

Zoë Natalia Cullen

PhD Candidate | University of Michigan School of Information
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Education

PhD in Information

Expected 2027

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Science, Technology, and Society Certificate Program

Dissertation: AI-Mediated Communication and Human-AI Interaction

Advisor: Dr. Nicole B. Ellison

Committee: *Nicole B. Ellison, Jeffrey T. Hancock, Caleb T. Carr, Andrea Forte, & Hang Lu*

B.A. in Journalism, Minor in English Literature

Spring 2019

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Commonwealth Honors College

Multidisciplinary Honors

Visiting Scholar, University of Oxford

Oxford · Spring 2018

Keble College, Hilary Term

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Cullen, Z. N., Lee, A. Y., Davidson, B., Hancock, J. T., & Ellison, N. B. (2025). **Not Just ‘For You’: How the Algorithmic Crystal Mediates Communication and Identity Work on TikTok’s FYP.** *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction, 9(CSCW)*, Article 455. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3757636>

Pasquetto, I. V., Cullen, Z. N., Thomer, A., & Wofford, M. (2024). **What is research data “misuse”? And how can it be prevented or mitigated?** *Journal of the Association for Information Science and Technology*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24944>

Cullen, Z. N., Ellison, N. B., & Pasquetto, I. V. (2025). **Seeing Like an API: Platform-Mediated Research and the Politics of Access.** *Forthcoming, Big Data & Society*.

Under Review

Campbell, S. W., Li, Y., Cullen, Z. N., Ellison, N. B., & Ross, M. **Extending the Self through AI-Mediated Communication: How Uses and Mindsets Explain Perceptions of Self-Extension.** *[Under review, Journal of Language and Social Psychology]*

Lee, A. Y., Cullen, Z. N., Ellison, N. B., & Hancock, J. T. **The Algorithmic Crystal Scale: Development and Validation of a Measure of Perceptions of Personalized Algorithms.** *[Under review]*

Working Papers

Cullen, Z. N., Young, J., Forte, A., & Ellison, N. B. **AI-Mediated Self-Presentation and Self-Perception: Testing Identity Shift in AI-Assisted Writing.** *[Manuscript in preparation; preregistered experiment, data collection complete]*

Cullen, Z. N., & Ellison, N. B. **From Reading Between the Lines to Writing the Lines: Navigating Interpersonal Communication with Personalized LLMs.** *[Data collection in progress]*

Peer-Reviewed Conference Presentations

- Cullen, Z. N.**, Young, J., Forte, A., & Ellison, N. B. (2026, May). *Paper*. AI-Mediated Self-Presentation and Self-Perception: Testing Identity Shift in AI-Assisted Writing. Accepted at *Comm Horizons @ UC Davis: Communication in the Age of AI and Algorithms*, Davis, CA.
- Li, Y., Campbell, S. W., **Cullen, Z. N.**, Ellison, N. B., & Ross, M. Q. (2026, May). *Poster*. Extending the Self through AI-Mediated Communication: How Uses and Mindsets Explain Perceptions of Self-Extension. Accepted at *Comm Horizons @ UC Davis: Communication in the Age of AI and Algorithms*, Davis, CA.
- Cullen, Z. N.**, Lee, A. Y., Davidson, B., Hancock, J. T., & Ellison, N. B. (2025, May). *Paper*. Not Just 'For You': How the Algorithmic Crystal Mediates Communication and Identity Work on TikTok's FYP. Presented at the *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Denver, CO.
- Lee, A. Y., **Cullen, Z. N.**, Ellison, N. B., & Hancock, J. T. (2024, May). *Paper*. The Algorithmic Crystal Scale: Development and Validation of a Measure of Perceptions of Personalized Algorithms. Accepted at the *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Gold Coast, Australia. *Presented by co-author*.
- Cullen, Z. N.**, Lee, A. Y., Hancock, J. T., & Ellison, N. B. (2024, May). *Poster*. The Algorithmic Crystal: User Agency, Identity, and Well-Being on TikTok's FYP. Accepted at the *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Computer and Technology Division, Gold Coast, Australia. *Presented by co-author*.

Honors, Awards & Fellowships

- HCIC Doctoral Consortium** 2026
University of Michigan Nominee, Human-Computer Interaction Consortium
- ICA Doctoral Consortium** 2025
Selected Participant, International Communication Association Annual Conference
- CSCW Honorable Mention Award** 2025
Top 5% of Papers — ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work

Research Memberships & Affiliations

Social Media and Computing Research Lab, University of Michigan
Social Media Lab, Stanford University
Science, Technology & Society Program, University of Michigan

Teaching Experience

Graduate Student Instructor · University of Michigan

- SI 334: Social Influence and Persuasion Winter 2024, 2026
Instructor of Record: Dr. Alain Cohn
- SI 307: Introduction to User Experience Design Fall 2024
Instructor of Record: James Rampton
- SI 110: Introduction to Information Studies Fall 2022, 2023
Instructor of Record: Dr. Cliff Lampe

Guest Lectures & Invited Talks

- "Personalized Algorithms & The Algorithmically-Networked Self"** 2026
University of Michigan — SI 316: Interpersonal & Psychological Implications of Social Media
- "Digital Identity & The Algorithmically-Networked Self"** 2025
Stanford Social Media Lab

“The Psychologic Dynamics of Personalized Algorithms”

University of Michigan — AMCULT 204: Slang, Screens, and Subcultures: Youth, Language, and Identity in American Culture 2025

“TikTok’s FYP, Relational Maintenance, and AI Social Chatbots”

University of Michigan — COMM 159: AI and Communication 2024

“How Identity Work Unfolds on TikTok’s FYP”

University of Michigan — SI 429: Online Communities 2024

“What is a Problem Statement in UX Design?”

University of Michigan — SI 307: Introduction to User Experience Design 2023

“Misinformation, Disinformation, & Accountability”

University of Michigan — SI 110: Introduction to Information Studies 2022

Academic Service

University of Michigan

Social Media and Social Computing Lab Graduate Student Organizer 2024–2025

Science, Technology, & Society STeMS Speaker Series Coordinator 2023–2024

Science, Technology, & Society Steering Committee Member 2022–2023

STS Symposium Co-Organizer & Panelist — “Ensnaring Entanglements” Spring 2023

Research Mentoring

Research Experience Development Program (REDP) Mentor Jan 2024–present

Doctoral First Year Seminar Experience Panelist — “Navigating Advisor Relationships”

University of Michigan School of Information

Technical Competencies

Research Methods: Experimental design, survey research, interview studies, digital ethnography

Software & Tools: Atlas.ti, NVivo, Qualtrics, R (intermediate)

Domain Knowledge: CMC, AI-MC, LLMs, social media APIs, algorithmic recommender systems

Professional Experience

Marketing Director & SEO Specialist 2019–2021

aNetworks, Inc. (Cybersecurity)

Developed SEO strategy and digital marketing campaigns; gained industry perspective on technology adoption and user behavior in industry contexts.