Brian McInnis

Assistant Professor of Social Informatics
University of Texas at Austin, School of Information
brian.mcinnis@austin.utexas.edu

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Information Science	PhD	2019
Vanderbilt University, Peabody College	MPP, Education Policy	2008
University of California at Davis	BA, Economics & History	2006

EMPLOYMENT

School of Information at UT Austin	Assistant Professor	2024 - Current
Research Center for Optimal Digital Ethics	Postdoctoral Fellow	2021 - 2024
The Design Lab at UC San Diego	Postdoctoral Fellow	2019 - 2021
Cornell e-Rulemaking Initiative	Research Assistant	2013 - 2016
RAND Corporation	Project Associate	2009 - 2013
National Center on Performance Incentives	Research Programming	2008 - 2009
University of California, Office of the President	Engagement Analyst	2006

PUBLICATIONS

Zhu, Tier, Brian McInnis, Tanya Punater, Brittany York, Camille Nebeker. (2026). “Educating Students About Digital Health Research Ethics: Curricula Review and Expert Interview Study.” Journal of Medical Internet Research.
doi:10.2196/82861

Nebeker, Camille, Jean Christophe Bélisle-Pipon, Benjamin X Collins, Ashley Cordes, Kadija Ferryman, Brian McInnis, Shannon K McWeeney, Laurie L Novak, Susannah Rose, Joseph M Yracheta, Ishan C Williams, Xiaoqian Jiang, Ellen W Clayton, Bradley A Malin. (2026). “Ethical sourcing in the context of health data supply chain management: a value sensitive design approach.” Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association (JAMIA Open).
doi: 10.1093/jamiaopen/ooaf101

McInnis, Brian, Ramona Pindus, Daniah Kareem, Daniela Vital, Eric Hekler, Camille Nebeker. (2025). “Factors Influencing Informed Consent Preferences in Digital Health Research: Survey Study of Prospective Participants.” Journal of Medical Internet Research.
doi: 10.2196/63349

McInnis, Brian, Ramona Pindus, Daniah Kareem, Julie Cakici, Daniela Vital, Eric Hekler, Camille Nebeker. (2025). “Using dataflow diagrams to support research informed consent

data management communications: Participant perspectives." Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association.
doi: 10.1093/jamia/ocaf004

McInnis, Brian, Ramona Pindus, Daniah Kareem, Camille Nebeker. (2024). "Considerations for the Design of Informed Consent in Digital Health Research: Participant Perspectives." Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics, pp. 1-11.
doi: 10.1177/15562646241290078

McInnis, Brian, Ramona Pindus, Daniah Kareem, Savannah Gamboa, Camille Nebeker. (2024). "Exploring the future of informed consent: Applying a service design approach." In Proceedings of the ACM 2024 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), pp. 1-27. doi: 10.1145/3637330

McInnis, Brian, Leah Ajmani, Steven Dow. (2022). "Engagement or Knowledge Retention: Exploring Trade-offs in Promoting Discussion at News Websites." In Proceedings of the ACM 2022 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), pp. 1-38.
doi: 10.1145/3555194

McInnis, Brian, Leah Ajmani, Lu Sun, Yiwen Hou, Ziwen Zeng, Steven Dow. (2021). "Reporting the Community Beat: Practices for Moderating Online Discussion at a News Website." In Proceedings of the ACM 2021 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), pp. 1-25. doi: 10.1145/3476074

Feldman, Molly Q and Brian McInnis. (2020). "How we write with crowds." In Proceedings of the ACM 2020 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), pp. 1-31.
doi: 10.1145/3432928

McInnis, Brian, Lu Sun, Jungwon Shin, Steven Dow. (2020). "Rare, but Valuable: Understanding Data-centered Talk inNews Website Comment Sections." In Proceedings of the ACM 2020 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), pp. 1-27.
doi: 10.1145/3415245

McInnis, Brian, Xiaotong (Tone) Xu, Steven Dow. (2018). "How Features of a Civic Design Competition Influence the Collective Understanding of a Problem." In Proceedings of the ACM 2018 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), pp. 1-25.
doi: 10.1145/3274389

