Xiaowei R. Wang, PhD

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portfolio:
http://internetresear.ch
github: xrwang
linkedin:
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Education

University of California, Berkeley
Berkeley CA
2017-2023, PhD, Geography and New Media. Dissertation on race, place and electronic health records, automation and algorithms in healthcare with a comparative geographical, regional lens. Examining the tensions between visibility and care under the state within the notion of an "accountability vacuum". PhD committee: Dr. Brandi T. Summers (chair), Dr. Clancy Wilmott, Dr. Desiree Fields, Dr. Abigail De Kosnik (New Media Designated Emphasis)

University of San Francisco Data Institute
San Francisco, CA
2017, Certificate in Deep Learning, Diversity Fellowship recipient, Fast.ai certificate in deep learning

General Assembly
San Francisco, CA
2015, Backend engineering, Ruby, Postgresql, Rails

Harvard Graduate School of Design
Cambridge, MA
2012, MA, Masters thesis on urbanization, economic development and tech uptake in nomadic communities of Mongolia, advisor: Pierre Belanger

Harvard University
Cambridge, MA
2008, BA, Visual and Environmental Studies

Projects & Publications

Biometrics Report
co-authored with Shazeda Ahmed, 2023, 2023
A policy report on the latest state of biometrics, through a disability justice lens examining the rise of biometrics in medical environments, commissioned by Access Now

Spicy red in Shrimp Town: smart farming and settler colonialism in Guizhou province
author, peer reviewed, 2023
New Media & Society 25 (8), 1888-1912 Special Issue on Agriculture, Edited by Zenia Kish and Ben Peters

Care: In search of a cure, we lose out on care
https://web.archive.org/web/20221015141626/https://medium.com/a-new-ai-lexicon/a-new-ai-lexicon-care-82c9031c98c4
writer, 2021

AI Now Instituteâ€™s A New AI Lexicon (2021)

Shadow Visions
https://dingdingding.org/issue-4/shadow-visions/
writer, 2021
DING Magazine

Acts of Desire
https://transmediale.de/almanac/acts-of-desire
writer, 2021
transmediale almanac (theme: for refusal)

The Other Mother
https://tankmagazine.com/issue-86/features/xiaowei-wang/
writer, 2021
TANK Magazine

Made in China
https://slate.com/technology/2020/10/innovation-immitation-made-in-china-xiaowei-wang.html
writer, 2021
Slate

Blockchain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside
https://us.macmillan.com/books/9780374538668
book author, 2020
Publisher: Farrar, Straus & Giroux (FSG Originals) New York, NY. German translation Blockchain HÃ¼hnerfarm published by Diaphanes

The World Is A Factory Farm
https://www.publicbooks.org/the-world-is-a-factory-farm/
writer, 2021
Public Books, for Crisis Cities, a public symposium on the 2020 crises and their impact on urban life, co-organized by Public Books and the NYU Cities Collaborative. Forthcoming print publication in The Long Year, A 2020 Reader, Edited by Thomas J. Sugrue and Caitlin Zaloom. Columbia University Press

The Great Shopping Mall: The market nationalist logic of Chinese social media
https://knightcolumbia.org/blog/the-great-shopping-mall-the-market-nationalist-logic-of-Chinese-social-media
co-authored with An Xiao Mina, 2021
Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University. "The West tends to focus on security, but entertainment and commerce are the key goals here."

The PÃ¥r
https://www.guernicamag.com/future-fashions-the-par/
writer, 2020
Guernica Magazine, Future Fashions (speculative fiction)

How the Theatrics of Banning TikTok Enables Repression at Home
https://www.thenation.com/article/politics/china-trump-tiktok/
writer, 2020
The Nation

The Future of Memory
https://xrwang.github.io/thenuhanzi/

lead artist/designer, team: Qianqian Ye, Jasmine Wang, 2020
The Future of Memory is a place of provocation: a collected toolkit and a text-based adventure. The project highlights the tensions that emerge when corporate platforms around the world have centralized power over speech online, and deploy automated moderation systems that prioritize profit over care. As part of The Future of Memory is an online toolkit to bypass automated censorship systems. We've held a series of workshops with support of China Residences at MozFest 2021, as well as Rethink AI: Ethical AI Tech and Tools Summit

Shanzhai Secrets
http://futureofmemory.schloss-post.com/
web residency, 2020
new media work for Akademie Schloss Solitude Web Residency

