JOEL HUMPHRIES

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Joel Humphries is a PhD candidate at RMIT in the School of Media and Communication. He has a comprehensive knowledge of Adobe Creative Cloud, Microsoft Office and macOS, as well as front-end web development experience. He also publishes a cult email newsletter, *Queer Computer*, that explores intersections of queer theory and technology.

RESEARCH ROLES

ARC Discovery (DP230100870): Addressing Online Hostility in Australian Digital Cultures
Research Assistant: January 2024 – present
- Conducted a digital ethnography of an online support setting and compiled field notes and insights to be shared with chief investigators;
- Conducted one-on-one interviews with research participants and transcribed interviews;
- Provided research support as needed, such as arranging meetings, bookings, catering and taking minutes;
- Conducted first-sweep analysis of interview data.

Scam Communication Mobile Ethnography Study
Research Officer: May 2024 – August 2024
- Development of a progressive web app (PWA), that allowed for 500 research participants to upload screenshots and data about each scam message they received over a two-week period;
- Developed user-friendly instructions on the use of the app for participants and provided ongoing technical assistance throughout the study via email and phone;
- Conducted follow-up semi-structured interviews with select research participants to add further depth to the study;
- Conducted an analysis of participant data, drawing key insights to be used in the final report to our government client, ACMA.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

Cover, R., **Humphries, J.**, Richardson, I., & Harris, D. (2025). Restricting young people from digital platforms in Australia: the experience of digital harms and freedom of expression in community support for youth social media age bans. *Continuum*, 1–18.

Cover, R., Simcock, R., & **Humphries, J.** (2025). Digital harms and penalties: Australian regulation, platform moderation and the figure of the perpetrator. *Media International Australia*, 0(0).

Reports

Cover, R., **Humphries, J.**, Richardson, I., Yu, H., Wilken, R., and Meese, J. (2024). Scam Communication Mobile Ethnography Study. *RMIT: Digital Ethnography Research Centre* and *The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA)*.

CONFERENCES

Humphries, J. (2025). VRChat makes you gay: Queer intimacies on social VR. *Digital Intimacies 11*. University of Sydney, AU.

Humphries, J., and O'Neill, C. (2025). Guanaco: A workshop on fine-tuning AI models and the problem of critical intervention in LLMs. *Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)*. Seattle, US.

Humphries, J. (2025). Queer community on the blockchain: the utopianism of LGBTQ+ NFT collectors. *Society for Literature, Science & the Arts (SLSA)*. Oregon State University, Corvallis, US.

Humphries, J., and O'Neill, C. (2025). Guanaco: Fine-tuning AI models and critical intervention in LLMs. *AusSTS 2025: Signals and Noises*. Melbourne, AU.

Humphries, J. (2024). Dis-intimacy and alienation: The erosion of intimacy in an online safe space. *Digital Intimacies X*. Monash University, Melbourne, AU.

Humphries, J. (2024). Building a progressive web app for studying scam experiences in close-to-real-time. *Australian & New Zealand Communication Association (AANZCA)*. RMIT, Melbourne, AU.

Humphries, J. (2024). Queer community on the blockchain: revisiting the utopianism of LGBTQ+ NFT collectors. *Queer Contexts*. RMIT, Melbourne, AU.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) — in progress
RMIT University, Media and Communication, 2023 – present
Thesis: *Queer community and new internet technologies*

Master of Writing and Publishing
RMIT University, Media and Communication, 2022
Minor thesis (HD): *LGBTQ+ community building on web3*

Bachelor of Art Theory
UNSW Art & Design, 2019

GRANTS + RESIDENCIES

National Science Fund (NSF) Travel Grant
Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
2025

RMIT Culture Graduate Residency
2023