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Curriculum Vitae

McInnis, Brian, Gilly Leshed, Dan Cosley. (2018). "Crafting Policy Discussion Prompts as a Task for Newcomers." In Proceedings of the ACM 2018 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), pp. 1-23. doi: 10.1145/3274390

McInnis, Brian, Dan Cosley, Eric Baumer, Gilly Leshed. (2018). "Effects of Comment Curation and Opposition on Coherence in Online Policy Discussion." In Proceedings of the ACM 2018 conference on Supporting Group Work (GROUP), pp. 347-358. doi: 10.1145/3148330.3148348

McInnis, Brian, Dan Cosley, Chaebong Nam, Gilly Leshed. (2016). "Taking a HIT: Designing around rejection, mistrust, risk, and workers' experiences in Amazon Mechanical Turk." In Proceedings of the ACM 2016 conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI), pp. 2271-2282. doi: 10.1145/2858036.2858539

McInnis, Brian, Elizabeth Murnane, Dmitry Epstein, Dan Cosley, Gilly Leshed. (2016). "One and Done: Factors affecting one-time contributors to ad-hoc online communities." In Proceedings of the ACM 2016 conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), pp. 609-623. doi: 10.1145/2818048.2820075

Mason, Richard, Brian McInnis, Sid Dalal. (2012). "Machine Learning for the Automatic Identification of Terrorist Incidents in Worldwide News Media." In Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI), IEEE International Conference, pp. 84-89. doi: 10.1109/ISI.2012.6284096

PUBLIC POLICY REPORTS

Perry, Walt, Brian McInnis, Carter Price, Susan Smith and John Hollywood. (2013). "Predictive Policing: The role of crime forecasting in law enforcement operations." RAND Corporation, Washington DC. doi: 10.7249/RR233

Johnston, Judith, Natasha Lander, Brian McInnis. (2013). "National Intelligence University's Role in Interagency Research: Recommendations from the Intelligence Community." RAND Corporation, Washington DC. Report: RR243.

Wong, Anny, Kirsten Keller, Carra Sims, Brian McInnis, Abigail Haddad, Katheryn Giglio, Nelson Lim. (2012). "The Use of Standardized Scores in Officer Career Management and Selection." RAND Corporation, Washington DC. Report: TR952.

Blickstein, Irv, Jeffrey Drezner, Brian McInnis, Megan McKernan, Charles Nemfakos, Jerry Sollinger, Carolyn Wong. (2012). "Aspects of and Insights into Analyzing Root Causes of Nunn-McCurdy Breaches." RAND Corporation, Washington DC. Report: MG1171z2.

Riposo, Jessie, Irv Blickstein, Stephanie Young, Geoffrey McGovern, Brian McInnis. (2011). "A Methodology for Implementing the Department of Defense's Current In-Sourcing Policy" RAND Corporation, Washington DC. Report: TR944.

Augustine, Catherine, Heather Schwartz, Susan Bodilly, Brian McInnis. (2011). "Making Summer Count: How summer programs can boost children's learning." RAND Corporation, Washington DC. Report: MG1120.

PERIODICALS

McInnis, Brian, Gilly Leshed. (2016). "Running user studies with crowd workers." Interactions Magazine, ACM, pp. 50-53.
doi: 10.1145/2968077

CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Sachita Nishal, Marianne Aubin Le Quéré, Brian McInnis, Bronwyn Jones, Kristen Vaccaro, Tanja Aitamurto, Mor Naaman, and Nicholas Diakopoulos. (2025). "News Futures: (Re-)Designing Socio-technical Systems for News Production and Consumption." Companion of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems.
doi: 10.1145/3706599.3706733

McInnis, Brian, Alissa Centivany, Juho Kim, Marta Poblet, Karen Levy, Gilly Leshed. (2017). "Crowdsourcing law and policy: A design-thinking approach to Crowd-Civic-Systems." Companion of the 2017 ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing (CSCW), pp. 355-361.
doi: 10.1145/3022198.3022656

CONFERENCE POSTERS

Jaiswal, Sneha, Mariah Stember, Bohbin Shim, Mya Berretta, Camille Nebeker, Brian McInnis. (2023, April). Hashtag Health: An Analysis of Gut Health Information Communication and Self-Representation on Instagram. Poster presented at the 2023 Annual UCSD Public Health Research Day, La Jolla, CA.

