

Hibby T. Thach

Curriculum Vitae
University of Michigan
hibby@umich.edu

Education

2023 – 2028

PhD, Information (expected)
School of Information, University of Michigan

2023

M.A., Communication
Department of Communication, University of Illinois at Chicago

2020

B.A., Sociology (*summa cum laude*, Distinction in Major)
Department of Sociology, Temple University

Professional and Academic Experience

Research Experience

2023 – Present

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, MI
Graduate Student Researcher, School of Information
PI: Dr. Oliver Haimson and Dr. Michaelanne Thomas

2021 – 2023

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, MI
REMS Scholar, School of Information
Visiting Researcher, The Community Research on Identity and Technology
(CRIT) Lab

PI: Dr. Oliver Haimson

2020 – 2023

University of Illinois at Chicago – Chicago, IL
Graduate Student Researcher, Department of Communication
PI: Dr. Steve Jones

2020

Temple University – Philadelphia, PA
Qualitative Coder, "Goffman in Games"
PI: Aiden Kosciesza

2019 – 2020

Temple University – Philadelphia, PA
Undergraduate Research Assistant, LGBTQ Game Archive
PI: Dr. Adrienne Shaw

2018

Pennsylvania State University Abington – Philadelphia, PA
Survey Researcher, Department of Psychological and Social Sciences (PSS)
PI

Teaching Experience

University of Illinois at Chicago

Spring 2023

Teaching Assistant, COMM200: Communication Technologies
IoR: Dr. Zachary McDowell | 33 undergraduates

Fall 2022

Teaching Assistant, COMM425: Digital Advocacy
IoR: Dr. Ishani Mukherjee | 34 undergraduates

Spring 2022

Teaching Assistant, COMM102: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
IoR: Dr. Janis Page | 63 undergraduates

Fall 2021

Teaching Assistant, COMM102: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
IoR: Dr. Janis Page | 72 undergraduates

Summer 2021

Teaching Assistant, COMM102: Social Media and Marketing
IoR: Dr. Ishani Mukherjee | 18 undergraduates

Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, COMM102: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
IoR: Dr. Janis Page | 62 undergraduates

Fall 2020

Teaching Assistant, COMM102: Introduction to Interpersonal Communication
IoR: Dr. Janis Page | 70 undergraduates

Reviewing Experience

2025

Qualitative Research

New Media & Society (NMS)

Social Media + Society (SMS)

ACM SIGCHI Conference on **Human Computer Interaction** (CHI)

2024

Transgender Studies Quarterly (TSQ)

International Journal of Communication (IJOC)

Big Data & Society (BDS)

ACM SIGCHI Conference on **Human Computer Interaction** (CHI)

New Media & Society (NMS)

2023

ACM SIGCHI Conference on **Human Computer Interaction** (CHI)

ACM SIGCHI Conference on **Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing** (CSCW)

Social Media + Society (SMS)

Bulletin for Applied Transgender Studies (BATS)

Information, Communication & Society (ICS)

Humanities & Social Sciences Communications (HSSComms)

2022

Humanities & Social Sciences Communications (HSSComms)

2021

Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)

Transgender Studies Quarterly (TSQ)

Academic Service

2024 – Present

Graduate Student Coordinator, **Trans Studies Research Workshop** (TSRW) at the University of Michigan

2024 – 2025

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Community Representative (DEICR),
Doctoral Executive Committee (DEC) at the University of Michigan School of Information

2023 – 2025

Junior Graduate Representative, **Society for Cinema and Media Studies** (SCMS)
Video Game Studies Scholarly Interest Group (VSGSIG)

2022 – Present

Co-Founder and Executive Officer, **Tabletop Research in Practice** (TRiP)

2021 – 2022

Co-Founder and Executive Officer, **Discord Academic Research Community** (D/ARC)

2021 – 2022

Editor, **Press Start**

2021

Student Volunteer, ACM SIGCHI Conference on **Computer-Supported Cooperative Work** and Social Computing (CSCW)

Honors and Awards

2023 – Present

UMSI Merit Scholar, University of Michigan School of Information

2021

REMS Fellow, University of Michigan School of Information

2020

Benjamin and Irma Robboy Award in Sociology, Temple University

Academic Publications and Presentations

Peer-Reviewed Research Articles

2024

Hibby Thach, Samuel Mayworm, Michaelanne Thomas, & Oliver L. Haimson. 2024. Trans-centered moderation: Trans technology creators and centering trans contexts in platform and community governance. *In Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FACCT '24)*. Association for Computing Machinery, 326–336.

