

“Growing Their Own: Lessons from Community-Driven, Feminist Technology Design”

University Hour – Wednesday – March 3, 2021 (3 PM)

Transformative fandom, a longstanding, technology-agnostic community of content creators, remixers and fans, serves as an example of how technology can empower marginalized communities. For example, “Archive of Our Own,” a fanfiction repository with millions of users and works, was developed entirely by the community it serves, with a focus on representing the values of that community in its design and policies. This talk by Casey Fiesler traces the growth and features of the archive, including grassroots development and values-based, feminist design, and also considers more generally computational projects in fandom that provide lessons for inclusive, feminist design and ways to engage underrepresented groups in computing.

Guest Speaker: Dr. Casey Fiesler, U. of Colorado Boulder

Dr. Fiesler is an already a star in the field of Social Computing & HCI - she does high impact work both in academia and society at large. A favorite is the story of how she influenced Marvel to change the biased portrayal of "Barbie the computer programmer"!

<https://www.npr.org/2014/11/22/365968465/after-backlash-computer-engineer-barbie-gets-new-set-of-skills>

Bio – Dr. Casey Fiesler

Dr. Casey Fiesler is an assistant professor and founding faculty in the Department of Information Science at University of Colorado Boulder, where she researches and teaches in the areas of technology ethics, internet law and policy, and online communities. Also a public scholar, she is a frequent commentator and speaker on topics of technology ethics and policy, as well as women in STEM (including consulting with Mattel on their computing-related Barbies). Her work on research ethics for data science, ethics education in computing, and broadening participation in computing is supported by the National Science Foundation, as well as Mozilla and Omidyar Network as part of the Responsible Computer Science Challenge. Fiesler holds a PhD from Georgia Tech in Human-Centered Computing and a JD from Vanderbilt University Law School.

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