

# Design for a Narrative Inheritance: Designing Memory Technologies for Intergenerational Family Memory

## Research Question

How can we design technologies to support intergenerational memory, shared through family stories?

## Thesis

Design must center on supporting the family values and practices enacted through family storytelling.

## Mixed Methods Research Approach

### Ethnographic Inquiry

Framing remembering as interwoven practices and artifacts through which family memory is socially constructed

### Research-through-Design

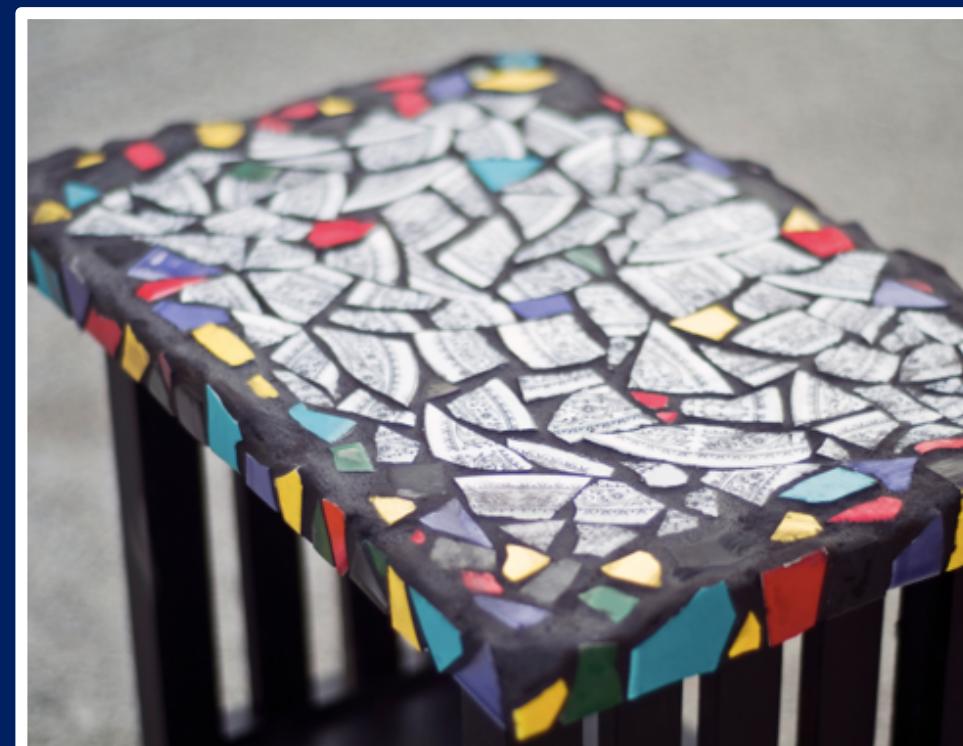
Using value-sensitive and interaction-driven design to focus on the values and practices mediated through design

## Ethnographic Inquiry

### Key Findings:

- 1) Family stories are co-constructed from fragmented personal and inherited memories
- 2) Stories are shared conditionally, dependent on the agenda and anticipated needs
- 3) Each generation must negotiate control of how a story is told

