



Doctoral Student Colloquium

Sunday, February 8, 2009

12-5p.m.

Redbud Room

Supported by the National Science Foundation



National Science Foundation

Schedule

12:00–1:00	Lunch (Trillium Room)
1:00–2:30	Breakout Groups, Session #1
2:30–2:45	Break
2:45–4:15	Breakout Groups, Session #2
4:15–4:30	Break
4:30–6:00	Group discussion
6:30	Dinner at Top of the Hill

Student presentations

Each student will have 10 minutes in which to present their work and 10 minutes for discussion with the group.

Breakout groups

Participants will split into five groups, each group comprising 3-4 students and 1-2 faculty members, as indicated on the following pages.

Faculty Participants

- Shaoyi He, California State University San Marcos
- Caroline Haythornthwaite, University of Illinois, at Urbana-Champaign
- Corinne Jörgensen, Florida State University
- Gary Marchionini, UNC-Chapel Hill
- Jeffrey Pomerantz, UNC-Chapel Hill
- Madhu Reddy, Penn State University
- Howard Rosenbaum, Indiana University

[biographical statements appear at the end of the program]

Doctoral Student Participants

- Bradley Bishop, Florida State University
- Rebecca Dean, UCLA
- Shaun Kane, University of Washington
- Jacob Kramer-Duffield, UNC-Chapel Hill
- Silvia Lindtner, UC Irvine
- Lai Ma, Indiana University
- Eric Meyers, University of Washington
- Stasa Milojevic, UCLA
- Lisa Nathan, University of Washington
- Lilly Nguyen, UCLA
- Alberto Pepe, UCLA
- David Pimentel, Syracuse University
- Devendra Potnis, SUNY-Albany
- Daniela Rosner, UC Berkeley
- Dana Rotman, University of Maryland
- Raed Sharif, Syracuse University
- Joe Treglia, Syracuse University
- Richard Urban, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Andrea Wiggins, Syracuse University

[personal statements appear at the end of the program]

Breakout Groups, Session #1

Group 1

Faculty:

- Shaoyi He, Cal State San Marcos

Students:

- Rebecca Dean, UCLA
- Lisa Nathan, University of Washington
- Devendra Potnis, SUNY-Albany
- Raed Sharif, Syracuse

Group 2

Faculty:

- Caroline Haythornthwaite, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- Madhu Reddy, Penn State

Students:

- Silvia Lindtner, UC Irvine
- Lai Ma, Indiana University
- Alberto Pepe, UCLA
- Andrew Wiggins, Syracuse

Group 3

Faculty:

- Corinne Jörgensen, Florida State University
- Jeffrey Pomerantz, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Students:

- Bradley Bishop, FSU
- Stasa Milojevic, UCLA
- David Pimentel, Syracuse
- Richard Urban, UIUC

Breakout Groups, Session #1

Group 4

Faculty:

- Howard Rosenbaum, Indiana University

Students:

- Shaun Kane, University of Washington
- Jacob Kramer-Duffield, UNC
- Joe Treglia, Syracuse

Group 5

Faculty:

- Gary Marchionini, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Students:

- Eric Meyers, University of Washington
- Lilly Nguyen, UCLA
- Daniela Rosner, Berkeley
- Dana Rotman, University of Maryland

Breakout Groups, Session #2

Group 1

Faculty:

- Caroline Haythornthwaite, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Students:

- Rebecca Dean, UCLA
- Jacob Kramer-Duffield, UNC
- Eric Meyers, University of Washington
- David Pimentel, Syracuse

Group 2

Faculty:

- Corinne Jörgensen, Florida State University

Students:

- Shaun Kane, University of Washington
- Lilly Nguyen, UCLA
- Raed Sharif, Syracuse
- Andrew Wiggins, Syracuse

Group 3

Faculty:

- Shaoyi He, Cal State San Marcos
- Howard Rosenbaum, Indiana University

Students:

- Bradley Bishop, FSU
- Alberto Pepe, UCLA
- Dana Rotman, University of Maryland
- Richard Urban, UIUC

Breakout Groups, Session #2

Group 4

Faculty:

- Madhu Reddy, Penn State

Students:

- Stasa Milojevic, UCLA
- Devendra Potnis, SUNY-Albany
- Daniela Rosner, Berkeley

Group 5

Faculty:

- Gary Marchionini, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Jeffrey Pomerantz, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Students:

- Silvia Lindtner, UC Irvine
- Lai Ma, Indiana University
- Lisa Nathan, University of Washington
- Joe Treglia, Syracuse

Faculty Biographical Statements

Shaoyi He

Associate Professor

School of Business Administration,
California State University San Marcos
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Biographical statement

Dr. Shaoyi He is an associate professor of information systems in the School of Business Administration at California State University San Marcos. He received his Ph. D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998. He has worked in Long Island University, Pennsylvania State University, and California State University San Bernardino.

His research interests include interplay of technology, culture and language in global e-business; multilingual information access and retrieval on the Web, multilingual issues in e-commerce website globalization; and multilingual e-business intelligence. He has published papers in *Decision Support Systems*, *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology*, *Information Processing and Management*, *Electronic Library*, and *Journal of International Technology and Information Management*. Dr. He is a member of the Association of Computing Machinery (ACM), Association for Information Systems (AIS), and American Society for Information Science and Technology (ASIST).

