

FLOOR FIERS

Ph.D. Candidate in Media, Technology, and Society

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University

Anticipated 2024 Ph.D. in Media, Technology, and Society (ABD)

2020 – 2021: Visiting scholar, Department of Communication and Media Research, Internet Use & Society Division, University of Zurich

PhD Committee: Aaron Shaw and Eszter Hargittai (co-chairs), Jeremy Birnholtz

Northwestern University

2021 M.A. in Media, Technology, and Society

MA Thesis: *Generous Attitudes and Online Participation*

MA Committee: Aaron Shaw (chair), Eszter Hargittai, James Schwoch

St. Lawrence University

2019 B.A. in Sociology, Summa Cum Laude

Honors Thesis: *An #Instagood Status Update: Claiming and Seeking Status on Instagram*

Minors: Film Studies, English Creative Writing, Asian Studies

Study Abroad: New York State Independent College Consortium for Study in India (NYSICCSI; Fall 2016); University of Roehampton (London, UK; Fall 2017)

United World College – USA

2015 International Baccalaureate

RESEARCH

Interests: digital inequality, paid and unpaid online labor, the gig economy, digital skills, resilience and resistance strategies, worker agency

Experience

Graduate Student Researcher

Sept 2019 - present

Community Data Science Collective, Northwestern University

Advisor: Aaron Shaw

Graduate Student Researcher

Sept 2020 - present

Web Use Project, University of Zurich

Advisor: Eszter Hargittai

Graduate Student Researcher

Sept 2022 – March 2023

Citizens and Technology (CAT) Lab, Cornell University

Advisors: Sarah Gilbert & J. Nathan Matias

Project (funded by NetGain Partnership): "Ethics in Internet Related Research"

Undergraduate Student Researcher

Jan 2018 – May 2019

Sociology Department, St. Lawrence University

Advisors: Stephen Barnard & Leah Rohlfen

Research Fellow

Jan 2018 – Sept 2018

University Fellowship Program, St. Lawrence University

Advisor: Stephen Barnard

Peer-reviewed Publications

Fiers, F. & Hargittai, E. (2023). Inequalities in Remote Gig Work During the COVID-19 Pandemic. *International Journal of Communication*, 1, 1–20.

<https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/19986>

Fuchs, J., **Fiers, F.**, & Hargittai, E. (2023). Engaging with COVID-19 content on social media in the United States: Does political affiliation matter? *First Monday*, 28(11).

<https://doi.org/10.5210/fm.v28i11.13289>

Fiers, F. (2023). Inequality and Discrimination in the Online Labor Market: A Scoping Review. *New Media & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448221151200>

Shaw, A., **Fiers, F.**, & Hargittai, E. (2022). Participation Inequality in the Gig Economy. *Information, Communication & Society*, 0(0), 1–18.

<https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2022.2085611>

Fiers, F., Shaw, A., & Hargittai, E. (2021). Generous Attitudes and Online Participation. *Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media*, 1.

<https://doi.org/10.51685/jqd.2021.008>

Fiers, F. (2020). Hiding Traces of Status Seeking: Contradictory Tagging Strategies on Instagram. *Social Media + Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305120937318>

Conference Presentations

Walter, N., Suresh, S., Brooks, J. J., Saucier, C., **Fiers, F.**, & Holbert, R. L. (2023, November). Getting out of Debt: The Communication-Begets-Communication (CBC) Typology as an Approach to Theoretical Advancement in the Field. National Communication Association (NCA) National Convention, National Harbor, MD.

Gilbert, S., Lukito, J., **Fiers, F.**, Chen, B., Matias, J. N., & Eagen, E. (2023, October). Navigating Ethical Cliffs and Professional Risks: A Cross-Constituency Analysis of Internet Researchers' Perspectives on Ethics. Association of Internet Researchers, Philadelphia, PA.

Fiers, F. (2023, June). Making it Work: The Role of Digital Skills in Online Freelancing. Global Perspectives on Platforms, Labor & Social Reproduction Conference, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Fiers, F. (2023, May). The Gig Economy: A Site of Opportunity Vs. a Site of Risk?. Pre-conference "New Frontiers in Global Digital Inequalities Research" at the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), Toronto, Canada.

