Ellen Simpson

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Education

Ph.D., Information Science Sept 2019* – Aug 2024	**University of Colorado – College of Media, Communication, and Information** *Boulder, CO, USA* **Advisor:** Bryan Semaan Concentration: Human-Computer Interaction and Community Supported Cooperative Work, minor focus in Communications and Media Studies Dissertation: Investigating Creative Labor(s): Sociotechnical Examinations of Creativity and Creative Labor in a Multi-Mediated, Platformed, World Committee: Casey Fiesler, Jed Brubaker, D. Yvette Wohn, Steven Jackson, Bryan Semaan (chair). ** Previously at Syracuse University School of Information Studies, 2019-2021.*
M.Sc., Media Power and Public Affairs Sept 2017 – Aug 2018	**Royal Holloway, University of London** *Egham, England, UK* **Advisor:** Sofia Collignon Concentration: New Media Studies, Communication, Political Communication, Political Theory Thesis: You Can't Tweet with Us: The Impact of Hashtag Text on Community Formation within Social Movements Online.
B.A., History, Political Science Sept 2006 – May 2010	**University of Vermont** *Burlington, VT, USA* **Advisors:** H. Armani Whitfield (History), Anthony Gierzynski (Political Science) Thesis: Backcountry Life in Colonial South Carolina (History) Thesis: The Political Effects of *Harry Potter* (Political Science)

Academic Appointments

Researcher Aug 2024 – Present	**University of Virginia – School of Data Science** *Charlottesville, Virginia, USA* Research Supervisor: Mona Sloane Project investigates the use of artificial intelligence (AI) systems in human resources (HR), focusing on how discretionary decision-making, work processes, and identity are shaped by AI, particularly in HR and job candidate recruitment. Project focuses on issues of AI Fairness and Ethics, deploying ethnographic and interview-based research methodologies, as well collection and maintenance of a database in preparation for an algorithmic audit using data science methodology.
Graduate Research Assistant Summer 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024	**University of Colorado – Department of Information Science** *Boulder, Colorado, USA* Research Supervisor: Bryan Semaan Summer research assistantship over five summers investigating the everyday experiences of people who are systematically marginalized across physical and digital environments. Mentored undergraduate student researchers through qualitative interview analysis, reflected on algorithmic fairness and bias mitigation around working artists, LGBTQ+ platform users, and content creators. [J3], [J6], [C0], [C2] and [C3] are the results of this ongoing research project.

Graduate Research Practicum Spring 2020	**Syracuse University – School of Information Science** *Syracuse, New York, USA* Research Supervisor: LaVerne Gray Research practicum exploring information communities built around the Henry Booth Settlement House and Community Housing Projects in Chicago. Through the use of social network analysis and historical methods, this project investigated an archive of photographs and documents, tracing narratives through images and documents. [CP4], [CP5] and [CP6] are the results of this research.
Graduate Research Practicum Fall 2019	**Syracuse University – School of Information Science** *Syracuse, New York, USA* Research Supervisor: Jeff Hemsley Research practicum that explored networks of 'super retweeters' on Twitter. Used Twitter API, Python, and R to conduct social network analysis, created representative data visualizations. [J5] is the result of this research.

Publications

† Undergraduate Co-author

Journal Articles
(peer reviewed, archival)

[J0] *In Submission: New Media and Society* - Alper, M., Rodgers, R., Rauchberg, J., **Simpson, E.**, and Harrison, K. (2024). "actually an ED and not just a quirky aspect of autism": TikTok as Forum and Mediator of Autistic Food Issues and Eating Disorders

[J1] Alper, M., Rauchberg, J., **Simpson, E.**, Guberman, J., Feinberg, S.[†] (2023). TikTok as Algorithmically Mediated Biographical Illumination: Autism, Self-Discovery, and Platformed Diagnosis on #autisktok. *New Media and Society 0(0).*

[J2] Dym, B., **Simpson, E.**, Fong, O.[†], and striegl, l. (2023). The Internet is Not Forever: Challenges and Sustainability in Video Game Archiving and Preservation. *The Journal of Electronic Gaming and Esports. 1(1).*

[J3] **Simpson, E.**, Dalal, S., and Semaan, B. (2023). "Hey, Can You Add Captions?": The Critical Infrastructuring Practices of Neurodiverse People on TikTok. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 7, CSCW1, Article 57 (APR 2023).

[J4] Wu, Q., Williams, L.K.[†], **Simpson, E.**, and Semaan, B. (2022) Conversations About Crime: Re-enforcing and Fighting Against Platform Racism on Reddit. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 6, CSCW1, Article 54 (April 2022), 38 pages.

