

Dr. Michael Ann DeVito, PhD

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Department of Information Science
College of Media, Communication and Information
University of Colorado Boulder

Research Interests

Folk theorization, user adaptation, queer and trans computing, value sensitive design, social computing, human-computer interaction (HCI), computer supported cooperative work (CSCW)

Education

- Ph.D.**, Media, Technology, and Society, Northwestern University (2020)
Graduate Specialization: Cognitive Science
Dissertation: *Presenting the Self on Unstable Ground: Adaptive Folk Theorization as a Path to Algorithmic Literacy on Changing Platforms*
Committee: Jeremy Birnholtz (chair), Darren Gergle, Jeffrey Hancock, Karrie Karahalios
- M.A.**, Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University (2015)
Thesis: *Facebook Family Values: A News Feed Hierarchy of Needs*
Committee: Kerric Harvey (chair), David Karpf, Emily Thorson
- B.A.**, Journalism and Mass Communication, George Washington University (2013)

Professional Experience

- 2021-Current **University of Colorado Boulder**, Boulder, CO
Postdoctoral Computing Innovation Fellow, Department of Information Science
- 2016-2020 **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL
Instructor, Department of Communication Studies
- 2015-2020 **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL
Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Communication Studies
- 2013-2015 **George Washington University**, Washington, DC
Graduate Research and Teaching Assistant, School of Media and Public Affairs
- 2014 **George Washington University**, Washington, DC
Instructor, School of Media and Public Affairs
- 2012-2015 **George Washington University**, Washington, DC
Managing Editor, Planet Forward Sustainability Communication Center
- 2012-2013 **George Washington University**, Washington, DC
Web Producer, Face the Facts USA Public Affairs Project

Scholarships and Awards

- 2021-2022 Computing Innovation Fellowship, *Computing Research Association*
- 2019 Outstanding Graduate Instructor Award, *Department of Communication Studies, Northwestern University*

2018-2019	Irving J. and Laura Lee Fellowship, <i>Department of Communication Studies, Northwestern University</i>
2013-2015	M.A. Scholarship, <i>School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University</i>

Publications

Journal Articles (*peer-reviewed, archival*)

- [5] Michael Ann DeVito. 2021. Adaptive Folk Theorization as a Path to Algorithmic Literacy on Changing Platforms. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5, CSCW2, Article 339, 35 pages. doi: [10.1145/3476080](https://doi.org/10.1145/3476080)
- [4] Michael Ann DeVito, Ashley Marie Walker, and Julia R. Fernandez. 2021. Values (Mis)alignment: Exploring Tensions Between Platform and LGBTQ+ Community Design Values. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5, CSCW1, Article 88, 27 pages. doi: [10.1145/3449162](https://doi.org/10.1145/3449162)
- [3] Fayika Farhat Nova, Michael Ann DeVito, Pratyasha Saha, Kazi Shohanur Rashid, Shashwata Roy Turzo, Sadia Afrin, and Shion Guha. 2021. "Facebook Promotes More Harassment": Social Media Ecosystem, Skill and Marginalized Hijra Identity in Bangladesh. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 5, CSCW1, Article 157, 35 pages. doi: [10.1145/3449231](https://doi.org/10.1145/3449231)
- [2] Michael Ann DeVito, Ashley Marie Walker, and Jeremy Birnholtz. 2018. 'Too Gay for Facebook': Presenting LGBTQ+ Identity Throughout the Personal Social Media Ecosystem. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 2, CSCW, Article 44, 23 pages. doi: [10.1145/3274313](https://doi.org/10.1145/3274313) [26% acceptance rate]
- [1] Michael Ann DeVito. 2017. From Editors to Algorithms: A Values-Based Approach to Understanding Story Selection in Facebook's News Feed. *Digital Journalism*, 5, 6, 753-773. doi: [10.1080/21670811.2016.1178592](https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2016.1178592) [4.476 impact factor]

Conference Proceedings (*peer-reviewed, archival*)

