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 how environmental defenders navigate their information security in politically risky contexts. I have previously published in other areas of qualitative social research in academia and the private sector.

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.

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

Submitted for Publication

2024	**On the Virtues of Information Security in the UK Climate Movement**
	Mikaela Brough, Rikke Bjerg Jensen, Martin Albrecht
	Manuscript under review

2024	**Navigating the high/low risk binary in information security research**
	Mikaela Brough
	Submitted

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. Grant: 2751135.* |

| 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. Amount: £200* |

| 2021 | Distinction (School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography, University of Oxford) |

| 2019 | Distinction (Canadian Equivalent) (McGill University) |

Research experience

June 2023 – present	**PhD Fieldwork**
	Supervisors: Dr. Rikke Bjerg Jensen, Professor Martin Albrecht
	Ethnographic fieldwork in the UK and the Southern Philippines for PhD thesis. Recruitment, Data Collection (interviewing, participant observation, focus groups, workshops, etc.).

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)

Teaching experience

September 2023 – present	**Teaching Assistant**
	Department of Information Security, Royal Holloway
	Courses: Security Management, Introduction to Cryptography

January 2024 – present	**Teaching Assistant**
	Department of Computer Science, Royal Holloway
	Courses: Internet Services, Programming Fundamentals

January 2018 – July 2018	**Teaching Assistant**
	HSM Adult Education Centre
	Course: English as a Third Language

Talks / Conferences

August 2024	**Presenter and Workshop Lead** – Talking about Information Security
	Various (x4 venues), Cebu, Philippines.

June 2024	**Presenter** – Information Security in Environmental Movements
	Inter-CDT Conference, Bristol, UK.

May 2024	**Presenter** – On the Virtues of Information Security in the UK Climate Movement
	ReCAP, Re-imagining Cryptography and Privacy, Massachusetts, USA.

April 2023 - 24	**Presenter** – Various: 'On the Virtues of Information Security in the UK Climate Movement', 'Exploring Software Developers Perceptions of Security', 'Exploring Secure Messaging and Perceptions of Risk'
	CDT Showcase, Windsor, UK.

March 2024	**Presenter and Participant** – Navigating the high / low risk binary in information security research *Looking for Everyday Security, London, England.*
June 2023	**Presenter** – Exploring Secure Messaging and Perceptions of Risk: A Literature Review *STS Italia, Bologna, Italy.*
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.*
March 2023 -	**Attendee (Various Events)** – *Real World Crypto (x2), ACM CHI*

Relevant industry experience

2016 - 2020	**Researcher (Boxing Cats Productions)** – Toronto, Canada
Summer 2020	**Canadian Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance Officer (First Canadian Title)** – Oakville, Canada

Reviewing

September 2022	**Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health** Peer review
September 2023	**USENIX Security Symposium** Peer review

Other

Programming Languages

- *Proficient in:* Python, R
- *Familiar with:* C

Research and Soft Skills

- *Methodology:* Proficiency in qual data collection and analysis (interviewing, participant observation, focus groups, thematic analysis), proficiency in discourse analysis (both qual and quant), good knowledge of quant data collection and analysis (surveys, questionnaires, statistical analysis, data visualisation using R), good knowledge of Participatory Action Research (PAR) methods

- *Communication and outreach:* Proficiency in communicating across disciplines, public speaking to a variety of audiences, fostering participant relationships, recruitment across cultural lines, and ethically engaged research principles and practices

- *Collaboration:* Good knowledge of how to position and communicate a qual project within a mixed methods or interdisciplinary project, proficiency in working collaboratively with research participants on shared goals outside research (real-world impact)

- *Theory:* Proficiency in all major anthropological / sociological theories from past 100 years, contemporary ethnographic theory, cultural history of CS, contemporary debates in CS

IT Skills

- *Networking:* Good knowledge of network protocols, architecture

- *Cryptography:* Good knowledge of standard cryptographic protocols, key management, key exchange

- *Operating systems:* Proficiency in OS fundamentals (memory management, file systems, how to configure and manage settings) on Mac, Windows, and Linux

- *Scripting:* Good knowledge of scripting languages (Bash, Python, Powershell)

- *Front end:* Fair knowledge of JavaScript, CSS, and HTML

- *Other:* Good knowledge of frequentist statistics, SQL databases

Languages
English (fluent), Italian (advanced), French (intermediate), Tagalog (basic)