

ELIZABETH “LIZZIE” LI

Website: elizabethkli.github.io | Email: elizabethli2028@u.northwestern.edu | LinkedIn: [elizabethkml](#)

EDUCATION

| | | |
|----------------|---|--------------|
| 2023 – Present | NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PhD in Media, Technology, and Society, Expected Graduation March 2028 <ul style="list-style-type: none">Advisors: Jeremy Birnholtz and Darren GergleLab affiliations: Social Media Lab and CollabLab | Evanston, IL |
| 2021 – 2023 | COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY MA in Human Rights Studies (Technology concentration) <ul style="list-style-type: none">GPA: 3.92/4.0Thesis: 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 <ul style="list-style-type: none">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) |
|--------|---|

| | |
|---------|--|
| Hobbies | Skiing Cooking NYT games and Bananagrams |
|---------|--|
