

Kate Tyrol
Curriculum Vitae
April 2024

Department of Science and Technology Studies
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
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EDUCATION:

- 2018 Ph.D., Science and Technology Studies
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- 2014 M.S., Cognitive Science
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- 2010 B.S., Computer Science, *magna cum laude*
University of Southern Maine

HONORS:

- 2016–18 RPI Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Fellow
- 2012–13 Rensselaer Graduate Fellow

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

Feminist STS; History of Medicine; Biomedicalization; Sociocultural Construction of Fat; Gender, Sexuality, and Identity Studies; Anthropology of Health and Healthcare; Cultures of Behavioral Health; Games Studies; Virtual Environments; Interactive Narrative

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS:

- 2023–24 Lecturer, Department of Science and Technology Studies
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- 2018–23 Lecturer, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
New Jersey Institute of Technology
- 2022–23 Coordinator, Cyberpsychology Program
New Jersey Institute of Technology
- 2018–20 Coordinator, Cyberpsychology Concentration in STS
New Jersey Institute of Technology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Advising:

- 2024 Supervised Undergraduate research project: “Beauty Ideals and Body

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- Modifications: An Auto-ethnography Study of the Eurocentric Beauty Dilemmas Encountered by Middle-Class Eastern Asian Women in the U.S.” Shuyao Nicole Zhong
- 2023 Supervised Undergraduate research project: “Culturally Situating Apple’s Siri’s Usability” Sara Khela
- 2022 Supervised Undergraduate research project: “A Critique of NJIT’s Game Development Program” Jay Wypasek
- 2018–19 Supervised Undergraduate thesis: “What Are the Social-Factors Behind Choosing a Plant-Based Diet?” Kiara Strain-Goode
- 2017–18 Supervised Undergraduate research project: “Developing A Holistic Wellness Product” Emma Feroce

Courses Designed and Taught:

- 2024 Medicine, Culture & Society
- 2023 Local History
- 2021–22 Video Game Writing and Story Development
- 2020–24 Intro to Sociology
- 2019–24 Artificial Intelligence and the Human Mind
- 2019–23 General Psychology
- 2019–21 Video Game Psychology
- 2019–20 Fundamentals of Research in STS (quantitative methods)
- 2018–22 Cyberpsychology
- 2018–21 Understanding Technological Society

Teaching Assistantships:

- 2016 IT & Society
- 2015 Intro to Sociology
- 2014 Learning
- 2013–14 General Psychology
Experimental Methods and Statistics
- 2013 Intro to Sports Psychology

INVITED TALKS:

- 2021 “Ethnographies of Fatness in the Medical Setting”, Guest Lecture in

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- Health, Human Rights, and Advocacy (graduate course), Icahn School of Medicine at Mt. Sinai, New York, NY
- 2019 "Queer Politics of the Body", Guest Lecture in Gender Studies (undergraduate course), RPI Science and Technology Studies Department, Troy, NY
- 2017 "Constructions of the Flawed Will: Explanations for Alcohol Use After Weight-Loss Surgery", Five Colleges Women's Studies Research Center, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA
- "Re-thinking Fat", Guest Lecture in Law, Medicine, and Society (undergraduate course), Hampshire College, Amherst, MA
- 2015 "A Newcomer's Perspective on the Archives", Phelan Lecture Series, Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy, NY

INSTITUTIONAL TALKS:

- 2021 "QAnon and Its Relation to The Contemporary Classroom", Humanities Department Colloquium, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Newark, NJ
- 2018 "Resisting Health Discourses", Guest Lecture in Gender Studies (undergraduate course), RPI Science and Technology Studies Department, Troy, NY
- 2017 "Alcohol and the Willful Self: WLS and Its Constructions of Self Control" RPI Science and Technology Studies Colloquium, Troy, NY
- 2016 "Queer Politics of the Body", Guest Lecture in Film & Society (undergraduate course), RPI Science and Technology Studies Department, Troy, NY
- "Argon4 Master Class", Guest Lecture in Digital Humanities (undergraduate course), RPI Communication & Media Department, Troy, NY
- "Intro to Statistics", Guest Lecture in Research Methods I (undergraduate course), RPI Science and Technology Studies Department, Troy, NY
- 2014 "An Empirical Investigation of Factors that Contribute to Perceptions of Fatness in the U.S." at the Issues in Cognitive Science Lecture Series, RPI, Troy, NY