Kareem, Daniah, Brian McInnis, Ramona Pindus, Maryam Gholami, Camille Nebeker. (2022,

March). Making informed consent for biomedical research meaningful to participants: A service design approach. Poster presented at the 2022 Annual UCSD Public Health Research Day, La Jolla, CA.

Kunowski, Rachel, Aidan Yong, Camille Nebeker, Brian McInnis. (2022, March). Understanding the design space for the return of digital mental health research data. Poster presented at the 2022 Annual UCSD Public Health Research Day, La Jolla, CA.

Savannah Gamboa, Ariadne Nichol, Brian McInnis, Camille Nebeker. (2022, March). Factors influencing medication adherence in patients with glaucoma. Poster presented at the 2022 Annual UCSD Public Health Research Day, La Jolla, CA.

Zhu, Summer, Sneha Jaiswal, Brian McInnis, Camille Nebeker. (2022, May). How Are the Ethical, Legal and Social Implications Socialized in the Human-Computer Interaction Educational Pipeline? Poster presented at the Annual UCSD Public Health Research Day, La Jolla, CA.

TEACHING

Instructor. (2025-2026). "Civic Engagement and Technology."
Instructor. (2024-2026). "Research Methods in Informatics."

Co-instructor with Prof. Camille Nebeker. (Spring, 2022). "Ethics in Public Health Research."
Responsibilities: Developed and facilitated training on resilience in research environments.

TA with Prof. Camille Nebeker. (Spring, 2021). "Ethics in Public Health Research."
Responsibilities: Synthesized student reports to identify shared ethical principles.

TA with Prof. Kyle Harms. (Fall, 2018). "Introduction to Web Design."
Responsibilities: Coached 12 undergrad teaching assistants to teach six sections (120 students).

TA with Prof. Steven Jackson. (Spring, 2017). "Information Ethics, Law and Policy."
Responsibilities: Developed lectures and led grading for two sections (59 students).

TA with Prof. Solon Barocas. (Fall, 2017). "Ethics and Policy in Data Science."
Responsibilities: Writing coach and grading support for a new course.

Co-instructed with Prof. Gilly Leshed. (Fall, 2016). "MPS Team Projects."
Responsibilities: Developed lectures and helped student teams to meet their project goals.

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Curriculum Vitae

INVITED TALKS

"Responsibility in designing ethical research"
(2022). Design and Sociotechnical Systems, U.C. San Diego (Profs. Eikey & Heckler)

"Designing for Deliberativeness in Online Discussion Systems."
(2020). Introduction to Cognitive Science, U.C. San Diego (Prof. Mary Boyle)

"Ethics and Crowd Work."
(2019). Crowdsourcing, Cornell University (Prof. Molly Q Feldman)
(2017 & 2018). Crowdsourcing, Cornell University (Prof. Haym Hirsh)

"Crowdsourcing and Teams."
(2015 & 2016). Teams and Technology, Cornell University (Prof. Malte Jung)

"UX Design with Crowds."
(2015). Human-Computer Interaction, Cornell University (Prof. Gilly Leshed)

"Methods to make the Complexity in Non-Major Weapons Programs more Transparent."
(2012). Western Economics Association Conference, San Francisco, California.

AWARDS

2021	CSCW "Impact Recognition" for "Reporting the Community Beat"
2017	Teaching Award, Cornell University, Information Science
2016	Data Science for Social Good Fellowship, University of Chicago
2013-2014	Sage Fellowship, Cornell University
2010	RAND Silver Award for Research: "Designing the Next Australian Submarine"
2005	U.C. Davis Chancellor's Award for Diversity and Community Achievement
2005	151 Congressional Record (E729) Innovative Voting Project at U.C. Davis
2005	California State Assembly Resolution: Innovating Voting Project at U.C. Davis
2005	University of California Student Advocate of the Year
2004	Donald A. Strauss Fellowship [$10,000 to develop "get out the vote" technology]

