Mikaela Brough

Email: mikaela.brough.2022@live.rhul.ac.uk ·
Citizenship: Canadian
Website: mikaelabrough.github.io
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Profile

A post-graduate researcher in the CDT in Cyber Security for the Everyday at Royal Holloway, University of London. My interests are in social movements and security and privacy. I have also published in other areas of academic and private social research.

Education

2022 – Present **Royal Holloway, University of London** – Egham, UK
PhD in Information Security
Centre for Doctoral Training in Cybersecurity
Supervisors: Prof. Rikke Jensen, Prof. Martin Albrecht

2020 – 2021 **University of Oxford** – Oxford, UK
MSc in Social Anthropology
Supervisor: Dr. Ina Zharkevich *1:1 Distinction.*

2015 – 2019 **McGill University** – Montréal, Canada
BA in History and Art History, Minor in Political Science
GPA: 3.6.

Publications

2025 **On the Virtues of Information Security in the UK Climate Movement**
Mikaela Brough, Rikke Bjerg Jensen, Martin R. Albrecht
Proceedings of the 34th USENIX Security Symposium – Accepted/in press

2025 **Securing Converged Technologies: Insights from Subject Matter Experts**
Andrew Dwyer, Mikaela Brough
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology (DSIT) Commissioned Report – Accepted/in press

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

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 Selected Courses: Security Management, Introduction to Cryptography
January 2024 – present	**Teaching Assistant** Department of Computer Science, Royal Holloway Selected 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.*
April 2024	**Presenter** – On the Virtues of Information Security in the UK Climate Movement *ReCAP, Re-imagining Cryptography and Privacy, Massachusetts, USA.*
April 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.*

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, Java

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 and key management

- *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)