Faculty Biographical Statements

Caroline Haythornthwaite

Professor

Graduate School of Library and Information Science,
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
haythorn@illinois.edu

Biographical statement

Caroline Haythornthwaite is Professor and Co-Director of the Community Informatics Initiative at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research examines how the Internet and computer media support and affect work, learning, and social interaction, with a focus on how information and knowledge are shared through social networks. Her work takes a social informatics perspective, with interest and attention in the way technologies (broadly defined) affect and constrain social interaction. Her studies have examined social networks of work and media use, the development and nature of community online, distributed knowledge processes, the nature and constraints of interdisciplinary collaboration, and the transformative effects of the Internet and web 2.0 technologies on learning and collaborative practices. Current work includes projects that: examine the rise of Web 2.0 technologies and their transformative impact on learning and collaborative practices; integrate automated processes to support large scale analysis of online community interactions and characteristics; and develop models of collaborative processes from the crowd to community end of peer production. Major publications include *The Internet in Everyday Life* (2002, with Barry Wellman); *Learning, Culture and Community in Online Education: Research and Practice* (2004, with Michelle M. Kazmer), a special issue of the *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication* on *Computer-Mediated Collaborative Practices and Systems* (2005), and the *Handbook of E-learning Research* (2007, with Richard Andrews). Further details on her work can be found at:

<http://haythorn.wordpress.com/>.

Faculty Biographical Statements

Corinne Jörgensen

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research
College of Information, Florida State University
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Biographical statement

Corinne Jörgensen (Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Research) earned her MLS and PhD from the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. She is the author or coauthor of over seventy-five publications in the area of organization of information, with a focus on cognitive foundations of these activities and indexing and retrieval of visual materials. She has won four national awards for her research and publications. Her book *Image Retrieval: Theory and Research* (2003) is considered the authoritative resource in the area. She is well known nationally and internationally for her work in these areas. As a member of the National Committee on Information Technology Standards, Dr. Jörgensen participated in the development of the ISO/IEC MPEG-7 standard for content description of multimedia, and she serves on international program and awards committees. Her research currently focuses on the role of social networking technologies in the organization of information and the convergences among libraries, archives, and museums, and their roles in preserving and providing access to the cultural, social, historical, and natural heritages. She is active in professional organizations for Library and Information Science, is a member of the Florida Library Association Executive Board, and is the FLA representative to the ALA Council.

Faculty Biographical Statements

Gary Marchionini

Cary C. Boshamer Professor

School of Information and Library Science,

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

march@ils.unc.edu

Biographical statement

Gary Marchionini is Cary C. Boshamer Professor in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina where he teaches courses in human-information interaction, interface design and testing, and digital libraries. He heads the Interaction Design Laboratory at SILS. He is Principal Investigator for the Results Framework Project funded by NSF (2008-2011), a project that aims to move search systems beyond queries to results management and use over time and in collaboration. A forthcoming issue of IEEE Computer devoted to information-seeking support systems is the result of a NSF workshop held in Chapel Hill last summer. He has a long-standing interest in video retrieval, leading the Open Video Project for the last decade and establishing the UNC YouTube channel. He currently leads a Library of Congress partnership: Preserving Video Objects and Context (VidArch) that aims to develop strategies for preserving digital video context. He has published over 180 articles, chapters and reports in a variety of books and journals.

Faculty Biographical Statements

Jeffrey Pomerantz

Assistant Professor

School of Information and Library Science,
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
pomerantz@unc.edu

Biographical statement

Jeffrey Pomerantz is an Assistant Professor in the School of Information and Library Science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he teaches courses on Reference and Digital Libraries. He earned his Ph.D. from the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University, and his MS (LIS) from Simmons College. His research focuses on the evaluation of library services – particularly reference and other collaborative services – for various communities, and in various service contexts. The goal of his research is to enable better articulation of the value that libraries bring to the services they provide.

Faculty Biographical Statements

Madhu Reddy

Assistant Professor

College of Information Sciences and Technology,

Penn State University

mreddy@ist.psu.edu

Biographical statement

Madhu Reddy is an assistant professor in the College of Information Sciences and Technology at Penn State University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine in Information and Computer Sciences in 2003. Dr. Reddy's research interests are in the areas of collaboration, information behavior and teams. His current research focuses on two major themes: (1) collaborative information behavior and (2) collaboration and coordination in organizations. Reddy explores these themes within the healthcare domain primarily in clinical settings such as hospitals. The main objectives of his research are to expand our understanding through qualitative fieldwork of how people collaborate in the course of their everyday work and to use these findings to help design novel interactive systems.

Faculty Biographical Statements

Howard Rosenbaum

Associate Dean and Associate Professor
School of Library and Information Science,
Indiana University Bloomington
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Biographical statement

Howard Rosenbaum is Associate Dean, MIS Program Director and Associate Professor of Information Science at the School of Library and Information Science at Indiana University. Dr. Rosenbaum received his Ph.D. in 1996 from Syracuse University and teaches courses in systems design, information architecture, intellectual freedom, and the information industry. Dr. Rosenbaum's research interests are in electronic commerce, information architecture, computer-mediated communication; managers and information in organizations; information policy and electronic networking; and the intersection of sociological and library and information science theory.

Dr. Rosenbaum has contributed to numerous books, including *Understanding and Communicating Social Informatics: A framework for studying and teaching the human contexts of information and communication technologies*; *Building a web presence: Policies, templates, and icons for libraries*; and *Managing information technology: Transforming county governments in the 1990s*. Dr. Rosenbaum has won multiple teaching awards and is a Fellow of the Center for Social Informatics at Indiana University and a Fellow at the Center for Digital Commerce at Syracuse University.

Student Personal Statements

Bradley Wade Bishop

College of Information, Florida State University

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Poster title

Real-time information delivery of spatial data

Personal statement

I am a Graduate Research Associate at the [Information Use Management and Policy Institute](#) in the [College of Information](#). My research interests include Geographic Information Studies, Chat reference, and utilizing Geographic Information Systems in Library and Information Studies research.

