

MEGAN FINN
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revised: November 2016

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D., School of Information, 2012

M.I.M.S., School of Information Management and Systems, 2005

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

B.S., LSA Honors College, Computer Science, 2000

APPOINTMENTS

University of Washington, Seattle

Assistant Professor, Information School, July 2014-present.

Microsoft Research New England

Postdoctoral Researcher, Social Media Collective, 2012-2014

BOOK (UNDER CONTRACT)

Megan Finn. *Documenting Aftermath: Event Epistemology and the Informatics of Disaster*. MIT Press.

[working title]

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Janaki Srinivasan, Megan Finn and Morgan Ames, "Information determinism: The consequences of the faith in information," *The Information Society*, forthcoming.

Megan Finn and Elisa Oreglia, "A Fundamentally Confused Document: Situation Reports and the Work of Producing Humanitarian Information," Proceedings of *Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)*, March 2016. Winner, Best Paper Award.

Kate Crawford and Megan Finn, "The limits of crisis data: analytical and ethical challenges of using social and mobile data to understand disasters," *GeoJournal*. November 2014.

Megan Finn, Janaki Srinivasan, Rajesh Srinivasan. "Seeing with Paper: Government documents and material participation," Materiality of information, documents and work mini-track. *HICCS*. January 2014. Winner of best paper award in the "Digital and Social Media" Track.

Megan Finn. Information Infrastructure and Descriptions of the 1857 Fort Tejon Earthquake. *Information and Culture: a Journal of History* 48(2), May 2013.

Daniel Kreiss, Megan Finn, and Fred Turner. The Limits of Peer Production: Some Reminders from Max Weber for the Network Society. *New Media & Society*. 13(2) 243-259, 2011.

Ito, Mizuko, Sonja Baumer, Matteo Bittanti, danah boyd, Rachel Cody, Becky Herr, Heather A. Horst, Patricia G. Lange, Dilan Mahendran, Katynka Martinez, C.J. Pascoe, Dan Perkel, Laura

Robinson, Christo Sims, and Lisa Tripp. (with Judd Antin, Megan Finn, Arthur Law, Annie Manion, Sarai Mitnick, Dave Schlossberg and Sarita Yardi). *Hanging Out, Messing Around, Geeking Out: Living and Learning with New Media*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 2010. My masters research contributed to the book. I wrote the section “The Techne-Mentor” pp59-60.

Henry Chesbrough, Shane Ahern, Megan Finn, & Shane Guarrez. Business Models for Technology in the Developing World: The Role of Non-Governmental Organizations. *California Management Review* 48(3): 48-61. 2006

Nancy Van House, Marc Davis, Morgan Ames, Megan Finn, & Vijay Viswanathan. The Uses of Personal Networked Digital Imaging: An Empirical Study of Cameraphone Photos and Sharing. In *Extended Abstracts of CHI 2005, ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM Press, April 2005.

Marc Davis, Nancy Van House, Jeff Towle, Simon King, Shane Ahern, Carrie Burgener, Dan Perkel, Megan Finn, Vijay Viswanathan, and Matthew Rothenberg. MMM2: Mobile Media Metadata for Media Sharing. In *Extended Abstracts of CHI 2005, ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*. ACM Press, April 2005.

EDITED VOLUMES

Megan Finn and Ben Light, editors, “AoIR [Association of Internet Researchers] Special Issue,” *Information, Communication and Society* 19(6). March 2016.

Megan Finn and Ben Light, “Introduction: Imagining the Internet” *Information, Communication and Society* 19(6). March 2016.

WORKSHOP/CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (REFEREED ABSTRACTS, POSTERS AND PAPERS)

“Information Infrastructure and Resilience in American Disaster Plans,” The Sociotechnical Constitution of Resilience: Structures, Practices and Epistemologies Workshop at Singapore National Technical University. June 2016.

“The production and circulation of earthquake knowledge in 1868 California,” Knowledge Infrastructure Workshop. University of Washington. Seattle, WA. December 2015.