## Design Inquiry

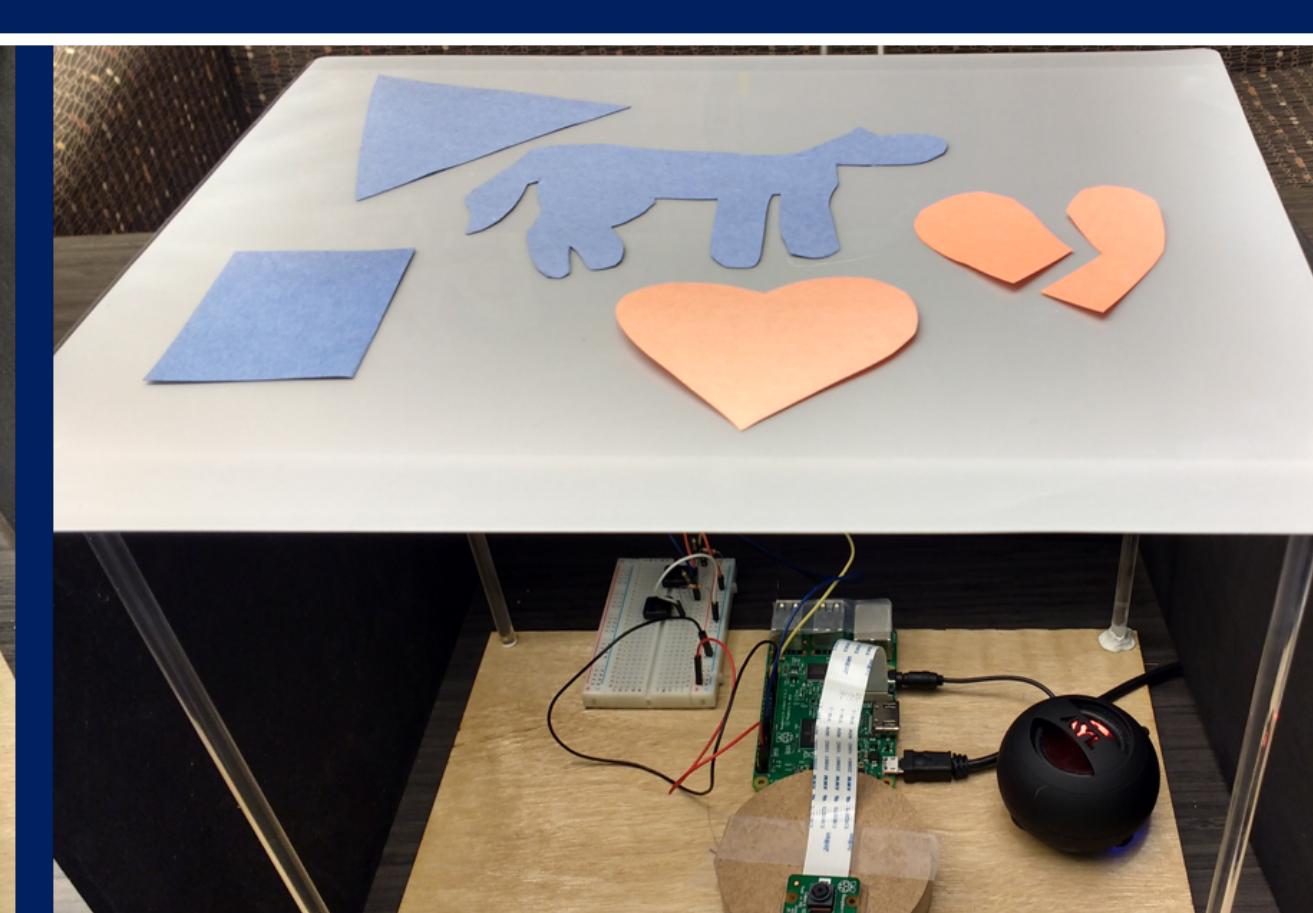
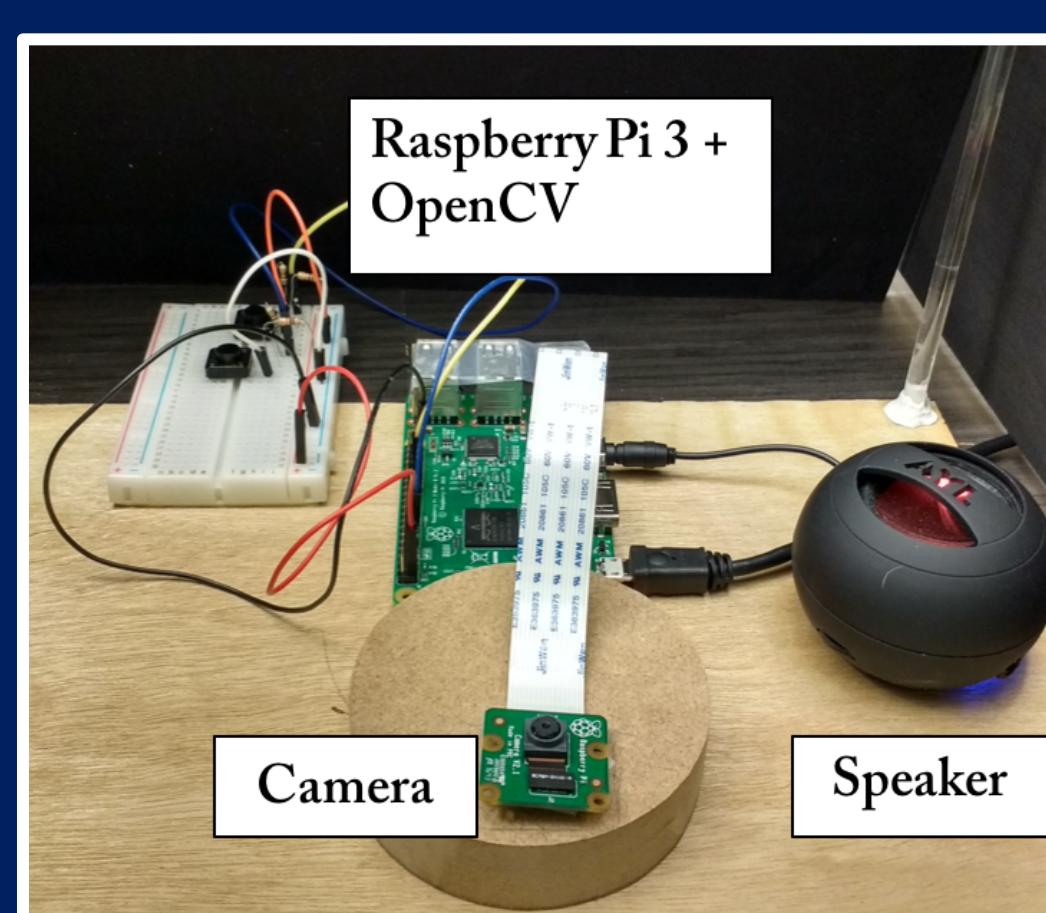


Design Metaphor: Piecing Together a Mosaic



### Family Memory Practices

- Discover, Decipher, Reconstruct
- Reconcile conflict and uncertainty
- Signal value through organization
- Negotiate narrative authority



### Family Memory Values

- Narrative Authority (control)
- Narrative Entitlement (expectation)
- Narrative Courtesy (respect)

**"Scatter" Prototype Implementation:**  
Create an interactive mosaic for organizing and directing playback of recorded stories, governed by rules and spatial arrangement

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