Who Abused Me": Understanding People Who Have Experienced Both Sides of Harassment Accusations in Social VR. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction (PACM HCI), CSCW.*

[J.7] **Schulenberg, K.**, Freeman, G., Li, L., & Knijenburg, B. (2024). Does Who You Are or Appear to Be Matter?: Understanding Identity-Based Harassment in Social VR Through the Lens of (Mis)Perceived Identity Revelation. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human Computer Interaction (PACM HCI), CSCW.*

[J.6] Lancaster, C. M., **Schulenberg, K.**, Flathmann, C., McNeese, N. J., & Freeman, G. (2023). "It's Everybody's Role to Speak Up... But Not Everyone Will": Understanding AI Professionals' Perceptions of Accountability for AI Bias Mitigation. *ACM Journal on Responsible Computing,* (oct 2023), 28 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3632121.

🏆 [J.5] **Schulenberg, K.**, Li, L., Lancaster, C., Zytko, D., & Freeman, G. (2023). "We Don't Want a Bird Cage, We Want Guardrails": Understanding & Designing for Preventing Interpersonal Harm in Social VR through the Lens of Consent. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human Computer Interaction (PACM HCI), 7,* CSCW2, Article 323 (oct 2023), 30 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3610172. ***Best Paper Honorable Mention Award: Top 3%***

🏆 [J.4] **Schulenberg, K.**, Freeman, G., Li, L., & Barwulor, C. (2023). "Creepy Towards My Avatar Body, Creepy Towards My Body": How Women Experience and Manage Harassment Risks in Social Virtual Reality. In *Proceedings of the ACM on Human Computer Interaction (PACM HCI), 7,* CSCW2, Article 236 (oct 2023), 29 pages. https://doi.org/10. 1145/3610027 ***Best Paper Honorable Mention Award: Top 3%***

[J.3] Ash, E., **Schulenberg, K.**, Wilson, M., & Mikkilineni, S. (2023). Framing Risk and Responsibility: Newspaper Coverage of COVID-19 Racial Disparities. *Newspaper Research Journal*, 44(2), pages 174-189. https://doi.org/10.1177/07395329231167368.

[J.2] Ash, E., Xu, Y., Pool, R., **Schulenberg, K.**, Mikkilineni, S. D., & Baraka, T. (2023). Exemplification Effects on Policy Support: Exemplar Familiarity, Narrative Vividness, and Perceptions of Maternal Health Disparities. *Health Communication,* 1-14. https://doi.org/10.1080/10410236.2023.2200907

🏆 [J.1] Freeman, G., Acena, D., McNeese, N.J., & **Schulenberg, K.**(2022). Working Together Apart through Embodiment: Engaging in Everyday Collaborative Activities in Social Virtual Reality. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction.* 6, GROUP, Article 17 (January 2022), 25 pages. https://doi.org/10.1145/3492836.***Best Paper Honorable Mention Award (Top 5%)***

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

[C.8] Freeman, G., **Schulenberg, K.**, Li, L., Panchanadikar, R., & McNeese, N. (2025). " Comforting and Small Like a House Cat, Big and Intimidating Like a Bodyguard": How Women Perceive and Envision AI Companions as a New Harassment Mitigation Approach in Social VR. In *Proceedings of the 2025 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI'25), ACM*, pp.1-16.

[C.7] Freeman, G.**, Hu, Y.**, Panchanadikar, R., Hall, A. L., **Schulenberg, K.**, & Li, L. (2024). "My Audience Gets to Know Me on a More Realistic Level": Exploring Social VR Streamers' Unique Strategies to Engage with Their Audiences. In *Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '24), ACM*, New York, NY, USA, 8 pages.

[C.6] Panchanadikar, R., Freeman, G., Li, L.**, **Schulenberg, K.,**** & Hu, Y. (2024). "A New Golden Era" or "Slap Comps": How Non-Profit Driven Indie Game Developers Perceive the Emerging Role of Generative AI in Game Development. In *Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '24), ACM,* New York, NY, USA, 7 pages.

[C.5] **Schulenberg, K.**, Li, L., Freeman, G., Zamanifard, S., & McNeese, N.J. (2023). Towards Leveraging AI-based Moderation to Address Emergent Harassment in Social Virtual Reality. In *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.* 1–17.

🏆 [C.4] Li, L., Freeman, G., **Schulenberg, K.**, & Acena, D. (2023). "We Cried on Each Other's Shoulders": How LGBTQ+ Individuals Experience Social Support in Social Virtual Reality. In *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.* ***Best Paper Honorable Mention Award (Top 3%)***

[C.3] Freeman, G., Li, L., McNeese, N.J., & **Schulenberg, K.** (2023). Understanding and Mitigating Challenges for Non-Profit Driven Indie Game Development to Innovate Game Production. In *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.*

[C.2] Schlesener, E. A., Lancaster, C., Barwulor, C., Murmu, C., & **Schulenberg, K.** (2023). TitleIX: Step Up & Step In! A Mobile Augmented Reality Game Featuring Interactive Embodied Conversational Agents for Sexual Assault Bystander Intervention Training on US College Campuses. *Extended Abstracts of the 2023 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI'23).*

🏆 [C.1] **Schulenberg, K.**, Hauptman, A.I., Schlesener, E.A., Watkins, H., & Freeman, G. (2023). "I Felt Like I Wasn't Really Meant to be There": Understanding Women's Perceptions of Gender in Approaching AI Design & Development. The *2023 Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS 2023).* https://hdl.handle.net/10125/102650 ***Best Paper Nomination Award***