Career goals:

- Improve access to government spatial data for all residents through E-Government
- Increase utilization of Geographic Information Systems in Library and Information Studies research
- Instruct Geographic Information Studies courses

Student Personal Statements

Rebecca Dean

Department of Information Studies, University of California Los Angeles
beccadean@ucla.edu

Poster title

Understanding humanitarian information infrastructure: An ethnographic case study of designing public health surveillance systems monitoring sexual violence and exploitation

Personal statement

I am a doctoral student in the Department of Information Studies at UCLA with a concentration in Women's Studies. I received a BA from New York University and an MLIS at Pratt Institute. My research interests include critical and feminist approaches to notions of evidence, documentation, surveillance, infrastructure, and knowledge production. My current projects explore the issue of global public health surveillance through the case of documenting gender-based violence in humanitarian settings. Within this context is an opportunity to analyze and observe the intersectional politics and practices of information access and privacy rights as well as the role of standardization and classification in the monitoring of violence against women. I am also working on a community-based archival project that looks at the relationship between archives and feminist knowledge production in the case of transnational Filipina women's social movements. This research delves into postcolonial feminist notions of the archive and critiques of archival practices and paradigms.

Before I started my doctoral education I was a librarian for the Brooklyn Public Library, and the digital resource specialist for the Gender-based Violence Unit at the International Rescue Committee. I currently work at the Center for the Study of Women at UCLA as a graduate student researcher. While pursuing a career in research and academia I stay deeply involved in activism, community organizing, and advocacy around the issue of labor and sex trafficking in addition to other human rights abuses against women. These experiences ground many of my research interests and inform my teaching and scholarship philosophy, which is to build a collective intellectual practice that examines the multitude and workings of power formations in politics, discourse, and practice. My aim is to engage in interdisciplinary research that achieves disciplinary objectives as well as community and human rights objectives.

Student Personal Statements

Shaun Kane

Information School, University of Washington
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Poster title

Improving Mobile Phone Accessibility with Adaptive User Interfaces

Personal statement

I am a Ph.D. candidate at The Information School at the University of Washington. I'm a member of the Accessibility, Interaction, and Mobility (AIM) Research Group, advised by Jacob O. Wobbrock. I previously received a B.S. and M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Massachusetts.

My research focuses on developing accessible mobile devices for people with diverse abilities. I am particularly interested in how accessible technologies can allow people to act more independently in the world.

Student Personal Statements

Jacob Kramer-Duffield

School of Information and Library Science, University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill
jkd@email.unc.edu

Poster title

Disclosure and Timeliness: How much time must pass before it's okay to share?

Personal statement

Jacob Kramer-Duffield is a Ph.D. Student at the University of North Carolina School of Information and Library Science. His research interests center around identity, and in particular how increased use of information communications technology is changing how people conceive of themselves and relate to each other, the state and society. Research has included investigations of disclosure behaviors in a variety of social media, and ongoing work with the Bot2.0 project (<http://bot2.org>) is assessing the possible uses of social media for instruction and as learning tools. For a more comprehensive list of publications and ongoing work see <http://kramer-duffield.com/professional.html>

Prior to enrolling at UNC-SILS, Kramer-Duffield worked in electoral politics and the non-profit sector in Washington, D.C., involved there in some of the first pioneering efforts at use of online tools for massively distributed organizing. Following work on Howard Dean's presidential campaign in Iowa, he coordinated distribution for the grassroots political action committee Run Against Bush, and then led development of NextBillion.net, among the first Web2.0 community websites in the nonprofit sector. Kramer-Duffield received his BA in politics from Oberlin College in 2002.

Student Personal Statements

Silvia Lindtner

Department of Informatics, University of California, Irvine
lindtner@ics.uci.edu

Poster title

“Cultivating Cool”: How Chinese Urbanites Play, Network, and Level Up

Personal statement

Silvia Lindtner is a Ph.D. student in the department of Informatics at the University of California, Irvine. Her research interests are generally concerning Human-Computer Interaction & Game Studies. In particular, she focuses on the intersections of ubiquitous computing with political and economic infrastructures at urban entertainment sites in China and the U.S. Silvia is deploying a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods including but not limited to participatory ethnography and system design. For example, over the last 2 years, Silvia has conducted extensive ethnographic field work in Shanghai and Beijing on online gaming, public entertainment culture and emergent forms of mixed reality gaming to understand the political, cultural, financial and social phenomena surrounding engagement with these games. Her poster for the iConference addresses how digital entertainment culture in China fulfilled both entertaining and productive means, where gaming technologies simultaneously invoked and were shaped by the socio-economic status of its practitioners. In her work, Silvia considers the ties between socio-economic practices, development of trust and culturally situated imaginings of self-hood and otherness. In doing so, she brings to the fore how gaming in and of itself can constitute the means for practical achievements in day-to-day management of social connection, alignment and/or non-alignment with political narratives around nation building.

Over recent years, Information and digital entertainment systems in China and their adoption into local culture have received increased attention from mass media outlets in the West. Often, these accounts, however, emphasize in a somewhat orientalist fashion stories of control and restriction of Information access, cultural representation and individual choice. In November 2008, a news release from the Chinese government about the decision to classify Internet addiction a clinical disorder, for example,

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sparked an outcry of both indignation and amusement across Western mass media outlets. Similarly, economic activities in and around online gaming in China are often correlated in the West with practices of gold farming, or selling in-game currency to players for real money in online games. In her work, Silvia addresses the question of what we can learn about gaming practices in China and about online sociality more broadly when we look beyond ... at “pragmatic” practices through which entertainment sites become meaningful to players. For example, Silvia found that gaming practices in China’s Internet Cafes and gaming clubs often fulfilled pragmatic concerns beyond in-game achievements including but not limited to concerns of one’s position in relation to socio-political narratives of an “open China” and what Chineseness meant in and beyond national borders. An important aspect of making game play function in these ways was that emergent sociality was not restricted to a single gaming site or technology space (e.g. the virtual space of an online game), but was enacted across a multitude of physical and digital sites, Internet cafes, mobile devices and software modifications

Silvia is currently advancing to candidacy and working towards her topic proposal for her dissertation. For her dissertation, she plans to build on her previous work and conduct follow-up research on the intersection of socio-economic and political subject positions and urban entertainment culture in China. This research takes an anthropological approach mixed with participatory design methods to examining the creation and maintenance of status and broader subject positions within and beyond urban entertainment sites. Extending from socio-economic concerns to the ways in which entertainment technologies intersect with issues around youth identity more broadly and sexual identity in particular extends the current research to incorporate computer-mediated practices that connect across national and transnational structures and discourses (e.g. gay networks that span both digital and physical sites in and beyond Mainland China). The project is driven by three primary concerns: first, to examine the role of technology mediated expressions and images for construction and recognition of sexual identity in relation to core cultural values currently promoted in China; second, to determine the relationship between “status” positions enacted across both “online” and “offline” entertainment sites; third, to analyze how governmental narratives of an open and modern China tie into everyday leisure and technology practices.

