

Lucy Pei
lucypei3.14@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D, Informatics

June 2025

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA

Member of the Center for Ethnography and the Platform for Experimental, Collaborative Ethnography

Member of the EVOKE Lab and Studio

Dissertation: "Gig Workers of the World, Unite!": Activist Encounters and Transnational Labor Organizing

GPA: 4.0/4.0

B. A., Global Studies and Human-Computer Interaction

May 2016

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Minor in Business Administration

Honors Thesis: Educating English Language Learners in the Pittsburgh Public Schools

GPA: 4.0/4.0

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Community Power Postdoctoral Scholar

August 2025 - July 2026

University of Southern California - Equity Research Institute

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Lucy Pei. 2025. Scalar Devices of a Global Movement of Gig Worker Activists. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 9, 7, Article CSCW473 (November 2025), 22 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3757654>

Lucy Pei. 2025. Making a global gig workers' movement meaningful locally: Friction in activists' everyday strategies. *New Media & Society*, 0(0). (online first edition) <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448251352542>

Benedict Salazar Olgado* and **Lucy Pei***. 2022. Stewarding the Documental Afterlives of Refugee Tech Initiatives. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, 8(CSCW). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA

**Both authors contributed equally to this paper*

Christie Abel, **Lucy Pei**, Ian Larson, Benedict Salazar Olgado, and Benedict J. Turner. 2022. "Tinder Will Know You Are A 6": Users' Perceptions of Algorithms on Tinder. In *Proceedings of the Annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS'22)*. IEEE.

Philip Garrison* and **Lucy Pei***. 2022. Deferring Social Impact: Conceptions of ICTD and Computing Careers. In *Proceedings of the Annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS'22)*. IEEE. **Both authors contributed equally to this paper*

Lucy Pei*, Benedict Salazar Olgado*, and Roderic Crooks. 2021. Market, Testbed, Backroom: The Redacted Internet of Facebook's Discover. In Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '21). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA

**Both authors contributed equally to this paper*

Lucy Pei and Roderic Crooks. 2020. Attenuated Access: Accounting for Startup, Maintenance, and Affective Costs in Resource-Constrained Communities. In Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '20). ACM, New York, NY, USA.

Benedict Salazar Olgado, **Lucy Pei**, and Roderic Crooks. 2020. Determining the Casting Mold of Intimate Platforms through Document Theory. In Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '20). ACM, New York, NY, USA.

Best Paper Honorable Mention, in top 5% of papers

Lucy Pei and Bonnie Nardi. 2019. We Did It Right, But It Was Still Wrong: Toward Assets-Based Design. In Extended Abstracts of the 2019 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '19). ACM, New York, NY, USA.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Lucy Pei. Alternative imaginaries and alternative practices: Digital solidarity economies in a repertoire of contention for delivery worker organizing. In *Digital Solidarity Economy in Latin America*. Bristol University Press. Forthcoming, 2026

Lucy Pei. Scalar Devices of Gig Worker Activists' Global Movement: Nonscalability and the Possibilities of Proliferation. In *Companion Publication of the 2024 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '24 Companion)*, November 9-13, 2024, San José, Costa Rica. ACM, New York, NY, USA

Lucy Pei, Uriel Serrano, and Roderic Crooks. "For Me, Data is Ammunition": Metaphors and Community Organizers' Data Imaginaries. In *Companion Publication of the 2024 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '24 Companion)*, November 9-13, 2024, San José, Costa Rica. ACM, New York, NY, USA

Roderic Crooks, Catherine D'Ignazio, Arne Hintz, Feike Jansen, Juliane Jarke, Anne Kaun, Stine Lomborg, Dan McQuillan, Jonathan A. Obar, **Lucy Pei**, & Ana Pop Stefanija. (2024). People's practices in the face of data power. In J. Jarke & J. Bates (Eds.), *Dialogues in data power: Shifting response-abilities in a datafied world* (pp. 80–102). Bristol University Press.
<https://doi.org/10.51952/9781529238327>

Pei, Lucy, and Roderic Crooks. "Grassroots Data Activism." *JCMS: Journal of Cinema and Media Studies* 62, no. 4 (2023): 188-192. <https://doi.org/10.1353/cj.2023.a904636>

