

Dr. Lauren E. Bridges

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Education

Ph.D. in Communication (2023)

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

Dissertation: The Hidden Human and Environmental Costs of the Digital Growth Machine

Committee: Victor Pickard (Chair), Kathleen Hall Jamieson, Marwan Kraidy, Aswin Punathambekar, Julia Ticona

M.A. in Communication (2019)

Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

M.A. in Creative Writing, Publishing, and Editing (2015)

School of Culture and Communication, University of Melbourne

Graduate Diploma in Creative Writing (2011)

La Trobe University

B.A. in Business (2004)

Queensland University of Technology

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Bridges, L. E. (accepted) "Competing Digital Capacities: Between State-Led Digital Governance and Local Data Center Tradeoffs" *Information, Communication & Society*

Bridges, L. E. (2021) "Infrastructural Obfuscation: Unpacking the Carceral Logics of the Ring Surveillance Assemblage" *Information, Communication & Society*, 1–20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2021.1909097>

Bridges, L. E. (2021) "Digital Failure: Unbecoming the 'good' data subject through entropic, fugitive, and queer data" *Big Data & Society*, 8(1). <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951720977882>

Cooper, Z., Bridges, L., and Ticona, J. (2021) "Constructing the digital skills crisis: A critical conceptual history of 'skill'." *Association of Internet Researchers in Selected Papers of Internet Research*, <https://spir.aoir.org/ojs/index.php/spir>

Bridges, L. E. (2020) "Material Entanglements of Community Surveillance & Infrastructural Power." *Association of Internet Researchers in Selected Papers of Internet Research*, <https://spir.aoir.org/ojs/index.php/spir>

Bridges, L. E. (2018) "Flexible as Freedom? The dynamics of creative industry work and the case study of the editor in Publishing", *New Media & Society*, 20(4), 1301-1319. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444816688920>

Public scholarship

Bridges, L. et al (2023) "Beyond the Data 'Center': The Impacts of Land Use Changes for Data Center Development", Webinar for the Northwest Toxic Communities Coalition, December 2, 2023 <https://perma.cc/YD2H-CARU>

Bridges, L., et al (2023) "Geographies of Digital Wasting" Co-curator of Exhibit at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania, October 16-25, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.17613/xjcx-7b43>

Bridges, L. (2023) "The Rise of E-waste" Webinar for Greening the Internet, Episode 1. <https://perma.cc/A3NK-QEKF>

Bridges, L. (2022) "Toxic Clouds and Dirty Data." The Kleinman Center for Energy Policy Blog, October 10, 2022. <https://perma.cc/V4D3-V4LP>

Bridges, L. (2022) "Toxic Clouds and Dirty Data" YouTube. October 10, 2022. <https://perma.cc/3N7L-DN5N>. This video also appeared on PhillyCAM local television on Saturdays in December of 2022.

Bridges, L. (2021) "Amazon's Ring is the largest surveillance network the US has ever seen." The Guardian, May 18, 2021. <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2021/may/18/amazon-ring-largest-civilian-surveillance-network-us>

Bridges, L. E. (2020) "Towards a Relational View of Digital Sovereignty", in Critical Digital Sovereignties, a digital publication by CARGC Press, <https://perma.cc/5PVY-UGS3>

Media interviews / Podcasts

"Chile pulls approval for giant data center" Interviewed on The World by WGBH (NPR - Boston), February 28, 2024. <https://perma.cc/4KDB-MJEB>

"Sustainable Is the Critical Mineral Supply Chain, and Can We Rethink Criticality?" Interviewed on Energy Transition Talk podcast (2023) Episode 4, October 29, 2023. <https://perma.cc/UQ5J-N9TV>

"Digital data has an environmental cost. Calling it 'the cloud' conceals that, researcher says" Interviewed on Spark by Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), November 4, 2022. <https://perma.cc/L9Y8-NW7V>

