

# REBECCA M. JONAS

CURRICULUM VITAE

2026

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University of California, Santa Cruz  
Department of Computational Media  
3175 Bowers Ave  
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## RESEARCH AREAS

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Human-computer interaction; human-centered design; user experience design; rural computing; digital equity; design justice; participatory design; community-based research

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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2024 - present      **Postdoctoral Scholar**  
The University of California, Santa Cruz  
Department of Computational Media  
Jack Baskin School of Engineering  
Supervisor: Norman Makoto Su, Ph.D.

## EDUCATION

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2024                      **Ph.D., Informatics**  
The Pennsylvania State University  
Dissertation title: "Intra-Rural Digital Divides in Appalachia:  
Pathways for Digital Literacy and Inclusion"  
Dissertation Chair: Kelley Cotter, Ph.D.

2018                      **B.S., Information Sciences and Technology**  
The Pennsylvania State University  
*Cum Laude*  
Schreyer Honors College  
Thesis title: "Incorporation of Texting Bots into Social-Influence  
Based Fitness Interventions"  
Thesis Advisor: Benjamin V. Hanrahan, Ph.D.

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES AND MAJOR PROCEEDINGS

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Note: In computer and information science, papers published in major conference proceedings are double-anonymously peer reviewed and recognized as equivalent research contributions to journal articles.

Çağiltay, B.\*, **Jonas, R. M.\***, Tanaka, A., & Su, N. M. RIP Moxie: Lessons for Supporting Emotional Detachment at Product End-of-Life through a Case Study of a Social Companion Robot. Forthcoming at CHI 2026.

**Jonas, R. M.**, Kaitlyn, K., & Su, N. M. (2025). Staking a Claim in Data: Expertise and Participation in a Rural Open Government Data Initiative. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 9(CSCW), 1-22. **(Awarded Recognition for Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion)**

**Jonas, R. M.** (2025). "It's like another world": Intra-Rural Digital Divides and Public Libraries as Rural Assets. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 9(CSCW), 1-25.

Cotter, K., **Jonas, R.**, & De, A. (2025). "Why can't I just be fat and exist on the internet?": The embeddedness of antifatness on TikTok. *Platforms & Society*, 2, 1-14.

**Jonas, R. M.**, De, A., & Cotter, K. (2024). "We happen to be different and different is not bad": Designing for Intersectional Fat-Positive Information-Seeking. *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1-17.

**Jonas, R. M.**, & Hanrahan, B. V. (2022). Designing for Shared Values: Exploring Ethical Dilemmas of Conducting Values Inclusive Design Research. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 6(CSCW2), 1-20.

**Jonas, R. M.**, & Hanrahan, B. V. (2022). Digital Storytelling for Developing Computer Skills in Rural Appalachia. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 6(CSCW2), 1-22.

\*Both authors contributed equally to this research

## REFEREED EXTENDED ABSTRACTS AND SPECIAL ISSUES

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Seetharaman, B., **Jonas, R. M.**, Kshirsagar, A. A., Ringland, K. E., & Su, N. M. (2025). Bushwhacking Through Expectations: A Critical Analysis of Body Inclusivity in the Hiking App AllTrails. In *Proceedings of the Extended Abstracts of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 1-7.

**Jonas, R. M.**, Hanrahan, B. V., Sloan, C. J., & Fosco, G. M. (2023). Supporting from the Background: How a Mobile Application for Parent Skills Development Encourages

Authoritative Parenting. In *Companion Publication of the 2023 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing*, 105-111.

Block, J. E., Bookner, I., Chu, S. L., Crouser, R. J., Honeycutt, D. R., **Jonas, R. M.**, Kulkarni, A., Paredes, Y. V. & Ragan, E. D. (2023). Preliminary Perspectives on Information Passing in the Intelligence Community. *Analytics*, 2(2), 509-529.

## CHAPTERS

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Cotter, K., Hong, X., **Jonas, R. M.**, & Davis, B. (Under review). Algorithmic knowledge gaps and digital retraining decision-making in rural central Appalachia. In E. Hargittai (Ed.), *Handbook of Digital Inequality*.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

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**Jonas, R. M.**, Cotter, K. (2023, August). *Rural Public Library Staff as Agents of Change for Intra-Rural Inequality* [Conference presentation]. 85th Annual Meeting of the Rural Sociological Society, Burlington, VT.