SERVICE

Government

2005 - 2006	California State Preschool through Postsecondary (P-16) Council on Education

UC San Diego

2021 - 2023	Cultivating Culture Working Group (CCWG)
2022	Annual Undergraduate Research Conference, Session Moderator
2017 & 2020	Organizing Committee, Design for San Diego (D4SD)

2019 Coordinator, Design Lab Research Seminar

Cornell University

2016 - 2018 Provost's Working Group on Public and Global Activities
2014 - 2015 Information Science Representative, Graduate and Professional Student Assoc.
2014 Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) Workshop "DIY: Designing Social Networks"

ACM Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW)

2026 Senior Program Committee (SPC)
2023 Co-chair, Special Interest Group (SIG) Committee
2021 - 2022 Awards Committee
2020 - 2023 Associate Chair, Program Committee
2016 - 2020 Reviewer
2016 - 2018 Student Volunteer

AAAI Human Computation and Crowdsourcing (AAAI HCOMP)

2021 - 2024 Program Committee

ACM Human Factors in Computing Systems (SIG CHI)

2021 - 2022 Late-Breaking Work Program Committee
2016 - 2020 Reviewer
2016 Student Volunteer

ACM Web Science Conference (WebSci)

2025 Senior Program Committee (SPC)

SPONSORED RESEARCH ACTIVITY

R01CA244777, National Institutes of Health, Eric Hekler (PI) 2021/09/01-2024/08/01
Title: SMH:INT COT Bioethics Supplement
Role: Postdoctoral Fellow
This study involves co-designing a meaningful informed consent prototype with participants to produce and test a digital health consent blueprint to increase capacity for understanding the function of algorithms used in behavioral interventions.

R34DA050341, National Institutes of Health, Christina Chambers (PI) 2021/09/01-2024/08/01
Title: 4/6 Planning for the Healthy Early Development Study
Role: Postdoctoral Fellow
Our supplement work will focus on: 1- developing capacity within our consortium to evaluate the

types of digital health technologies that are proposed for use with our prospective participants; and 2- identifying barriers and facilitators to truly informed consent by engaging with prospective participants to learn how to communicate complex concepts and, subsequently increase data and technology literacy.

SMA- SBE 2124975, National Science Foundation, Camille Nebeker (PI) 2021/09/01-2024/08/01
Title: Ethical and Responsible Research in the Design of Sociotechnical Systems
Role: Postdoctoral Fellow
In this project, the research team will facilitate the development of ethical and responsible research (ER2) instructional prototypes designed to prompt dialogue about ER2 practices in social and computing (sociotechnical) systems for health research. The ER2 instructional prototypes will involve a three-phased process that includes: (1) an assessment of existing ER2 training and practices in academic programs that provide training in human computer interaction (HCI) (2) interviews with health researchers who use/study/develop sociotechnical systems, and (3) conducting community co-design workshops.

CHS 2009003, National Science Foundation, Steven Dow (PI) 2020/09/01-2021/09/01
Title: CHS: Small: Scaffolding Data-Centered Interactions in Online Civic Discussions
Role: Postdoctoral Fellow
This project seeks to increase the level of evidence-based discussion at news websites by creating scaffolding that supports data-literate contributions and by adopting concepts from crowdsourcing such as micro-task workflows, incentives, and quality control. The research vision is twofold: (1) to help individuals form a deeper understanding of a civic issue so that their contributions are more valuable, and (2) to layer these contributions back into the original news article so that the narrative and data presentation continually improve for people just entering the discussion. Communities everywhere grapple with civic issues, such as housing, mobility, and climate change.

HCC 1314778, National Science Foundation, Claire Cardie (PI) 2013/09/15-2017/08/31
Title: HCC: Large: Social-Computational Support of Civic Engagement in Public Policymaking
Role: Research Assistant
The overarching goals of this work are to understand and to provide socio-computational support for improving the entire cycle of technology-enabled civic engagement: (1) recruitment of people with a stake in the issues; (2) deliberative discussion in which they learn about the policy issues, engage with each other, voice questions and recount experiences; and (3) consensus building in which participants move toward collaborative content-creation, summarization of the knowledge that has emerged in discussion and the development of agreement around key points.