Lucy Pei, Benedict Salazar Olgado, and Roderic Crooks. 2022. Narrativity, Audience, Legitimacy: Data Practices of Community Organizers. In *CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Extended Abstracts (CHI '22 Extended Abstracts)*, April 29-May 5, 2022, New Orleans, LA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 6 pages.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3491101.3519673>

Akwugo Emejulu, **Lucy Pei**, and Aakash Gautam. 2022. Critical perspectives on ABCD: a conversation with Akwugo Emejulu. *interactions* 29, 5 (September - October 2022), 34–38. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3550063>

Lucy Pei, Marisol Wong-Villacres, Sheena Erete, Daniela Rosner, Alex Taylor, and Mikael Wiberg. 2022. Who we are and what we have: designing with minoritized communities. *interactions* 29, 5 (September - October 2022), 5. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3557984>

Marisol Wong-Villacres, Sheena Erete, Aakash Gautam, Azra Ismail, Neha Kumar, **Lucy Pei**, Wendy Roldan, Veronica Ahumada-Newhart, Karla Badillo-Urquiola, J. Maya Hernandez, Anthony Poon, Pedro Reynolds-Cuellar, and Vivian Genaro Motti. 2022. Elevating strengths and capacities: the different shades of assets-based design in HCI. *interactions* 29, 5 (September - October 2022), 28–33. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3549068>

Lucy Pei, Edgard David Rincón Quijano, Angela D. R. Smith, Reem Talhouk, and Frederick van Amstel. 2022. Assets and community engagement: a roundtable with HCI researchers and designers. *interactions* 29, 5 (September - October 2022), 44–47. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3554975>

Lucy Pei. 2021. “Information Technology,” in *The Annual Register*, 2021, Vol 263. Ed. D.S. Lewis. Proquest.

EDITORIAL WORK

Lead guest editor on Special Issue of ACM’s *Interactions* Magazine.

Lucy Pei, Marisol Wong-Villacres, Sheena Erete, guest editors. *Designing with Community Strengths and Assets*. ACM Interactions Magazine, Sept/Oct 2022. Volume XXIX.5

PRESENTATIONS

Meeting of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4s) 2025: “Transnational Solidarity: Exploring Alternate Global Imaginaries of Work”

Seattle, USA, September 2025

Countervailing Platform Power: “Re-migration, the global scale, and (non)scalability in gig worker organizing”

Florence, Italy, June 2025

Meeting of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S) 2024: “The limits of benevolence: Moving toward co-liberation”

Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 2024

Meeting of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S) 2023: “Gig Workers of the World, Unite!”: Engaged Universals in Transnational Movements for Digital Platform Workers’ Rights”

Virtual, November 2023

Data Justice: “The datafied coordinated response to Venezuelan migration”
Cardiff, UK, June 2023

Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) Laboratorio Ciencia, Tecnología y Sociedad (CTS Lab) Colloquium: “Problematizando las tecnologías para el bien (Tech for good)”
Virtual/ Quito, Ecuador, May, 2023

Cooperativismo de Plataformas en América Latina Workshop: Panelist for “Pensar el trabajo justo en la economía de plataformas”
Virtual/ Quito, Ecuador, May, 2023

Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), “Data and Value in the Venezuelan Displacement Crisis”
Virtual/ Seattle, USA, November 2022

CSCW 2022: “Stewarding the Documental Afterlives of Refugee Tech Initiatives”
Virtual, November 2022

Just Tech Transitions Workshop: “Ethical Imaginaries and Sociotechnical Systems Against Labor Exploitation in Venezuelan Migration”
Virtual, August 2022

Dialogues in Data Power: “Living Proof: Data Practices of Community Organizers”
Bremen, Germany, June 2022

CHI 2021: “Market, Testbed, Backroom: The Redacted Internet of Facebook’s Discover”
Virtual, May 2021

Meeting of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S) 2020: “Politics, Pathos, and Power: Community Mobilizations of Data”
Virtual, August 2020

HCI4D @ Third Space: “Attenuated Access: Accounting for Startup, Maintenance, and Affective Costs in Resource-Constrained Communities”
Virtual, July 2020

CHI 2019: “We Did It Right, But It Was Still Wrong: Toward Assets-Based Design”
Glasgow, Scotland, May 2019

