

# **PARTICIPANTS**



## **LEONIE TANCZER**

### **QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST**

I am PhD Student at the School of Politics, International Studies and Philosophy at Queen's University Belfast (UK) and former Fellow at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society in Berlin. I studied Political Science at the University Vienna and Political Psychology at Queen's University Belfast. I am currently working on an interdisciplinary PhD project with supervision from both Social Sciences and Engineering. My thesis merges Critical Security Studies theory with the digital realm. I am examining the ongoing (in)securitisation of hacking and hacktivism, focussing specifically on the governmental (European Union), corporate, as well as the hacker/hacktivist level.



WHAT WOULD YOU BE DOING IN AUGUST IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL? AS BORING AS IT SOUNDS, BUT I WOULD MOST LIKELY BE SPENDING MY DAYS IN THE "PHD DUNGEON" READING, RESEARCHING, AND WRITING FOR MY PHD (AS WELL AS PROBABLY SELF-PITYING MYSELF FOR NOT HAVING BEEN ACCEPTED TO HACKADEMIA).

## **SARAH MYERS WEST**

### **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Sarah Myers West is a doctoral student and Wallis Annenberg Graduate Research Fellow at the Annenberg School for Communication. Her research centers on the role of technology companies in governing speech and new formations of networked "public" spaces. In addition, she studies international policymaking and activism around privacy, security, and freedom of expression. She is an affiliate researcher at the Berkman Center for Internet and Society, a Cybersecurity Fellow at the New America Foundation, the managing editor for Global Voices Advocacy's Netizen Report, and worked as a Google Policy Fellow for the Electronic Frontier Foundation in the summer of 2015.



IF NOT AT HACKADEMIA? I'M PLAYING HOOKY FROM VIGOROUSLY STUDYING FOR QUALS TO ATTEND HACKADEMIA, SO THAT'S WHAT I'D PROBABLY BE DOING THIS AUGUST (ALONG WITH MY SIDEKICK LEO, PICTURED) IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL.

## **ALIX JOHNSON**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ**

Alix Johnson is a PhD candidate in Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Her research examines ideas of marginality and connectivity in Iceland, through a social and material history of IT. Her dissertation traces links between technology, identity, sovereignty and sense of place, drawing on a year of ethnographic research (mostly spent chatting with old men over cakes). Alix is also the graduate research assistant at the Center for Emerging Worlds.

IF NOT AT THE HACKADEMIA SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D BE SURFING, CLIMBING, AND (FRETTEING OVER) WRITING.



## **RANDI HEINRICHS**

### **LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LUNEBURG**

Randi Heinrichs is currently working on her dissertation in the Cultural Sciences at Leuphana University, about the conception of algorithmic anonymity. Her research examines the negotiations of anonymity at the intersections of technology, infrastructures, practices and regulations. To explore the socio-technical question of how anonymity is imagined and produced in Digital Cultures, Randi is at the beginning of conducting ethnographic research with algorithmic actors who seems to know what is the 'unknown'. She is affiliated at the Digital Cultures Research Lab.



IF NOT ATTENDING THE HACKADEMIA SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D BE IN MY FAMILY'S GARDEN CELEBRATING THE BIRTHDAYS OF MY MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER, EXPLAINING TO THEM THAT 'ONLY' EATING TWO PIECES OF CAKE DOESN'T MEAN THAT I DON'T ENJOY IT...

## JULIA VELKOVA SÖDERTÖRN UNIVERSITY

Educated as a telecom engineer and philosopher of eastern cultures, I encountered the world of hackers in the mid 1990s while geeking with C and php scripting, and spending long hours on irc-channels in the early days of the internet. After some years among the Debian community in Bulgaria, I became more interested in studying the practices of hacking and their cultural transformations rather than being involved in them. This is what I do in my dissertation project now where I study how hacker's ideas about public infrastructures and culture are modulated in the field of digital visual media production.



IF NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE GIVING AN MA COURSE ON DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGIES: ARCHIVES AND ALGORITHMS AT MY DEPARTMENT...THE SWEDISH ACADEMIC YEAR STARTS REALLY EARLY!