Quoted in CBC Radio blog post, November 4, 2022. <https://perma.cc/L9Y8-NW7V>

"The return of Amazon Ring" Interviewed on Anti-Dystopians Podcast, February 21, 2022. Access recording <https://perma.cc/7BQM-97Q9>

"Doorbell cameras are saving footage to the cloud. What happens next?" Interviewed on NPR 1A, June 24 2021. Access recording: <https://perma.cc/4MYF-282M>

"Privacy Advocates Are Sounding the Alarm About Cloud-Based Doorbells" Interviewed on NBC Lx, May 28 2021. Access recording: <https://perma.cc/KU59-KMDG>

Interviewed on BBC Newsday, May 20 2021, access recording: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w172xv2mv1xwjkb>

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Fellow at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard Law School, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. Sept 2023 – Aug 2024.

Co-PI Internet Society Foundation grant for the project “Greening from the Margins: The Geopolitics of Extractive, Operational, and Post-Consumer E-waste management” (\$212,000), Feb 2021 – May 2024.

Fellow at the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication (\$2,000 per year), Aug 2019 – Aug 2023.

Kleinman Center for Energy Policy at the University of Pennsylvania, Student Research Grant for project on energy use in Amazon data centers (\$2,500), October 2022.

Top Student Paper panel, National Communication Association (2020), for the paper “Recursive Warfare Logics: Securitization, Dutification, & (De) Militarization of the cloud.”

Honorary mention, Top Student Paper Award, Association of Internet Researchers (2020), for the paper “Material Entanglements of Community Surveillance Networks”

Top Student Paper Award, International Communication Association (2020) in Philosophy, Theory and Critique for the paper “Identity Resolution, Digital Failure, and Queer Data”

Student Travel Grant to attend Doctoral Consortium at ACM FAT* (2020) Held in Barcelona, Spain. Awarded by ACM FAT* (980€).

GAPSA Graduate Student Research Travel Grant (2019).

Milton Wolf Seminar for Media and Diplomacy, Emerging Scholars Fellowship. (2019) Awarded by the American Austrian Foundation and the Annenberg School for Communication. Held at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna, April 23-25, 2019 (travel expenses)

Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Institute Fellow (2019), Oxford University Awarded by the Internet Policy Observatory at the University of Pennsylvania (travel expenses)

COMPASS Fellowship – Consortium On Media Policy Studies, Washington, D.C, (June – July 2018) Awarded by the Annenberg School for Communication (\$4,000)

Global Mobility Grant (2014), for international travel as an exchange student. Awarded by the University of Melbourne, Australia (\$2,000)

Invited talks and guest lectures

“Land of Data: The Hidden Impacts of Digital Expansion and the Limits of Digital Growth” Book proposal talk at the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society. February 14, 2024.

“Land and Data: Land Use Politics and the Expansion of Digital Infrastructure” Invited Lecture at the Center for Digital Cultures, Leuphana University, Germany. Nov 7, 2023. <https://perma.cc/7KEV-VBC2>

Invited talks and guest lectures (continued)

"The Digital Growth Machine: Land Use Politics at the Digital Frontier" (Job Candidate Talk) University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA. Feb 15, 2023.

"The Digital Growth Machine: Geographies of Inequality at the Digital Frontier" (PostDoc Candidate Talk), Microsoft Research – Social Media Collective, Boston, MA. Feb 13, 2023.

"The Digital Growth Machine: Geographies of Inequality at the Digital Frontier" (Job Candidate Talk), School of Information, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX. Feb 6, 2023.

"The Digital Growth Machine: Land Use Politics at the Digital Frontier" (Job Candidate Talk) School of Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA. Jan 30, 2023.

"The Digital Growth Machine: Land Use Politics at the Digital Frontier" (Job Candidate Talk) Department of Communication, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA. Jan 18, 2023.

"Geographies of Digital Wasting: Operational Waste" School of Architecture, Yale. Instructor: William Fleming, University of Pennsylvania. Aug 2022.