[J5] Yoon, N., Hemsley, J., Smith, A., **Simpson, E.**, & Eakins, J. (2022). Super-amplifiers! The role of Twitter extended party networks in political elections. *Policy & Internet.*

[J6] **Simpson, E.**, Hamann, A.[†], Semaan, B. (2022). How to Tame "Your" Algorithm: LGBTQ+ Users' Domestication of TikTok. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Computer Interaction.* Vol. 6, GROUP, Article 22 (January 2022), 27 pages. *** Best Paper, GROUP '23*

Conference Papers
(peer reviewed, archival)

[C0] *In Submission: CHI* - **Simpson, E.** and Semaan, B. (2024). Infrastructures for Inspiration: The Routine Construction and Maintenance of Inspiration on the Creative Internet.

[C1] Taylor, J.*, **Simpson, E.***, Tran, A.*, Brubaker, J., Fox, S. and Zhu, H. (2024) Cruising Queer HCI on the DL: A literature Review of LGBTQ+ People in HCI. In *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '24)*, May 11–16, 2024, Honolulu, HI, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 22 pages.

*equal contribution

[C2] **Simpson, E.**, and Semaan, B. (2023). Rethinking Creative Labor: A Sociotechnical

Examination of Creativity & Creative Work on TikTok. *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '23)*, April 23–28, 2023, Hamburg, Germany. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 16 pages.

[C3] **Simpson, E.** and Semaan, B. (2021). For You, or For "You"?: Everyday LGBTQ+ Encounters with TikTok. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing.* 4, CSCW3, Article 252 (January 2021), 34 pages.

Special Interest Groups and Workshops
(peer reviewed, archival)

[W1] DeVito, M. A., Lustig, C., **Simpson, E.,** Allison, K., Chuanromanee, T., Spiel, K., Ko, A., Rode, J., Dym, B., Muller, M., Scheuerman, M.K., Walker, A.M. Brubaker, J., and Ahmed, A. (2021, May). Queer in HCI: Strengthening the Community of LGBTQIA+ Researchers and Research. In Extended Abstracts of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (pp. 1-3).

[W2 DeVito, M.A., Walker, A.M., Lustig, C., Ko, A., Spiel, K., Ahmed, A., Allison, K., Scheuerman, M., Dym, B., Brubaker, J., **Simpson, E.**, Bagalkot, N., Raval, N., Muller, M., Rode, J., and Gray, M.L. (2020, April). Queer in HCI: Supporting LGBTQIA+ Researchers and Research Across Domains. Special Interest Group Convened at the 2020 ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Honolulu, HI.

Posters
(peer reviewed, archival)

[P1] **Simpson, E**. (2018). Integrated & Alone: The Use of Hashtags in Twitter Social Activism. In Companion of the 2018 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2018) (pp. 237-240). New York: ACM.

Abstracts
(peer reviewed, non-archival)

[A1] Rauchberg, J.S., Alper, M., **Simpson, E.,** Guberman, J., and Feinberg, S. [†] (2023). "Here to have fun and flight ableism": #Autisktok User Bios as NeuroQueer Micro-Activist Platform Affordances. To be presented at the 2023 Association of Internet Researchers Conference in Philadelphia, PA. October 18-21, 2023.

[A2] Dym, B., **Simpson, E.** and striegl, l.r. (2022) Accidental Archiving and Sustainable Game Preservation Work. (Special Issue on Diversity and Sustainability in Electronic Gaming and Esports)

Positioning Papers
(lightly peer reviewed, non-archival)

[PP1] **Simpson, E.** (2021). Resilience Strategies for LGBTQ+ TikTok Users. Workshop paper for Against Platform Determinism Academic Workshop, held by Data and Society in conjunction with the Centre for Media, Technology and Democracy (MTD) at McGill University. Online Asynchronous and Montreal, QC (March, 2021).

[PP2] **Simpson, E**., and Semaan, B. (2019). Resisting Identity Invalidation: Exploring Danger in Assumed Safe Spaces Online Amongst Transgender Women. Workshop on Digital Wellbeing for Marginalized Communities, held in conjunction with the ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW 2019).

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record
(University of Colorado)

Online Communities, Spring 2024
Developed and implemented a third course project that allowed students to critically reflect on the impact of Generative AI in their online communities. Redeveloped course materials with insights and student feedback from the prior year. Navigated challenging classroom environment and facilitated learning amongst different student learning styles and interest in course material. Class Size: 23; Average Course Evaluation Score 4.5/5 [SD 0.9].