Student Personal Statements

Lai Ma

School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University-Bloomington
lama@indiana.edu

Poster title

Critical Ethnography for Information Research

Personal statement

I am a second year doctoral student at the School of Library and Information Science, Indiana University-Bloomington, where I received my Master of Library Science in 2007. My research interests are in the philosophical and social aspects of information science, specializing in the social research method, “critical ethnography.” On the one hand, I am investigating the ontological and epistemological assumptions of the uses of terms such as “information,” “knowledge,” and “technology” in LIS and how these assumptions and uses influence professional and popular discourses. On the other hand, I am investigating the method of “critical ethnography” for information research. The approaches of critical ethnography are based upon a solid theoretical framework grounded in critical social theory. Its strengths in analyzing human interactions and their relations to social situations are particularly useful for research that involves human-human and human-computer interactions. From a more theoretical perspective, a critical-ethnographic framework also opens up ways of conceptualizing “information” that are pertinent to our day-to-day practices in information science and information research.

Student Personal Statements

Eric Meyers

Information School, University of Washington

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Poster title

Who's Watching Your Children? Value Propositions in Preteen Virtual Worlds

Personal statement

I have had the opportunity to work on a wide range of research projects at the University of Washington. With Dr. Michael Eisenberg, I helped guide a three-year investigation of high school library and information services affected by school reform initiatives. Following this study, I worked on the Credibility Commons project, which investigated how people assess the credibility of online information for everyday life problems. Dr. Eisenberg and I have received additional funding from the MacArthur Foundation to extend this work into the virtual world of Second Life. I also had the opportunity to work with Dr. Karen Fisher and colleagues on the "Tweens" Project, which explored the everyday life information behaviors of preteen children (ages 9-13). The paper I wrote elaborating the study methodology (as first author) with Drs. Fisher and Elizabeth Marcoux was awarded the Jesse H. Shera Award for distinguished published research in Library and Information Science.

My research lies at the intersection of information behavior and the learning sciences, and focuses on the social aspects of youth information interaction. Through this research, I seek to understand how and why young people work together to solve information problems, as well as the social and intellectual outcomes of this work. I propose in my work that information literacies originate not only in the classroom, but in the process of social life. Thus, I situate my scholarship on the social aspects of youth information interaction in two complementary areas: the formal context of school, and the informal contexts that compose everyday life interactions.

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My dissertation, titled *The Nature and Impact of Group Information Problem Solving*, investigates a specific aspect of this research agenda in the formal educational context of middle school using a mixed-method design. This research, currently in progress, compares the processes and products of students in grades 7-8 (ages 12-14 years) solving complex information problems individually and in small groups of 3-4 students. Through a microanalysis of the students' processes, I examine their collaborative behaviors, search moves, and discourse patterns to ascertain how the nature of group problem solving differs from that of individuals. Through analysis of the resulting products, I assess the impact of working in small groups on performance measures compared to how these students solve comparable problems as individuals. The findings extend current theoretical models of information behavior, add an important population to the emerging empirical work in this area, and inform pedagogical interventions designed to improve information skills in young people.

Student Personal Statements

Stasa Milojevic

Department of Information Studies, University of California at Los Angeles
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Poster title

Evolution of the social structure of nanotechnology

Personal statement

I am a Ph.D. candidate at the UCLA Department of Information Studies. My main research is focused in the nexus of information structures, information systems, and information seeking. For my dissertation I study nanoscience as an example of modern scientific field by mapping its social and cognitive structure and modeling the dynamics of its formation and development. My research is guided by the belief that one needs to understand properties of scientific disciplines/fields in order to build innovative classifications, knowledge organization, and information retrieval systems. In my research I combine models, theories and methods from information studies, science and technology studies, and social network analysis.

My research interests concentrate on two major topics: (1) the role of social and cognitive structure in the development of scientific disciplines; and (2) the role and the usage of scientific classification as a form of knowledge organization. For my first topic, which represents the core of my dissertation, I am exploring the utility of network analysis in mapping the structure and modeling the dynamics of modern scientific fields or disciplines. My empirical research applies this approach to nanoscience, which I study as a complex heterogeneous socio-technical network of documents, people, ideas and institutions. My standpoint is that it is important to study what type of conclusions one can make about the structure and dynamics of the disciplines by taking written artifacts produced by the field (articles, grants, patents, and dissertations) as a form of statistically robust form of evidence. The results of this study not only deepen our understanding of the existing ways of grouping and organizing intertextual networks of related documents, but also help propose new ways of organization. Ultimately, these findings can be applied to achieve more efficient communication of scholarly knowledge.

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Classifications have a central role in understanding complex phenomena of the world around us. They are not only used as a tool to enable retrieval (i.e. classification as a hierarchical structure), but are particular representations of reality and thus represent ways of creating knowledge. My approach to the study of cognitive structure of a discipline as displayed in its terminology includes the analysis of classification schemas, taxonomies, and conceptual models of a field. In particular, I combine the analysis of the existing classification schemas, co-word analysis of the titles, and the literary warrant provided by tables of contents of encyclopedias, handbooks and textbooks of a field. These analyses are informed by the numerous approaches to the question of the construction of scientific classifications offered by the history and philosophy of science.