Dietrich Under Construction Workshop: Alumna Panelist
Pittsburgh, USA, November 2017

Phi Beta Kappa Early Initiation Ceremony: Invited Keynote Speaker
Pittsburgh, USA, November 2016

Carnegie Mellon’s Meeting of the Minds: “Educating English Language Learners in the Pittsburgh Public Schools”
Pittsburgh, USA, May 2016

Carnegie Mellon’s Meeting of the Minds: “Motivational Appeal of Extrinsically Integrated Educational Games for English Literacy with Underserved Populations”
Pittsburgh, USA, May 2015

POSTERS

Lucy Pei. Scalar Devices of Gig Worker Activists' Global Movement: Nonscalability and the Possibilities of Proliferation. In Companion Publication of the 2024 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '24 Companion), November 9-13, 2024, San José, Costa Rica. ACM, New York, NY, USA

Lucy Pei, Uriel Serrano, and Roderic Crooks. "For Me, Data is Ammunition": Metaphors and Community Organizers' Data Imaginaries. In Companion Publication of the 2024 Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '24 Companion), November 9-13, 2024, San José, Costa Rica. ACM, New York, NY, USA

Lucy Pei, Benedict Salazar Olgado, and Roderic Crooks. 2022. Narrativity, Audience, Legitimacy: Data Practices of Community Organizers. In CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems Extended Abstracts (CHI '22 Extended Abstracts), April 29-May 5, 2022, New Orleans, LA, USA. ACM, New York, NY, USA, 6 pages.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3491101.3519673>

WORKSHOPS & PANELS ORGANIZED

Joy Ming, **Lucy Pei**, Kim Fernandes, and Rosemary Steup. "Reclaiming the Future of Work." Meeting of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S), 2025, Seattle, USA

Joy Ming, **Lucy Pei**, Rama Adithya Varanasi, Anna Kawakami, Nervo Verdezoto, and EunJeong Cheon. 2024. "Labor, Visibility, and Technology: Weaving Together Academic Insights and On-Ground Realities." In CSCW '24: ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing, November 9-13, 2024, San José, Costa Rica.

Joy Ming, Kalie Mayberry, Eun Jeong Cheon, Marina Johnson-Zafiris, Veronica Uribe del Aguila, and **Lucy Pei**. "Technology and Precarity in Work." Meeting of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S), 2023, Virtual.

Benedict Salazar Olgado, **Lucy Pei**, and Roderic Crooks. "Collective Action in a Datafied World." Meeting of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S), 2023, Virtual.

Lucy Pei, Philip Garrison, and Yvette Iribe Ramirez. "Toward reunion: Conversations, criticisms, reconfigurations of ICTD." Meeting of the Society of Social Studies of Science (4S), 2022, Cholula, Mexico.

Christine Kim, Orlando Lara, **Lucy Pei**, Farah Qureshi, and David Theo Goldberg. "Exploring The Infopolitics Of Algorithmic Knowledge Production, Community Formation, And Governance." Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association (AAA), 2022, Seattle, USA.

Marisol Wong-Villacres, Aakash Gautam, Wendy Roldan, **Lucy Pei**, Jessa Dickinson, Azra Ismail, Betsy DiSalvo, Neha Kumar, Tammy Clegg, Sheena Erete, Emily Roden, Nithya Sambasivan, and Jason Yip. 2020. "From Needs to Strengths: Operationalizing an Assets-Based Design of Technology." Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW '20 Companion). (Virtual workshop) <https://doi.org/10.1145/3406865.3418594>

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Steckler Center for Responsible, Ethical, and Accessible Technology (CREATE) Fellow
September 2023 - June 2024

Roberta Ellen Lamb Endowed Memorial Fellowship (\$10,000 Fellowship)
February 2024

NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, “DDRIG: The Ethical Practices and Sociotechnical Imaginaries of Tech-for-Good” (\$15,094.00 Grant) April 2023 - September 2024

Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Scholar Award, 2022-2024 Cohort (\$10,000 Fellowship)
Sept 2022 - June 2024