"Policy implications of networked home security" Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, for the course, "Digital Platforms, Power, and Policy". Instructor: Pawel Poppiel, at the University of Pennsylvania. Mar 2022.

"The carceral cost of smart home security" Guest Speaker for the Data & Us Seminar Series at the University of Lisbon (remote attendance). Feb 2022. <https://data-and-us.netlify.app/talk2.html>

Graduate Student speaker for Convocation at the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania. Aug 2021.

"The making of everyday surveillance" presented in the undergraduate seminar Happy, Sappy, Creepy: Social Media and Feeling, Instructor: Heather Jaber, at the University of Pennsylvania. Aug 2021.

"Fake news is an oxymoron," Thinkfest Pakistan Conversations, Facebook Live Event (September 2020).

"Towards a Relational View of Digital Sovereignty", presented at workshop on "Data & Dominion: What is Digital Sovereignty" held at the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication. Oct 2019.

"Material and discursive construction of the cloud", Milton Wolf Emerging Scholars Program for Media Diplomacy, Vienna, Austria. Apr 2019.

"Who owns the cloud? Consolidation of the Public Cloud", Presented at Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Institute, Oxford, UK. Aug 2018.

Peer-reviewed conference presentations

(forthcoming) Bridges, L.E. (2024) "Contested Digital Capacities: Digital Governance and Data Center Tradeoffs in Northern Virginia, East London, and Norway". Presented at International Communication Association in Gold Coast, Australia. June 2024.

Peer-reviewed conference presentations (continued)

(forthcoming) Bridges, L. E. (2024) "An Elemental Taxonomy of Amazon's Digital Wastes". Presented at Society for Cinema and Media Studies in Boston, MA, March 14, 2024.

Bridges, L. E. (2023) "The Digital Growth Machine: Theorizing the Digital Through Local Land Use Policy". Presented (virtually) at Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii, November 9, 2023.

Bridges, L. E. (2023) "Infrastructures of Friction: Data Center Tradeoffs in Northern Virginia, East London, and Norway". Presented at the Union for Democratic Communications Annual Conference in Philadelphia, October 13, 2023.

Cooper, Z.G.T., Bridges, L., Ticona, J. (October 2021). "Constructing the digital skills crisis: A critical conceptual history of 'skill'". Presented at Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Conference. Virtual Event.

Bridges, L. E. (May, 2021) "Material Entanglements of Community Surveillance Networks and the Case For Infrastructural Accountability." Presented at International Communication Association. Virtual Event.

Bridges, L. E. (2020, November) "Recursive Warfare Logics: Securitization, Dutification, & (De)Militarization of the cloud." Presented at National Communication Association. Virtual Event.

Bridges, L. E. (2020, October) Material Entanglements of Community Surveillance & Infrastructural Power. Presented at Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference. Virtual Event.

Bridges, L. E. (2020, June 30) "Distributed Sovereignty: "War Clouds" & The Digital Military-Industrial Complex". Presented at The Society for Social Studies of Science and European Association for the Study of Science and Technology Joint Conference. Virtual Event. 4S/EASST.

Bridges, L. E. (2020, May 20) "Identity Resolution, Digital Failure, and Queer Data." Presented at International Communication Association. Virtual Event.

Bridges, L. E. (2020, Feb) "Unsettled Ethics in AI and Defense Contracting: Securitization, Dutification, and Demilitarization of the Cloud", Presented at Camp Rhetoric, Penn State University, State College, P.A

Bridges, L. E. (2020, Jan) "Infrastructural Power of AI", Doctoral Consortium at ACM Fairness, Accountability and Transparency Conference, Barcelona, Spain.

Bridges, L. E. (2019, October) "Feminist Servers: Towards a Relational View of Digital Infrastructure." Presented at Union for Democratic Communication, Oakland C.A.