Student Personal Statements

Lisa Nathan

Information School, University of Washington

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Poster title

Who's Watching Your Children? Value Propositions
in Preteen Virtual Worlds

Personal statement

EDUCATION:

Ph.D. in Information Science, Information School, University of
Washington, Seattle,

WA [anticipated May, 2009]

M. S. in Library and Information Science, Simmons College, Boston,
MA

B.A. in Education, Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, FL

RESEARCH:

I critically investigate the influence of socio-cultural values on how individuals appropriate and adapt to IT. I then draw on findings from this research to develop tangible methods that assist designers and policy makers consider the long-term influence of information systems on individuals and society. An overview of projects through which I am investigating these two strands of research are provided below.

STRAND 1: VALUES, IT, & ADAPTATION

Ecovillages & Information Technology: My dissertation research is based on data I collected during two years of ethnographic fieldwork, documenting the information technology adaptive process as it unfolds in the daily life of two ecovillages. Ecovillages are communities comprised of individuals striving to balance their use of technology with a lifestyle that is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

Children's Virtual Worlds & Values: This project undertakes a critical study of children's interactions in preteen virtual worlds, with a focus on the sites' technical features designed to support different socio-cultural value concerns (e.g. conceptions of privacy, security, obedience). Currently, co-investigators Eric Meyers, Kristene Unsworth, and I are investigating three preteen virtual worlds each designed with a different set of value commitments.

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STRAND 2: ENVISIONING THE LONG-TERM SOCIETAL INFLUENCE OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

Tribunal Voices Project: This project addresses the social and technical challenges of creating an information system to preserve and manage the information heritage of the United National International Criminal Court of Rwanda. I was co-project lead of the multi-disciplinary team that conceptualized, planned, and conducted video-recorded interviews to capture the human story behind creating a system of international justice.

The Envisioning Project: Through this project, the Value Sensitive Design Research Lab develops and tests generative tools for use during design practice. The goal is to assist designers in addressing complex, socio-cultural issues during the tight timeframe of most design projects.

Student Personal Statements

Lilly Nguyen

Department of Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
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Poster title

Dynamics of Polyphony in Social Classification: An Exploration of an Anatomy of Digital Linguistic Practice

Personal statement

Lilly Nguyen is a PhD student at the Department of Information Studies at UCLA. Her current research focuses on themes of open source technologies, discursive notions of information practice, and postcolonial development. My current research project looks at the dynamics of practice in social classification systems to explore the way current forms of online sociality, practice, and knowledge organization defy traditional distinctions between document, text, speech, language, and practice. This line of inquiry looks at practices within a social classification system, del.icio.us, through a theoretical approach that draws from the disciplines of linguistic anthropology, sociology of interaction, speech act theory, and literary theory. From the ensemble of these approaches, my pilot study tentatively identifies an anatomy of social classification practices based on speech genres of monologue and dialogue. Tentative findings from this pilot study suggest that social classification practices may constitute new forms of discursive practice and digital conversation through which individuals constitute and classify themselves into digital existence.

My dissertation will take an ethnographic account to look at current dynamics of open source in Vietnam in specific relation to discourses of global development and modernization. As one of the WTO's newest members, Vietnam has only recently opened itself to foreign capital, business interests, cultural and technological influence. This paper attempts to understand how the current dynamics of free and open source software in Vietnam reflect and distort the larger patterns of globalization and development in today's digital information age.

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This study will look specifically at how practices and discourses of free and open source software (FOSS) operate in relationship to practices and discourses of global development. As such, I intend to study the ways in which FOSS software are specifically being conceived and imagined toward this aim, designed, and implemented in Vietnam. In taking a close ethnographic look at these dynamics, I intend to provide a critical framework with which to situate information technology within larger dynamics of development and globalization. Borrowing from social constructivist approaches to the study of technologies, this study takes a cultural approach to the study of development to look at practices in the “doing” of development and the role of FOSS therein. While information technologies are often presented as a panacea for various development maladies, this project will attempt a critical investigation of this view and look carefully at the ways these technologies are described and enacted in practice.

This line of inquiry is motivated by an overarching interest to examine information phenomena within the culturally specific power configurations that shape their development. This kind of cultural political economy of information can help to elucidate the ways in which information phenomena are situated in relation to larger global dynamics. In this way, I hope to formulate intellectual synergies with information studies and other disciplines like anthropology, development studies, science and technology studies (STS), and Southeast Asian studies.

Classifications have a central role in understanding complex phenomena of the world around us. They are not only used as a tool to enable retrieval (i.e. classification as a hierarchical structure), but are particular representations of reality and thus represent ways of creating knowledge. My approach to the study of cognitive structure of a discipline as displayed in its terminology includes the analysis of classification schemas, taxonomies, and conceptual models of a field. In particular, I combine the analysis of the existing classification schemas, co-word analysis of the titles, and the literary warrant provided by tables of contents of encyclopedias, handbooks and textbooks of a field. These analyses are informed by the numerous approaches to the question of the construction of scientific classifications offered by the history and philosophy of science.

Student Personal Statements

Alberto Pepe

Department of Information Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
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Poster title

A socio-epistemic approach to identify communities of scientific collaboration

Personal statement

Alberto Pepe is a doctoral candidate in Information Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles and a graduate research assistant in the Statistics and Data Practices group of the Center for Embedded Networked Sensing. His research interests revolve around scholarly, scientific and social data. In particular, he currently studies scientific data practices in highly collaborative interdisciplinary research environments via network theory and statistical mechanics. Prior to starting his Ph.D., he developed digital library software and promoted open access among particle physicists at CERN, Switzerland. He also worked in the scientific visualization department of CINECA, the Italian Scientific Consortium, based at the University of Bologna. He holds a M.Sc. in Computer Science and a B.Sc. in Astrophysics, both from University College London, UK.

Student Personal Statements

David Pimentel

School of Information Studies, Syracuse University

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Poster title

The Classification of Religion Topics in Wikipedia: Examining an Evolution

Personal statement

David brings his background in linguistics (B.A.) and library science (M.L.S.) to his doctoral studies of information organization. He has long been the nerdy kid who loves reference books.