**Jonas, R. M.**, De, A., Cotter, K. (2023, June). *One Size Does Not Fit All: Making Social Media Safer for Fat Liberationists* [Poster]. Human Computer Interaction Consortium 2023 Annual Meeting, Delavan, WI.

**Jonas R. M.** (2023, April). *Comparative Observations of Computer Use in Rural Public Libraries* [Poster]. 2023 Computer Research Association Widening Participation Grad Cohort for Women, San Francisco, CA.

**Jonas, R. M.** (2022, November). *Addressing Digital Divides in Rural Appalachia with Digital Literacy Education* [Doctoral consortium]. In *Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW'22 Companion)*, Virtual Event, Taiwan. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 6 pages.

**Jonas, R. M.** (2021, November). *Investigating Impacts of the Intra-Rural Digital Divide on Rural and Super-Rural Crowd Workers* [Doctoral consortium]. 8th HCOMP Graduate Consortium.

**Jonas, R. M.** (2016, April). *How queer is queer enough? Exploring fan perception of Batwoman* [Poster]. 107th Annual Eastern Communication Association Convention, Baltimore, MD.

Grobman, L., Mengel, M. A., Hughes, H., **Jonas, R. M.** (2016, March). (Re)Writing Local Histories: Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Communities [Panel]. Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium, State College, PA.

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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<b>Google Academic Research Award</b>	2025	\$100,000
Co-Principal Investigator with Norman Makoto Su (PI)		
“Co-Designing Digital Literacy Frameworks with Fringe Belief Groups”		
<b>Beta Phi Mu Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship</b>	2023	\$3,000
<b>Liberatory Tech Scholarship, Pennsylvania State University</b>	2022	\$2,000

## AWARDS & HONORS

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2025	<b>Recognition for Contribution to Diversity and Inclusion</b> The 28th ACM SIGCHI Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW)
2023	<b>Travel Grant</b> Consortium for the Science of Sociotechnical Systems (CSST)
2023	<b>Travel Grant</b> Human Computer Interaction Consortium (HCIC)
2023	<b>Travel Grant</b> Computing Research Association Widening Participation (CRA-WP)
2022	<b>Honorable Mention</b> NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)
2021	<b>Student Scholarship</b> Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI)

## WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIA, & SUMMER SCHOOLS

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2023	<i>Consortium for the Science of Sociotechnical Systems (CSST) Summer Research Institute, Boulder, CO. June 26-30, 2023.</i>
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## INVITED TALKS

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*Intra-Rural Digital Divides in Rural Appalachia: Pathways to Digital Literacy and Inclusion.* HCI 290 Seminar, University of California, Santa Cruz, April 12, 2024.

*Centering Culture in Digital Literacy Education: Lessons from Rural Appalachia.* Change Seminar, University of Washington, May 9, 2023.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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Fall 2025	<b>Instructor, University of California, Santa Cruz</b> HCI 290: HCI Seminar
Spring 2025	<b>Instructor, University of California, Santa Cruz</b> CMPM 297A: Independent Study (UX Research and Design)
Spring 2024	<b>Instructor of Record, The Pennsylvania State University</b> IST 331: Foundations of Human-Centered Design
Fall 2023	<b>Teaching Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University</b> IST 440W: Information Sciences and Technology Integration and Problem Solving
Fall 2023	<b>Teaching Assistant, The Pennsylvania State University</b> IST 331: Foundations of Human-Centered Design
Fall 2022	<b>Guest Lecturer, The Pennsylvania State University</b> DS 435: Data Ethics “Fifty Shades of Fairness”

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

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2022	<b>User Experience Intern</b> Summer Conference for Applied Data Science Laboratory for Analytic Sciences North Carolina State University
2018 – 2020	<b>Premier Solution Engineer</b> Appian Corporation

## SERVICE TO PROFESSION

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### Associate Chair

CHI 2026

CSCW 2025

### Reviewer

CHI 2025

CSCW 2024

CHI 2024  
CSCW 2023  
**Student Volunteer**  
DIS 2024

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

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Featured work: Penn State Berks student to present research on lesbian Batwoman. *Philadelphia Gay News*, March 31, 2016. <https://epgn.com/2016/03/31/penn-state-berks-student-to-present-research-on-lesbian-batwoman/> (Author: Paige Cooperstein)

Featured work: Berks professor uses eBooks to publish undergraduate research. Penn State News, February 2, 2016. <https://www.psu.edu/news/academics/story/berks-professor-uses-ebooks-publish-undergraduate-research/> (Author: Katie Bohn)