Online Communities, Spring 2023
Transitioned course to weekly, seminar-style class for undergraduates from graduate

course. Developed and implemented two individual course projects allowing for students to critically reflect on their own online communities. Created course materials (e.g., Power Points, discussion guides) to assist in student learning of reading materials and key concepts. Average Class Size: 24 Students; Course Evaluation Score: 4.8/5

Intro to Information Science: Understanding the World Through Data, Summer 2023

Taught a synchronous and asynchronous remote learning class, transitioned synchronous course lectures to remote lectures and transitioned learning activities (e.g., worksheets, projects, discussion) to remote and online modalities while ensuring consistent learning outcomes. Class Size: 18 students; course evaluations were not released due to low response rate.

College of Media, Communication, and Information Pathways to Excellence Program, Summer 2022, Summer 2023

Developed and taught lectures on the hidden curriculum of the academy to two cohorts of first-generation college students. Focused on critical skills for studying and learning (e.g., identifying learning styles and study techniques).

Teaching Assistant and Studio Instructor
(University of Colorado, Syracuse University)

Intro to Information Science: Understanding the World Through Data,
Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023
Instructors: Jed Brubaker ('21, '22), Bryan Semaan ('23)

Served as lead TA, managing a team of 4 teaching assistants to support student learning and coordinate grade parity across multiple lab sections (2022, 2023). Managed Lab and Discussion sections to provide support and instruction to student project groups and gain familiarity with data analysis tools such as Tableau, Google Sheets, SQL, and Google Big Query. Taught survey, interview and big data methodologies, as well as visual storytelling using qualitative and quantitative data (2021 – 2023); Wrote worksheets to help students gain familiarity with SQL (2021-2023); Graded homework, papers, and exams (2021- 2023). Class size: apx. 120 Students; Discussion Section Size: avg. 35; Course Evaluations: 4.6/5.

Designing Interactions, Spring 2022
Instructor: Steve Voida

Managed Lab and Discussion sections to provide support and instruction to student project groups and gain familiarity with prototyping tools such as Figma; Graded student homework, papers, design projects, and exams. Class size: 120 Students; Discussion Section Size 40; Course Evaluation 4.5/5

Data and Society, Spring 2020, Fall 2019 - *At Syracuse University*
Instructors: Jennifer Stormer-Galley ('20), Bryan Semaan ('19)

Collaborated with instructor to redesign course for remote delivery due to COVID-19 (2020); Developed lesson plans and grading rubrics (2020, 2019); led discussion sections to stimulate thought and ways to apply material (2020, 2019); Graded student homework, papers, design projects, and exams (2020, 2019). Course Size: 40.

Grader
(University of Colorado)

Information Science Portfolio and Professional Development, Fall 2023
Instructor: Morgan Scheuerman

Digital Identity, Fall 2022
Instructor: Jed Brubaker

User-Centered Design, Spring 2022
Instructor: Ricarose Roque

Course Development (Syracuse University)	**Field and Trace Methods*,** Spring 2021 PhD/Masters Course, Taught Fall 2022 Faculty Advisor and Instructor of Record: Carsten Østerlund
	Digital Platforms*, Fall 2020 Undergraduate Course, Taught Spring 2021 Faculty Advisor and Instructor of Record: John Jordan; Collaborator: Dipto Das
	Data and Society*, Fall 2029 Undergraduate Course, Syllabus Redesign Faculty Advisor: Bryan Semaan
	*Course development was a part of the required Syracuse University Teaching Practicum Course (IST840), classes developed by PhD students and subsequently taught by the faculty advisor who supervised the project.

Awards & Recognitions

Awards	**Best Paper: ACM GROUP Conference,** Jan 2023 *Simpson, E., Hamann, A., Semaan, B. (2022). How to Tame "Your" Algorithm: LGBTQ+ Users' Domestication of TikTok. Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Computer Interaction. Vol. 6, GROUP, Article 22 (January 2022), 27 pages.* https://doi.org/10.1145/3492841
	2023-2024 AY Graduate Research Grant Amount Awarded $1,000.00
	2023-2024 AY Graduate School Student Travel Grant Amount Awarded $450.00
	2022-2023 AY Graduate School Student Travel Grant Amount Awarded: $700.00
	Against Platform Determinism Academic Workshop – Data & Society, March 2021 Cohort Selection Stipend: $150.00
Recognitions	**Special Recognitions for Outstanding Reviews:** CHI 2021, CHI 2022, CHI 2023, CSCW 2023, CHI 2024, CHI LBW 2024