“Repair in a World of Risk.” Repair Workshop at *Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)*. Denver, CO. November 2015.

“Public News Bots? Creating Networked News Time in Automated Journalism” (with Mike Ananny). Automated Actors Online: Algorithms and Bots, presenter. *Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)*. Denver, CO. November 2015.

“Making Twitter Datasets and the “God Eye” of Social Media Research,” In Politics by other means, presenter. *Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)*. Denver, CO. November 2015.

“I am so anxious to hear’: improvising information infrastructure.” *SIGCIS at Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)*. Albuquerque, NM. October 2015.

“Accounting for people post-earthquake,” History of Data Workshop at Columbia University. New York, NY. April 2015.

“Beyond Information Determinism to Information Orders: A New Framework for Policy,” (with Janaki Srinivasan and Morgan Ames), poster. *iConference 2015*. Newport Beach, CA. March 2015.

“Time as Information Infrastructure,” in Disaster Time: Critical perspectives on crisis informatics and the temporal aspects of disasters, presenter. *Association of American Geographers*, Tampa, FL. April 2014.

“alt.conference on Big Data,” panelist. *Association of American Geographers*, Tampa, FL. April 2014.

"Changing Publishing Practices in iSchools," workshop organizer, *iConference*. Berlin, March 2014.

“Imagined Information Practices: Information determinism and disaster response,” Information and Communication Technologies, Aspiration and Identity, presenter. *Society for the Social Study of Science*. San Diego, CA. October 2013.

“Recognizing Invisible Infrastructure: Data Centers and Hurricane Sandy,” (with Ashwin Mathews and Kate Crawford), (Invisible) Internet Infrastructure Labor, panel organizer and presenter *Association of Internet Researchers*. Denver, CO, October 2013.

“Crisis Research and the Limits of Social Media Datasets” (with Kate Crawford), panelist Social Media in Crisis Communication, *Association of Internet Researchers*. Denver, CO, October 2013.

“Post-Disaster Information and Communication Practices: plans and technologies,” presenter Emerging Scholars Network. *International Association of Media and Communication Researchers*, Dublin, Ireland. June 2013.

“The Challenges of Crisis Data” (with Kate Crawford), presenter Crisis Communication track. *International Association of Media and Communication Researchers*, Dublin, Ireland. June 2013.

“Disaster Response Plans as Material Politics,” workshop presenter. *Governing Technology: Material Politics and Hybrid Agencies*. Stanford, CA. May 2013.

“Privacy in the Context of Crisis Information Flows” (with Andrés Monroy- Hernández), presenter, Crowdsourcing Crisis in the GeoWeb: A Critical Look. *Association of American Geographers*. Los Angeles, CA. April 2013.

“Accounting for people after a disaster: then and now,” The Politics of Algorithms, panelist, *Society for the Social Studies of Science*. Copenhagen, Denmark. October 2012.

“Accounting for people after a disaster: then and now,” The Politics of Algorithms, panelist, *Association of Internet Researchers*. Manchester, UK. October 2012.

“Post-Earthquake Information Practices in 1868 California.” Exploring Network Mobilities. Presenter. *Society for the History of Technology*. Cleveland, OH. November, 2011.

“Situation Reports and the Politics of Information Sharing in Emergencies.” Panelist, *The Politics of Uncertainty: Disasters and STS. Society for the Social Studies of Science*. Cleveland, OH. November, 2011.

The Informational State, panel organizer and presenter, *iConference 2011*. Seattle, Washington. February 2011.

1857 California Post-Earthquake Information Practices. Poster Presentation. *iConference 2011*. Seattle, Washington. February 2011.

Post-disaster information environments: the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake. Poster Presentation & Participant, PhD Colloquium. *iConference 2008*. University of California, Los Angeles. February 2008.

Information Standards and Creativity During Extreme Events. Workshop Paper. *2007 ACM Conference on Creativity and Cognition*. Washington, D.C. June 13-16, 2007.