## PHILIP DI SALVO UNIVERSITÀ DELLA SVIZZERA ITALIANA

Philip is a researcher and a journalist. He's both Italian and Swiss. Currently, he's doing a PhD in journalism studying digital whistleblowing platforms using GlobaLeaks and SecureDrop. He's the Italian editor of The European Journalism Observatory. As a freelance journalist, he writes on a regular basis for the Italian Wired and occasionally for Vice/Motherboard and other outlets. Beside the work, he runs a small record label with some friends.



IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D PROBABLY (NOT) BE LISTENING TO @ACADEMICSSAY'S MOTTO "YOU SHOULD BE WRITING".

**MARCIN ZAROD**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW**

Physicist by training, sociologist by choice, STS scholar by heart. Currently I'm writing up results of ethnography I had done in some hackerspaces around Poland. Ethnography started as "Hackerspace as a laboratory in sense of STS" but outgrown initial premise. I more attached to material dimension and epistemology of hacking / fab-labbing / making, rather than direct political consequences.

IF I DIDN'T TAKE PART IN HACKADEMIA, I WOULD GO TO EASST OR WRITE OR BOTH. I'M ALSO BIT ANXIOUS ABOUT RETURNING TO THE FIELD TO CHECK IF MY PHD CONCEPT WASN'T CRACKED.



**AMELIA HASSOUN**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA**

I'm a British Palestinian digital anthropologist who grew up in the USA. I'm currently doing a PhD at the University of Minnesota analyzing the production of Singapore as a "smart city," focusing primarily on technologists creatively interacting with and reworking the government-initiated civic technologies that permeate and structure the Singaporean city-space. Previously I worked as a UX/UI designer in London. My Master's fieldwork at UCL ethnographically examined Open Source software development in England's National Health Service, asking how values become encoded in software through interactive processes between developers and medical professionals.



IF I WEREN'T AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL...I'D PROBABLY BE FRANTICALLY TRYING TO MAKE SENSE OF MY FIELD NOTES FROM SUMMER RESEARCH!

**MARIA ERIKSSON**  
**UMEA UNIVERSITY**

I'm a social anthropologist turned media scholar who studies digital architectures and systems of knowledge production around streamed music files. My research involves auto-ethnographic experiments (f.ex. the establishment of a record label for research purposes), collaborations with programmers at HUMLab (a digital humanities hub), and the study of codes, platforms, algorithms, 'big data' collections and metadata arrangements that underlie circulatory systems for digital music.

IF I WASN'T ATTENDING THE HACKADEMIA SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D MOST LIKELY BE COVERED IN SOIL WHILE TENDING THE HERBS, BEANS, CARROTS, CABBAGES AND PUMPKINS IN MY GARDEN(S).



**PABLO VELASCO**  
**UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK**

Pablo R. Velasco is a PhD candidate at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Methodologies (CIM), University of Warwick. His research explores the rationale behind cryptocurrencies' design, and the interwoven relations between State, borders, politics and cryptocurrencies' distribution of power. He recently participated in Transmediale 2016: Conversation Piece (Haus der Kulturen der Welt, Berlin) and collaborated in APRJA: Excessive Research journal (Digital Aesthetics Research Centre, Aarhus University), and the Moneylab Reader (Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam). He is particularly interested in particular Free/Libre and Open Source Software and cultures, and is a Linux enthusiast.



WHAT WOULD I BE DOING IN AUGUST IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL? I WOULD BE DIVERTING OF MY DISSERTATION WRITING TOWARDS ATTEMPTS AT CODE LEARNING (INSTRUMENTAL PROCRASTINATION).

**RENEE RIDGWAY**

**LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LUNEBURG / COPENHAGEN BUSINESS SCHOOL**

My PhD research investigates the conceptual as well as technological implications of using 'search' as a researcher, ranging from the 'personalisation' of mainstream search engines to developing alternative methods for searching the internet. As a performative form of critique, my overarching method is that of a 'critical ethnography of the self', where I investigate how the notion of the self is produced through the action of 'search'. Ultimately I am to deliver a conceptual framework of methods as a form of critique in response to the hegemony of Google's personalisation. The research will show if novel, alternative search methods deliver valued and divergent results compared to that of Google, along with how these criteria of value are defined and executed.



