

CI Fellows 2020-2021

Computing Innovation Fellows

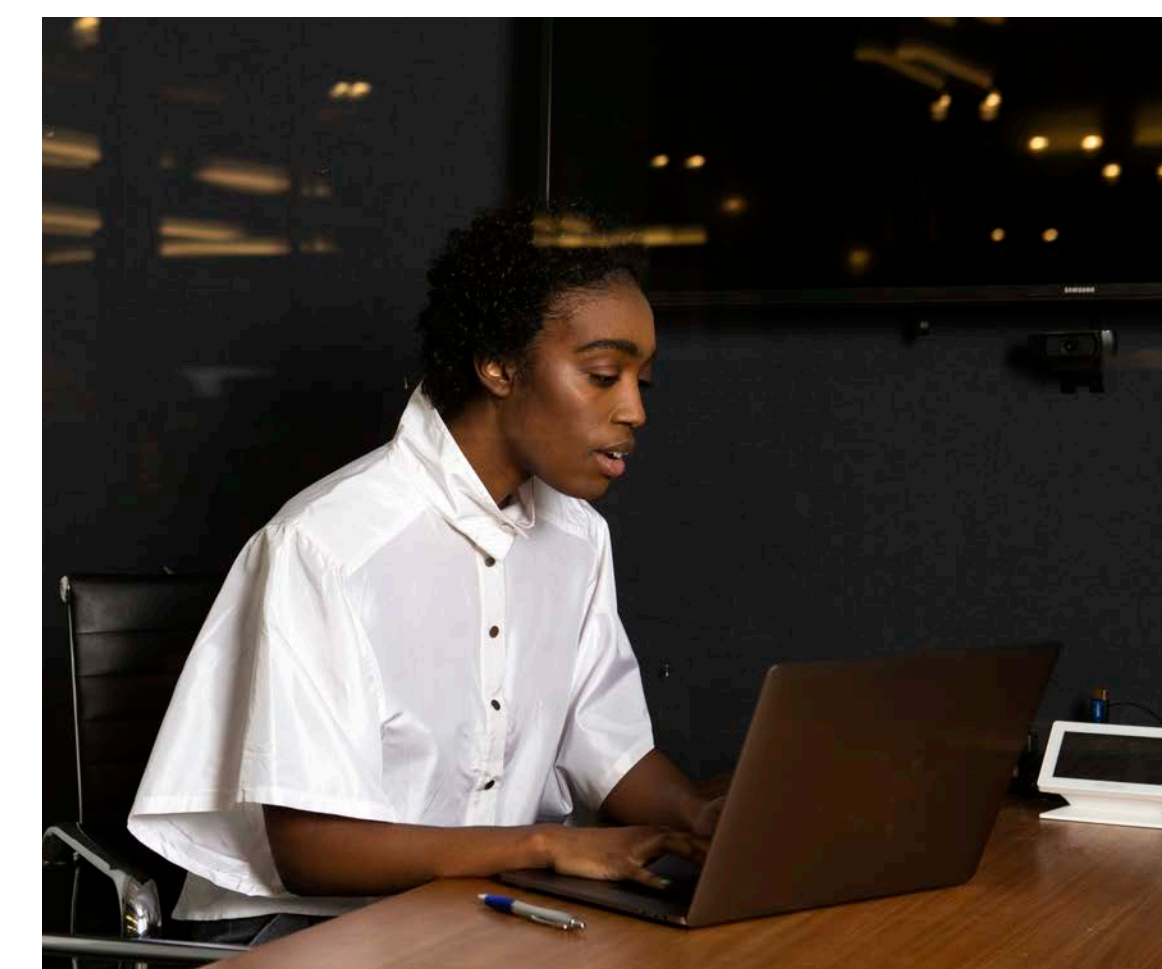
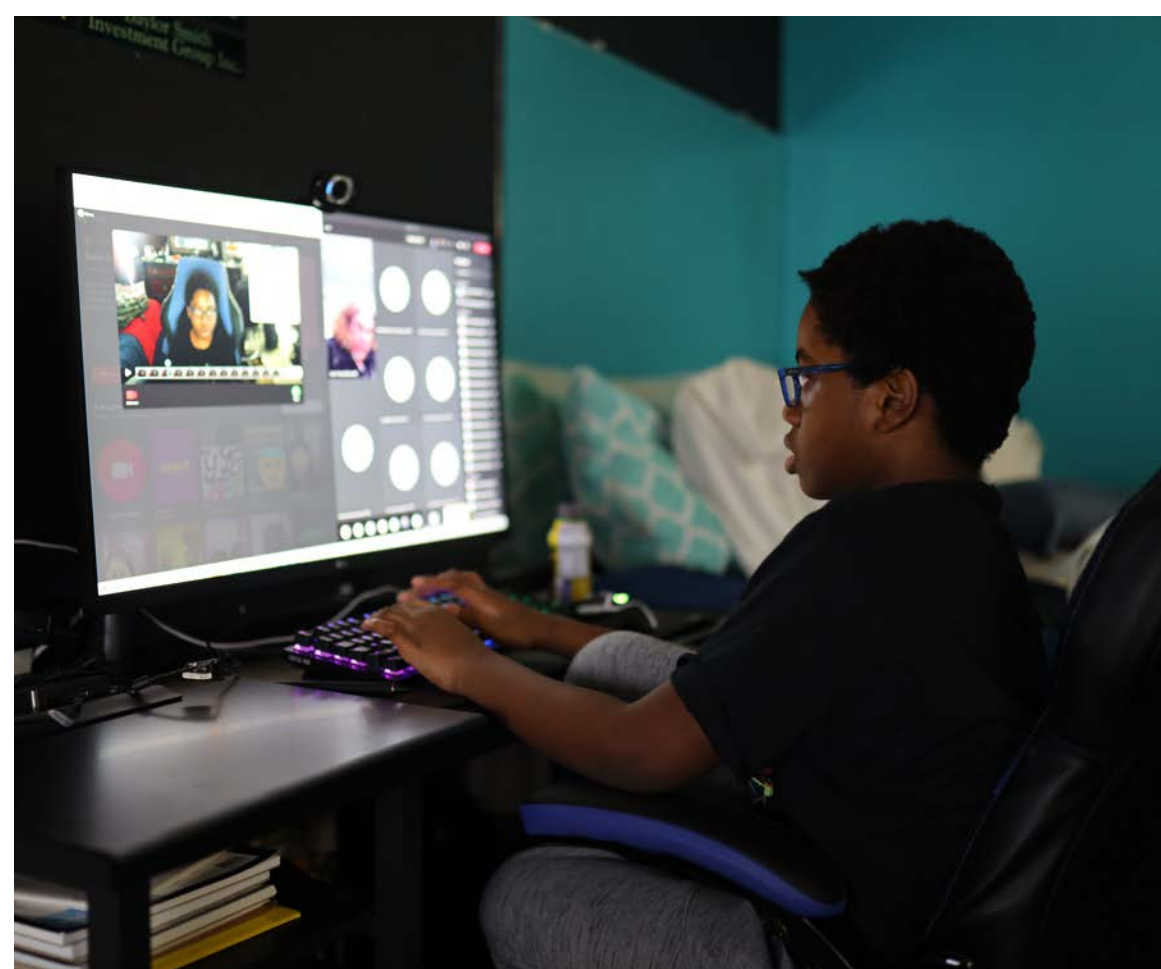
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Exploring Networks of Care and Solidarity in the Design of Virtual Schooling