UCI Initiative for AI, Law, and Society grant for "Exploring the Infopolitics of Algorithmic Knowledge Production, Community Formation, and Techno-Legal Governance" (with Orlando Lara, Farah Qureshi, and Christine Kim)
Jan 2022 - June 2022

Steckler Center for Responsible, Ethical, and Accessible Technology (CREATE) Summer Fellow
June 2021- September 2021

NSF Graduate Research Fellow
Oct 2020-Oct 2023

Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship, District and International Levels (\$10,000 Fellowship)
December 2019

Zonta International Women in Technology Scholarship, Chapter Level
August 2019

UCI Informatics Chair’s Award
September 2018

Dietrich Honors Fellowship
May 2015 – August 2015

Small Undergraduate Research Fellowship
May 2014 – August 2014

Carnegie Scholarship
August 2012 – May 2016

HONORS & AWARDS

Etel Solingen Award for Outstanding Paper in International Cooperation
for “Globalistic Advocacy: Making a Gig Workers’ Movement on a Global Scale” June, 2024

Eugene D. Levy Award for Most Outstanding Graduate, Department of History
May, 2016

Senior Leadership Award
May 2016

University and College Honors
May 2016

Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society (early election)	January 2016
Andrew Carnegie Society	September 2015
Dean's List	December 2012 – May 2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UC Irvine - Human Factors and the Web Teaching Assistant, with Novia Wong	Spring 2025
UC Irvine - How Computers Work Teaching Assistant, with Emily Navarro	Winter 2025
UC Irvine - Internet, Technology, and Society Teaching Assistant, with Ian Larson	Fall 2024
Stanford - Digital Civil Society Guest Lecture: "People's Community Control of Modern Technology": Community Organizers and Data Justice (With Roderic Crooks and Benedict Salazar Olgado)	Spring 2021
UC Irvine - Internet, Technology, and Society Guest Lecture: "Raw Data is an Oxymoron"	Spring 2020
UC Irvine - Multiplayer Project Teaching Assistant, with Kurt Squire	Spring 2019
UC Irvine - Human Factors and the Web Teaching Assistant, with Shri Jambhekar	Winter 2019
UC Irvine - Global Disruption and Information Technology (online course) Teaching Assistant, with Bill Tomlinson	Fall 2018

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Informatics, UCI, Irvine, CA June 2021 - November 2024
Graduate Student Researcher

- Carried out research for the NSF CAREER Grant "Community Organizing for Datafied Worlds"
- Conducted 10 interviews with community organizers
- Created initial codebook with scaffolding for use by future research team members
- Created procedures for contacting, interviewing, paying, and storing data of interview participants while maintaining anonymity
- Lead the authoring of two short papers submitted to the ACM CHI conference and presented two posters and two talks based on the research in this project

Institute for Money, Technology, and Financial Inclusion, Irvine, CA

Graduate Student Facilitator

September 2019-June 2020

- Created syllabus for undergraduates in computer science to gain awareness and reflect about the role of computing in the social
- Guided undergraduate researchers to collect data about and analyze community organizations that use data to engage with policy issues

Greater Pittsburgh Literacy Council, Pittsburgh, PA

January 2017-June 2018

Independent Researcher

- Integrated Internet technologies with English as a Second Language (ESL) curriculum by making class content accessible for online practice
- Collected data on students' mobile phone usage through participant observation, verbal surveys, and interviews
- Designed and facilitated classes on mobile phone usage, teaching basic phone use skills, security practices, and related English vocabulary

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

January 2016 – May 2016

HCI Capstone Consultant

- Designed and user-tested online course to teach collaboration using a variety of online and offline interaction techniques

Dietrich College, Pittsburgh, PA

May 2015 – May 2016

Honors Fellow

- Developed bibliography and reviewed relevant literature
- Conducted ethnographic participant observation in ESL classroom twice a week for two semesters in a public high school
- Conducted interviews with stakeholders at multiple levels
- Promoted and published research through blog posts and social media

Human Computer Interaction Institute, Pittsburgh, PA

Research Assistant

September 2014 – December 2015

- Designed classroom observation protocol to collect data on student participation in computer science recitations taught by international teaching assistants
- Recorded and categorized classroom participation patterns weekly for one semester
- Tested Wizard of Oz prototype with teaching assistants for one semester and collected data to assess how much prototypes increased student participation
- Conducted interviews on usability of infographics and analytical tools for teachers
- Transcribed, annotated, and coded eight hours of interviews

