

JOEL HUMPHRIES

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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 fieldnotes 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). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1329878X251350727>

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).

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 regularly publishes a cult email newsletter, *Queer Computer*, that explores intersections of queer theory and technology.

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

PhD Candidate

RMIT: Media and Communications, 2023 – present
Thesis: *Queer community and new internet technologies*

Master of Writing and Publishing

RMIT: Media and Communications, 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