Future Recipes: How to Eat and Code in Chinese
http://disnovation.org/realtime.php
contributor, 2020
future recipes for REALTIME: MAKING DIGITAL CHINA, published by EPFL Press

Land and Sea
artist, 2020
Land and Sea is a temporary nail salon that explores everyday conversations about climate change. Exhibited at the Post Capitalism Queer Ball, curated by Martabel Wasserman. Featured on Hyperallergic

Letter from Shenzhen
author, 2018
Logic Magazine

Ocean Sensing: An Interview with Dawn Wright, Oceanographer and Chief Scientist at ESRI
writer, 2014
Harvard Design Magazine Issue 39, WET MATTER

Lux meridiani: A cartographic science fiction
As part of my Headlands art residency, and published in http://www.methodquarterly.com/2015/06/lux-meridiani/
artist, 2015
Lux meridiani is a cartographic science fiction and interactive card game. By playing with thresholds in the geographical data and reorienting certain land use classifications, Lux meridiani takes the continuous exchange of invasive insects through global trade to imagine the emergence of a new, unknown species that infests street trees in urban areas with relentless luminescence.

Nomadic Mapping Collaborative
lead artist, project team with Binderya Munkhbat, 2015
In June 2015, the Nomadic Mapping Co. was working in the ger districts of Mongolia, building community by teaching members how to map and use their data. As part of our work towards long term sustainability, we helped create a new makerspace at the Ulaanbaatar Public Library devoted to environmental sensing, mapping and tinkering.

Lå›žå›žP
project lead, team: Ian Pearce, Maya EG Rudolph, 2014
User generated, public radio for Beijingâ€™s public bus system, shown at Beijing Design Week. Using a dial-in phone tree system, anyone could call into a phone number and record a message on the LOOP hotline or listen to messages that others have left.

FLOAT Beijing
co-created with Deren Guler, 2012
Through the playful act of kite flying FLOAT_Beijing empowered hundreds of citizens to take action and protest current air quality standards, leading to people driven improved policies for healthier lives. FLOAT is a tool to collect air quality data and circumvent state controlled, highly censored channels of information.

Teaching Experience

Elisava Barcelona School of Design and Engineering
Faculty for Master in Design for Responsible AI, 2022-present, hybrid/Barcelona

Logic School (Collective Action School)
Lead Steward, development of curriculum and facilitating discussion, 2020-present, virtual

University of California, Berkeley
Co-instructor, Digital Worlds, Geography 80, 2019, Berkeley, CA

University of California, Berkeley
Graduate Student Instructor, Geographic Information Analysis, 2017, Berkeley, CA

University of California, Davis
Adjunct Instructor, Applied Geographic Information Systems, 2014, Davis, CA

Grants & Awards

Mozilla Foundation and Green Screen Coalition
Catalyst research grant for research on planetary health and digital technologies in trans-Pacific geographies. $23k award, 2023

Omidyar Network
Grant for Collective Action School fka Logic School. $175k award, 2023

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts
Selected artist for YBCA 100 https://ybca.org/ybca-100/. Launched in 2014, the YBCA 100 list publicly celebrates artists, activists, and leaders who are committed to building regenerative and equitable communities, 2023

National Book Foundation
Science and Literature Award for Blockchain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech in Rural China ($10k award), 2023

UC Berkeley Center for Long Term Cybersecurity Arts Contest
for The Future of Memory (project lead Xiaowei Wang, team: Qianqian Ye, Jasmine Wang, $5k award), 2021

Mozilla Creative Media Awards
for The Future of Memory (project lead Xiaowei Wang, team: Qianqian Ye, Jasmine Wang, $25k award), 2019

INDEX Design to Improve Life Award Finalist
for FLOAT Beijing (co-created with Deren Guler), 2013

LOVIE Awards finalist
for Where the Drones Strike (as part of Situ Research), 2013

Harvard Graduate School of Design Norman T. Newton Prize in Design
for a graduating student whose work best exemplifies achievement in design expression as realized in any medium, 2013

PRUITT IGOE NOW Design Competition
first place (co-designed with Heather Dunbar), 2012

Black Rock Arts Foundation
art grant for FLOAT Beijing, 2011

Research & Fellowships

Eyebeam
Democracy Machine Fellow, 2024

University of California Los Angeles, Center on Race and Digital Justice
Postdoctoral scholar, 2023-2024

