

Rebecca M. Jonas

Informatics PhD Candidate at Penn State

Research Interests

I am a PhD candidate studying Human Computer Interaction in the Informatics program in the College of Information Sciences and Technology at the Pennsylvania State University. In my work, I use qualitative methods based in design justice, participatory design, and community-based research to explore questions related to technology ethics and the use of technology to facilitate social justice and equity.

Education

- 2020 - present **Doctoral Candidate in Informatics**, *Pennsylvania State University*, State College, PA
GPA: 4.0
- 2014 - 2018 **Bachelor of Science in Information Sciences and Technology, Minor in English**, *Pennsylvania State University*, State College, PA
Cum Laude, Schreyer Honors College, GPA: 3.79

Projects

Addressing Digital Divides in Rural Appalachia with Digital Literacy Education

In my dissertation research, I explore the use of digital storytelling as a culturally-appropriate form of digital literacy education in rural Appalachia to resolve digital divides impacting remote rural communities. In this work, I also aim to characterize qualitative differences in technology access, use, skill, experience, and perception between residents of six towns located within the same county. This aspect of my dissertation sheds light on intra-rural digital divides present between areas that might commonly be grouped together when evaluated for initiatives to resolve digital divides in rural Appalachia.

Facilitating Positive Change on Social Media for Fat Liberationists

In this project, we aim to develop a critical understanding of the benefits and harms of social media for members of the fat liberation community for the purpose of suggesting platform redesign to promote more positive digital experiences. My responsibilities include qualitative coding and data analysis and developing and facilitating participatory design workshops for technology design changes with members of the fat liberation community.

Understanding Information Flows Between Intelligence Analysts

This is a collaborative project with researchers from the University of Florida, Arizona State University, Smith College, North Carolina State University Laboratory for Analytic Sciences, and the NSA. The project goals are to model information flows between intelligence analysts and others whom the work with to inform system design for workflow improvement tools. Responsibilities include conducting interviews and qualitative coding and data analysis.

Developing an App for Strengthened Family Dynamics

This is a collaborative project with Dr. Gregory M. Fosco and PhD candidate Carlie Sloan from the Penn State College of Health and Human Development. The project goals are to develop, deploy, and evaluate an application to strengthen healthy family dynamics among families with adolescent children. Responsibilities include conducting interviews and usability evaluations.

1229 S Allen St Apt 26 – State College, PA – 16801

☎ +1 (301) 807-2392 • ✉ rfj5031@psu.edu • 🌐 www.rebeccajonas.com

📍 [rebecca-jonas](#) • 📄 [Rebecca M. Jonas](#)

Publications

Journal Articles

[Under review] Jeremy E. Block, Ilana Bookner, Sharon Lynn Chu, R. Jordan Crouser, Donald R. Honeycutt, **Rebecca M. Jonas**, Abhishek Kulkarni, Yancy Vance Paredes, and Eric D. Ragan. 2023. Preliminary Perspectives on Information Passing in the Intelligence Community. *Analytics. Special Issue: Selected Papers from the 2022 Summer Conference on Applied Data Science (SCADS)*

Conference Papers

Rebecca M. Jonas and Benjamin V. Hanrahan. 2022. Designing for Shared Values: Exploring Ethical Dilemmas of Conducting Values Inclusive Design Research. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 6, CSCW2, Article 291 (November 2022), 20 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3555182>

Rebecca M. Jonas and Benjamin V. Hanrahan. 2022. Digital Storytelling for Developing Computer Skills in Rural Appalachia. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 6, CSCW2, Article 508 (November 2022), 22 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3555621>

Extended Abstracts, Posters, and Late-Breaking Work

Rebecca M. Jonas. 2022. Addressing Digital Divides in Rural Appalachia with Digital Literacy Education. In *Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW'22 Companion)*, November 8–22, 2022, Virtual Event, Taiwan. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 6 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3500868.3561404>

Rebecca M. Jonas (2016, April). How queer is queer enough? Exploring fan perception of Batwoman. Poster presented at the Competitive Undergraduate Poster Session of the 107th Annual Eastern Communication Association Convention, Baltimore, MD. *Research featured in Philadelphia Gay News*