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- 2021 "The Collaborative, Interactive Narrative of QAnon" (panelist) on panel "End Matter: Interactive Fiction and a New Linguistic Consciousness" (organizer) at the Electronic Literature Organization annual meeting (virtual)
- 2020 "Knowing Patients: Discourses of Knowledge in the Post-Weight-Loss-

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- Surgery Community” at the meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science (virtual)
- 2019 “Constructions of the Will in the Biomedical Arena” at the meeting of the National Women’s Studies Association, San Francisco, CA
- 2017 “Altering Risk and Exposure: Expanding the Lay and Expert Understandings of Susceptibility to Food and Alcohol Post-Weight-Loss-Surgery” at the meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA
- “Multiplicities in Experiences of Weight and Weight Loss Surgery” at the Capital District Feminist Studies Conference, Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, Albany, NY
- 2016 “Teaching Mobile Augmented Reality Design and History through Community-University Collaboration” (with co-presenters Rebecca Rouse and Kathy Sheehan) at the Engage for Change Conference, Siena College, Albany, NY
- 2015 “Technology Adoption Promotion as a Tool for Ideological Reproduction” at the Northeast STS Graduate Student Conference, MIT, Cambridge, MA
- 2010 “A Cognitive Science Model of Playing Ms. Pac-Man” at the 30th Soar Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- 2015 Research Assistant, Research Data Alliance
Evaluated communication needs of the organization and produced an informational video designed to introduce the group and its function to a general audience.
- 2014–15 Research Assistant, Communication and Media Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Performed technical development of augmented reality and web projects that make facets of historical experience available in interactive ways to modern day end users
- 2012–13 Research Assistant, Social Interaction Lab, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Developed virtual and game environments using Unity 3D
Programmed speech recognition, chat, and conversational agent tools for use in those and other similar environments
Supervised undergraduate programmers and artists
General lab management

RESEARCH PROJECTS:

- 2021–22 *QAnon as Interactive Narrative and Collaborative Competition*

A digital investigation into the loose, primarily online conspiracy theory and collective of adherents to said theory that has frequently been metaphorically described as a game that proposes that QAnon is most accurately described as a collaborative interactive narrative and that viewing QAnon with a blended socio-literary perspective allows for the development of a more accurate, nuanced, and actionable picture of the movement.

2016–18 *The Fat Subject in Transition* (dissertation research project)

Utilizing archival research, participant observation, and ethnographic interview, I investigate how weight loss surgery affects fat subjectivity, the neoliberal discourse of health as an individual responsibility, the medicalization and biomedicalization of fat, and phenomenological experiences of embodiment, will, eating, and appetite.

2015–16 *Below Stairs*

Developed an augmented reality app on two different platforms for the Rensselaer Country Historical Society's 19th century mansion museum that enables user to interact with (view, speak to, and hear) fictionalized historical figures that might have worked and lived in the home in the 1850s.

2015 *RDA Informational Video*

Produced promotional video (including research, writing, visual design, animation, and video editing) about the mission and operations of the Research Data Alliance.

Towards an Ethnographic Understanding of Mothers' Bodies

Performed ethnographic interviews with women who had previously had weight loss surgery and were raising children to understand how they perceive themselves before, during after the surgery and/or weight loss and how those processes impacted their understanding of themselves as mothers.

2014 *Fairlandia*

Developed prototype of an augmented reality app for use at the site of the 1964 World's Fair.

App successfully pilot tested on site by undergraduate students.

Began development of a more advanced version of the app with which to elicit additional funding for expansion of the project.