Information Systems and Data Standards. Colloquium participant. *ISCRAM 2007 International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management*. Delft, Netherlands. May 2007.

Information and Communication Challenges for Responding to Crises. Panelist *Society for the Social Studies of Science*. Vancouver, Canada. 2006.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

PI: NSF 1634202 “CCE STEM: Standard: Collaborative Research: The Development of Ethical Cultures in Computer Security Research,” \$336,058.

Graduate Division Summer Grant, *2011*

National Science Foundation, National Science Foundation Dissertation Support Grant for “Post-Disaster Information Environments” *2008-2010*

Robert J. Glushko and Pamela Samuelson Foundation Grant Recipient, *2009*

Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship, *2008*

Big Ideas @ Berkeley Bears Breaking Boundaries Idea Lab contest winner for the “UC Information Studies Lab,” *Spring 2008*

UC Berkeley I School Grant (including stipend and tuition), *2005-2007*

UC Berkeley Management of Technology Research Fellowship recipient, *2004*

National Science Foundation Summer Fellow at Center for the Study of Complex System (CSCS), *Summer 1999*

INVITED TALKS

Panelist, “Transparency and its Discontents: Democratic Prospects and Challenges.” *Can Open Data Improve Democratic Governance?* University of California, Berkeley, sponsored by Center for the Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society. September 2013

“Information Orders after the 1906 Earthquake,” University of North Carolina, sponsored by School of Information and Library Science and School of Journalism. April 2013.

“Californians and their Earthquakes: telegraph use after the 1868 Hayward earthquake.” *Third GCOE Kyoto – Berkeley Workshop*. Berkeley, CA. March 2011.

“Post-disaster information practices: notification and sensemaking after Earthquakes in California.” *Second GCOE Kyoto – Berkeley Workshop*. Kyoto, Japan. March 2010.

RESEARCH REPORTS

Megan Finn, Elisa Oreglia, Nick Rabinowitz and John Ward. “Situation Reporting at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. May 2008.

<http://groups.ischool.berkeley.edu/sitrep/dl/BerkeleySitrepReport.pdf>

<http://groups.ischool.berkeley.edu/sitrep/dl/BerkeleySitrepReportAnnexes.pdf>

Follow up report: Megan Finn, Elisa Oreglia and Nick Rabinowitz “Situation Reports at OCHA, 2009.” September 2009.

<http://groups.ischool.berkeley.edu/sitrep/dl/SituationReportsatOCHA2009.pdf>

Mizuko Ito, Heather A. Horst, Matteo Bittanti, danah boyd, Becky Herr-Stephenson, Patricia G. Lange, C.J. Pascoe, and Laura Robinson (with Sonja Baumer, Rachel Cody, Dilan Mahendran, Katynka Martínez, Dan Perkel, Christo Sims, and Lisa Tripp.) *Living and Learning with New Media: Summary of Findings from the Digital Youth Project*. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Reports on Digital Media and Learning, November 2008. Available online:

<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/report>.

Report includes research from my project, Freshquest: <http://groups.ischool.berkeley.edu/ikids/freshquest/>

Peter Lyman with Alison Billings, Sarah Ellinger, Megan Finn and Dan Perkel. Literature Review Kids’ Informal Learning and Digital-Mediated Experiences. White paper for the MacArthur Foundation. 2005. Available online: <http://www.exploratorium.edu/research/digitalkids/digital.html>

Nancy Van House, Marc Davis., Yuri Takhteyev, Morgan Ames, & Megan Finn. The Social Uses of Personal Photography: Methods for Projecting Future Imaging Applications. 2004.

<http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/download?doi=10.1.1.87.4893&rep=rep1&type=pdf>

Nancy Van House, Marc Davis, Yuri Takhteyev, Nathan Good, Anita Wilhelm, and Megan Finn. From ‘What?’ to ‘Why?’: The Social Uses of Personal Photos. 2004. Available online:

http://people.ischool.berkeley.edu/~vanhouse/van%20house_et_al_2004a.pdf

TRADE PRESS

Megan Finn. Out of Context. *Ambidextrous* (8). 2008.