David's dissertation research centers on the intersection of classification and collaboration. His research considers the nature of information-organizing practices in collaborative online environments, using Wikipedia as a case study in emergent classifications. David's interests in various forms of info/knowledge representation are grounded in his professional experience with traditional library cataloging.

David is passionate about the potential of digital libraries to engage users in the intellectual organization of information resources. Going beyond algorithmic search-and-retrieval requires harnessing the power of people to create connections and relationships that are important and meaningful to them. Digital library environments increasingly allow users to collaboratively build these types of classifications and navigation structures. David seeks to understand how these structures evolve, and how an evolutionary perspective could inform the design and maintenance of traditional classifications.

In the classroom, David has experience teaching both graduate and undergraduate students; he has also taught graduate students online. Most recently David served as the instructor for a required LIS course on information organization and access. His teaching interests include various areas of knowledge organization and information architecture, digital libraries, and digital reference. His personal interests include slow food as well as civil rights and social justice movements.

Student Personal Statements

Devendra Potnis

College of Computing and Information, State University of New York-
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Poster title

Folksonomy: Organization of User Information for the Users by the Users in the Flat World

Personal statement

Background: Devendra Dilip Potnis is a doctoral candidate from College of Computing and Information, State University of New York – University at Albany. He always wanted to serve poor and needy people in every capacity. While pursuing a Master of Science (MS) in Computer Science, he realized that he needed to have a formal education in Public Administration, the field through which he wished to improve lives of disadvantaged populations in the world. The first hand experience of practical applications of electronic Government (e-Government), gained at internships with various international organizations including United Nations, inspired him to apply for a doctoral program with e-Government as a focus at State University of New York – University at Albany.

Profile: Through his collaborations with people from a variety of culturally diverse work environments, he has demonstrated his capability to work both as an individual as well as in a team. His empathetic nature along with excellent communication and presentation skills, often connect him easily with people from diverse backgrounds. This helps him to achieve deliverables in self-enhanced amicable work environments. For example, in the past, while acting as a consultant for a number of academic, public sector and non-government organizations, he has successfully conducted numerous facilitation sessions, with an objective of guiding organizations' efforts on capacity building, strategic planning, and application of IT in those organizations.

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Research Interests: His research goals are grounded in his passion to serve society, and informed by socio-economic problems of disadvantaged populations all around the world. During his internships with various national and international organizations, he came across real-time evidences of benefits of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) for bringing in socio-economic freedom in the lives of people from rural parts of developing nations. This field exposure further inspired him to explore research problems in the areas such as ICTs for Development, ICTs and human information behavior, e-Government, and ICTs in Microfinance.

Diverse academic training in computer science, public administration, business and informatics has both broadened his understanding for assessing research problems in the above mentioned areas, and prepared him to utilize advanced statistical techniques, mixed methods research designs, grounded theory, and many more tools for research purposes. e-Government research studies such as ‘Learning objectives of e-Government’ and ‘Evolution of United Nations e-Government Readiness Indicators’, which he continues to work on with his dissertation adviser Dr. Theresa Pardo, gave him a solid grip over the international literature entailing “willingness” and “capacity” of various nations to deploy ICTs for building knowledge-based societies. Research experience while working on ‘United Nations Mobile Technologies Compendium’, one of the United Nations projects, introduced him to a wide range of applications of mobile technologies in education and health areas.

His passion for research on ‘ICTs and development’ is not just limited to his dissertation. Using the principles of grounded theory research, he has been working in partnership with a professor in the Business School here at Albany on studying catalytic innovative role of ICTs in Microfinance, which is an emerging social business with multiple business goals such as maximizing profits at the same time ‘doing well by doing good’ to customers from the bottom of the pyramid. He looks forward to continuing his research on the evolving role of ICTs in the microfinance industry for eradicating poverty. In the future, he would also like to extend his ongoing research project exploring ‘ICTs: A gateway to socio-economic opportunities in Africa’, a project that makes use of e-Government as a tool to explore barriers to socio-economic prospects in Africa that he is engaged in with two colleagues from the Informatics Program here at Albany. Numerous public and private sector initiatives involving a myriad of applications of mobile devices opened a new avenue of interest for him, thereby acting as a pointer for his dissertation research.

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Dissertation Abstract: His dissertation research studies the role of mobile cell phones in shaping information behavior of financially disadvantaged women who own and use mobile cell phones in rural India. The research is expected to serve as a scholarly reference for mobile Government and dollar-aid projects involving deployment of ICTs in developing nations. His dissertation research findings may also inform mobile device manufacturers to come up with better human-centered designs and interfaces for mobile devices as well as devising better marketing strategies to expand in colossal markets of developing nations. His research is designed to contribute to filling the gap between what is known about human information behavior in the developed versus developing context. In the future, he would like to study impact of mobile devices on socio-economic status of disadvantaged populations in other developing nations.

Teaching Philosophy: His teaching philosophy has evolved out of his diverse experience of teaching at a wide variety of courses in the US and abroad. So far, he has taught seven semester long courses in School of Business, Informatics and Computer Science. He thinks that teaching is an art which needs to maintain a balance among teacher's personality and knowledge, knowledge shared in class, its value perceived by students, and applications of knowledge in improving students' current status. Some of the striking features of his teaching style are: incorporation of appropriate information technologies, application of innovative methods of conveying the right message to the right audience, usage of easy-to-understand illustrations, and most importantly, getting connected with his students. Courses on human information behavior, components of information, electronic-Commerce, business applications of information systems and technologies, electronic-Government, mobile-Government, making smart choices for investing in IT form a core set of his teaching plan. His teaching plan also includes real world projects focused on communities and technologies. On the way to exploring interrelationship between human element and society with IT, he plans to teach combinations of topics such as social networking, IT in communities of disadvantaged populations from developing nations, e-Inclusion, and evolution of IT in Microfinance through his courses.