AS MUCH AS I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO HACKADEMIA, IF I WERE NOT ATTENDING I WOULD BE (RE)WRITING THE CHAPTERS OF MY PHD WHICH IS WHAT I SEEM TO BE DOING THE PAST YEAR ALONG WITH THE SEARCH OF A BETTER RESEARCH QUESTION.

**STEPHAN BAACK**

**UNIVERSITY OF GRONINGEN**

I'm a PhD student at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands and currently a research fellow at the Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society in Berlin. I studied Media Culture at the University of Bremen and wrote my thesis about the German open data movement. My research is about the interconnections between civic hackers and data journalists and the related effects of 'datafication', the ongoing and increasingly ubiquitous quantification and categorization of culture and society.



IF I WOULD NOT GO TO THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE IN INDONESIA TO VISIT MY WIFE'S FAMILY...AND CONTINUE WORKING ON PHD WHILE I'M THERE OF COURSE :-)

**CHRISTOPHER WILSON  
UNIVERISTY OF OSLO**

I'm 40 year old American based in Oslo. After several years in the UN and starting the engine room (an applied research NGO at the intersection of tech and activism), I've begun a phd program to look more closely at the influence of digitally mediated communication on political processes. This research will explore how policy-makers in 3 countries experience the influence of digitally mediated interaction with citizens on transparency policy (spec. open government, freedom of information and public service complaint policy). I'll be beginning my research and finalizing methods at the time of the summer school.



**WERE I NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD SPEND AUGUST IN A HAMMOCK WITH DEADWOOD BOOKS, WATCHING THE NORWEGIAN SUMMER SLOWLY AND INEVITABLY VANISH.**

**DANIELA PINHEIRO  
UNIVERSIDADE ESTADUAL DE CAMPINAS**

I'm a doctorate student who loves Netflix and brigadeiro - the best sweet in the world that is not well known for mysterious reasons! My research, which is still in the early stages, seeks to think digital piracy as a form of resistance to the restrictive and private model of knowledge appropriation in a specific context and to understand the interface between groups of digital pirates and politics/policy from the perspective of the Social Studies of Science and Technology and from an epistemology of the South.



**IF I WAS NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE AT MY UNIVERSITY HOPING FOR SOME COLD WEATHER IN BRAZILIAN WINTER.**



**ALEXANDER CYBULSKI**  
**UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO**

I am a Canadian doctoral student studying issues of information security and privacy at the University of Toronto's iSchool. I've been interested in systems of authority and control in new media since I was a teen, cracking shareware in my parent's basement during the 1990s. Since then I wrote an MA thesis which analyzed the surveillance mechanisms used by the Xbox 360 and my dissertation focuses on hackers who tamper with videogames.



IF I WASN'T AT HACKADEMIA I'D PROBABLY BE CELEBRATING HAVING WRITTEN MY COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS, DRUNK ON MARXIST THEORIES OF LABOR.

**VITTORIO MILONE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF NAPLES**

My research project focuses on makers and DIYBio communities, especially as doing frugal digital fabrication and bio(techno)logy. I am particularly interested in their potential for a so-called sociopolitical and economic "bottom-up empowerment": for example, the creation of open source low cost platforms and tools for independent research and artistic/political action. Furthermore, I try to investigate - also by means of an "hands-on" approach- the relatively frequent coexistence of more business-oriented initiatives and motivations with more community-driven and politically engaged actions and practices.