Virtual schools act as both an escape hatch and bridge for teachers & students facing structural and inter-personal violence, caretaking responsibilities, and other barriers to access and support. They also present new threats of surveillance, hostility, and disinvestment in public education, particularly given rising political attacks against LGBTQ people, teachers' unions, and discussions of gender, sexuality, and racism.

Given these challenges, how can virtual schooling be designed to better support people marginalized in traditional school environments?

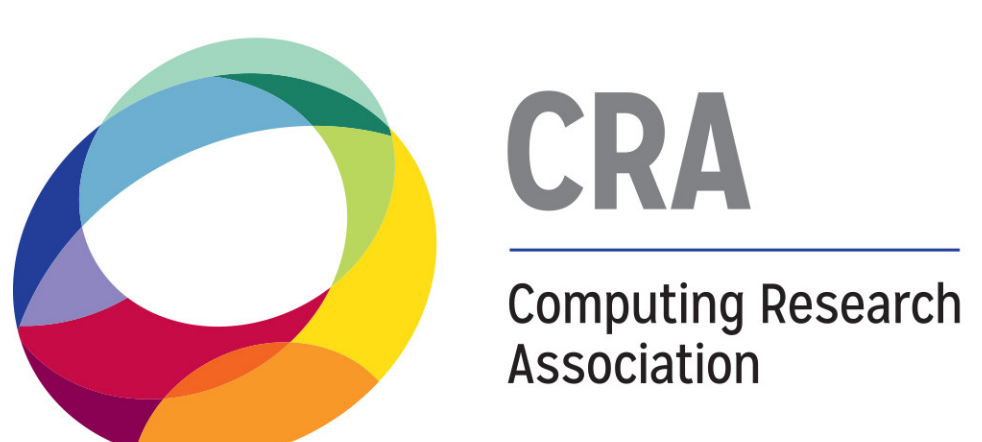


HCI + STS + Education + Participatory Design

Faculty Mentor: Professor Jean Hardy

Since starting as a CI Fellow in January 2022, I have begun conducting exploratory fieldwork with urban and rural populations in Michigan and assisting on a participatory design project with rural LGBTQ people. Building on this ethnographic and design research experience, I will be facilitating participatory design workshops with students, parents, and teachers on the future of virtual schooling, focusing on those too often excluded from mainstream design processes.

Participatory design originated as a process for democratizing technology development in the workplace in the 1970s. It is now a popular method that computing researchers use to study and act on issues of equity, social justice, and expanding participation in design. With this research, I hope to help reimagine and reorient the design of virtual schooling towards care and solidarity.



Photos from UnSplash & The Gender Spectrum Collection by: Sigmund.ca, Sofa Tutor, Ralston Smith, YY Teoh, Zackary Drucker, and Jose Aljovin.