Students Mentored

University of Colorado	**Information Science Senior Capstone Project Supervisor, 2023** Students: Max Vali, Connor Meegan, Dani Urbani, and Delaney Torrisi (*Information Science*) Delaney has gone on to become a master's student at the University of Colorado.
Syracuse University	**Undergraduate Research Assistants, 2019 – 2021** **Student:** Louisa Williams *(Information Science, Management)* Louisa is now a PhD Student at the University of Michigan's School of Information working with Sarita Schoenebeck, we worked with Qunfang Wu on [J4].
	Student: Andrew Hamann *(Computer Science)* Andrew is now a PhD Student at the University of California, Irvine in Informatics. We worked with Bryan Semaan on [J6], which won a best paper award at GROUP '23.

Invited Talks & Conference Presentations

Invited Talks	[IT1] **Simpson, E.** (2023). Investigating Everyday Encounters with Technology: An Exploration of How People Use, Appropriate and Live with Algorithmic Systems. Information Science Seminar Series. University of Colorado. September 27, 2023.

Conference Presentations	[CP1] Alper, M., Rauchberg, J., **Simpson, E.,** Guberman, J., Feinberg, S. (2023). TikTok as Algorithmic Biographical Illumination: Autism, Self-Discovery, and Platformed Diagnosis on #autisktok. To be presented at the 109th National Communication Association Annual Convention – Human Communication and Technology Division. National Harbor, Maryland. November 16-19, 2023.
	[CP2] Rauchberg, J.S., Alper, M., **Simpson, E.,** Guberman, J., and Feinberg, S. (2023). "Here to have fun and flight ableism": #Autisktok User Bios as NeuroQueer Micro-Activist Platform Affordances. To be presented at the 2023 Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) Conference. Philadelphia, PA. October 18-21, 2023.
	[CP3] Alper, M., Rauchberg, J., **Simpson, E.,** Guberman, J., Feinberg, S. (2023). "I'm My Own Target Audience": Platform Affordances and Neurodivergent Young People's Cultural Production on #Autisktok. TikTok Cultures Research Network Research Symposium on TikTok and Children. Online, May 8, 2023.
	[CP4] Nutt, R. Gray, L., **Simpson, E.** Yeon, J. (2022). Visualizing Collective Voices Online: Narrative, literacy, and African American Information Communities in a Photographic Archive. 54th Annual Conference of the International Visual Literacy Association. Jyväskylä, Finland, 10-12 August 2022.
	[CP5] Gray, L., **Simpson, E.,** and Yeon, J. (2021). Information Community Identity: Examining the Photographic Legacy of Henry Booth Settlement House in Chicago, 1900-1965. Library History Seminar XI, Spring 2021, Baton Rouge, LA.
	[CP6] Gray, L., **Simpson, E.,** and Yeon, J. (2020). (Re)Constructing an African American Communal Space: An Information Analysis of a Chicago Public Housing Archive, 1955-1970. 2020 SIG AH Virtual Symposium: Data Curation and Visualization in the Arts & Humanities.

Professional Development

Community of Sociotechnical Systems Researchers (CSST) Summer Research Institute, 26-30 June 2023

Inclusive & Engaged Pedagogy Workshop Series, 2022, 2023, 2024

Service

Committee & Departmental Service Work	**University of Colorado,** 2021 – 2023 • Inclusive & Engaged Pedagogy Ambassador, 2022 – 2024 • Vice President, INFO Graduate Student Association, 2021 – 2022
	Syracuse University, 2019 – 2021 • Critical Design Faculty Search Committee, 2021 • Human Computer Interaction Ad-Hoc Committee, 2020 • Covid-19 Wellbeing Committee, 2020 • Doctoral Admissions Committee, 2019 – 2020
	Royal Holloway, University of London, 2017 - 2018 • MSc Course Student Representative
Organizing Committees	**CSCW 2023 AI Youth Workshop, Program Committee,** 2023

Student Volunteering	**CSCW 2021 Conference Student Volunteer, Social Chair,** 2021 **CSCW 2020 Conference Student Volunteer,** 2020

Reviewing Work

- **CHI** 2020 - 2024
- **CHI LBW** 2022, 2024
- **ICWSM** 2022, 2023
- **JASIST** 2022
- **New Media & Society** 2023
- **ToCHI**, 2023

- **CSCW** 2020 - 2025
- **CSCW LBW** 2022
- **Techne** 2022, 2023
- **Social Media + Society** 2023, 2024
- **IJoC**, 2023
- **Sexualities**, 2023