Future Plans: Devendra plans to graduate in 2009. He wishes to take up a faculty or a researcher position in academia or a public sector organization and would like to direct his knowledge, diverse skill set and academic training, and work experience in different capacities and roles, including but not limited to facilitation, teaching, planning, programming, web-development and research, towards the welfare of disadvantaged populations. Eventually, he envisions being a part of caucus serving to enhance the quality of living of millions of individuals in the world through carefully crafted policy frameworks and relevant development activities.

Student Personal Statements

Daniela Rosner

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Poster title

Supporting the Social Process of Craft

Personal statement

Daniela's research focuses on the design of tools in support of everyday creative practice and understanding how notions of craftsmanship change over time, both historically and sociologically. Drawing on the fields of Design, HCI and Sociology, Daniela seeks to understand craft as an evolving technological process—to understand the ways people use skill and invested time to craft objects for personal expression, and to develop new technologies that enrich these practices.

Daniela Rosner is currently a doctoral student at the School of Information at UC Berkeley, where she finished her masters last Spring. Before coming to Berkeley, she worked as an exhibit and interaction designer at museums for three years, most significantly at the Adler Planetarium and Astronomy Museum in Chicago, IL. She also holds a M.S. in Computer Science and a B.F.A. in Graphic Design.

Student Personal Statements

Dana Rotman

iSchool—College of Information Studies, University of Maryland
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Poster title

Are you looking at me? Social media and privacy literacy

Personal statement

Dana Rotman is a doctoral student at the University of Maryland's iSchool – College of Information Studies. She holds two previous graduate degrees, an M.A. in Library and Information Studies from Bar-Ilan University in Israel, and a J.D. from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. Before joining the PhD program, Dana worked as an independent information analyst and technology consultant to various Israeli government agencies. She has vast experience as an online community moderator and manager, and is the joint creator and owner of the largest Israeli portal for parents.

Dana's research interests are focused on the juncture of people and technology, and specifically, the way social media shape interaction and dialog patterns, and create users' communities. Within that scope, she is interested in exploring issues of self-disclosure motivations, privacy and identity that are intertwined in online communications.

Currently, Dana is working on her pre-dissertation research, which aims to study patterns of interaction through advanced mobile devices ("Smart-phones"). "Smart-phones" allow not only for person-to-person vocal or textual communication, but also for different forms of social interaction – from social networking (e.g. Facebook) and microblogging (Twitter) to photo-sharing (Flickr). The study will offer a closer look at way students utilize mobile devise to initiate and maintain social interaction – on and off campus.

Her recent work includes studying YouTube, the prominent video-sharing site, as a platform for the emergence and creation of a community. A mixed method design was applied to compare users' views as to their participation in the online dialog with their actual participation patterns. The study revealed that although users view themselves as members of a larger community, the explicit relationships manifested in their friendship and mutual-subscription networks were almost random; thus suggesting that users' "sense of community" is not necessarily related to the structure of the actual community, and may result from subjective affinity towards other users.

Student Personal Statements

Raed Sharif

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Poster title

The Value of Public Sector Information As a Strategic Resource to Civil Society Organizations' in South Africa: Evidence from the Fight to Eradicate Poverty

Personal statement

Raed M. Sharif is a Ph.D. candidate in Information Science and Technology at the School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, USA. In addition to his studies, Raed is very active internationally in promoting better and cheaper access to and use of scientific data and information for socio-economic development, especially in the developing world. He worked for two years and a half (2005-2007) as a Research Associate with the Office of International Scientific and Technical Information Programs (ISTIP) at the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, and with the U.S. National Committee on CODATA, where he was involved in designing, launching and evaluating different science and technology policy projects and activities. He is also a member of CODATA task group on Preservation of and Access to Scientific and Technical Data in Developing Countries, and a steering committee member at the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) Program on Digital Knowledge Resources and Infrastructure in Developing Countries

Raed is also active in promoting the participation and involvement of young scientists in the science and technology policy making processes. To that end, Raed is currently chairing the Young Scientists Forum at the UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development (GAID) Community of Expertise on Enhancing Access to and Application of Scientific Data in Developing Countries (e-SDDC), where he is also a steering committee member. In this project, Raed's work focuses on enhancing the role of young scientists in maximizing the value of science, especially scientific data, in the information age. Raed spoke about these issues at different international scientific events including the Abdus Salam Center for Theoretical Physics International Workshop on "Open Access Models for Science Dissemination", Trieste, Italy, July, 2008; the ICSU conference on "Global Scientific Challenges: Perspectives from Young Scientists--An international conference celebrating 75 years of ICSU, Germany, April, 2007; and at the regional meeting of the InterAcademy Panel on International Issues (IAP) Program on Digital Knowledge Resources and Infrastructure in Developing Countries, Shanghai, China, May 2008.

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In addition to the above interests and activities in the science and technology policy area, Raed's academic research focuses on access to and reuse of Public Sector Information (PSI), especially scientific and technical information, and its impact on scientific and socio-economic development. He is also interested in the measurement of the social and economic value of PSI. His recent research papers and contributions appeared in the proceedings of national and international conferences and workshops such as the OECD-U.S. National Academy of Sciences workshop on "The Socioeconomic Effects of Public Sector Information on Digital Networks: Toward a Better Understanding of Different Access and Reuse Policies", Paris, France, February 2008, the Japan-U.S. Cooperative Science Program: International Workshop on Designing Global Information Commons for Innovation in Frontier Sciences, Tokyo, Japan, November, 2007, the 20th CODATA International Conference in Beijing, China, October 2006, the 9th GSDI International Conferences in Santiago, Chile, November 2006, the International Federation for Information Processing (IFIP) 8.2 in Ohio, USA, August 2005, and the American Conference on Information Systems (AMCIS), Nebraska, USA, August 2005, and Acapulco, Mexico, August 2006.

Raed also presented his work during the World Summit on Information Society (WSIS-II) in Tunisia, November 2005, during his visits to South Africa (September 2005 and May 2007), to Spain (March 2007), to Germany (April 2007), to Brazil (May 2007), to Egypt (July 2007), and during his participation in the Oxford University two-week Doctoral Students Program organized by the Oxford Internet Institute in July 2006.