IF I WOULD NOT GO TO THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE IN INDONESIA TO VISIT MY WIFE'S FAMILY...AND CONTINUE WORKING ON PHD WHILE I'M THERE OF COURSE :-)

## **ASHLEY GORHAM**

### **UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**My dissertation, "Democracy in the Age of Information: The Audacity of Anonymous," investigates the historic temptation to save democracy by taming it, locating this temptation on both sides of the contemporary debate over the "revolutionary" potential of information. My research has largely been confined to the field of political science. As I move into the heart of my dissertation, I have begun to study the culture and practices of Anonymous, WikiLeaks, and the Electronic Disturbance Theater. I intend to argue that each group represents a different model of political action, centered on the democratic, epistemic, and the aesthetic respectively.**



**IF NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD BE WORKING ON MY DISSERTATION AT HOME IN PHILADELPHIA AND ATTENDING THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING.**

## **JÉRÉMY GROSMAN**

### **UNIVERSITÉ DE NAMUR**

**Jérémy is currently undertaking a Doctorate in Philosophy at the Centre de Recherche Information, Droit et Société (CIRDS) at the Université de Namur (uNamur). At the crossroads of philosophy, history and sociology, his research addresses three main questions: 1) How did the algorithm emerged as an object of knowledge?; 2) How do computer scientists relate to their algorithms? 3) How do machine-learning algorithms affect existing predictive practices?"**

**IF I WERE NOT ACCEPTED AT THE WINTER-SCHOOL, I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE GONE TO 4S - DEFINITELY LESS FOR THE SCIENTIFIC CONTEXT THAN FOR PARTYING ON THE BEACHES WITH FRIENDS COLLEAGUES I ALREADY KNOW.**



## **FELIX GERLOFF**

### **HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY**

Felix Gerloff is junior researcher at the Institute of Experimental Design and Media Cultures within the research project Machine Love? Creativity Cultures in Underground Electronic Music and Software Engineering and PhD candidate at the Humboldt-University Berlin. With roots in history and theory of culture, his PhD project focuses on the interrelation of coding practices, material infrastructures of work and economical modes of production to understand the relation between economy and code. His interests include sound studies, sonic modes of thinking and reasoning, games and ludic practices, and the history of grammatextuality and typography.



IN AUGUST I OFTEN SPEND TIME WITH MY PARTNER AND FRIENDS IN A SUMMER COTTAGE IN FINLAND - ENJOYING THE BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE, SWIMMING IN THE LAKE AND RELAXING IN THE SAUNA.

## **CHRISTINA HARALANOVA**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CONCORDIA**

I am a PhD Candidate in Communication Studies at the University of Concordia, under the supervision of Prof. Kim Sawchuk. Last year of dissertation writing on the topic: Feminist Perspectives of Hacking: Spaces, Boundaries, Politics. My research interest stands in the intersection between (free) technology politics, internet freedom, and feminist critiques of technology. I am myself an intersection between a feminist, a hacker, a bit of programmer, a part-time mom, a free software activist and a trainer in information security. My research background is complemented to a personal participation in hacker and solidarity movements around the world. As a co-founder of Femhack – a feminist hackerspace in Montreal - I've been developing a feminist pedagogy around hacker practice.



WHAT WOULD I BE DOING IN AUGUST IF NOT THE SUMMER SCHOOL? I GUESS I'D BE WORKING ON FINALIZING MY THESIS, OR A BIKE TRIP IF THE WEATHER PERMITS IT. :)

## **CAITIE LUSTIG**

### **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE**

I am a PhD Candidate in the Informatics department of the University of California, Irvine. My research interests are at the intersection of critical algorithm studies, STS, and CSCW. My dissertation examines how values are negotiated through technical decisions and the governance of code in the open source software model. My case study is of Bitcoin, a cryptocurrency and payment platform designed for enhanced privacy and decentralization. This study will use participant observation of developers and “miners” (people who run the decentralized network) in the Bitcoin ecosystem to examine the practices, imaginaries, and values of actors in this emerging infrastructure.



IF I WAS NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, I WOULD LIKELY BE BACK IN IRVINE, CA, USA WORKING ON MY DISSERTATION, DOING MY PAID JOB AS A WRITING CONSULTANT FOR OTHER GRADUATE STUDENTS, AND GIVING MY CATS COPIOUS AMOUNTS OF ATTENTION.