University of Southern California
USC Annenberg Civic Media Fellowship, Senior Civic Media Fellow, 2021-present

National Science Foundation
Graduate Student Fellowship, Environment and Society: Data sciences for the 21st Century (DS421), 2017-2019

UC Berkeley Graduate Division
Gan Aston Fellowship, 2017

Noted Talks

Speculative Geographies and Spatial Media, panel with Jo Guldi and Shannon Mattern, moderated by Alexander Arroyo and Grga BaÅ¡iÄ‡
University of Chicago, Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization Division of Social Sciences, April 2023, https://cegu.uchicago.edu/events/conference-2023/speculative-geographies-and-spatial-media/

Designing the Impossible Image
IxDA Interaction Week, Zurich Switzerland, February 2023, https://interaction23.ixda.org/sessions/beyond-the-impossible-image

Care as Control in the Chinese Countryside and Beyond, moderated by Chris Csikszentmihalyi
Cornell University, Milstein Program in Technology & Humanity, October 2022, https://milstein-program.as.cornell.edu/events

Blockchain Chicken Farm
University of Cambridge, Minderoo Centre for Technology and Democracy, January 2022, https://www.mctd.ac.uk/watch-blockchain-chicken-farm-and-other-stories-of-tech-in-chinas-countryside/

Why entrepreneurship flourishes in the countryside

TED Talks, Summer 2021, https://www.ted.com/talks/xiaowei_r_wang_why_entrepreneurship_flourishes_in_the_countryside?language=en

United Nations Development Program Istanbul Innovation Days
UNDP Strategic Innovation, Summer 2021, https://medium.com/@undp.innovation/the-science-of-delivery-the-art-of-transformation-and-everything-in-between-f67fff8a4f7

RightsCon 2021 Closing Ceremony Keynote
RightsCon/Access Now, 2021, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sh_W2X3DPvs&ab_channel=AccessNow

CS 194, Social Justice and Electrical Engineer and Computer Sciences
UC Berkeley, class taught by John Canny, 2020,

Invited Talks, Presentations & Guest Reviews (guest critic for Design and Engineering students)

Presentations, invited talks and workshops given at
University of Chicago, Committee on Environment, Geography and Urbanization 2023 | Institute for Cultural Inquity Berlin 2023 | University of Tennessee, Architecture Department 2023 | Royal College of Art, Data Matter Studio 2022 | Emory University, Chinese Food Futures Panel 2022 | Cornell University Milstein Program 2022 | Technische Universität Braunschweig 2023 | IxDA 2023 | Canadian Center for Architecture, Montreal 2021 for The Digital Now: Architecture and Intersectionality Mellon Fellows Workshop (Invited guest reviewer and seminar lead) | TED 2021 Monterey CA | NGI Europe Internet Policy Summit 2021 https://summit.ngi.eu/reg/ | MUTEK Festival Montreal 2021 | Access Now RightsCon 2021 (Keynote Speaker) https://www.rightscon.org/ | United Nations Development Program Istanbul Innovation Days 2021 | Talk given at Women In AI Ethics https://womeninaiethics.org/events/, Rethink AI: Ethical AI Tech and Tools Summit 2021 | The Conference, Malmö Sweden 2019 http://2019.theconference.se/ | Association for Computing Machinery ACM FaccT ctrz.ai zinefest Barcelona, 2019 | Place Talks at the Prelinger Library, San Francisco CA 2019 | The Redirect: Technology after Capitalism at SFMOMA, San Francisco 2019 | IAM Weekend, Barcelona 2019 | "Everyone is a sensor" at The Oakland Musuem Mutual Air Launch, 2019 | O'Reilly Design Conference: Design the Future (talk) 2017 | University of Southern California, Professor Chris Smith's Class on Capitalism and Media | Harvard University, Professor Victor Seow's Class on Factories and Labor | Vassar College Visiting Scholar Series 2019 | Parsons Cloud Salon Lecture Series 2021 | Columbia University Lectures in Planning 2021 | Data & Society Workshop: Environmental Impacts of Data-Driven Technologies (paper presentation) 2018 | A Look at Digital Chinese Culture at the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco, CA, 2017 | Workshop on public infrastructure and HCI at Taipei, Taiwan for Taipei Design City Exhibition 2014 | World Economic Forum's Network of Global Agenda Councils, Design For Smart Growth, Copenhagen Denmark, 2013 | + more

