

ELIZABETH “LIZZIE” LI

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EDUCATION

2023 – Present	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PhD in Media, Technology, and Society, Expected Graduation March 2028 ○ Advisors: Jeremy Birnholtz and Darren Gergle ○ Lab affiliations: Social Media Lab and CollabLab	Evanston, IL
2021 – 2023	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MA in Human Rights Studies (Technology concentration) ○ GPA: 3.92/4.0 ○ Thesis: Social-Psychological Aspects of Privacy and Self-Disclosure on the Hinge Dating App Profile (app walkthrough, survey, and interview study) ○ Thesis Advisor: Steven Bellovin	New York, NY
2016 – 2019	CORNELL UNIVERSITY Bachelor of Science, Double Major: Communication and Development Sociology, Minor: Inequality Studies ○ GPA: 3.88/4.0 (Magna Cum Laude) ○ Dean's list (all semesters)	Ithaca, NY

PUBLICATIONS

2025	Elizabeth Li , Annika Pinch, Justine Fisher*, Darren Gergle, and Jeremy Birnholtz. 2025. From 'Time to BeReal' to 'Let Me Post My BeFake:' A Case of Operationalizing Authenticity Through Design. Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 9(7), 1-25. https://doi.org/10.1145/3757602 [CSCW Best Paper Honorable Mention Award, top 4% of submissions] [*undergraduate research mentees] [peer reviewed, archival]
In-Progress	Jacob Gordon, Elizabeth Li , Monica Bugomola, and Matthew Rota. LGBTQ+ Individuals' Preferences for a Digital Intervention to Improve Mental Health Outcomes Related to Dating App Use: An exploratory qualitative study.
In-Progress	Elizabeth Li , Harper Barnowski*, Supraja Sudarsan*, and Calvin Liang. The Cruel Optimism of Digital Dating: Understanding Dating App Users' Affective Attachments. [*undergraduate research mentees]

WORKSHOP PAPERS

2025	Between Hope and a Hard Place: Contextualizing Dating App Users' Emotional Experiences. <i>CSCW '25 workshop on Design for Hope: Cultivating Deliberate Hope in the Face of Complex Societal Challenges</i> . Bergen, Norway. [peer-reviewed, non-archival]
	"Investigating Human Values in Social Platform Design: The Case of BeReal." <i>CHI '25 workshop on Defining a UX Research Point of View (POV)</i> . Yokohama, Japan. [peer-reviewed, non-archival]

HONORS & AWARDS

2025	Best Paper Honorable Mention CSCW 2025
2023	Entrance Scholarship (\$10,000) Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
2019	Inductee CALS Honor Society, Cornell University
2019	Inductee Alpha Kappa Delta sociology honor society, Cornell University chapter

TALKS, OUTREACH & PRESS

2025	"Overthinking about Parasocial Relationships." Magical Overthinkers hosted by Amanda Montell. [podcast]
2024	"AI dating assistant designed by NU student plays cupid." The Daily Northwestern. [article]
2023	"Screenshot, share, and save: An exploration into dating app profile-sharing behaviors." Incite at Columbia University. [virtual talk] [Medium publication]

PREVIOUS RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023	Project Manager The Wellness Classroom R&D lab for school-based mental health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Built a research-driven pipeline of school-based mental health programs. ○ Co-implemented pilots and co-developed evaluation metrics for mental-health improvement with program partners. 	New York, NY
2022 – 2023	Fellow Columbia Entrepreneurship, Innovation, and Design <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Provided research support, curriculum development, knowledge translation for EdTech ventures. 	New York, NY
2022 – 2023	Graduate Student Fellow The Privacy Lab at Columbia University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mentors: Madiha Choksi and Kimberly Springer ○ Selected as the lab's inaugural fellow and received a stipend to conduct a self-guided research project. ○ Conducted a digital ethnography and qualitative content analysis of dating app profile-sharing behaviors on Reddit, TikTok, and Facebook communities. 	New York, NY
2022	Co-Designing ESG solutions for Warby Parker Columbia University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Led, designed & conducted interviews and storyboarding sessions with customers, environmental experts, and policymakers to build a disaster-response playbook. ○ Findings shared with Warby Parker's social impact team and other executives. 	New York, NY
2021	Developing Human-Centered Solutions to Sexual Racism in Online Dating Columbia University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Interviewed marginalized users to better understand how online dating systems exacerbates racism and other intersectional harms, and developed a resource website. 	New York, NY
2017 – 2018	Undergraduate Research Assistant Cornell University Department of Development Sociology <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Supervisors: Sarah Giroux and Parfait Eloundou-Enyegue ○ Conducted a systematic literature review on youth capacity-building interventions in Sub-Saharan Africa, synthesizing evidence on education-to-work transitions, civic participation, and social support. 	Ithaca, NY

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2025	Teaching Assistant COMM_ST 227 Communication & Technology, Instructor: Aaron Shaw
Winter 2024	Instructor Computing Everywhere: Algorithms/AI in Everyday Life
Winter 2025	Teaching Assistant COMM_ST 227 Communication & Technology, Instructor: Jeremy Birnholtz
Fall 2024	Teaching Assistant COMM_ST 241 Theories of Relational Communication, Instructor: Susan Dun

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

2020 – 2021	Communications Specialist Minerva BC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developed social media marketing materials and executed fundraising campaigns to support leadership programs for women and girls to help advance gender parity and leadership diversity in the province. 	Vancouver, Canada
2019 – 2020	Researcher Principal Search <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Drove end-to-end searches in commodities, including market/desk mapping, candidate outreach, and structured assessment. 	New York, NY

SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

2025 – Present	Graduate Fellow Public Affairs Residential College (PARC) at Northwestern University
2025	Reviewer Information, Communication, and Society
2025	Student Volunteer CHI '25
2021 – Present	Member All Tech is Human Human Experience (HX) working group and report contributor
2018 – 2019	Peer Writing Tutor Knight Institute at Cornell University
2016 – 2019	President Her Campus, Cornell University chapter

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

2025	Speculative Design for Human-AI Interaction
2024	Advanced Qualitative Methods
	Relationship Science
2023	Qualitative Research Methods for Technology Use
	Technology & The Future of Work

2022	Design for Social Innovation Advocacy in Digital Media & Society Policies & Practices in Digital Development
2021	Design Justice Internet Technology, Economics, and Policy Digitization and Anti-Democracy

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Professional Development

2022	Trust & Safety Course Workshop run through The Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School
2022	Lede Program 10-week applied data and computational methods course offered through the Columbia Journalism School

Skills	Basic HTML, CSS, and Javascript Github and version control Wireframing (Figma, Balsamiq) Data analysis (Dedoose, NVivo, SPSS, Basic Python, Jupyter)
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Hobbies	Skiing Cooking NYT games and Bananagrams
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