## **DILLON MAHMOUDI**

### **PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

I'm an Iranian-American computer scientist turned economic geographer with a passion for social justice and heterodox politics. I study the ways that data, software, and software production shape, and are shaped by, our political economic system with a particular interest in emancipatory and revolutionary potentials. My current research focuses on segmentation and feminization of software work and the connection between how different software affords different organizational structures and their socioeconomic outcomes. In my spare time, I enjoy running, cycling and otherwise making things like beer, food, furniture and code.



IF NOT AT THE SUMMER SCHOOL, I'D BE WRITING AT VARIOUS COFFEE SHOPS IN PORTLAND WHILE TAKING BREAKS TO GO TO THE OREGON COAST AND ENJOY THE BEER GARDENS OF THE CITY.

**OFFRAY VLADIMIR LUNA CÁRDENAS  
UNIVERSITY OF CALDAS (COLOMBIA)**

I'm a learner, teacher, consultant, founding member of a local hackerspace in Bogotá and free software/open knowledge (h)ac(k)tivists, with undergrad studies on informatics - mathematics, masters on education and making my PhD on Design. My research is about how can we change the digital artifacts that change us and to approach it I have bootstrapped a reciprocal modification dynamic between a digital artifact (grafoscopio) and part of our local hackerspace community (HackBo) mainly using a week long hackathon/workshop (the data week) on moldable tools for data visualization and data activism.



BESIDES OF WRITING/WORKING ON MY PHD THESIS, I WOULD TRY TO TAKE SOME TIME TO READ COMICS AND DO RPG COLLABORATIVE STORYTELLING WITH FRIENDS AND JUST ENJOY TIME WITH THE FAMILY.

**NATHALIE MARÉCHAL  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

Nathalie is a PhD candidate in Communication at USC's Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, and holds a BA in International Studies and MA in International Communication, both from American University. She has published articles about human rights advocacy in the digital age, surveillance of welfare recipients in the United States, and media coverage of WikiLeaks. She is currently writing her dissertation, "Defying Censorship, Evading Surveillance: The Political Economy of Circumvention Technology," and serving as Senior Fellow in Information Controls with Ranking Digital Rights.



IF I WEREN'T AT HACKADEMIA, I WOULD BE IN THE SWELTERING DC HEAT RESEARCHING THE IMPACT OF ICT COMPANIES ON USERS' PRIVACY AND FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION.

**SEBASTIAN KUBITSCHKO**  
**UNIVERSITY OF BREMEN**

As a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Bremen's Centre for Media, Communication and Information Research the main focus of my research is on hacker cultures, politics and democratic constellations. I am interested in the way hackers gain legitimacy and how they politicize contemporary media technologies and infrastructures. More concretely, based on qualitative methods my PhD thesis investigated the Chaos Computer Club – one of the oldest and largest hacker organizations in the world. Besides that I am fascinated by the methodological possibilities and challenges that emerge along with the quasi-omnipresence of media (together with Anne Kaun I am the editor of Innovative Methods in Media and Communication Research; Palgrave Macmillan, 2016/in print).



IF NOT AT THIS SUMMER SCHOOL, MOST LIKELY, I'D BE FINALIZING A RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION AND DOING SOME GARDENING.

**KATHARINA MEYER**  
**BERLIN**

I'm trained as a historian of technology and science, I write occasionally for netzpolitik, Wired and other outlets about all things digital and arty. I am the proud co-founder of a remix and a gif-museum (this still under construction), I curate two tech-conferences (re:publica+TINCON) and do research in the fields of digital humanities, scholarly communications and human rights+technology.



I WRITE A TO-DOS LETTER THAT RECOMMENDS LEISURE ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITIONS (ALSO SLIGHTLY TECHY) AND SUCH TO MY FRIENDS. I ALMOST NEVER GO MYSELF, BUT OVER THE SUMMER, IF I WASN'T THAT BUSY WITH SUMMER SCHOOLS, I WOULD LISTEN TO MY OWN SUGGESTIONS.