Invited Talks

IST Research Showcase, PhD Recruitment Event 2023 "Digital Divides and Digital Literacy Education in Rural Appalachia"

CSCW 2022 Doctoral Consortium, November 2022. "Addressing Digital Divides in Rural Appalachia with Digital Literacy Education"

8th HCOMP Graduate Consortium, November 2021. "Investigating Impacts of the Intra-Rural Digital Divide on Rural and Super-Rural Crowd Workers"

First-year PhD Fall Symposium, December 2020. "A Cultural Analysis of Opportunities and Risks to Technology Use in Rural Public Libraries"

Teaching and Learning with Technology Symposium, March 2016. "(Re)Writing Local Histories: Racial, Ethnic, and Cultural Communities" *Work featured in Penn State News*

Undergraduate Thesis

Jonas, R. M. (2018). *Incorporation of Texting Bots into Social-Influence Based Fitness Interventions* [Unpublished honors undergraduate thesis]. Pennsylvania State University. Under advisement of Benjamin V. Hanrahan and Edward J. Glantz. *Available in the Penn State Electronic Theses Library*

1229 S Allen St Apt 26 – State College, PA – 16801

☎ +1 (301) 807-2392 • ✉ rfj5031@psu.edu • 🌐 www.rebeccajonas.com

🌐 [rebecca-jonas](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-jonas) • 📄 [Rebecca M. Jonas](https://www.rebeccajonas.com)

Work Experience

- 2020 - present **Research Assistant**, *Penn State College of IST*, State College, PA
- Lead research with Dr. Kelley Cotter on the NSF Future of Work grant to upskill rural workers for the digital workforce
 - Conduct qualitative research such as observational field work and interviews
 - Design interface mock-ups and run usability evaluations
- 2022 **User Experience Intern, Summer Conference for Applied Data Science**, *North Carolina State University Laboratory for Analytic Sciences*, Raleigh, NC
- Collaborated with inter-disciplinary partners from government, industry, and academia towards "grand challenge" goal of generating short daily reports for knowledge workers
 - Ran an interview study of 16 intelligence analysts to better understand information flows in intelligence analysis work
- 2018 - 2020 **Premier Solution Engineer**, *Appian Corporation*, Tysons, VA
- Managed customer support profiles for 15 high-priority customer accounts, holding regular meetings and providing technical and managerial support to technical support engineers
 - Directed and performed on-premise to cloud migration for significant customer account including six sites with complex infrastructure and security requirements
 - Investigated and resolved performance issues for enterprise clients in on-premise and cloud installations (maintained case load of 30-60 issues)

Teaching

Guest Lectures

- October 2022 "Fifty Shades of Fairness," DS 435 - Data Ethics, The Pennsylvania State University

Scholarships and Awards

- 2023 CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women Sponsorship
- 2022 Liberatory Tech Scholarship, \$2,000
- 2022 NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program Honorable Mention
- 2021 AI Journal Scholarship

Professional Activities & Service

- 2023 Faculty interviewer, Penn State Millennium Scholars Program
- 2023 Selected participant, Computing Research Association Widening Participation Grad Cohort for Women
- 2023 Selected participant, Liberatory Tech Scholars, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2023 Reviewer, Late Breaking Work, CHI 2023
- 2022 Reviewer, Papers, CHI 2023
- 2022 Member, Data Studies Group, The Pennsylvania State University
- 2022 Student Affiliate, Center for Socially Responsible Artificial Intelligence
- 2021 - 2022 Secretary and Treasurer, Penn State Graduate Student Association in IST (GIST)
- 2022 Panelist, Penn State First-year PhD Qualifying Exam Information Session
- 2020 Session Chair and Student Volunteer, Penn State Information Sciences and Technology First-year PhD Fall Symposium

References

Kelley Cotter, kcotter@psu.edu
My PhD advisor.

Benjamin V. Hanrahan, hanrahan.ben@gmail.com
My previous PhD advisor and undergraduate research advisor.

1229 S Allen St Apt 26 – State College, PA – 16801
☎ +1 (301) 807-2392 • ✉ rfj5031@psu.edu • 🌐 www.rebeccajonas.com
🌐 [rebecca-jonas](https://www.linkedin.com/in/rebecca-jonas) • 📄 [Rebecca M. Jonas](#)