<https://doi.org/10.1145/3630106.3658909>

Samuel Mayworm, Shannon Li, **Hibby Thach**, Daniel Delmonaco, Christian Paneda, Andrea Wegner, and Oliver L. Haimson. 2024. The Online Identity Help Center: Designing and Developing a Content Moderation Policy Resource for Marginalized Social Media Users. *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 8, CSCW1, Article 129 (April 2024), 30 pages. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3637406>

Elena Maris, Robyn Caplan, & **Hibby Thach**. 2024. Taking back and giving back on TikTok: Algorithmic mutual aid in the platform economy. *New Media & Society*, 0(0). <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.umich.edu/10.1177/14614448241238396>

Samuel Mayworm, Michael Ann DeVito, Daniel Delmonaco, **Hibby Thach**, and Oliver L. Haimson. 2024. Content Moderation Folk Theories and Perceptions of Platform Spirit among Marginalized Social Media Users. *ACM Transactions on Social Computing*. 7, 1, Article 1 (March 2024), 27 pages. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.umich.edu/10.1145/3632741>

Daniel Delmonaco, Samuel Mayworm, **Hibby Thach**, Josh Guberman, Aurelia Augusta, and Oliver L. Haimson. 2024. "What are you doing, TikTok?": How Marginalized Social Media Users Perceive, Theorize, and "Prove" Shadowbanning. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*. 8, CSCW1, Article 154 (April 2024), 39 pages. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.umich.edu/10.1145/3637431>

2023

Oliver L. Haimson, Kai Nham, **Hibby Thach**, and Aloe DeGuia. 2023. How Transgender People and Communities Were Involved in Trans Technology Design Processes. In *Proceedings of the 2023 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (CHI '23). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 294, 1–16. <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.umich.edu/10.1145/3544548.3580972>.

Hibby Thach. 2023. "Should we unban, chat?": Communal content moderation on Twitch. Available from Dissertations & Theses @ Big Ten Academic Alliance; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global Closed Collection. (2872084386). Retrieved from <https://proxy.lib.umich.edu/login?url=https://www.proquest.com/dissertations-theses/should-we-unban-chat-communal-content-moderation/docview/2872084386/se-2>.

2022

Hibby Thach, Samuel Mayworm, Daniel Delmonaco, & Oliver L. Haimson. 2022. (In)visible moderation: A digital ethnography of marginalized users and content moderation on Twitch and Reddit. *New Media & Society*, 0(0). <https://doi-org.proxy.lib.umich.edu/10.1177/14614448221109804>.

2021

Hibby Thach. 2021. A cross-game look at transgender representation in video games. *Press Start*, 7(1), 19-44.

Presentations and Talks

Peer-Reviewed Conferences

2025

Hibby Thach. 2025, June. *"Do not perceive me": Multi-marginalized Twitch streamers and reasons for identity concealments beyond safety and well-being within toxic technocultures.* As part of Disrupting Western Ideologies panel at CCSN (Content Creator Scholars Network) ICA (International Communication Association) pre-conference, Denver, Colorado.

2024

Hibby Thach and Wells Lucas Santo. 2024, September. *TransTubers: VTubing & PngTubing as trans technology.* As part of B[ending] Trans Media Studies at SITS (the Second International Trans Studies conference), Evanston, Illinois.

Hibby Thach. 2024, June. *Trans-centered moderation: Trans technology creators and centering transness in platform and community governance.* As part of Content moderation challenges and failures session at FAcCT (ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency) annual conference, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Hibby Thach. 2024, March. *Playing to the Chat: Relational Labor and Systems of Care in Becoming a Twitch Streamer.* As part of Care-ful Encounters: Intimate Relations in and around Gaming panel at SCMS (Society for Cinema and Media Studies) annual conference (co-chaired by Josef Nguyen and Amanda Phillips), Boston, Massachusetts.

2023

Oliver L. Haimson, Kai Nham, **Hibby Thach**, and Aloe DeGuia. 2023, April. [*How Transgender People and Communities Were Involved in Trans Technology Design Processes.*](#) As part of Gender, Trauma, and Wellbeing session at ACM CHI (Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems) annual conference (presented by Hibby Thach), Hamburg, Germany.

Hibby Thach and Oliver L. Haimson. 2023, April. *What Makes Games (Studies) Trans?: Trans Game Developers and Trans Futures in Games.* As part of Trans Play and the Boundaries of Game Studies panel at SCMS (Society for Cinema and Media Studies) annual conference (presented by Hibby Thach; co-chaired by Hibby Thach and Arianna Gass), Denver, Colorado.

2022

Elena Maris, Robyn Caplan, and **Hibby Thach**. 2022, May. *Taking Back and Giving Back: Redistributing Value in the Algorithmic Economy*. Paper presented at International Communication Association (ICA) annual conference (presented by Robyn Caplan), Paris, France.

2020

Hibby Thach. 2020, May. *A Cross-Game Look at Transgender Representation in Video Games*. Paper presented at Queerness and Games (QGCon) annual conference, Montreal, Canada.

Guest Lectures, Invited Talks, and Workshops

2025

Hibby Thach and Wells Lucas Santo. 2025, April. Aspirational Identities: How VTubing Affords New Modes of Digital Embodiment. Workshop Paper accepted to *ACM CHI (Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems) workshop on Body Politics: Unpacking Tensions and Future Perspectives for Body-Centric Design Research in HCI*.

Streaming Me: Multi-Marginalization and Identity Expression through Live-streaming on Twitch. 2025, April. Invited talk at Cornell University, Cornell Information Science PhD Seminar. Ithaca, New York.