He also spoke at a number of international and regional workshops and meetings in Latin America and Africa focusing on "Strategies for open and permanent access to scientific information" (2005-2007).

At the iConference 2009, Raed will be presenting his dissertation topic " The Value of Public Sector Information as a Strategic Resource to Civil Society Organizations' in South Africa: Evidence from the Fight to Eradicate Poverty".

Before starting his doctoral studies, Raed worked for six years as a Business Development Manager and ICT Training Manager at Birzeit University in Palestine. His work focused on initiating and managing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) projects at a number of Palestinian institutions. He also worked as a researcher and a consultant for the UNESCO, UNDP, EU, the British Council and USAID on ICT-related projects and practices and their impact on the Palestinian people and economy. Raed received his Bachelor degree in Economics and Political Science in 1999 and his MBA in 2002 both from Birzeit University, Palestine. Raed can be reached at raedsharif@gmail.com and on Skype at rsharf.

Student Personal Statements

Joe Treglia

School of Information Studies, Syracuse University

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Poster title

Two Cans on a String: Technical Social & Legal Barriers to Effective Information Sharing Among Federal, Tribal, State & Local Law Enforcement Agencies in the United States

Personal statement

Joseph V. Treglia is an Adjunct Instructor in both the Martin J. Whitman School of Management and the School of Information Studies at Syracuse University. He earned his Master of Science in Information Resources Management from Syracuse University's School of Information Studies and he has a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Syracuse University as well. He is currently a National Science Foundation (NSF) Scholar in the PhD program in Syracuse University's School of Information Studies. He is Director of Programs and Development for the Jim Marshall Farms Foundation, Inc. and Assistant Director of the Wireless Grids Lab. He was previously a Director for ARISE, Inc., a large nonprofit human services agency in Central New York. Mr. Treglia also has 20 years experience in law enforcement and criminal justice. He is founder of United Information Services, an internet services and information systems consulting group. His research interests include information assurance, cyber security issues, intelligence and information sharing within and across organizations. More information about Joe Treglia can be found at:

<http://web.syr.edu/~jvtregli/>

Student Personal Statements

Richard Urban

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Poster title

Modeling CDWA Lite as an OWL-DL Ontology

Personal statement

Cultural heritage professionals are discussing how emerging digital infrastructures are breaking down the traditional barriers between libraries, archives and museums. To date, this conversation has largely centered on technical protocols that allow for the exchange of metadata about the materials that are held within traditional institutional boundaries. While this represents “convergence” at a very shallow level, it raises important questions about the integration of the professional practices of librarians, archivists and museum professionals who are responsible for cultural heritage materials. A deeper kind of “convergence” will require negotiating the distinct ontological, epistemological, theoretical and methodological foundations that each community has constructed over the course of the 20th century. While users may benefit from better approaches to integrating cultural materials in online environments, it remains unclear whether this kind of convergence is needed – or wanted – at other levels of professional practice.

In the course of my career I have worked across each of these domains – including processing manuscripts at the Library of Congress, managing serials at the Smithsonian Libraries, and building exhibits at the Historical Society of Delaware. Before returning to graduate school, I was able to bring these experiences together as Operations Coordinator for the Colorado Digitization Program, which provided funding, technical infrastructure and guidance for making cultural heritage collections available online. These experiences have provided me with a unique perspective on the challenges that the community faces if it decides to pursue closer cooperation and collaboration.

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The challenge of integrating cultural heritage metadata has motivated much of my work at GSLIS (and is related to the poster I will present at the iConference). Currently I serve as a research assistant for the IMLS Digital Collections and Content Project which has aggregated 350,000 item-level records from over 324 cultural heritage collections. The Collection/Item Metadata Relationships (CIMR) research group focuses on identifying relationships that exist between collection-level and item-level descriptions in ways that could improve the ability of users to find, identify and interpret the materials that we have aggregated.

Inspired by this work my dissertation will explore how the concept of “context” is defined across libraries, archives and museums and how these conceptualizations are manifested in knowledge representation practices and standards. At present, I am in the early stages of drafting my dissertation proposal. I look forward to discussing potential theories and methods that might be usefully applied to the problem of “context” during the 2009 iSchools Conference Doctoral Colloquium.

Student Personal Statements

Andrea Wiggins

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Poster title

Interdisciplinary Diversity in the iSchool Community

Personal statement

I am currently in my second year of the PhD program at Syracuse University's iSchool. My prior academic training includes a Master of Science in Information from the University of Michigan School of Information (2007) and a BA in Mathematics from Alma College (2000). Between degrees, I contributed a year of voluntary national service with AmeriCorps and then worked professionally in the nonprofit and IT sectors.

My research interests include the social dynamics of collaboration, open movements, virtual teams, and self-organizing systems. While I am still determining a dissertation focus, my primary interest currently lies in understanding the processes involved in open knowledge generation. Open knowledge refers to data, content, and information that is free for unrestricted use, reuse, and distribution. I am interested in developing a better understanding of the coordination mechanisms that enable open knowledge creation, and the characteristics of open knowledge environments that support participation.

My related research interests are in the sociotechnical dynamics of self-organizing virtual teams, and the effects of virtual environments and coordination strategies on group dynamics. These interests have evolved from research projects on success measures and communication dynamics in free/libre open source software (FLOSS) development. Through participation in the interdisciplinary "small science" FLOSS research community, I have also become interested in eResearch and the sociotechnical factors that affect adoption of eScience tools and practices. Weaving together these broader interests will provide an interesting long-term research agenda, but my immediate task is determining a direction for dissertation research.

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In addition to my academic pursuits, I enjoy international travel and the design and craft of both digital and tangible objects. My creative efforts focus on photography and fiber arts. I learned how to knit when I was about 8 years old, which means that I've been knitting for over two decades.

Photography has been a passion for years as well; I own well over a dozen film cameras and two digital cameras. My work has appeared in the New York Times and in several international technology magazines, as well as in juried exhibits.