Press, Selected Media Coverage & Reviews

"Tech is broken, can collective action fix it? With Collective Action School, Xiaowei Wang hopes to redefine what it means to work in tech."
https://www.technologyreview.com/2023/08/16/1077490/collective-action-tech-work/
by Patrick Sisson. *MIT Tech Review*, Fall 2023

"Blockchain Hühnerfarm, Wo Hühner Fitbits tragen"
https://www.zeit.de/kultur/2023-05/xiaowei-wang-blockchain-huehnerfarm-china?utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2F

by Claas Oberstadt. *Die Zeit*, May 2023

"Blockchain Chicken Farm: And Other Stories of Tech in China's Countryside, written by Xiaowei Wang"
https://brill.com/view/journals/dias/8/3/article-p265_8.xml
by Gabriele de Seta. *Asiascape, Digital Asia*, December 2021

"On Our Nightstands: February 2021"
https://www.publicbooks.org/on-our-nightstands-february-2021/
by Public Books Editors. *Public Books*, February 2021

"How Rural China Became an Engine for Global Consumer Capitalism"
https://www.thenation.com/article/culture/xiaowei-wang-blockchain-chicken-farm-review/
by A.Y. Li. *The Nation*, December 2020

"'Modernity gone off the rails': making sense of the intertwined systems connecting Shenzhen and Silicon Valley."
https://www.offscreenmag.com/issues/24
by Kai Brach. *Offscreen Magazine*, Spring 2021

"One Person's Apocalypse Is Another Person's Day-to-Day"
https://www.wired.com/story/ling-ma-interviews-xiaowei-wang/
by Ling Ma. *Wired Magazine*, October 2020

"The Untold Technological Revolution Sweeping Through Rural China"
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/10/15/books/review/blockchain-chicken-farm-xiaowei-wang.html
by Clive Thompson. *The New York Times*, October 2020

"He put QR-coded wristbands on each of the chickens"
https://www.technologyreview.com/2020/12/18/1013224/he-put-qr-coded-wristbands-on-each-of-the-chickens/
by Samantha Culp. *MIT Technology Review*, December 2020

"A Post-Capitalism Ball Imagines a Queer Future"
https://hyperallergic.com/517952/post-capitalism-ball-pieter-performance-space-lambda-litfest/
by Matt Stromberg. *Hyperallergic*, September 2019

"Exposing Our Infrastructure: MacroCity Conference Reveals the Secret Machinery of Cities"
https://www.core77.com/posts/27051/exposing-our-infrastructure-macrocity-conference-reveals-the-secret-machinery-of-cities-27051
by Ben Valentine. *Core77*, 2014

"Kite detects pollution"
https://edition.cnn.com/2013/09/04/tech/innovation/kite-detects-pollution-beijing
by Holden Frith. *CNN*, 2013

"Beijing pollution monitored with kite-mounted sensors"
http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-19355949
by BBC News. *BBC*, 2012

"What's Next: The Millenials"
https://www.architectmagazine.com/design/projects-by-millennials-st-louis-ecological-production-line_o
by . *Architect Magazine*, 2012

Work Experience

Logic School
lead steward, 2020-current • online
Lead steward and co-founder for Logic School (now known as Collective Action School), a virtual school funded by Omidyar Network. Logic School is a 12 week community centered program for tech workers. Our curriculum draws from the worlds of activism, design, and software engineering. Our program cultivates critical thinking about technology and its social impact. As lead steward, I interface with our funders, oversee grants, set up application process, syllabus and guest speakers and created curriculum material. Find us at https://school.logicmag.io/

Mapbox
Software engineer (intermediate), 2015-2017 • San Francisco, CA
Worked as part of the platform engineering team at Mapbox, ensuring site reliability for millions of end users. Developed, tested and scaled both internal and customer facing APIs. Created new automated tooling systems for addressing DDoS attacks, tightened security,

Meedan
Designer, 2014-2015 • San Francisco, CA
Designer at Meedan, a technology non-profit that builds software and initiatives to strengthen global journalism, digital literacy and accessibility of information for the world.