Fuchs, J., **Fiers, F.**, & Hargittai, E. (2023, April). The Role of Political Affiliation in Social Media Sharing during COVID-19. Annual Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, Chicago, IL.

Fiers, F. (2022, November). Inequality and Discrimination in the Online Labor Market: a Scoping Review. Association of Internet Researchers, Dublin, Ireland.

Walter, N., Suresh, S., Brooks, J. J., Saucier, C., **Fiers, F.**, & Holbert, R. L. (2022, November). The Chaffee Principle: The Most Likely Effect of Communication...Is Further Communication. National Communication Association (NCA) National Convention, New Orleans, LA.

* received a Top Paper Award in the Mass Communication division

Fiers, F. (2022, May). Inequality and Discrimination in the Online Labor Market: A Scoping Review. Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), Paris, France.

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Fiers, F., & Walter, N. (2022, May). Comments on Airbnb and the Potential for Racial Bias. Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), Paris, France.

Fiers, F., & Hargittai, E. (2022, March). Gig Work and the COVID-19 Pandemic. Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), Boston, MA.

Fiers, F., & Walter, N. (2021, September). The Role of Comments on Racial Discrimination on Airbnb. TPRC49 Research Conference on Communications, Information, and Internet Policy, Washington, DC (online).

Quillian, L., & **Fiers, F.** (2021, August). Hiring Discrimination and Labor Market Tightness. American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (online due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Fiers, F., & Walter, N. (2021, May) Sharing Unfairly: Racial Bias on Airbnb and the Effect of Review Valence. Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), Denver, CO (online due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Shaw, A., **Fiers, F., & Hargittai, E.** (2021, May) Participation Inequality in the Gig Economy. Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), Denver, CO (online due to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Fiers, F. (2019, March). An #Instagood Status Update: Claiming and Seeking Status on Instagram. Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), Boston, MA.

Fiers, F. (2018, September). An #Instagood Status Update: Claiming and Seeking Status on Instagram. NY6 Undergraduate Research Conference, Canton, NY.

Fiers, F. (2016, February). Bittersweet Farm: Bittersweet Future? Documentary presented at UWC-USA's Annual Conference, Montezuma, NM.

Invited Talks & Guest Lectures

Participating, Getting By, and Thriving in the Gig Economy, Platform Labor Group, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam, the Netherlands, 2023.

Barriers to Participating in the Gig Economy, Science of Community Dialogues, Community Data Science Collective, 2023. Recording: <https://youtu.be/GBF9pX09LLQ>

Databases Behind Platforms, guest lecture in BA course "Platform & Society" (course instructor: Jing Zeng), University of Zurich, 2021.

Affordances & Status Seeking, guest lecture in MA course "Social Media & Society" (course instructor: Minh Hao Nguyen), University of Zurich, 2020.

The Power of Social Media Affordances, guest lecture in BA course "Culture & Identity in the Digital Age" (course instructor: Stephen Barnard), St. Lawrence University, 2020.

TEACHING & MENTORING

Northwestern University

Instructor Spring 2023
Power and Inequality in the Digital Age (*BA course; writing seminar*)

Instructor Spring 2022
Public Speaking (*BA course*)

Graduate Teaching Assistant (TA) Fall 2020 & 2021
Communications & Technology (*BA course by Jeremy Birnholtz*)

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Workshop co-instructor

Spring 2021 & 2022 & 2023

Computing Everywhere, Communications Department

Title workshop: "TikTok & Databases"

Digital Media Module Fellow

Jan 2021 – Dec 2022

Communications Studies Module Fellows Program

Mentor for undergraduate research assistants

2020 - present

Community Data Science Collective

RECOGNITIONS

Awards

2019	Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship, St. Lawrence University, Sociology Department
2019	Award for Outstanding Senior, St. Lawrence University, Sociology Department
2019	Leader of the Year Award, Omicron Delta Kappa
2016	Bradley R. Evers Outstanding First-Year Student Award
2016	Excellence in Community Based Learning Scholarship Award
2015 – 2019	Dean's List, St. Lawrence University
2015	Certificate of Excellence, UWC-USA
2011	Gouden Walvis, National Film Contest 'Tube Your Future'
2009 – 2013	Kunstbende awards, poetry and theater divisions