I wrote about the problems of showing aggregated data — especially geo-data and Google Street View— out of context, with thoughts on what this might meet for the design of applications.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Microsoft Research New England 2012-2014

Postdoctoral Researcher, Social Media Research Group

Undertook a number of collaborative and solo research projects which resulted in papers on: critical perspectives on the ontological and epistemological limitations of crisis-related social media data; data centers and information infrastructure after Hurricane Sandy; analysis of information determinism in contemporary disaster response plans; and the use of state documents as forms of material political participation. *Social Media Collective permanent researchers:* Nancy Baym, Mary Gray, danah boyd and Kate Crawford. *Supervisors:* Jennifer Chayes and Christian Borgs.

University of California, Berkeley 2007-2012

Dissertation Research supported by National Science Foundation

Title: Californians and their Earthquakes: Post-Earthquake Public Information Infrastructures

Advisors: AnnaLee Saxenian and Paul Duguid.

Project examined the information practices of ordinary Californians after earthquakes in the Bay Area in 1868, 1906, and 1989. Research included archival work in a variety of online and offline archives, including Bancroft Library, National Archives, California State Archives, Society of California Pioneers, and California Academy of Sciences. This research was supported by a National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant. *Dissertation committee:* AnnaLee Saxenian, Paul Duguid, Coye Cheshire, Richard Walker.

University of California, Berkeley 2008-2009

Sitrep Project

Worked with the United Nations Office For Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) researching the situation reporting (sitrep) process for humanitarian emergencies. Research included over one hundred interviews, round tables and focus groups with participants in New York, Geneva and Nairobi. The work was generously supported by Tom Kalil of Big Ideas at Berkeley, and by Professors Pam Samuelson and Bob Glushko's Foundation. *Collaborators:* Elisa Oreglia, Nick Rabinowitz, John Ward

University of California, Berkeley 2007

Organizational Learning and Communication about Catastrophic Events,

Wrote a review of sociology literature about disaster response for NSF funded project. *Principle*

Investigator: Karlene Roberts; *Supervisor:* Kenneth Bamberger

University of California, Berkeley 2004-2006

Digital Youth project

Conceived of the Freshquest project, aiming at understanding the technological careers of young people. Investigated how Freshmen at Berkeley and Ohlone College use technology to support their social network using survey, interviews and focus groups. Digital Youth was funded by the MacArthur Foundation. Work resulted in a masters thesis and contributions to a number of other Digital Youth publications. *Principle Investigators:* Michael Carter, Mizuko Ito, Peter Lyman, and Barrie Thorne

University of California, Berkeley 2003-2004

Garage Cinema Research: Social Uses of Personal Media

Conducted ethnographic research on the social uses of photography, especially digital photography.
Principle Investigators: Marc Davis and Nancy Van House

Exploratorium, 2004

Digital Mediated Experiences and Kids' Informal Learning

Performed a literature review about digital mediated learning for children in informal learning environments. Wrote an appendix discussing aspects of the “digital divide,” particularly the issue of Internet access for children. *Principle Investigator:* Peter Lyman

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor 1999-2000

Center for the Study of Complex Systems, Undergraduate Research Program

Examined cooperation in single and multi-team environments in an integrated social dilemma game using three methodological approaches: game theoretic analysis, lab experimentation, and agent-based computer simulation. *Lab Director:* Rick Riolo; *Supervisor:* Corinne Coen.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS (AT UW)

Instructor, *Information Policy and Ethics (IMT550)*, Winter 2015, Winter 2016

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS (AT BERKELEY)

Co-instructor, *History of Information*, Summer 2009

Graduate Student Instructor, *History of Information*, Spring 2009, 2010, 2011

The ambitiously titled, “History of Information” explores the history of information and associated technologies from early writing systems to mobile text messaging, uncovering why we think of ours as “the information age.” This course addresses the question of technological determinism: how do technological developments affect society and vice-versa? Students complete exams and weekly writing assignments analyzing primary texts and responding to questions about readings or their research experiments. *Supervisors:* Paul Duguid and Geoff Nunberg. [Upper-level undergraduate course listed in the Information, Media Studies, Cognitive Science, and History departments.]

