

Vera Khovanskaya

Research Interests

I study how values and social implications are built into technology through technical decision-making, and develop methods to identify and alter underlying values in technology.

Education

Cornell University

PhD program in Information Science (2014-present)

Bachelor of Arts in Information Science, *summa cum laude*, architecture minor (2009-2013)

Research Experience

Visiting Researcher, University of California, Irvine

Speculative design work in parallel with ethnographic research; studying families of professionals and how they use IT devices to stay connected and how it shapes their sense of self and work, working with Melissa Mazmanian and Phoebe Sengers, (Jan 2014-May 2014)

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Cornell Interaction Design Lab, Cornell University

Independent study honors thesis in personal informatics and critical design; other research experience at the lab: design lead on several mobile health projects, designed and deployed several cultural probes, coauthored lab publications, working with Eric Baumer and Geri Gay (May 2010-June 2013)

Publications

Peer Reviewed

Khovanskaya, V., Bezaitis, M., & Sengers, P. (2016) The Case of the Strangerationist: Re-interpreting Critical Technical Practice. In *Proceedings of the 2016 conference on Designing Interactive Systems* (pp. 134-145) **honorable mention top 5% of all submissions**

Vertesi, J., Kaye, J., Jarosewski, S. N., Khovanskaya, V. D., & Song, J. (2016). Data Narratives: uncovering tensions in personal data management. In *Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing* (pp. 478-490). ACM.

Khovanskaya, V., Baumer, E. P., & Sengers, P. (2015). Double Binds and Double Blinds: Evaluation Tactics in Critically Oriented HCI. *Aarhus Series on Human Centered Computing*, 1(1), 12.

Baumer, E.P.S., Baumer, E. P., Khovanskaya, V., Matthews, M., Reynolds, L., Schwanda Sosik, V., & Gay, G. (2014, June). Reviewing reflection: on the use of reflection in interactive system design. In *Proceedings of the 2014 conference on Designing Interactive Systems* (pp. 93-102). ACM.

Baumer, E. P., Khovanskaya, V., Adams, P., Pollak, J. P., Volda, S., & Gay, G. (2013). Designing for engaging experiences in mobile social-health support systems. *IEEE Pervasive Computing*, (3), 32-39.

Khovanskaya, V., Baumer, E. P., Cosley, D., Volda, S., & Gay, G. (2013, April). Everybody knows what you're doing: a critical design approach to personal informatics. In *Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 3403-3412). ACM.

Baumer, E. P., Adams, P., Khovanskaya, V. D., Liao, T. C., Smith, M. E., Schwanda Sosik, V., & Williams, K. (2013, April). Limiting, leaving, and (re) lapsing: an exploration of facebook non-use practices and experiences. In *Proceedings of the SIGCHI conference on human factors in computing systems* (pp. 3257-3266). ACM.

Lightly Peer Reviewed

Khovanskaya, V. "The Personal Relationship Manager: Lost Labors of Critical Technical Research"

Aarhus 2015 Workshop on Shifting Borderlands of Technoscience.
Baumer, E.P.S., Halpern, M., Khovanskaya, V., Gay, G. Probing the Market: Using Cultural Probes to Study Sustainable Food Practices at a Farmers' Market in Eat, Cook, Grow: Mixing Human-Computer Interactions with Human-Food Interactions, Choi, J.H., Foth, M. (eds.), MIT-Press 2014 (book chapter).
Khovanskaya, V., Adams, P., Baumer, E.P.S., Volda, S., Gay, G. "The value of a critical approach to personal health informatics." CHI Workshop, 2013.
Baumer, E.P.S., Halpern, M., Khovanskaya, V., Gay, G. "The Practice of Everyday Sustainability: the View from a Farmers' Market." CHI Workshop, 2010.

Work Experience

Intern Scientist at Yahoo! Labs, Yahoo! Inc.

Collecting and analyzing narrative accounts, maps, and conceptualizations of personal data (May-September 2014)

Graduate Technical Intern in Social Science at Intel Labs, Intel Corporation

Worked on a situated and expressive content-based social matching tool with Maria Bezaitis (June-September 2013.)

User Experience Design Intern, Google Inc.

Designed a personal analytics feature for an Android product with Owen Otto (June-Aug 2011.)

GP-11850-00-US Patent Displaying Auto-Generated Facts About a Music Library, 2013

GP-11850-00-US-CON1 Patent Displaying Auto-Generated Facts About a Music Library, 2013 (filed)

Teaching and Course Design

Teaching assistant for Designing Technologies for Social Impact (Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2016)

Teaching assistant for Human Computer Interaction Design (Fall 2012)

Teaching assistant for Introduction to Rapid Prototyping and Physical Computing (Spring 2012)

Teaching assistant for Introduction to Media Programming (Fall 2011)

Grants and Awards

Outstanding Teaching Award, Information Science, Cornell University, 2016

NSF-GRFP Honorable Mention, 2016

Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher, Computing Research Association (CRA), 2013

Hunter R. Rawlings III Presidential Research Scholar, Cornell University, 2011-2013

US-UK Fulbright Grant, Recommended Candidate, 2013

Talks

Moscow School of Higher Economics, guest lectures for first year students (November 18 & 20, 2013)

Cornell University, Breakfast Series speaker (April 17, 2013)

Service

Peer Reviewer, ACM-DIS 2016, ACM-CHI 2016, ACM-CHI 2015, ACM-DIS 2014, ACM-CHI 2014

Student Volunteer, ACM-DIS 2014, ACM-CHI 2013

Press Coverage

Morozov, Evgeny. "Machines of Laughter and Forgetting." *New York Times* 31 Mar. 2013, New York ed., Op-ed sec.: SR21. Print. ([Web](#))