



Rebecca Michelson

Design Researcher, PhD Student in Human-Centered Design and Engineering
2815 Montlake Blvd E, Seattle, WA 98112
(415)994-4763 | rem23@uw.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social impact technologies and participatory design methods, with a focus on equity.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON Seattle, WA
PhD Student, Human-Centered Design and Engineering *Expected: '24*

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS Davis, CA
Bachelor's in Cultural Anthropology, *Minor in Religious Studies* '12

EXPERIENCE

Design Researcher September '18 - May '19
Foundation Medicine Cambridge, MA

- Informed design solutions by testing concepts, solutions, and marketing materials by conducting user testing for a suite of clinician-facing biotech products.
- Collaborated closely with designers, product managers, and developers, to ensure that user perspectives are prioritized in design decisions.

Project Manager June '14 - July '18
The Engagement Lab at Emerson College Boston, MA

- Strategized large-scale stakeholder engagement for the 2018 "Make the Breast Pump Not Suck" Hackathon and Policy Summit, while conducting nationwide research. Managed a \$750,000 budget which supported facilitating a Community Innovation Team program, sponsoring 30 breastfeeding innovator fellows, and ensuring an equitable participation and awards process.
- Contributed to, "Speaking Our Truths 27 Stories of What It's Really Like to Breastfeed and Pump in the United States" with interviews and data analysis
- Analyzed 1,000+ stories submitted throughout 2014 Breast Pump Hackathon at MIT and co-authored papers for breast pump re-design and crowdsourcing innovation.
- Consulted 5 city teams over 18-months on innovative strategies to engage lower income residents. Coordinated all project planning, knowledge-sharing, and quarterly convenings for the 2nd Cohort of the City Accelerator program by Living Cities resulting in the Public Engagement Roadmap: a board game, report, and planning toolkit.
- Implemented a research study analyzing the use of a role-playing game for understanding democracy, @Stake, during 6 Participatory Budgeting meetings in New York City. Adapted the tabletop roleplaying card game into a digital version through wireframing, prototyping, testing, and iteration.
- Facilitated workshops with design-thinking methodologies on public engagement for dozens of NGOs such as Greenpeace.



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- Interviewed a dozen youth globally and gathered background literature for a research project about media use and engagement for social change.
- Coordinated and conducted 35+ interviews with organizations worldwide to research perceptions, uses, and challenges of using games for civic engagement.
- Curated quarterly meetings and two annual conferences on themes such as civic media evaluation and grew an online community for Boston Civic Media.
- Contributed to successful grant searches and applications for game-based learning.

Program Assistant

November '12 - June '13

Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH)

Oakland, CA

- Created a literature review on global stigma-related metrics, interventions, and evaluations.
- Coded, analyzed, and summarized qualitative research from the "Reading Women's Lives" Study using Atlas Ti, including transcripts of book club discussions, interviews and open-ended surveys.
- Presented study findings at the 41st Annual Psycho-social Conference.
- Provided administrative support for a monthly webinar series and global abortion stigma convening.

PUBLICATIONS

Krontiris, K., D'Ignazio, C., Michelson, R., Lorenzo, R., Hill., T., Speaking Our Truths: 27 Stories of What It's Really Like to Breastfeed and Pump in the United States". The Engagement Lab at Emerson College, Boston, MA. Source URL:
<https://www.makethebreastpumpnotsuck.com/researchandstorycollection/> (2018)

Gordon, E., Haas, J., & Michelson, B. (2017). Civic Creativity: Role-Playing Games in Deliberative Process. *International Journal of Communication*, 11, p. 19.

D'Ignazio, C., Hope, A., Metral, A., Brugh, W., Raymond, D., Michelson, B., Achituv, T., Zuckerman, E. Towards a Feminist Hackathon: The Make the Breast Pump Not Suck Hackathon. *Feminism and (un)Hacking issue of the Journal of Peer Production*. (Winter 2016)

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

Krichner, S., Sakaguchi-Tang, D., Musons, S., Kientz, J. "This just felt to me like the right thing to do": Decision-Making Experiences of Parents of Young Children". "Proceedings of the 2020 on Designing Interactive Systems Conference (ACM, 2020), New York, NY

Hope, A., D'Ignazio, C., Hoy, J., Michelson, R., Krontiris, K., Roberts, J., Zuckerman, E. "Hackathons as Participatory Design: Iterating Feminist Utopias". Proceedings of the 36th Annual ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. (ACM, 2019) New York, NY

Gordon, E., Haas, J., Michelson, B., "@Stake: Enhancing Deliberative Democracy with Play" *Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference Companion on Computer Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing (CSCW'16 Companion)* New York, NY



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D'Ignazio, C., Hope, A., Churchill, R., Michelson, B., Zuckerman, E. Mother-Centered Design:
"When I first saw a breast pump I was wondering if it was a joke." Proceedings of the 33rd Annual
ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems. (ACM, 2016) New York, NY

WORKSHOPS

- Facilitator, Design-Thinking Workshop, Global Nursing Caucus Boston, MA | Oct. '17
Facilitator, Hackathon | Chatter (for Autism Technologies) Boston, MA | June '17
Facilitator, Workshop | Summit on Government Performance & Innovation Phoenix, AZ | May '17
Facilitator, @Stake Game | Youth Philanthropy Connect Conference Waltham, MA | Nov. '16
Facilitator, Emerging Citizens Workshop | National Media Literacy Week Boston, MA | Nov. '16
Facilitator, Charting the Course for Public Engagement | Code for America Oakland, CA | Nov. '16
Facilitator, Social Movements + Global Campaigns Design Workshop Boston, MA | June '16

TALKS

- Panelist, "New Parents Returning to Work" | Partners in Perinatal Health Boston, MA | May '19
Panelist, "Best Practices" | Suffolk University Public Service Symposium Boston, MA | April '19
Panelist, The Service Design Network Boston Chapter Launch | Continuum Boston, MA | Sept. '18
Speaker, National Breastfeeding Coalitions Conference Atlanta, Georgia | Aug '18
Speaker, Redesigning the Breast Pump | Ignite Boston: Data Boston, MA | Aug. '16
Speaker, Games | The International Conference on Participatory Budgeting Boston, MA | May '16
Speaker, Level-up: Pathways to STEM | MIT Cambridge, MA | Spring '16

MENTORSHIP

- Mentor, Game on, Girls! | MIT Cambridge, MA | Nov. '18
Teaching Fellow, Citizen + Virtual Intersession Workshop Series MIT/RISD/Brown | Jan. '16

SERVICE AND ENGAGEMENT

- Reviewer, ACM Conference on Designing Interactive Systems (DIS) Seattle, WA | Feb. '20
Reviewer, ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) Seattle, WA | Nov. '19
Jury Panel Member, Somerville Arts Council Somerville, MA | Nov. '18
Public Art Grantee, Zombie Disaster Prep Game, City Arts Council Somerville, MA | Sept. '18

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIPS

- Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) 2019-present
Design Research Society 2019-present

SKILLS

- SOFTWARE Adobe Creative Suite | Excel | Git & GitHub | Wordpress | Atlas T.I. | Dedoose
COMMUNITY-BUILDING Partnerships | Public-Speaking | Workshop Facilitation | Grant-writing
DESIGN-RESEARCH Prototyping | Journey Maps | Personas | Project Scoping | Ethnography
LANGUAGES Russian (Fluent) | Hebrew (Intermediate) | Spanish (Beginner)