Situ Research
Designer and Geospatial Researcher, 2013 • New York, NY
Research and design for MoMa's Uneven Growth Show, the UN Special Rapporteur on Counter-Terrorism's Drone Strike Inquiry (http://unsrct-drones.com/), and the Bureau of Investigative Journalism's Drone Strike report.

Beijing Urban Gardening Initiative
project lead, 2009-2010 • Beijing, China
Led and founded the Beijing Urban Gardening Initiative

Awarded Residencies & Exhibitions

University of Washington
Soft Data and Common Wares Residency, hosted by DXArts Softlab and Studio Tilt (UW Art and Design), May 2024

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group show 'Deformation and Reformation: A modern taste of Asian Identities' at Palazzo San Giuseppe in Polignano a Mare, Italy, curator Hongzheng Han, January 17 - March 15 2022

a verb as proxy for place
exhibiting artist, at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, curated by Tiffany Yau, https://proxyforplace.com/, 2020

Akademie Schloss Solitude Web Residencies
artist in residence, https://schloss-post.com/overview/web-residencies/, 2019

Post Capitalism Ball at Pieter
exhibiting artist, Land and Sea, 2019

SEEDBED, an exhbition and symposium curated by Earth Lab at University of California Santa Cruz

exhibiting artist, REPLENISH, 2018

Ars Bioarctica Arctic Science and Art residency, Kilpisjärvi Finland
Artist in resident, 2016

US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs + ZERO1
American Arts Incubator Fellowship for Mongolia, 2014

Headlands Center for the Arts, Marin CA
Artist in Residence, 2015

MoMA Museum of Modern Art, New York
work done with Situ Research for UNEVEN GROWTH: Tactical Urbanisms for Expanding Megacities,
2015

Headlands Center for the Arts, Marin CA
Artist in Residence, 2015

Haus der Kulturen Welt, Berlin
work done with Situ Research for the exhibition FORENSIS, 2015

Taipei Design City Exhibition
FLOAT Beijing, 2014

Headlands Center for the Arts, Marin CA
Artist in Residence, 2015

Design Intelligence Exhibition, Beijing, curated by Neil Leach
exhibiting designer for my project, The Nomad, The Technologist, 2013

Institute For Provocation/ Theatre in Motion, Beijing
Artist in Residence, 2009

Service & Memberships

RightsCon, the world's leading summit on human rights in the digital age
Program Committee for Fictions and Futures, 2022 • Costa Rica

Yao Collective / Future of Memory Residency
Mentor, 2022 • Virtual - Online global residency for research based artists looking at
language, algorithmic bias and surveillance on the internet

Real ML Workshop
Steering Committee Member, 2022 • Virtual

Kaiji working group
co-steward, 2022-2023 • Virtual working group for those looking at the intersection of tech in
the greater Asia Pacific Region

Day One Project / American Federation of Scientists Policy Incubator
Mentor, 2023 • https://www.dayoneproject.org/

Code for Science and Society Digital Infrastructure Incubator
Mentor, 2023 • https://www.codeforsociety.org/incubator

Processing Foundation
Advisor, 2022-2023 • https://processingfoundation.org/

Collective Action in Tech Embedded Organizers
Embedded Organizer, 2021-present • https://collectiveaction.tech/organize/

Labor and Tech Research Network
working group member, 2017-present • online http://www.labortechresearchnetwork.org/

UC Berkeley Geography, Anti-Racism & Equity working group
working group member, 2020-2021 • Berkeley CA

Post-Imperial Oceans Working Group
working group member, 2020 • Berkeley, CA

The Billion Seconds Institute
Advisor, 2021 • https://billion.iam-internet.com/

Logic Foundation
Logic Foundation Board Member, Director, 2016-present • https://logicmag.io

Logic Magazine
Creative Director, Co-founder, 2016-2022 • https://logicmag.io

b4b3l4b Gallery
art & ecology writing group lead, 2018-present • Oakland CA, https://www.b4bel4b.com/

UC Berkeley
Reader and Graduate advisor for Madison Draper's undergraduate Senior Thesis on tech culture and labor in San Francisco, 2017 • Berkeley CA

National Endowment for the Arts, Artist Communities Grants Panel
grant panelist, 2016

Robert Moses Game Design Challenge
judging panelist, 2016

Bay Area Infrastructure Observatory
Director of Programs, 2014 • Oakland CA

Various institutions: UC Berkeley, Californica College of the Arts, Parsons
guest critic in design