

# Stephen Yang

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## Education

2022

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY, USA

B.S. Communication & Information Science (double major)

*Summa Cum Laude with Distinctions in Research*

Honors Thesis: "Dialectics of Secrecy, Authentication, and Self-Making: Mobile Media

Tactics in Underground Electronic/Dance Music Scenes" (Advisor: Dr. Lee Humphreys)

## Research Interest

Human-Computer Interaction; Social Computing; Participatory AI; Mobile Social Media;

Digital Civics; Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT)

## Publications

*Refereed Articles and Conference Proceedings*

[Under Review] Fernando Delgado, **Stephen Yang**, Michael Madaio, and Qian Yang. The Participatory Turn in AI Design: Theoretical Foundations, Current Practices, and Open Questions.

**Stephen Yang**. Secrecy as Joy: Surveillance Tactics in Underground Electronic/Dance Music Scenes.

**Stephen Yang**. Placemaking of the Underground: Mobile Media on the Margins.

*Refereed Workshop and Conference Presentations*

2022

**Stephen Yang**. Dialectics of Secrecy, Authentication, and Self-Making: Mobile Media Tactics in Underground Electronic/Dance Music Scenes. Accepted to the 23rd annual meeting of the Association of Internet Researchers. Dublin, Ireland. November 2-5.

Emily La & **Stephen Yang**. The Role of Hashtags and Mobile Media in Shaping Discourse During the #IChooseFish Environmental Movement. Presented for the 72nd annual meeting of the International Communication Association. Paris, France. May 26-30.

**Stephen Yang**. Examining Proxies for Stakeholder Participation in AI Design: Participating Via Stand-ins, Advocates, and Algorithmic Proxies. Presented at the Proxies, Warm-ups, and Stand-ins Virtual Symposium. Virtual. April 27.

2021 Fernando Delgado, **Stephen Yang**, Michael Madaio, and Qian Yang.  
Stakeholder Participation in AI: Beyond “Add Diverse Stake-holders and Stir”.  
Presented at the Human-Centered AI Workshop at NeurIPS 2021. Virtual. December 13.

**Stephen Yang**. Surveillance Culture and Socio-Technical Practices in Taipei’s  
Underground Music Scenes. Presented at the Spring Symposium of Cornell  
Undergraduate Research Board. Cornell University. Ithaca, New York.

*Working Papers*

2020 Ranjit Singh, Amy Eng, Deanna Gonzales, Ciara Lee, Emma Li, Casady McGovern,  
Annika Pinch, Sterling Williams-Ceci, Kyra Wisniewski, **Stephen Yang**, and Malte Ziewitz.  
(2020). Scoring Struggles: Everyday Experiences of Web Search Engines. Working Paper  
#1, August. Ithaca, NY: Digital Due Process Clinic. [\[preprint\]](#)

*Selected Popular Press Writing*

2021 **Stephen Yang**. (November 22, 2021). Yassification: Contestation of the Extremes and the  
Binaries. *Cornell Daily Sun*. [\[link\]](#)

**Stephen Yang**. (October 4, 2021). The Self-Branding of the Cool Kids. *Cornell Daily Sun*.  
[\[link\]](#)

**Stephen Yang**. (May 5, 2021). The Romance of Substack and the Illusion of Meritocracy.  
*Cornell Daily Sun*. [\[link\]](#)

**Stephen Yang**. (March 11, 2021). Shitposting on Twitter as Subculture Youth Sociality?.  
*Cornell Daily Sun*. [\[link\]](#)

**Stephen Yang**. (February 24, 2021). How to Counter-Culture in the Age of Surveillance?.  
*Cornell Daily Sun*. [\[link\]](#)

2020 **Stephen Yang**. (November 10, 2020). On Blasting Music in Public. *Cornell Daily Sun*.  
[\[link\]](#)

**Stephen Yang**. (October, 27, 2020). Who Owns Whose Music in the Age of Streaming?.  
*Cornell Daily Sun*. [\[link\]](#)

**Stephen Yang**. (October, 14, 2020). Subtitles Are So Political. *Cornell Daily Sun*. [\[link\]](#)

**Stephen Yang**. (September 29, 2020). We Pause, Skip and Rewind. So What??. *Cornell  
Daily Sun*. [\[link\]](#)

## **Honors & Awards**

2022 Degree Marshal, Cornell University

- Represented the Cornell Ann S. Bowers College of Computing and Information Science at Cornell University's 154th commencement ceremony.

#### **Merrill Presidential Scholar, Cornell University**

- Selected by deans as the top 1% of the graduating class based on scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, and desire to positively impact the world.