Regulation and moderation of online communities. 2025, April. Guest lecture for Online Communities (School of Information 429). University of Michigan.

Twitch. 2025, March. Guest lecture for Digital Culture (Digital Studies 202). University of Michigan.

2025, March. Invited talk for Playful Horizons: Featured Speaker Series. University of Alberta.

2024

Work/Life Balance, Wellness, and Self-Care. 2024. December. Panelist. University of Michigan, School of Information.

How to Build Your Mentoring Network. 2024, April. Panelist. University of Michigan, School of Information.

Doctoral Student Panel: What to expect in Year 1? 2024, March. Panelist. University of Michigan, School of Information.

2023

Hibby Thach. 2023, June. *Online games, marginalization, and content moderation*. Invited talk as part of the Online Gaming session of the Youth Assembly on Digital Rights & Safety (presented remotely), Winnipeg, Manitoba.

2022

Robyn Caplan, Joseph Seering, Sohyeon Hwang, Zac Parker. 2022, May. [*Content Moderation on Discord*](#), D/ARC (Discord Academic Research Collective) Bonfire Chat (moderated by **Hibby Thach**), Online.

2021

Hibby Thach. 2021, August. *"Should we unban, Chat?" Content moderation visibility on Twitch*. Poster presented at UMSI Summer 2021 Poster Fair, Online.

2020

Hibby Thach. 2020, April. *A Cross-Game Look at Transgender Representation in Video Games*. Poster presented at Temple University annual symposium for undergraduate research and Creativity, Online.

Hibby Thach. 2020, April. *Twine Demo* for ENG3501, Writing for Electronic Media at Emmanuel College.

Hibby Thach. 2020, Spring. *Video Game Representation and Culture*, for PSYCH434, Psychology of Gaming at Penn State Abington.

Book Reviews

2025

Hibby Thach. 2025. *The Two Revolutions, a History of the Transgender Internet* [Review of *The Two Revolutions, a History of the Transgender Internet*, by Avery Dame-Griff]. *Continuum*, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10304312.2025.2522121>

2022

Hibby Thach. 2022. *Intersectional Tech: Black Users in Digital Gaming* [Review of *Intersectional Tech: Black Users in Digital Gaming*, by Kishonna L. Gray]. *Press Start*, <https://press-start.gla.ac.uk/index.php/press-start/article/view/237>.

Industry and Media Publications

Industry and Internal Documents

2022

Lisa Nakamura, Ian Shin, Matthew Bui, Jasmine An, Henry E. Chen, Amy Dawson-Andoh, Rae Moors, Han Na Shin, Hanah Stiverson, and **Hibby Thach**. 2022. *Report on Anti-Asian Racism in U.S. History, Digital Culture, and Gaming*. Internal document for Twitch.

Podcasts

2025

[Why We Need Trans Tech in 2025](#). 2025, March 27th. Embodied, WUNC.

Press Coverage

2022

[MobyGames will now let developers remove "AKA" listings from their profiles](#). 2022, August 12th. Bryant Francis, Game Developer.

[Moderating online content increases accountability, but can harm some platform users](#). 2022, July 27th. Jared Wadley, Michigan News.

[The Viral Spiral](#). 2022, June 16th. John Herrman, The New York Times.

Personal Writings / Bloggings

2025

Hibby Thach. 2025, May 6th. "Loving Japan, missing home." *HibbyThach.com*. <https://www.hibbythach.com/blog/loving-japan-missing-home>

Hibby Thach. 2025, June 8th. "Why I have a mustache." *HibbyThach.com*. <https://www.hibbythach.com/blog/why-i-have-a-mustache>

2022

Hibby Thach. 2022. "Sharing my pronouns with my Vietnamese mom." *Joysauce*. <https://joysauce.com/pronouns-vietnamese-mom/>.

Hibby Thach. 2022. "(In)visible Content Moderation on Reddit and Twitch." *Medium*. <https://hibbythach.medium.com/in-visible-content-moderation-on-reddit-and-twitch-82ff13dc7ab9>.

2021

Hibby Thach. 2021. "It's time we move past just representation." *Medium*. <https://hibbythach.medium.com/its-time-we-move-past-just-representation-81338e82fa44>.

Hibby Thach. 2021. "Trans Representation in Video Games." *Medium*. <https://aninjusticemag.com/trans-representation-in-video-games-d6661dcf48c2>.

Hibby Thach. 2021. "Moving Past Suffering: Persona 5 Royal/Strikers, the COVID-19 Pandemic, and the Atlanta Asian Massage Parlor Shootings." *Medium*. <https://hibbythach.medium.com/moving-past-suffering-persona-5-royal-strikers-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-the-atlanta-asian-e71d2161b55a>.

2018

Hibby Thach. 2018. "Okay" zine published in Temple University's *Emerge: Interactive and New Media Work* (Vol 2). Curators: Dr. Laura Zaylea & Dr. Adrienne Shaw. <https://sites.temple.edu/emerge/emerge-vol-2-2017-2018/>.