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, Keble College
Oxford · Spring 2018

University of Oxford, 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.*

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.*

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]*

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"
University of Michigan — SI 316: Interpersonal & Psychological Implications of Social Media 2026

"Digital Identity & The Algorithmically-Networked Self"
Stanford Social Media Lab 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, platform content moderation and governance

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.