

# Nathan Beard

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## Education

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**University of Colorado at Boulder—College of Engineering and Applied Sciences**      Boulder, CO  
M.S., Information, Communication Technologies for Development (ICTD)      2016 - 2018  
• Information tech design, policy and ethics, social impacts of data-driven tech      3.9 GPA

**University of Colorado at Boulder—Leeds School of Business**      Boulder, CO  
B.S., Business Administration and Information Management      2009 - 2014  
• Certificate in Technology, Art, and Media  
• Certificate in Entrepreneurial Studies  
• International business coursework and internship in Barcelona, Spain

## Research Interests

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Investigating ethical, socioeconomic and political impacts of data-driven technologies in society with a focus on the intersection of technology policy and inequality, privacy, and labor. Interested in learning more about mixed methods, the historical contexts of technology development and applications in society, and how to translate research into policy and other actionable products that support the political and economic dignity and agency of underserved and working-class populations.

### Interests:

technology policy; surveillance and privacy; ethical and social impacts of technology; labor; democracy; inequality; political economy; STS; design futures

### Teaching interests:

Information technology design, ethics and policy; Social impact entrepreneurship and ICTD

## Publications

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Skirpan, M., **Beard, N.**, Bhaduri, S., Fiesler, C., and Yeh, T. *Ethics Education in Context: A Case Study of Novel Ethics Activities for the CS Classroom*. Proceedings of the SIGCSE Conference on Computer Science Education. 2018. **[Third Best Paper Award]**

## Refereed Conference Presentations

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**Beard, N.**, Troxil, G., Fiesler, C. 21st Century Digital Democracy Needs a New Contract. Oxford Internet, Policy & Politics Conference. 2018. [\[Working draft\]](#)

Fiesler, C., **Beard, N.**, Keegan, B. No Robots, Spiders, or Scrapers: Regulation of Data Collection Methods in Social Media Terms of Service. ICWSM poster. 2018.

## Under Submission

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Saltz, J., Skirpan, M., Fiesler, C., Gorlich, M., Yeh, T., **Beard, N.** and Heckman, R. Integrating Ethics Within Machine Learning Courses. Under submission (invited to revise) to “Machine Learning Education” special issue of Transactions on Computing Education.

**Beard, N.**, Troxil, G., Fiesler, C. Social Media and the Social Contract: Digital Democracy Needs a New Contract.

**Beard, N.**, Keegan, B., and Fiesler, C. Terms of Submission: Social Media Platform Policies' Effect on Deviant Behavior—and Implications for Subversive Design.

## Research Experience and Projects

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### **Internet Rules Lab**

2017 - present

#### Research assistant

Boulder, CO

Research leveraging qualitative and computational techniques under the supervision of Casey Fiesler and Brian Keegan in the Department of Information Science. We're exploring online governance and the ethical, behavioral and legal implications of social media policies.

### **HCC Foundations Ethics Curriculum**

2017

#### Learning and research assistant

Boulder, CO

Designed and integrated ethics curriculum under the supervision of Michael Skirpan for a human-centered computing (HCC) class in the Department of Computer Science that aimed to help students consider the social impacts of technology as they learned the software design and prototyping cycle.

### **CPRSOUTH Conference 2017**

2017

#### Young Scholar

Yangon, Myanmar

Raised funds and got accepted to a two-day workshop and three-day conference on ICT policy with young researchers, technologists, journalists and regulators from Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. We learned how to design technology policy research projects and write policy briefs based on timely research publications that can influence policy for social good.

### **Information, Communication Technology (ICT) Law and Policy**

2017

#### Independent study

Boulder, CO

Designed an independent study to explore Internet law and policy based on a collection of readings, such as James Grimmelman's "Internet Law: Cases and Problems," and topics spanning from case law and statute interpretation and application to TCP/IP filtering and international data protection law.