Syllabus Spring 2009: <http://courses.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103/s09/HOFI09.html>

Syllabus Summer 2009: <http://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103su09/class-schedule-and-readings/>

Syllabus Spring 2010: <http://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103s10/>

Syllabus Spring 2011 <http://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/i103s11/>

Tutor, *Effective Project Management*, Fall 2011

Effective Project Management takes professional masters-level students from a number of different departments and teaches them the essential tools and techniques of project management. Students complete a number of individual assignments aimed at improving leadership skills as well as a capstone group project where they complete a detailed project management plan. *Supervisor:* Anne Walker. [Graduate level School of Information course; fulfills “Project Management” requirement for masters students.] <https://blogs.ischool.berkeley.edu/i290-epm/> (Requires account to view all content.)

Graduate Student Instructor, *Computer Mediated Communication*, Fall 2010

CMC examines topics pertaining to online social action, including online collective action, reputation, and privacy. Students write weekly reviews of reading, assemble summaries of weekly reviews, and participate in online forum and wikis. The culmination of the course is a semester-long research or design project integrating theory and practice. *Supervisor:* Coye Cheshire. [Graduate level

School of Information course; fulfills requirements for the Management of Technology Certificate and the Berkeley Center for New Media Designated Emphasis for PhD students.]
<http://courses.ischool.berkeley.edu/i216/f10/> (Requires login to view some content.)

Tutor, *Distributed Computing Applications and Infrastructure*, Fall 2007

This core course for professional masters iSchool students introduces them to the basics of computer architecture, network architecture and programming. Students complete assignments in a lab completing tasks that help them understand network design. *Supervisor*: John Chuang. [I ran the lab for this core course for Masters of Information and Management students at the School of Information.] <http://courses.ischool.berkeley.edu/i206/f07/>

Graduate Student Instructor, *Foundations of American Cyber-cultures*, Fall 2004

This thoroughly interdisciplinary undergraduate course integrates theory about new media with student projects to investigate the online social world. Students complete weekly assignments where they experiment with the Turing Test, create web sites to interrogate identity online, and design and execute small research projects investigating and collecting data about the digital divide. *Supervisors*: Greg Neimeyer and Charis Thompson. [Lower-division undergraduate course in Art Practice, Rhetoric and Women's Studies; fulfilled Berkeley's American Culture requirement.]

http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/mellon/courses/syllabus_art23ac_2004.pdf

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SearchTools Consulting (Berkeley, CA) *Summer 2004, Summer Intern*

Hewlett-Packard (Palo Alto, CA) *2001 – 2003, Research Engineer*

Conceived, managed and executed a project attempting to understand technology adoption in HP. Researched the nature of the HP intranet to discover makeup, patterns and behaviors to aid resource planning.

Sapient (San Francisco, CA) *2000 – 2001, Engineer*

Intel (Hillsboro, OR) *Summer 1998, Summer Intern*

SERVICE

Organizer, *UC iSchools PhD Workshop*, January 2009.

The UC Information Studies Graduate Student Workshop brought together students from UC Berkeley's School of Information, UC Irvine's Department of Informatics, and UCLA's Department of Information to share research projects, present intellectual interests, and discuss important trends and directions in the field of information studies. Conference URL: <http://uc-ischools.differenceengines.com/>

Reviewed for: ITID Journal, Computer Supported Cooperative Work Conference, ACM SIGCHI Conference, WikiSym Conference, iSchool's iConference.

OTHER TRAINING

I have assisted in teaching UC Berkeley Extension courses on silkscreen printing, and have taken courses in letterpress printing.