

Gabriel Malo
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EDUCATION:

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
Ph.D. in Communications and Media (In Progress)

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL
M.S. in Library and Information Science (2014)

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN
B.A. in English, Psychology minor (2003)

RESEARCH FOCI:

Science and technology studies. Online cultures. The alt-right. Disinformation networks. Social media. Right-wing media. Critical design studies. Interfaces. Social spaces. Feminist and queer theories. Organizational theory. Transgender identities. Critical theory. History of the Internet. Infrastructures and power.

PUBLICATIONS:

Review of *Designing Online Communities: How Designers, Developers, Community Managers, and Software Structure Discourse and Knowledge Production on the Web*, by Trevor Owens. *Technology & Culture*, 58(1), 302-303.

AWARDS:

University of Illinois College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants (2021 – 2022)

University of Illinois Provost Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching for Graduate Teaching Assistants (University of Illinois, 2022)

PAPERS:

Malo, G., Arikatala, A., Wong, A., Luan, Q., Maslowska, E., Usher, N., Bigman, C. (2022, May). Stitched wounds and virtual prayers: Collective sentiment, affective sharing, and Facebook-based community building in public health spaces during the COVID-19 pandemic. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Communication Association.

Van Duyn, E., Malsowska, E., Bhalla, S., O'Brien, C., Malo, G., Shen, S., Raynal, I., Wong, A.T., Bigman, C.A., Taneja, H. (2021, November). Health misinformation, public talk in digital comments sections, and the platformization of public health and party politics in non-urban Illinois. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communications Association.

Malo, G. (2020, November). Sun Signs Don't Matter (But Geminis Are The Worst): The Construction of Astrologically-Based In-and Out-group Identities in

Virtual Spaces. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the National Communications Association.

Malo, G. (2017, November). Constructing Consent Online: F(etish)-List as a Community of Practice. Paper presented at the annual MidweSTS conference.

Malo, G. (2016, June) Reddit and the Normative Nerd: Interfaces, Discourse and Power in Casual Epistemic Communities. Paper presented at the biennial international conference of Gender, Work, and Organization.

ASSISTANTSHIPS & FELLOWSHIPS:

8/2020 – 12/2020;
8/2021 – Present

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Teaching Assistant, Gender and Women's Studies

Served as a Teaching Assistant for GWS 100 – Introduction to Gender & Women's Studies during Fall 2020 and Fall 2020; currently serving as a Teaching Assistant for GWS 202 – Sexualities. For all three semesters, I led discussion sections, graded assignments, and assisted with course page management. In Fall 2020, I contributed collaboratively to the reimagining of the course as a hybrid asynchronous/synchronous online course. This included contributing to the design of new vlog assignments and collaboratively determining the methods of evaluation for students given the challenges of the course's new mode of instruction. I have also attended and taken summer courses in online pedagogy, and have trained on Canvas in anticipation of its future use as the University's primary course delivery platform.

8/2017 – 5/2021

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Teaching Assistant/Instructor/Lead TA, Media & Cinema Studies

Served as a Teaching Assistant for MACS 101 – Introduction to the Media. Conducted courses as sole instructor present in the classroom. Gave detailed feedback on writing assignments aimed at improving both students' understanding of media studies and their compositional skills. Since the fall of 2018, I have served as lead TA, helping new instructors prepare their course materials, providing guidance on existing course materials and assignments, creating and collecting new and supplementary course materials, and arranging spaces for and spearheading collaboration amongst all TAs teaching the course. In the fall of 2020, I continued to participate in this course as a coordinating hourly assistant, helping both to coordinate TAs across multiple modes of instruction and to update the syllabus for the current and future semesters.

8/2016 – 8/2017

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Research Fellow – INTERSECT Seeing Systems

Worked as a research fellow with the Seeing Systems INTERSECT group. Attended the 4S Conference in Barcelona with the group in September of 2016. Helped to organize and co-moderated a panel at the "Interdisciplinary

Encounters: Exploring Knowledge-Making Across Boundaries” workshop held on campus in March of 2017.

8/2014 – 5/2016

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Teaching Assistant/Instructor of Record

Served as a Teaching Assistant for MACS 320 – Popular Culture in fall 2014. Led discussion sections and graded essays. Served as instructor of record for MACS 326 – New Media, Culture, and Society in spring 2015. Taught the course with an emphasis on the critical analysis of power structures within new media. Served as Teaching Assistant for MACS 100 during fall 2015 and spring 2016.

1/2013 – 5/2014

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Research Assistant

Worked within the Center for People and Infrastructures to evaluate data intended for the study of popular perceptions of privacy in online activities. Mined router logs for data, conducted semantic analysis of website contents, created literature reviews on a variety of related topics, and helped develop surveys intended for internet-based research.

3/2013 – 7/2013

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Assistant in Independent Research

Assisted in an hourly capacity as a manual coder during research into semantic analysis of relationships in fictional literature. Have assisted in creating codebooks intended for the use of semantic analysis of media in a national security context.

11/2012 – 1/2013

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Graduate Assistant

Assisted in the evaluation of media-based intellectual property intended for use in online courses. Contacted intellectual property owners to obtain rights for essential course materials requested by professors.