Learning Research and Development Center, Pittsburgh, PA

May 2015

Research Assistant

- Conducted assessment interviews with around 20 ESL students
- Scored, entered, and organized data for analysis using Excel

TechBridgeWorld, Field Robotics Center, Pittsburgh, PA

January 2014 – August 2014

Undergraduate Research Fellow

- Designed and implemented user tests using surveys, interviews, focus groups, observations, and experimental design
- Interacted with special needs populations including blind/visually impaired, deaf and hard of hearing, and people who spoke minimal English

- Coded interviews and observations, conducted statistical analysis
- Wrote reports, recommendations, and design guidelines
- Organized, publicized, and created content for event attended by over 400 people
- Created project website

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

TiER1 Performance Solutions, Pittsburgh, PA

June 2016 – July 2018

Learning and UX Consultant

- Contributed on a team of three proposal writers to win a Phase 1 Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant on innovative training
- Led user testing of a training and competency management system prototype with 10 participants
- Designed interactions and generated wireframes and interfaces for digital products such as a competency management system, a web app for a clinical preceptorship program, and software to integrate cognitive models
- Presented to clients and interviewed subject matter experts
- Designed and storyboarded e-learning courses for corporate clients' training needs in areas such as onboarding, compliance, and performance management
- Created instructor-led training materials for rollouts of enterprise software systems

Carnegie Mellon Academic Development, Pittsburgh, PA

May 2013 – December 2015

Peer Tutor

- Tutored peers at CMU in introductory computer science and multivariate calculus with individual appointments and walk-in sessions

?WhatIf! Innovation Partners, New York, NY

June 2012 – August 2012

Intern

- Conducted research regarding formats, implementations, and results presentations of company-wise diagnostics tools
- Researched Six Sigma and other competitors in the market for transforming organizational culture

SKILLS

Languages

Mandarin Chinese (fluent speaking and listening, intermediate reading and writing)

Spanish (advanced speaking and listening, advanced reading and writing)

Human-Computer Interaction

Usability Testing and Experimental Design

Rapid Prototyping and Wireframing

Contextual Inquiry

Storyboarding

Technical
Basic Python
Overleaf
Adobe Suite

Other
Instructional Design

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal and Conference Review

Journals

New Media & Society 2020, 2021, 2024, 2025

Conferences

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI) 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

ACM Conference on Computer Supported Collaborative Work (CSCW) 2022, 2024

ACM Conference on Designing Interactive Systems (DIS) 2024

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LEADERSHIP

Frente de los Trabajadores de Plataformas Digitales del Ecuador (FRENAPP) International Project Coordinator, Researcher

- Wrote proposals for grant funding from philanthropic foundations and labor organizations, including supporting the writing of a proposal for successful grant from the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation
- Supported the logistics and collection of testimonies that formed a book written by the leaders of FRENAPP
- Supported analysis of policy and compiling of evidence for lawsuits and complaints submitted by the union
- Translated outreach and training materials from Spanish to English

Informatics Graduate Student Association

October 2018-October 2020

Social Chair, Communications Chair

- Organized biweekly social events to promote connection and professional development among Informatics graduate students in the department

Counterpoint (All-femme a cappella group)

September 2012 – May 2016

President, PR Chair, and Member

- Auditioned over 60 potential members, coordinated rehearsals, managed repertoire, and organized and promoted concerts, including a benefit concert that was attended by over 600 people, raising over \$3000

FORGE September 2014 – May 2016
Resettlement Mentor, Camp Counselor

- Assisted Bhutanese refugees with English and life skills, designed and led creative lessons for refugee youth summer camp

Ed Tech Club October 2014 – May 2016
Member

- Aided in coordination of education technology related events and resources in the university and local communities

STRIVE for College September 2012 – May 2014
Executive Board Member

- Organized volunteers to assist underserved high school students in college applications, college visits, and SAT preparation

Viva Nicaragua June 2013 – July 2013
Project Leader

- Taught crafts to 20 local women, created a basic business plan for the women to sell their crafts, collaborated with community, non-profits, local businesses, and government organizations, all using Spanish