2021

#### **Chester Freeman Award, Cornell University**

- \$1300 merit scholarship to 1 Communication junior each year that best exhibits the interdisciplinary character of the Department of Communication at Cornell University.

#### **Michael W. Berns Undergraduate Research Award, Cornell University**

- \$500 research grant in support of honors thesis.

#### **Jane E. Brody Undergraduate Research Award, Cornell University**

- \$500 research grant in support of honors thesis.

2020

#### **Hunter R. Rawlings III Cornell Presidential Research Scholar, Cornell University**

- \$5,000 research grant in support of honors thesis.

## **Research Experience**

2022 summer

#### **Microsoft Research, Social Media Collective, Boston, MA, USA**

Research Intern (PI: Nancy Baym, Tarleton Gillespie, Mary Gray)

2021 - 2022

#### **Designing AI Lab, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, USA**

Research Assistant (PI: Qian Yang)

##### *"Participation in the Design of AI"*

- Interviewed 13 AI researchers to map out how these practitioners implement and conceptualize the notion of "participation" in their design practices.
- Conducted scoping review (N=59) of past projects of participatory AI published in academic journals/conferences.
- Proposed design recommendations to inform future AI designers that seek to engage stakeholders in the design process.

##### *"Literature Use in Clinical Decision-Support"*

- Interviewed 12 care providers to underpin how they use biomedical literature as evidence at point-of-care.

- Synthesized design opportunities for the summarization and visualization of biomedical literature in clinical decision-support systems based on interview data.

*“Chatbot as Proxy of Participation in Architecture Design”*

- *Planned and facilitated research activities (e.g., community meetings, co-design workshops) for a participatory architecture design project in Tzahar, Israel.*

**2020 - 2021      Digital Due Process Clinic,** Research Assistant (PI: Dr. Malte Ziewitz)

*“Scoring Struggles: Everyday Experiences with Web Search Engines”*

- Coded and analyzed qualitative interviews with formerly incarcerated people, small business owners, and independent politicians to underpin their experience with web search engines. Synthesize findings in narrative-driven vignettes.

*“The Everyday Ecologies of Scoring: An Exploratory Map”*

- Compiled a dataset of 160 scoring systems people would encounter in their everyday life based on iterative searches on LexisNexis and Google Search.

**2019 - 2020      Mobile Technology Study Group,** Research Assistant (PI: Dr. Lee Humphreys)

*“The Self-Branding of AT&T, 1990-2020”*

- Conducted textual analysis of AT&T’s promotional materials from 1950 to 2020 to underpin how the company rebrands itself from a telecommunication company to an information company, and then from an information company to an entertainment company.

## **Professional Experience**

**2020 summer      Wunderman Thompson,** Digital Strategy Intern Taipei, Taiwan

- Formulated digital strategies for clients in areas from social media marketing, search engine optimization (SEO), web design, experience design, to user experience (UX). Liaised with designers, technologists, researchers to translate the clients’ needs and goals into design solutions.

**2019 summer      Tacit PR,** Public Relations Intern Taipei, Taiwan

- Pitched, edited, distributed media pitches, press releases, and social media materials for clients. Monitored and evaluated media coverages of clients, competitors, and industry trends through Cision.

## Teaching Experience

**2020- 2022** Teaching Assistant, Cornell University

COMM 1300: Visual Communication (Spring 2020)

COMM 2820: Research Methods in Communication Studies (Fall 2020)

COMM 3200: New Media and Society (Spring 2021)

INFO 1260: Choices and Consequences in Computing (Spring 2021)

INFO 4940: Human-AI Interaction Design and Research (Fall 2021)

INFO 3450: Human-Computer Interaction Design (Spring 2022)

## Service

2020 - 2022 **Cornell Undergraduate Research Board (CURB)**, Peer Mentor

- Meet with mentees on an individual basis to share tips on navigating research opportunities and reduce the barriers for students from marginalized background.

2020 - 2022 **Department of Communication, Cornell University**, Peer Mentor

- Serve as a peer mentor to build a sense of community, share tacit knowledge, and create more equitable access to resources for first-year underrepresented minority and first-generation students in the Department of Communication.

## Skill

<b>Language:</b>	Chinese (native/bilingual), English (native/bilingual)
<b>Qualitative Research:</b>	Interviews, Focus Groups, Participant Observation, Ethnography, Contextual Inquiries
<b>Design Research:</b>	Affinity Diagramming, Participatory Design, Service Blueprint, Technology Probe, Card Sorting, User Testing
<b>Interaction Design:</b>	Figma, Adobe XD, Webflow, Illustrator, Photoshop
<b>Front-End Programming:</b>	HTML, CSS, Javascript, Atom, React, Git
<b>Data Analytics:</b>	Python, R, SPSS, Tableau, Jupyter Notebook