- [4] Ashley Marie Walker and Michael Ann DeVito. 2020. "'More gay' fits in better": Intracommunity Power Dynamics and Harms in Online LGBTQ+ Spaces. In *Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '20)*, doi: [10.1145/3313831.3376497](https://doi.org/10.1145/3313831.3376497) [24% acceptance rate] [equal co-authorship]
- [3] Michael Ann DeVito, Jeremy Birnholtz, Jeffery T. Hancock, Megan French, and Sunny Liu. 2018. How People Form Folk Theories of Social Media Feeds and What it Means for How We Study Self-Presentation. In *Proceedings of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18)*, Paper 120, 1-12. doi: [10.1145/3173574.3173694](https://doi.org/10.1145/3173574.3173694) [25% acceptance rate]
- [2] Michael Ann DeVito, Darren Gergle, and Jeremy Birnholtz. 2017. "Algorithms ruin everything": #RIPTwitter, Folk Theories, and Resistance to Algorithmic Change in Social Media. In *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '17)*, 3163-3174. doi: [10.1145/3025453.3025659](https://doi.org/10.1145/3025453.3025659) [25% acceptance rate]
- [1] Michael Ann DeVito, Jeremy Birnholtz, and Jeffery T. Hancock. 2017. Platforms, People, and Perception: Using Affordances to Understand Self-Presentation on Social Media. In *Proceedings of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '17)*, 740-754. doi: [10.1145/2998181.2998192](https://doi.org/10.1145/2998181.2998192) [35% acceptance rate]

Posters and Short Works (peer-reviewed, archival)

- [4] Fayika Farhat Nova, Michael Ann DeVito, Pratyasha Saha, Kazi Shohanur Rashid, Shashwata Roy Turzo, Sadia Afrin, and Shion Guha. 2020. Understanding How Marginalized Hijra in Bangladesh Navigate Complex Social Media Ecosystem. In *Conference Companion Publication of the 2020 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '20 Companion)*, 353–358. doi: doi.org/10.1145/3406865.3418317
- [3] Ashley Marie Walker, Michael Ann DeVito, Kathryn E. Ringland, and Madhu Reddy. 2019. (In)visible Choices: Articulation Work and the Rise in US Maternal Mortality. In *Conference Companion Publication of the 2019 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '19)*, 403–407. doi: [10.1145/3311957.3359463](https://doi.org/10.1145/3311957.3359463)
- [2] Michael Ann DeVito. 2019. User Adaptation to Constant Change in Algorithmically-Driven Social Platforms. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '19)*, Paper DC06, 1–6. doi: [10.1145/3290607.3299082](https://doi.org/10.1145/3290607.3299082)
- [1] Michael Ann DeVito. 2018. Commentary on The Other Side: Algorithm as Ritual in Artificial Intelligence by Kieran Browne and Ben Swift. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '18)*, Paper alt11, 9. doi: [10.1145/3170427.3188404](https://doi.org/10.1145/3170427.3188404)

Panels (peer-reviewed, archival)

- [3] Jacob Thebault-Spieker, Stevie Chancellor, Michael Ann DeVito, Niloufar Salehi, Alex Leavitt, David Karger, and Katta Spiel. 2021. Do We Fix it or Burn it Down? Towards Practicable Critique at CSCW. In *Conference Companion Publication of the 2021 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '21)*, in press.
- [2] Poorna Talkad Sukumar, Ignacio Avellino, Christian Remy, Michael Ann DeVito, Tawanna R. Dillahunt, Joanna McGrenere, and Max L. Wilson. 2020. Transparency in Qualitative Research: Increasing Fairness in the CHI Review Process. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '20)*, 1–6. doi: [10.1145/3334480.3381066](https://doi.org/10.1145/3334480.3381066)
- [1] Michael Ann DeVito, Jeffrey T. Hancock, Megan French, Jeremy Birnholtz, Judd Antin, Karrie Karahalios, Stephanie Tong, and Irina Shklovski. 2018. The Algorithm and the User: How Can HCI Use Lay Understandings of Algorithmic Systems? In *Extended Abstracts of the 2018 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '18)*, Paper panel04, 1–6. doi: [10.1145/3170427.3186320](https://doi.org/10.1145/3170427.3186320)

Special Interest Groups Co-organized (peer-reviewed, archival)

- [4] Michael Ann DeVito, Caitlin Lustig, Ellen Simpson, Kimberley Allison, Tya Chuanromanee, Katta Spiel, Amy Ko, Jennifer Rode, Brianna Dym, Michael Muller, Morgan Klaus Scheuerman, Ashley Marie Walker, Jed Brubaker, and Alex Ahmed. 2021. Queer in HCI: Strengthening the Community of LGBTQIA+ Researchers and Research. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '21)*, Article 159, 1–3. doi: [10.1145/3411763.3450403](https://doi.org/10.1145/3411763.3450403)
- [3] Michael Ann DeVito, Ashley Marie Walker, Caitlin Lustig, Amy J. Ko, Katta Spiel, Alex A. Ahmed, Kimberley Allison, Morgan Scheuerman, Brianna Dym, Jed R. Brubaker, Ellen Simpson, Naveen Bagalkot, Noopur Raval, Michael Muller, Jennifer Rode, and Mary L. Gray. 2020. Queer in HCI: Supporting LGBTQIA+ Researchers and Research Across Domains. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '20)*, 1–4. doi: [10.1145/3334480.3381058](https://doi.org/10.1145/3334480.3381058)