Bridges, L. E. (2019, May) "Murdoch's News: Constructing Murdoch's Professional and the Myth of the Entrepreneur", Presented at International Communication Association, Washington D.C

Bridges, L. E. (2019, May) "The Information Battlefield: Entanglements of Capital, Policy, and Discourse and the JEDI Cloud Contract," Presented at International Communication Association, Washington D.C

Bridges, L. E. (2018, Oct) "The Political Economy of Transnational Data Flows", Presented at Doctoral Colloquium at the Association of Internet Researchers, Montreal, Canada. Oct 2018.

Bridges, L. E. (2018, May) "Power and Cables: Politics of the Cloud." Presented at Union for Democratic Communication, Chicago, IL.

Peer-reviewed conference presentations (continued)

Bridges, L. E. (2018, March) "The Gig is Up: Predatory Labor Markets and the Marginalized Worker." Presented at International Labor Processes Conference, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Bridges, L. E. (2016, May) "The dynamics of flexible work in the creative industries." Presented at Communications and Media Studies, Chicago, IL.

Panel moderator / organizer

Plenary Panel Co-Chair and Organizer "Global Challenges to a 'Green Revolution' for the Internet" at the Association for Internet Researchers annual conference, Philadelphia. (October 19, 2023).

Moderator, "Platforms in Crisis: Social Media In/After Platform Capitalism," Democratizing the Internet symposium, University of Pennsylvania (April 2023).

Panel chair, "Surveillance Capitalism, Imperialism and Infrastructures of State Power" at International Communication Association, Gold Coast, Australia. (May 2020).

Panel organizer, "Normalizing the Unnatural: Discursive and Political Contestation Over Micro and Macrostructures of 'The Market'" at International Communication Association, Washington D.C. (May 2019).

Teaching experience and workshops

"Teaching with and Using Social Media in the Classroom", Instructor for University-Wide Teaching Workshop held at the Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, February 28, 2022

"Accessibility and Inclusion in the Classroom", Instructor for University-Wide Teaching Workshop held at the Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania, October 26, 2021

Fall 2020. Teaching Assistant, Political Communication for Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson

Summer II, 2019. Instructor of Record, Media Industries and Society

Spring 2019. Teaching Assistant, Media Industries and Society for Dr. Lee McGuigan

Spring, 2018. Teaching Assistant, Media Culture and Society in China for Dr. Guobin Yang

Teaching awards and nominations

2020 Nominee. James D. Wood Award for outstanding graduate teaching for Teaching Assistant in "Political Communication"

2019 Recipient. James D. Wood Award for outstanding graduate teaching
Awarded for Teaching Assistant in "Media, Culture, and Society in China" Instructor: Dr. Guobin Yang

Academic service

Peer-reviewer for journals:

Information, Communication & Society; New Media & Society;
International Journal of Communication; Big Data & Society;
Geografiska Annaler, Series B: Human Geography; Cities

Peer-reviewer for conferences:

Association for Internet Researchers
International Communication Association

Graduate Teaching Fellow with the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Pennsylvania (2021–2022).

Graduate Council Student Representative, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania (2018-2019).

Professional memberships and affiliations

Affiliate:

Center for Information, Technology and Public Life, University of North Carolina
Center for Advance Research in Global Communication, University of Pennsylvania

Member:

Association for Internet Researchers
International Communication Association
Society for Social Sciences (4S) / European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST)
International Association for Media and Communication Research
International Critical Geography Group

Professional work experience / Volunteer work (selected)

Nov 2018 – Jan 2019	Volunteer, Digital literacy training for grandparents and older parents, SOWN, iConnect Program, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
Summer 2017	Grant writer, B&R Enclosures, Brisbane, Australia.
Oct 2015–May 2017	Foundation Administrator for grants in Social Policy research, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy, Piscataway, New Jersey.
Jan 2016–Dec 2016	Marketing and Business Management Consultant, Transaction Publishers, New Jersey, USA
Feb 2014–Sept 2014	Editorial and Social Media Intern, A Public Space (Literary magazine), Brooklyn, New York.
2004 – 2008	Telstra Super, Melbourne, Australia Role: Communication Consultant