

Zoë Natalia Cullen

PhD Candidate · University of Michigan School of Information

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Human-AI interaction, AI-mediated communication, AI-augmented cognition, algorithmic personalization, relational reasoning and attribution, self-knowledge

EDUCATION

PhD in Information

Expected Spring 2027

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Science, Technology, and Society Certificate Program

Dissertation: The Algorithmically-Networked Self: How Personalized AI Shapes Interpersonal Relationships and the Self

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

Spring 2018

Keble College, Hilary Term

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Cullen, Z. N., Ellison, N. B., & Pasquetto, I. V. (2026). Seeing like an API: Platform-mediated research and the politics of access. *Big Data & Society*, 13(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517261461463>

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(CSCW2), Article 455. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3757636>

★ Best Paper Honorable Mention (top 5% of papers)

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*. Advance online publication. <https://doi.org/10.1002/asi.24944>

MANUSCRIPTS 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. Development and validation of the Algorithmic Crystal Scale: A multidimensional measure of human-algorithm perceptions and interactions. [Under review, *Telematics and Informatics*]

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. [Data collection complete, manuscript in progress]

Experiment (N = 388) testing whether AI-assisted writing produces identity shift effects, extending Gonzales & Hancock (2008) to AI-mediated contexts.

Campbell, S. W., Li, Y., **Cullen, Z. N.**, Ellison, N. B., & Ross, M. Extending the self through AI-mediated communication: A longitudinal study on mindsets and uses. *[Data collection complete, manuscript 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. Presented 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. Presented 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 Consortium <i>University of Michigan Nominee, Human-Computer Interaction Consortium</i>	2026
Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention <i>U-M Rackham Graduate School</i>	2026
ICA Doctoral Consortium <i>Selected Participant, International Communication Association Annual Conference</i>	2025
CSCW Honorable Mention Award <i>Top 5% of Papers — ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work</i>	2025

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 <i>Instructor of Record: Dr. Alain Cohn</i>	Winter 2024, 2026
SI 307: Introduction to User Experience Design <i>Instructor of Record: James Rampton</i>	Fall 2024
SI 110: Introduction to Information Studies <i>Instructor of Record: Dr. Cliff Lampe</i>	Fall 2022, 2023

GUEST LECTURES & INVITED TALKS

“Personalized Algorithms & the Algorithmically-Networked Self” <i>University of Michigan — SI 316: Interpersonal & Psychological Implications of Social Media</i>	2026
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“Digital Identity & the Algorithmically-Networked Self” <i>Stanford Social Media Lab</i>	2025
“TikTok’s FYP, Relational Maintenance, and AI Social Chatbots” <i>University of Michigan — COMM 159: AI and Communication</i>	2024
“How Identity Work Unfolds on TikTok’s FYP” <i>University of Michigan — SI 429: Online Communities</i>	2024
“What Is a Problem Statement in UX Design?” <i>University of Michigan — SI 307: Introduction to User Experience Design</i>	2023
“Misinformation, Disinformation, & Accountability” <i>University of Michigan — SI 110: Introduction to Information Studies</i>	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” <i>University of Michigan School of Information</i>	

PEER REVIEW

Big Data & Society	2025
ACM Computer-Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)	2024
International Communication Association Annual Conference	2022–2026

TECHNICAL COMPETENCIES

Research Methods: Experimental design, survey research, semi-structured interviews, grounded theory, computational text analysis

Software & Tools: R, Python, Atlas.ti, Qualtrics, ChatGPT API

Domain Knowledge: Human-AI interaction, AI-mediated communication, algorithmic personalization, attribution theory, relational cognition, LLMs

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Marketing Director & SEO Specialist <i>aNetworks, Inc. (Cybersecurity)</i>	2019–2021
Developed SEO strategy and digital marketing campaigns; gained industry perspective on technology adoption and user behavior in industry contexts.	