Fellowships & Grants

2022-2023	David Zarefsky Graduate Fellowship
2022-2023	Northwestern University's Graduate Research Grant (\$2,700)
2022	Funding for Research Assistance through Northwestern University's Undergraduate Research Assistant Program
2022	International Communication Association's CAT Travel Grant
2020	Northwestern University's School of Communication Grant External Methods Training (\$2,000)
2018	Lorna A. Ness Fellowship Fund and Daniel F. '65 and Ann H. Sullivan Endowment for Student/Faculty Research (\$3,800)
2017	D. Douglas Andrews Memorial Award
2017	Travel Enrichment Grant from the Cabot Family Endowment for International and Intercultural Education
2016	William and Judy Frear '69 Thorpe International Travel Fund
2015 – 2019	Davis Scholarship
2013 – 2015	UWC NL Scholarship

Honor societies

2019	Phi Beta Kappa
2019	Alpha Kappa Delta, International Honor Society of Sociology
2017	Omicron Delta Kappa

SERVICE & ENGAGEMENT

Institutional Service

Northwestern University

2019 – Present	Student host and organizer, MTS Prospective Student Visit
2019 – Present	Student host, MTS Guest Speaker Series
2019 – 2022	Culture and Community Committee for Media, Technology, and Society (MTS) and Technology and Social Behavior (TSB) PhD

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2020 programs (*i.e., organizing programing including yearly buddy program and quarterly happy hours*)
Research assistant successfully developing and executing efforts to diversify the applicant pools of two doctoral programs

United World College

2021 Member, Selection Committee for UWC NL

St. Lawrence University

2018 – 2019 Student Delegate, University Diversity Committee

2018 – 2019 Student Delegate, Search Committee for Vice-President and Dean of Student Life

2018 – 2019 Student Delegate, Search Committee for Assistant Professor Environmental Sociology

2018 – 2019 Student Delegate, India Study Abroad Selection Committee

2018 Student Delegate, Search Committee University Videographer

2018 Student Presenter, Community Assistant Orientation

Workshop/Conference Organizer

Co-organizer, Pre-conference “New Frontiers in Global Digital Inequalities Research” at Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), May 2023, Toronto, Canada.

Co-organizer, Workshop on Ethics of Field Experiments (in collaboration with Citizens and Technology (CAT) Lab, Cornell University and Center for Information Technology Policy, CITP, Princeton University), July 2022, Princeton, NJ.

Volunteer Tech Squad, Annual Conference of the International Communication Association (ICA), May 2022, Paris, France.

Volunteer, Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), Boston, MA.

Professional Memberships

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)

International Communication Association (ICA)

Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Journal and Conference Reviewer

ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)

Field Methods

Information, Communication & Society

International Communication Association (*i.e., Ethnicity and Race in Communication (ERIC) and Community & Technology (CAT) Divisions*)

International Journal of Communication

International Journal of Human-Computer Studies

New Media & Society

Professional Training

2021 – 2022 Teaching Certificate Program, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University

2019 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, the University of Michigan

Industry and Non-Profit Affiliations

2006 – Present Board member (incl. Head Festival Programming and Head Publicity), Totaalfestival, the Netherlands

2019 – Present Head Artist Handling, Festival Hongerige Wolf, the Netherlands

2021 – 2023 Tutor to female refugee students, GirlForward, Chicago, IL

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2015 – 2019	University Videographer, St. Lawrence University's Communications Office
2018 – 2019	President, Kalon Kixiox Chapter, Omicron Delta Kappa
2018 – 2019	Chapter Founder and Co-Present, ONE Campus Chapter
2018 – 2019	Outreach Chair, St. Lawrence University's Chapter of Public Leadership and Education Network (PLEN)
2017	Marketing and Communication Intern, Theater Festival Boulevard, 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands
2015 – 2016	Research intern, BERLIN theater company, Antwerp, Belgium
2014	All-round volunteer, South by South West (SXSW), Austin, TX
2014 – 2015	Activity Leader, Youth Detention Center Camino Nuevo, Albuquerque, NM
2013 – 2014	Film Festival Reporter, Festival Internacional de Cine Álamos (FICAM), Álamos, Mexico
2013 – 2015	Columnist, PC55, Hapert, the Netherlands
2010 – 2015	Collector and letter writing, Amnesty International
2006 – 2017	Participant and volunteer, National Talent Contest Kunstbende