

Caitlin Geier

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I am a researcher and teacher who uses qualitative methods and inclusive pedagogies to understand how people make use of technology. My areas of interest include online communities, digital ethics, and inclusive design.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Information and Media 2019 – 2025

Michigan State University - East Lansing, MI

College of Communication Arts and Sciences

Advisor: Stephanie B. Jordan, Ph.D.

Committee: Jean Hardy, Ph.D., Casey O'Donnell, Ph.D., Kjerstin Thorson, Ph.D.

Dissertation: "Creating Space for Women and Queer Folk in Video Game Communities: Culture Circles as a Participatory Methodology for Community Empowerment"

Masters of Science in Information 2011 – 2013

University of Michigan - Ann Arbor, MI

Specialized in Human-Computer Interaction

Bachelor of Arts 2003 – 2007

Whitman College - Walla Walla, WA

Major: German Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Geier, C. (2025). *Creating Space for Women and Queer Folk in Video Game Communities: Culture Circles as a Participatory Methodology for Community Empowerment* (Publication No. 32168540) [Doctoral dissertation, Michigan State University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.

<https://www.proquest.com/docview/3234785679/abstract/3D0D063BAB9842FEPQ/2>

Holtz, B., Mitchell, K., Adams, R., **Geier, C.**, & Wright, J. (2024). Enhancing comprehension of online informed consent: the impact of interactive elements and presentation formats. *Ethics & Behavior*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10508422.2024.2318546>

Hardy, J., **Geier, C.**, Vargas, S., Doll, R., & Howard, A. L. (2022). LGBTQ Futures and Participatory Design: Investigating Visibility, Community, and the Future of Future Workshops. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 6(CSCW2), 1-25.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3555638>

Geier, C., Adams, R. B., Mitchell, K. M., & Holtz, B. E. (2021). Informed Consent for Online Research—Is Anybody Reading?: Assessing Comprehension and Individual Differences in Readings of Digital Consent Forms. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 16(3), 154–164. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15562646211020160>

I was also a regular contributor to the blog for Deque Systems while working there as a UX designer and researcher. I wrote primarily about inclusive design and accessible user research. See <https://www.deque.com/blog/author/caitlin-geier/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

August 2023 – May 2025

Michigan State University

Course: MI 250, Introduction to Applied Programming. The course was a flipped classroom style class using the technique of pair programming to introduce students who did not intend to be programmers to the basics of programming with Python.

- Developed syllabus, course materials, assignments, and grading schema
- Oversaw work done by course assistant
- Mentored honors college students on individual programming projects for honors credit

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2019 – December 2022

Michigan State University

Tasks included grading, lecturing, assisting students, and assisting professors with course development

Courses:

MI 101 – Understanding Media and Information (2 semesters)

MI 201 – Introduction to Information Science (3 semesters, including leading recitation sections)

MI 220 – Methods for Understanding Users

MI 250 – Introduction to Applied Programming (6 semesters, co-teaching)

MI 320 – Reasoning with Data

Mi 491 – User Experience, Design, and Identity

Design and Technical Consultant

January – May 2015

University of Michigan School of Information

- Advised students in a graduate-level design course on project management, design considerations, and technical considerations
- Assisted students with technical implementation for projects
- Co-taught a workshop on WordPress design and development

Assistant Instructional Technologist

October 2011 – March 2015

University of Michigan Library

- Assisted students, staff and faculty in learning and using Adobe Creative Suite, Microsoft Office, and bibliographic management systems
- Assisted librarians and other instructional technologists in giving software and technology workshops
- Wrote and edited library guides for using design and media editing software

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

I am primarily a qualitative researcher, with particular expertise in ethnographic methodologies and social media research. I am also well versed in user experience research methods with a focus on user needs and accessibility.

Research Assistant

May 2021 – August 2021

Michigan State University

- Worked with Jean Hardy, PhD on qualitative data analysis and writing for the LGBTQ Futures project
- Resulted in 1 publication, accepted in the CSCW conference in 2022

User Experience Designer and Researcher

June 2015 – May 2018

Deque Systems, Inc.

- Planned and performed user research with clients and other potential users
- Created and maintained a user research recruitment database
- Wrote blog posts and spoke at conferences about accessibility-focused design
- Lead design for multiple B2B web applications, focused on accessibility
- Worked with an agile team to implement and test user interface solutions

User Experience Research Consultant

March – April 2014

University of Michigan Library

- Worked with library stakeholders to define research goals and recruit participants
- Moderated usability tests for a library-based online learning tool
- Collated results and presented to library stakeholders

User Experience Design Intern

October 2012 – April 2013

University of Michigan Medical School

- Worked with an agile team to create solutions for web applications used by doctors, staff and medical students in the University of Michigan health system
- Performed user research on existing and future applications and ideas
- Created a style guide for a small suite of web applications

SPEAKING

I spoke at a number of tech-focused conferences and events throughout 2017 and 2018. I presented primarily on topics related to web accessibility and inclusive design.

In 2017, I also taught a full-day inclusive design workshop with two colleagues from Deque Systems at the annual CSUN Assistive Technologies Conference. There were 40 people in attendance.

Conferences and events I've spoken at:

- CSUN Assistive Technologies Conference - San Diego, CA - 2017, 2018
- CodeMash (developer conference) - Sandusky, OH - 2017, 2018
- Ann Arbor Web Accessibility meetup group - Ann Arbor, MI - 2017, 2018
- World Information Architecture Day - Ann Arbor, MI - 2018
- National Association of Government Web Professionals - San Diego, CA - 2017
- Ladies that UX Detroit meetup - Detroit, MI - 2017
- General Motors Accessibility Awareness Day - Detroit, MI - 2017
- Global Accessibility Awareness Day - Detroit, MI - 2017

As a PhD student, I also presented at academic conferences:

- Meaningful Play - East Lansing, MI – 2022

VOLUNTEER AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Election Inspector

City of Ann Arbor, MI

2018

Green Oak Township, MI

2022 – present

- Set up polling location on election day
- Assist citizens with voting during election hours
- Assist with maintaining accurate voting counts throughout election day
- Have served as a precinct chair since 2024

Peer Reviewer

CSCW conference

2022-2023

Public Library Volunteer

Ann Arbor District Library – Ann Arbor, MI

2016 – 2019

Brighton District Library – Brighton, MI

2023 – 2024

- Helped with community events sponsored by the library and held at public locations
- Assisted with daily library tasks, such as scanning, organizing, and shelf-reading

Elected Board Member – Association for Doctoral Students in Information and Media (ADSIM)

2020 – 2021

Information and Media PhD Program, Michigan State University

- Served as Media and Information department representative
- Worked to expand a peer support network for PhD students in the program
- Co-led an “accountability hours” co-working system for PhD students

Ann Arbor Web Accessibility Meetup Organizer

2017 – 2019

Ann Arbor, MI

- Planned upcoming meetup events in collaboration with 3 other organizers and local businesses / organizations
- Gave speaker introductions and/or talks as needed
- Communicated with meetup members via Meetup.com and social media

REFERENCES

Dr. Rick Wash – Professor, University of Wisconsin, Madison

Dr. Jean Hardy – Associate Professor, Michigan State University