- [2] Ashley Marie Walker, Michael Ann DeVito, Juan Fernando Maestre, Katie A. Siek, Cassie Kresnye, Ben Jelen, Patrick C. Shih, Maria Wolters, and Mona Alqassim. 2019. ARC: Moving the Method Forward. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '19)*, Paper SIG06, 1–4. doi: [10.1145/3290607.3311763](https://doi.org/10.1145/3290607.3311763)
- [1] Katta Spiel, Os Keyes, Ashley Marie Walker, Michael Ann DeVito, Jeremy Birnholtz, Emeline Brulé, Ann Light, Pinar Barlas, Jean Hardy, Alex Ahmed, Jennifer A. Rode, Jed R. Brubaker, and Gopinaath Kannabiran. 2019. Queer(ing) HCI: Moving Forward in Theory and Practice. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '19)*, Paper SIG11, 1–4. doi: [10.1145/3290607.3311750](https://doi.org/10.1145/3290607.3311750)

Workshops Co-organized (peer-reviewed, archival)

- [3] Lindsey Cameron, Angele Christin, Michael Ann DeVito, Tawanna R. Dillahunt, Madeleine Elish, Mary Gray, Rida Qadri, Noopur Raval, Melissa Valentine, and Elizabeth Anne Watkins. 2021. “This Seems to Work”: Designing Technological Systems with The Algorithmic Imaginations of Those Who Labor. In *Extended Abstracts of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, Article 115, 1–5. doi: [10.1145/3411763.3441331](https://doi.org/10.1145/3411763.3441331)
- [2] Sarah A. Gilbert, Casey Fiesler, Lindsay Blackwell, Michael Ann DeVito, Michaelanne Dye, Shamika Goddard, Kishonna L. Gray, David Nemer, and C. Estelle Smith. 2020. Public Scholarship and CSCW: Trials and Twitterations. In *Conference Companion Publication of the 2020 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '20 Companion)*, 447–456. doi: [10.1145/3406865.3418589](https://doi.org/10.1145/3406865.3418589)
- [1] Michael Ann DeVito, Ashley Marie Walker, Jeremy Birnholtz, Kathryn Ringland, Kathryn Macapagal, Ashley Kraus, Sean Munson, Calvin Liang, and Herman Saksono. 2019. Social Technologies for Digital Wellbeing Among Marginalized Communities. In *Conference Companion Publication of the 2019 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '19)*, 449–454. doi: [10.1145/3311957.3359442](https://doi.org/10.1145/3311957.3359442)

Conference Papers, Posters, and Presentations (peer-reviewed, non-archival)

- [5] Ashley Marie Walker and Michael Ann DeVito. 2019. Stigma in Supportive Online Spaces: Special Challenges for Non-monosexual and Non-binary Well-Being. *National LGBTQ Health Conference*.
- [4] Megan French, Jeffrey Hancock, Sunny Liu, Michael Ann DeVito, and Jeremy Birnholtz. 2018. Confronting the unexpected: The nature and effects of attributing responsibility to social media platforms for expectancy violations. *Annual Conference of the International Communication Association*.
- [3] Michael Ann DeVito. 2016. I Don’t Want To See This: Selective Avoidance, Friend Links, and Political Filter Bubble Formation on Facebook. *Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association*.
- [2] Michael Ann DeVito. 2015. The Sentimental Robot: Soldiers, Metal Psychopaths and Artificial Intelligence. *Annual Conference of the International Association for Computing & Philosophy*.
- [1] Michael Ann DeVito. 2015. Let Me Google That For You: Truth, Thought And Trust In The Age of Search Engines. *Annual Conference of the Broadcast Education Association*.

Workshop Papers (peer-reviewed, non-archival)

- [4] Michael Ann DeVito. 2019. Reporting Theoretical Sampling in Small-Scale Grounded Theory Studies: An Overly-Honest Methodological Transparency Experiment & Reflection. *Qualitative Research Methods for CSCW: Challenges and Opportunities Workshop, CSCW 2019*.