CONFERENCES:

International Communications Association 2022 (Forthcoming)
“Stitched Wounds and Virtual Prayers: Collective Sentiment, Affective Sharing, and Facebook-Based Community Building in Public Health Spaces During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”

This co-authored paper examined Facebook comments on rural and small-urban public health department pages in the state of Illinois during the first 16 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. It used semantic and textual analysis to identify and contextualize expressions of religiosity and support as they related to the bridging and bonding elements of community formation. This was performed in order to understand how local public spheres emerge from the geographically-rooted digital interactions of local actors in community-specific contexts.

National Communication Association 2020

“Sun Signs Don’t Matter (But Gemini’s Are The Worst): The Construction of Astrologically-Based In-and Out-group Identities in Virtual Spaces.”

This paper utilized an examination of the ways in which social media users define themselves and others within the immutable and, in some respects, arbitrary categories contained within astrology as a useful window into the formation of virtual identities. To this end, it identified, discussed, and examined ways in which users of the subreddit /r/Astrology simultaneously build and deconstruct sun sign-based identities using the affordances available to them within the Reddit’s technologically-mediated and the subreddit’s human-moderated environment(s).

MidweSTS 2017

“Constructing Consent Online: F(etish)-List as a Community of Practice.”

This presentation proposed a potential framework for the examination of fraught negotiations on F-List, a website and online community dedicated to the facilitation of fetish-based erotic roleplay, with the goal of better understanding how tacit knowledges intersect with the use of language and interfaces in order to enable the production of safety and consent in online interactions, as well as of furthering exploration of the ways in which delicate and fraught negotiations inflect upon the shared culture and practice of online communities. My analysis was based not only upon utilizing critical, feminist, and queer theories of space in order to examine the power of the interface, but also upon considering the users of F-List as a community of practice. Borrowing this particular window from organizational studies allowed for the incorporation of theories of socialization theory alongside critical queer and feminist theories of science and technology studies in order to understand not only the way in which the users of F-List craft and control their erotic interactions, but also to more broadly examine how implicit consent is reached in high-stakes negotiation online.

MidweSTS 2016

“Performing Dissent: Virtual Bodies, Trolling, and the Ethics of Disruption.”

I discussed trolling behavior based upon an examination of the virtual world as a constructed social space where virtually constructed bodies can convene and interact. This was conducted in order to understand the methods and ethics of trolling as a discursive practice in an effort to successfully situate their brazen and controversial methods within the evolving context of cultural and political discourse. This led to a discussion of the ways in which the methods of discourse employed by trolls has been used in ways that subvert, rather than support, reactionary agendas and that promote inclusiveness within virtual spaces, while encouraging the audience to consider the conversations that trolling begins as a valid site for research into virtual spaces.

Gender, Work, and Organization 2016 9th Biennial Conference

“Reddit and the Normative Nerd: Interfaces, Discourse and Power in Casual Epistemic Communities.”

Examined Reddit's construction as a social space and how power is allocated and codified within casual techno-scientific discourse. Explored ways in which this allocation of power can be modified, coopted, and challenged from within the system's infrastructure, drawing upon the experience of creating a subreddit dedicated to discourse around the interplay of feminism and technology

HASTAC 2015

“On Co-creating Syllabi and Collaborative Design for Inter-disciplinary Research and Instruction.”

As part of a group presentation, I spoke about my paper, “Encountering the Unexpected Other: On Building an Intellectual Commons.” This paper recounts my problematic experience in creating a co-collaborative syllabus about hacker culture with a tech journalist. Though our goals in addressing the misconceptions about hacker culture differed, we utilized principles exemplified in new technological methods of collaboration in order to find a mutually workable method of instruction.

COURSES:

Master's:

LIS 502 – Libraries Information and Society
LIS 501 – Information Organization and Access
LIS 586 – Digital Preservation
LIS 590 – Network Analysis
LIS 590 – Digital Humanities
LIS 590 – Information Networks
LIS 452 – Foundations of Information Processing in LIS
LIS 590 – Project Management in LIS
LIS 590 – Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Information Professions
CMN 529 – Learning to See Communications Systems
CS 598 – Social Spaces on the Internet
LIS 590 – Social Computing
CHLH 415 – International Health
CMN 529 – Race, Class, Gender: Popular Media
LIS 590 – Rare Books: Crime and Punishment

GWS 590 – Critical Race Feminism
MDIA 572 – Proseminar II
LIS 590 – Dialogues on Feminism & Technology
MDIA 580 – Advanced Interpretative Methods
MDIA 590 – Technoscientific Networks
GWS 459 – Gender, Sex, & Postcoloniality
GWS 580 – Queer Theories & Methods
MDIA 578 – Communication Ethics
GWS 495 – Queering Legal Cultures
LIS 490 – Social Media & Global Change
MDIA 590 – Naturecultures
CMN 529 – Knowledge, Technology & Organizing
ENGL 578 – Techno-Culture

Doctoral:

MDIA 571 – Proseminar I
MDIA 590 – Collaboration Systems
MDIA 590 – New Media Theory