** indicates co-authorship

Master's Thesis

> **Schulenberg, K.** (April 2021). "You're in a Cult, Call Your Dad." An Investigation Into the True Crime Podcast *My Favorite Murder* and Its Online Fan Communities. Committee: Erin M. Ash, Kristen Okamoto, D. Travers Scott, Guo Freeman

Presentations

Invited Corporate Presentations

[CP.4] "Centering Human Experiences as the Core of Tech Design" (June 2024) - 1st Inaugural Science Café Scientist Speaker. *Women, Life, and Science Presents: Science Café, Greenville, SC.*

[CP.3] "Navigating the Minefield of Your Early Career" (April 2024) - Round Table 1 Discussion Panelist. *Women, Life, and Science Conference 2024, Greenville, SC.*

[CP.2] "The Beauty of Uncertainty is Infinite Possibility" (April 2024) - Main Stage Panelist, Early Career. *Women, Life, and Science Conference 2024, Greenville, SC.*

[CP.1] "Is Grad School Right for Me?" (March 2024) - Presenter. *#ImpactTheFuture Google's Women Techmakers Celebration: Tampa, Tampa, FL*

Invited Academic Talks & Guest Lectures

[I.3] "AI Design Intermingling with Women's Working Lives: A Study of Women in AI Development and Research" (March 2024) - Invited Guest Presentation for Information Science Ph.D. Student Seminar Series, *Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.*

[I.2] "Virtual Reality and HCI" (2023) - Invited Guest Lecture in COMM 8230: Media Effects, *Clemson University, Clemson, SC.*

[I.1] "Women in Video Game Production" (2022) - Invited Guest Lecture in COMM 3160: Media and Social Identities, *Clemson University, Clemson, SC.*

Non-Archival Academic Conference Presentations

[P.2] Ash, E., **Schulenberg, K.**, Wilson, M., & Mikkilineni, S. (2021). Framing Risk and Responsibility: Newspaper Coverage of COVID-19 Racial Disparities. *71st Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference.*

[P.1] Baraka, T., Ash, E., **Schulenberg, K.**, Mikkilineni, S., Wilson, M., Sierra-Rivera, J., & Pool, R.. (2021). Exemplification Effects on Policy Support: Exemplar Liking, Narrative Vividness, and Perceptions of Maternal Health Disparities. *71st Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference.*

▬▬ Fellowships and Awards

Fellowships

2023-2025   Clemson University **College of Engineering, Computing and Applied Sciences (CECAS) Dean's Fellowship** Fellow

2021-2023   Clemson University **Clemson Graduate Fellowship** Fellow

Peer-Reviewed Publication Awards

2023   2 Best Paper Honorable Mention Awards (Top 3%) - CSCW 2023

2023   Best Paper Honorable Mention Award (Top 3%) - CHI 2023

2023   Best Paper Honorable Mention Award (Top 5%) - GROUP 2023

2023   Best Paper Nomination Award - HICSS 2023

Special Recognition for Outstanding Review

2024   4 recognitions for CHI 2024 Papers

2023   1 recognition for CHI PLAY 2023 Full Papers

2023   3 recognitions for CSCW 2023 January 2023

2023   1 recognition for CHI 2023 Papers

2022   1 recognition for NordiCHI 2022 Papers

▬▬ Relevant Coursework

Computing & Technology

- Explainability and Fairness in AI
- Human-Computer Interaction
- Fundamentals of Human-Centered Computing
- Usable Privacy and Security
- Computing and Online Relationships
- Game Design
- Survey of Communication Technology Studies

Research Methodology

- Research Methods for Human-Centered Computing
- Quantitative Methods
- Qualitative Methods

▬▬ Teaching & Mentoring Experience

Courses Taught

2020-2021   **COMM 1501 Introduction to Human Communications** - 1 Section Fall 2020 & 1 Section Spring 2021. *Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication,* **Clemson University**.

2019-2020 **COMM 1501 Introduction to Human Communications** - 1 Section Fall 2019 & 1 Section Spring 2020. *Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Communication, Clemson University*.

Collegiate Coaching

2019-2021 **Clemson Debate Society** - Internationally competitive Worlds-Style collegiate debate team. *Graduate Assistant Debate Coach, Clemson University*

Team Places During Tenure: Vanderbilt Debating Championship 2021 Open Semi-Finalists / University of Vermont Debating Championship 2020 Grand Finalists & Open Semi-Finalists / U.S. Universities Eastern Debating Championship 2020 Grand Final Winners & Novice Grand Final Winners / Vanderbilt 2020 BP Tournament Quarter-Finalists & Semi-Finalists / United States Air Force Academy 2019 Debate Championship Winners / University of North Georgia 2019 Debate Tournament Winners & Novice Finalists

Student Mentoring

2020-2021 **Master in Communication, Technology, and Society (MACTS) Second Year Peer Mentor** - Rebecca Pool, Ph.D. Human Factors Psychology, *Clemson University, Fall 2022 - Present*

Professional Activities

Reviewing

Journals

Proceedings of ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, CSCW, since 2022
Proceedings of ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, CHI PLAY, since 2023

Conferences

The ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), Student Research Competition, since 2024
The ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), since 2022
Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS), since 2022
NordiCHI, since 2022

Professional Affiliations

ACM, since 2022
ACM SIGCHI, since 2023