- [3] Michael Ann DeVito. 2018. Folk Theories as a Contextual Lens on Privacy and Audience Management. *Privacy in Context Workshop, CSCW 2018*.
- [2] Michael Ann DeVito. 2017. Supporting Algorithmic Literacy with User Curiosity-Prompting Design. *Designing for Curiosity, CHI 2017*.
- [1] Michael Ann DeVito. 2017. Implications for Theory: Creating a Virtuous, Multidisciplinary Cycle. *Theory Transfers, CSCW 2017*.

Invited Talks

External

Using Folk Theories and Community Critique to Bridge People, Platforms, and Social Theory: The Cases of Social Media Self-Presentation and Queer Online Communities. *Department of Information Systems, University of Maryland Baltimore County, February 2020*.

Modeling Human/Platform Relationships via Folk Theorization: The Case of Social Media Self-Presentation. *School of Information, University of Texas at Austin, February 2020*.

Online Methods for Rapid Grounded Theory Work with Marginalized Populations. *Department of Computer Science, Marquette University, August 2019*.

Intramural

Adaptive Folk Theorization as a Path to Algorithmic Literacy. *Department of Information Science Seminar Series, University of Colorado Boulder, January 2021*.

Values (Mis)alignment. *Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Northwestern University, April 2020*.

“More gay’ fits in better”: Intracommunity Stigmatization in LGBTQ+ Online Spaces. *Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Northwestern University, April 2019*.

“Too Gay for Facebook”: Presenting LGBTQ+ Identity Across the Social Media Ecosystem. *Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Northwestern University, April 2018*.

“Too Gay for Facebook”: Presenting LGBTQ+ Identity Across the Social Media Ecosystem. *Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing, Northwestern University, March 2018*.

Other Research Activities

2019	Consortium for the Science of Sociotechnical Systems Summer Research Institute
2019	CHI Doctoral Consortium User Adaptation to Constant Change in Algorithmically-Driven Social Platforms
2019	iConference Doctoral Colloquium User Adaptation to Constant Change in Algorithmically-Driven Social Platforms

Funding

Small Project Grants

Making Online Dating Safe and Effective for Queer Cis and Trans Women via Community-Based Value Sensitive Design (2021) Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), University of Colorado Boulder, \$3000, 6/2021 – 8/2021

Making Online Dating Safe and Effective for Queer Cis and Trans Women via Community-Based Value Sensitive Design (2021) Summer Program for Undergraduate Research (SPUR), University of Colorado Boulder, \$2175, 6/2021 – 8/2021

Presenting the Self on Unstable Ground (2019) The Graduate School, Northwestern University, \$3000, 12/2018 – 12/2020

Participatory Design to Center LGBTQ+ Community Values in Social Platforms and Algorithms (2019) Sexualities Project at Northwestern Research Fund, Northwestern University, \$2,500, 5/2019 - 9/2019

Stigma in Supportive Online Spaces: Investigating the Disclosure and Management of Doubly-Stigmatized Gender and Sexual Identities Online Within the LGBTQ+ Community (2018) Sexualities Project at Northwestern Research Fund, Northwestern University, \$2,500, 5/2018 – 9/2018

Coming Out & Being Out Cross-Platform: Investigating Queer Self-Presentation Across Multiple Social Media Channels (2017) \$2500. Sexualities Project at Northwestern Research Fund, Northwestern University, \$2,500, 5/2017 – 9/2017

Facebook News Feed Values and Bias (2015) School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University, \$750, 1/2015 – 5/2015

Travel Grants

Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing, Northwestern University (2019)

Sexualities Project at Northwestern, Northwestern University (2018, 2019)

Cognitive Science Program, Northwestern University (2017)

School of Media and Public Affairs, George Washington University (2015)

Teaching

Training

Graduate Teaching Certification (2013)

Graduate Teaching Assistantship Program (GTAP)
George Washington University, Washington DC

Northwestern University

Digital Media Module Graduate Fellow, Communication Studies, 2019-2020
Mentor for Social Computing/HCI Students in the Communication Studies Program

Research Experience for Undergraduates Coordinator, Social Media Lab, 2016-2020
Designed training program, coordinated training and mentorship across the lab

COMM_ST 394 Human/Algorithm Interaction

Course Designer & Instructor – Spring 2018, Fall 2018

COMM_ST 195 Computing Everywhere

Module Designer & Instructor for:

Algorithms Everywhere – Spring 2016, Winter 2017, Winter 2018, Winter 2019

Algorithms, Categories, and Design: Dating, Gender, and Sexual Orientation – Spring 2019

Text Wrangling: Computational Approaches to Classical Communication Studies – Spring 2017

COMM_ST 297 Communication and Technology

Teaching Assistant – Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2020

COMM_ST 355 Understanding Media Markets
Teaching Assistant – Spring 2017

George Washington University

SMPA 3195 Sustainability Reporting
Course Designer & Instructor – Fall 2014

SMPA 3195 Multimedia Reporting to Inform and Engage
Teaching Assistant – Spring 2013

SMPA 1050 Media in A Free Society
Teaching Assistant – Fall 2013

Guest Lectures

Missing the Context, Solving the Wrong Problem: How Algorithmic Systems Fail Minority Groups. *Special Topics In Computer Science, Robin Burke, University of Colorado Boulder, March 2021.*

Forming Research Questions on Complex Topics: The Case of Algorithmic Self-Presentation. *Social Media and Online Social Interactions, Alice Zhang, Northwestern University, October 2019.*

Folk Theories: A Cool Thing Humans Do To Adapt To Technology. *Communication and Technology, Jeremy Birnholtz, Northwestern University, September 2019.*

From Interviews to Findings: Levels of Analysis in Grounded Theory Studies. *Graduate Qualitative Methods, Anne Marie Piper, Northwestern University, January 2019.*

Folk Theories: A Tool for Self-Presentation in an Age of Algorithms. *Communication and Technology, Jeremy Birnholtz, Northwestern University, October 2019.*

People (Sort of) Know Stuff: Values, Ethics, Needs, and How to Know What Your Users Don't Know About Themselves. *Intro to Human-Computer Interaction, Jordan Eschler, Northwestern University, January 2018.*

Service

Conference Committees

Program Committee (Papers), CSCW 2021, 2022

Organizing Committee (Meta Co-Chair), CSCW 2020, 2021

General Chair and Program Co-Chair, InfoSocial Graduate Research Conference, 2016-2017

Student Volunteering

CSCW 2019

Conference Reviewing

CHI 2017*, 2018*, 2019, 2020*, 2021*

CSCW 2018, 2019*, 2020*, 2021*

**Received special recognition for outstanding reviews*

Journal Reviewing

Digital Journalism (2017, 2018, 2021)

Social Science Computer Review (2018, 2021)
Journal of Adolescent Research (2018, 2019, 2020)
Information, Communication and Society (2019)
ACM Transactions on Social Computing (2019)
Human-Computer Interaction (2019)
Telematics and Informatics (2020)
Computers in Human Behavior (2021)
New Media and Society (2021)

Research Mentoring

University of Colorado Boulder

Christen Malloy, B.A., Computer Science
Cade Ponder, B.S., Creative Technology & Design
Priscilla Hopper, B.S., Information Science
Marianna Benitez, B.S., Architectural Engineering
Lucy Sondheim, B.A., Psychology
Bianca Perez, B.A., Media Production

Northwestern University

Faalon Andrews, B.S., Communication Studies
Amanda Davis, B.A., Psychology
Huy Do, B.S., Communication Studies
Matthew Fadden, B.S., Communication Studies
Samantha Hassett, B.A., Communication Studies
Bennett Hensey, B.S., Integrated Engineering Studies
Emily Hoecker, B.S., Education and Social Policy
Rachel Horowitz, B.A., Communication Studies
Yuting Jing, B.S., Communication Studies and Psychology
Min Kyong Kim, B.S., Communication Studies
Yoko Kohmoto, B.S., Communication Studies
Victoria Alfred-Levow, B.A. Communication Studies
Justine Yucesan, B.S., Communication Studies
Ankai Zhang, B.S. Communication Studies

George Washington University

Alyssa Bruns, B.A., Sustainability
Sumner Byrne, B.A., Communication
Eileen Emerson, B.A., Political Communication
Joy Finneran, B.A., English
Anna Sumi, B.A., Journalism & Mass Communication

Memberships

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)

ACM Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction (SIGCHI)

Identity Lab, University of Colorado Boulder

Society for the Study of Sociotechnical Systems (CSST)

Past Memberships

Social Media Lab, Northwestern University

Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health Social Media Working Group,
Northwestern University

International Communication Association (ICA)

Midwest Political Science Association