### **Ethics in Technology and Law Competition**

2017, 2018

#### Multidisciplinary tech ethics competition

Boulder, CO

Designed strategy and pitched ethical, legal, and technical business solutions covering data privacy in 2017 and fake news in 2018 as the technical lead in a team of law and business students for a multidisciplinary technology, ethics and law case competition.

### **Financial inclusion and mobile technologies**

2016

#### Research assistant

Boulder, CO

Interviewed experts, executives and entrepreneurs around the globe, collected research and helped draft a chapter on mobile technology and financial inclusion as an assistant researcher for Albert Chu,

(Chapter 6: *Mobile Technology and Financial Inclusion. Handbook of Blockchain, Digital Finance and Inclusion, Volume 1.* 2018).

## Professional Experience

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**EFK Group** (Agribusiness and social impact startup) 2015 - 2016  
*Design Strategy* Nairobi, Kenya

- Conducted interviews with rural farmers about their lives and experiences with farming; surveyed stakeholders and investors, and designed and revitalized EFK brand and website.

**Unreasonable Group** (Startup accelerator and think tank) 2014 - 2015  
*Digital Editor* Boulder, CO

- Curated, edited, and broadcasted over 200 posts, led digital and content strategy, and managed 30 regular writers—spanning from serial entrepreneurs and impact investors, to thought leaders and industry influencers, such as TIME Magazine’s Hero of the year and former GoogleX designer.
- Wrote 15+ articles and advised startups on communicating with various audiences.
- Designed, prototyped and implemented a new user-centric, content creation strategy engaging 150+ entrepreneurs and organizations, and spearheaded a partnership with USAID.

**First User Group** (User experience consultancy agency) 2014  
*User Experience (UX) Apprentice* Boulder, CO

- Learned and deployed UX methodologies in the field removing biases and designing experiences from an anthropological and cognitive psychology approach.
- Conducted three UX tests and a report that led to future business contracts in mobile app design.

**JumpCloud** (Server management tech startup) 2014  
*Growth Hacker* Boulder, CO

- Designed real-time growth metrics and integration for the JumpCloud website.
- Ghost wrote and edited white papers on server management and security.

**Van Heyst Group** (Global events firm) 2013  
*Marketing, Design and Partnership Development Intern* Boulder, CO

- Identified and contacted global “startup hubs” for Startup Phenomenon, a conference of around 300 entrepreneurs, policymakers, and investors that have developed a full startup ecosystem.
- Billion People Project (affiliated non-profit startup focused on environment causes): organized focus groups and aided in mobile/web design; partnership development and project management for NCAR and CDC liaising and business-city report.

**Elipsis Design** (Artist collective and apparel merchandising) 2008 - 2011  
*Co-founder and Co-owner* Fort Collins, CO

- Developed business plan, sponsored public events and athletes for brand publicity, contracted consignment of products into stores, sourced and negotiated costs for product manufacturing, settled price points based off target market, and created custom website.

## Leadership and Service

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- Mentor, Young Alumni Mentor program, Leeds Business School // 2014 - present
- Student representative, Atlas Graduate Student Collective, University of Colorado // 2016 - 2018
- Volunteer tutor, I Have a Dream Foundation (IHAD) at Boulder High School // 2017 - 2018
- **First place**, Business Ethics Case Competition // 2014

- Business chief, InnovateCU computer science and startup student club // 2013 - 2014
- Co-founder, New Venture Challenge Mobile App Track student competition // 2013 - 2014
- Volunteer, Young Life Chiapas, Mexico // 2013
- C2C fellow at Bard College Center for Environmental Policy // 2012
- Volunteer, Living Hope community center, Cape Town, South Africa // 2007, 2008

## Skills

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- Research: ethnographic, comparative, and critical/speculative approaches
- Data science: Python, Jupyter Notebook, Excel
- Design and web: iOS/swift, Android/Javascript, WordPress, CSS, HTML5, Adobe Creative Suite
- Writing and communication: content design, reporting and editing, academic writing, social media