Digital Blackfriars

Developed all web content for a cross-disciplinary, cross-institutional project that presents both scholars and a general audience with tools for understanding a selection of circa 17th century plays created for the Blackfriars theatre as works of site-specific theatre.

Scouting, Belonging and Identifying at PAX East

As an initial exploration into both performativity and ethnographic participant-observation and in response to a troubling divide in the geek community around who is oppressed and oppressor, I designed and created a cosplay, then performed it at the PAX East gaming convention in Boston, Massachusetts to observe how attendees organize themselves around social justice issues and alternative & mainstream identities and how participation in the cosplay aspect of the convention increases, decreases, or alters experiences of enculturation and acceptance.

2013–14 *An Empirical Investigation of Factors that Contribute to Perceptions of Fatness*

While looking at the migration of fat bodies from a private concern to a public one, the use and effects of the concepts of self-control, shame and knowledge in the discourse on the subject, what can and cannot be said about fatness in various contexts, and the effects of the marginalization of fat people on other marginalized groups, this work attempts to empirically determine what factors an individual takes into account when classifying a person as fat or not fat.

2012 *A Virtual Space for Children to Meet and Practice Chinese*

Developed an immersive virtual environment with integrated voice chat for children working from different locations to interact and solve puzzles in order to practice foreign language skills.

2010 *A Cognitive Science Model of Playing Ms. Pac-Man*

Created a Soar based agent that plays Ms. Pac-Man
Explored alternative strategies for decision making

2009 *An Investigation Into Part of Speech Taggers*

As preparation to attempt to improve word completion systems (such as iPhone's auto-correct feature) by utilizing parts of speech to increase accuracy of suggested words, compared different combinations of tools (taggers, tagsets, and corpora) to find the optimal toolset for use on that project.

SERVICE:

2023–24 *Undergraduate Program Committee*

Prepared reports to the university-wide curriculum review process to justify program changes (including the addition of majors, double majors, and new courses to support the previous) by gathering and organizing data in existing catalogs and syllabi.

2021–22 *Cyberpsychology Program Committee*

Served on a six-person committee of researchers and instructors in Cyberpsychology to perform various administrative tasks relating to the program, including overseeing existing curricula and developing new graduate curricula for the program.

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- 2019–21 *LEC Representative to the Teaching and Learning Technology Committee*
Served as liaison between the lecturer / adjunct faculty body of the university and the committee tasked with managing and coordinating instructional technology.
- 2019–20 *STS: Cyberpsychology Program Advisor and Coordinator*
- 2018–19 *STS: Cyberpsychology Program Development*
- 2015–16 *STS Graduate Representative*
Served on a three-person committee to facilitate the organizational needs of the graduate student body of the STS department and to liaise between the STS faculty and graduate students
- 2013–14 *HASS Graduate Colloquium Steering Committee*
Served on a committee of graduate students from each department of the school of humanities, arts, and social sciences to plan a new school-wide colloquium and solicit student recommendations for panel members
- 2012–13 *Unlearn Event Planning Committee*
With a team of 7 other graduate students, designed and staged a panel of student and faculty speakers presenting to all members of the college on the subject of formative moments in their education.

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

- 2009–12 *Programmer Analyst*, Maine MSO, Portland, Maine
Designed reports and utilities using .NET, SQL, and SSRS to support medical practices in their efforts to improve and quantify patient outcomes and obtain government funding for doing so
- 2007–09 *Database Analyst*, Strategic Diagnostics, Newark, Delaware
Developed and supported the in-house MS Access application and SQL databases and provided basic tech support to employees
- 2004–07 *Application Analyst*, Spurwink Services, Portland, Maine
Implemented and maintained a proprietary electronic health record (EHR); supervised training of all clinical staff on the EHR
- 2002–04 *IS Administrator*, Crossroads For Women, Portland, Maine
Developed and maintained an in-house patient records application and provided basic network admin services; supported and trained employees on basic computer use