Mikaela Brough

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Citizenship: Canadian

Profile

I am a PhD researcher in the Information Security Group at Royal Holloway, University of London. My research explores the digital security practices and perceptions of environmental activists operating in higher-risk political contexts. In particular, I am interested in examining how culturally specific conceptualisations of security frame the cryptographic decision-making processes of advocacy groups. I have previously published in other areas of qualitative social research in academia and the private sector.

Current Research Interests

Ethnographic Methods, Climate Activism, Social Movements, Secure Messaging, Cryptography / Security Technologies

Education

2022 – Present	**Royal Holloway, University of London** – Egham, UK PhD in Information Security Centre for Doctoral Training in Cybersecurity Supervisors: Dr. Rikke Jensen, Dr. Martin Albrecht
2020 – 2021	**University of Oxford** – Oxford, UK MSc in Social Anthropology Supervisor: Dr. Ina Zharkevich *1:1 Distinction.*
2015 – 2019	**McGill University** – Montreal, Canada BA in History and Art History, Minor in Political Science *GPA: 3.6.*

Awards

2022	International PhD Funding with Living Stipend (Department of Information Security, Royal Holloway, University of London) *Awarded through the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council of UK Research and Innovation*

2022	Prof David Parkin Prize in Ethnographic Materials (School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography)
	Awarded to the best use of ethnography in an MSc Dissertation
2021	Distinction (School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford)
2019	Distinction (Canadian Equivalent) (McGill University)

Publications

2022	**Father-toddler bonding during the Covid-19 lockdown: Qualitative insights from 17 families in Britain**
	Paula Sheppard, Mikaela Brough
	Social Sciences
2022	**Fertility Decision-Making in the UK: Insights from a qualitative study among British men and women**
	Mikaela Brough, Paula Sheppard
	Social Sciences
2021	**Review of "Benno Herzog, Invisibilization of Suffering: A Moral Grammar of Disrespect"**
	Mikaela Brough
	Journal of the Anthropological Society of Oxford

Research experience

August 2021 – January 2022	**Research Assistant**
	Principal Investigator: Dr. Paula Sheppard (University of Oxford)
	Qualitative research project on UK fertility gap/decline. Summary of findings available here and here. Recruitment, Data Collection, Data Analysis, Writing, Editing, Publishing.
June 2018 – August 2018	**Salapia Exploration Project**
	Mentors: Dr. Darian Totten (McGill University), Dr. Roberto Goffredo (Università degli studi di Foggia)

Industry experience

2016 - 2020	**Researcher (Boxing Cats Productions)** – Toronto, Canada

Summer 2020	**Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Officer (First Canadian Title)** – Oakville, Canada

Talks / Conferences

April 2023	**Presenter** – Exploring Secure Messaging and Perceptions of Risk: A Literature Review *STS Italia, Bologna, Italy.*
March 2023	**Attendee** – *Real World Crypto, Tokyo, Japan*
March 2023	**Attendee** – *CHI, Hamburg, Germany*
April 2022	**Presenter** – Fertility Decision Making in the UK: Insights from a qualitative study across British social classes *European Human Behaviour and Evolution Association conference at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig, Germany.*

Service

September 2022 – Present	**Various Journals (Reviewer)** Peer review

Technical skills

Programming Languages
Proficient in: Python, R, Bash shell scripting/Linux CLI, SQL
Familiar with: C, HTML

Languages
English (fluent), Italian (advanced), French (Intermediate)

Skills
Ethnography, interdisciplinary research, participant observation, qual/quant data collection/analysis, programming, interviewing, public speaking