

Mikaela Brough

mikaela.brough.2022@live.rhul.ac.uk •

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

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

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)

Relevant 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 (Various Events)** – *Real World Crypto, ACM CHI*

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.

Reviewing

September 2022 **Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health**
Peer review

September 2023 **USENIX Security Symposium**
Peer review

Skills

Programming Languages

Proficient in: Python, R, Bash

Familiar with: C, SQL

Languages

English (fluent), Italian (advanced), French (intermediate)

Other

Ethnography, participant observation, qual/quant data collection/analysis, interviewing, HTML