

# MICHAEL A. DEVITO

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D., Media, Technology, and Society**, Northwestern University (Expected 2020)  
Interdisciplinary doctorate in Communication and Human/Computer Interaction  
Graduate Specialization: Cognitive Science  
Advisor: Jeremy Birnholtz

**M.A., Media and Public Affairs**, George Washington University (2015)  
Thesis: Facebook Family Values: A News Feed Hierarchy of Needs  
Committee: Kerric Harvey, David Karpf, Emily Thorson

**B.A., Journalism and Mass Communication**, George Washington University (2013)

## PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES & CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

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**DeVito, M.A.**, Birnholtz, J., Hancock, J.T., French, M., and Liu, S. (2018) How People Form Folk Theories of Social Media Feeds and What It Means for How We Study Self-Presentation. *Proceedings of the Annual ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, in press.

**DeVito, M.A.**, Gergle, D., and Birnholtz, J. (2017) "Algorithms ruin everything": #RIPTwitter, Folk Theories, and Resistance to Algorithmic Change. *Proceedings of the Annual ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, 3163-3174.

**DeVito, M.A.**, Birnholtz, J., and Hancock, J. (2017) Platforms, People, and Perception: Using Affordances to Understand Self-Presentation on Social Media. *Proceedings of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing*, 740-754.

**DeVito, M.A.** (2017) From Editors to Algorithms: A Values-Based Approach to Understanding Story Selection in Facebook's News Feed. *Digital Journalism*, 5(6), 753-773.

## NON-ARCHIVAL CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PAPERS

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**DeVito, M.A.** (2017, May) Supporting Algorithmic Literacy with User Curiosity-Prompting Design. Paper presented at the Designing for Curiosity workshop, part of the Annual ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems, Denver, CO.

**DeVito, M.A.** (2017, February) Implications for Theory: Creating a Virtuous, Multidisciplinary Cycle. Paper presented at the Theory Transfers workshop, part of the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing, Portland, OR.

**DeVito, M.A.** (2016, April). I Don't Want To See This: Selective Avoidance, Friend Links, and Political Filter Bubble Formation on Facebook. Paper presented at the 74<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

**DeVito, M.A.** (2015, June). The Sentimental Robot: Soldiers, Metal Psychopaths and Artificial Intelligence. Paper presented at the annual conference of the International Association for Computing & Philosophy, Newark, DE.

**DeVito, M.A.** (2015, April). Let Me Google That For You: Truth, Thought And Trust In The Age of Search Engines. Paper presented at the 60<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the Broadcast Education Association, Las Vegas, NV.

## HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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### **Northwestern University**

Sexualities Project at Northwestern Summer Research Grant (2017)

Cognitive Science Travel Grant recipient (2017)

Graduate Fellowship recipient (2015 – present)

Summer Research Support recipient (2015)

### **George Washington University**

Graduate Teaching Assistantship recipient (2013 – 2015)

School of Media and Public Affairs Thesis Research Grant recipient (2015)

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Teaching Credential**, The George Washington University, 2013

GPAC Graduate Teaching Assistant Certification

Instructor, Northwestern University, 2018

**Human/Algorithm Interaction**, upper-level undergraduates

Designed new course for undergraduate writing requirement focusing on algorithm studies in HCI and putting together one's first research proposal

Instructor, Northwestern University, 2016-2017

**Computing Everywhere**, senior-level undergraduates

Designed and co-taught "Algorithms Everywhere" and "Text Wrangling the Election: Computational Approaches to Classical Communication Studies" units

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2016-2017

**Communication and Technology**, undergraduates

Lectured on research, led activities, moderated discussion, graded assessments

Instructor, The George Washington University, 2014  
**Sustainability Reporting**, senior-level undergraduates  
Designed curriculum and assessments, co-taught class, graded all assessments

Teaching Assistant, The George Washington University, 2013  
**Multimedia Reporting to Inform and Engage**, senior-level undergraduates  
Designed curriculum and assessments, taught 1/3 of class, graded all assessments

Teaching Assistant, The George Washington University, 2013  
**Media in A Free Society**, large-format introductory undergraduate  
Gave weekly lectures, led weekly discussion, designed and graded all assessments

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Graduate Researcher**, Northwestern University Social Media Lab, 2015 – present  
Led research projects on self-presentation and folk theories in algorithmically-driven social media platforms; supervised undergraduate research staff

**Graduate Research Assistant**, The George Washington University, 2014  
Cross-disciplinary research for forthcoming book on television's writing culture for Patricia Phalen

## SERVICE

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**Reviewing:** CHI (2017\*, 2018), CSCW (2018), Digital Journalism (2017)  
*\*Recognized for excellent reviewing*

General Chair and Program Co-Chair, InfoSocial Graduate Research Conference, 2016-2017

Outside Engagement Chair, Graduate Student Steering Committee, 2016-2017

Department Representative, Graduate Leadership & Advocacy Council, 2015-2016

## MEMBERSHIPS

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### Current

Association for Computing Machinery  
ACM Special Interest Group on Computer-Human Interaction (SIGCHI)

### Previous

Midwest Political Science Association (2016)  
Broadcast Education Association (2015)  
International Association for Computing & Philosophy (2015)

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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### **Managing Editor**, Planet Forward, 2012-2015

Supervise and edit all content for university-based sustainability communication initiative, run education and internship programs, mentor undergraduate and graduate interns, supervise student staff, supervise all website and social media operations, execute content plans for major Washington, DC events, contribute to high-level project planning and strategy

### **Web Producer**, Face The Facts USA, 2012-2013

Administer all website and social media operations, write headline and promotional copy, produce fact-based videos, assist in production of televised events