# *Vera Khovanskaya*

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## Research Interests

How data practices in the past can inform worker advocacy approaches in the future. Research areas: social computing, collective action, future of work, speculative and critically-oriented design

## Education

**Cornell University**

PhD Candidate in Information Science (2014-present)

Bachelor of Arts in Information Science, *summa cum laude,* architecture minor (2009-2013)

## Work Experience

**Intern Scientist at Yahoo! Labs, Yahoo! Inc.**

Collecting and analyzing narrative accounts, maps, and conceptualizations of personal data (May-September 2014)

**Graduate Technical Intern in Social Science at Intel Labs, Intel Corporation**

Worked on a situated content-based social matching recommender system with Maria Bezaitis (June-September 2013.)

**User Experience Design Intern, Google Inc.**

Designed a personal data analytics feature for an Android product with Owen Otto (June-Aug 2011.)

GP-11850-00-US Patent Displaying Auto-Generated Facts About a Music Library, 2013

GP-11850-00-US-CON1 Patent Displaying Auto-Generated Facts About a Music Library, 2013

## Research Experience

**Visiting Researcher, University of California, Irvine**

Speculative design work in parallel with ethnographic research; studying families of professionals and how they use IT devices to stay connected and how it shapes their sense of self and work, working with Melissa Mazmanian and Phoebe Sengers, (Jan 2014-May 2014)

**Undergraduate Research Assistant, Cornell Interaction Design Lab, Cornell University**

Independent study honors thesis in personal informatics and critical design; other research experience at the lab: design lead on several mobile health projects, designed and deployed several cultural probes, coauthored lab publications, working with Eric Baumer and Geri Gay (May 2010-June 2013)

### Publications

*Peer Reviewed*

Khovanskaya, V., Sengers, P., Dombrowski, L. (2020) Bottom-Up Organizing with Tools from On High: Understanding the Data Practices of Labor Organizers. To appear in *Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*

Wong, R. Y., Khovanskaya, V., Fox, S. E., Merrill, N., & Sengers, P. (2020). Infrastructural Speculations: Tactics for Designing and Interrogating Lifeworlds. To appear in *Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*

Khovanskaya, V., Dombrowski, L., Rzeszotarski, J., & Sengers, P. (2019). The Tools of Management: Adapting Historical Union Tactics to Platform-Mediated Labor. *Proceedings of the ACM on Human-Computer Interaction*, *3*(CSCW), 1-22. ***honorable mention top 5% of all submissions***

Khovanskaya, V., & Sengers, P. (2019). Data Rhetoric and Uneasy Alliances: Data Advocacy in US Labor History. In *Proceedings of the 2019 on Designing Interactive Systems Conference* (pp. 1391-1403) ***honorable mention top 5% of all submissions***

Khovanskaya, V., Sengers, P., Mazmanian, M., & Darrah, C. (2017). Reworking the gaps between design and ethnography. In *Proceedings of the 2017 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 5373-5385). ACM.

Khovanskaya, V., Bezaitis, M., & Sengers, P. (2016) The Case of the Strangerationist: Re-interpreting Critical Technical Practice. *In Proceedings of the 2016 conference on Designing Interactive Systems* (pp. 134-145) **honorable mention top 5% of all submissions**

Vertesi, J., Kaye, J., Jarosewski, S. N., Khovanskaya, V. D., & Song, J. (2016). Data Narratives: uncovering tensions in personal data management. In *Proceedings of the 19th ACM Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work & Social Computing* (pp. 478-490). ACM.

Khovanskaya, V., Baumer, E. P., & Sengers, P. (2015). Double Binds and Double Blinds: Evaluation Tactics in Critically Oriented HCI. *Aarhus Series on Human Centered Computing*, *1*(1), 12.

Baumer, E.P.S., Baumer, E. P., Khovanskaya, V., Matthews, M., Reynolds, L., Schwanda Sosik, V., & Gay, G. (2014, June). Reviewing reflection: on the use of reflection in interactive system design. In *Proceedings of the 2014 conference on Designing Interactive Systems* (pp. 93-102). ACM.

Baumer, E. P., Khovanskaya, V., Adams, P., Pollak, J. P., Voida, S., & Gay, G. (2013). Designing for engaging experiences in mobile social-health support systems. *IEEE Pervasive Computing*, (3), 32-39.

Khovanskaya, V., Baumer, E. P., Cosley, D., Voida, S., & Gay, G. (2013, April). Everybody knows what you're doing: a critical design approach to personal informatics. In *Proceedings of the SIGCHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems* (pp. 3403-3412). ACM.

Baumer, E. P., Adams, P., Khovanskaya, V. D., Liao, T. C., Smith, M. E., Schwanda Sosik, V., & Williams, K. (2013, April). Limiting, leaving, and (re) lapsing: an exploration of facebook non-use practices and experiences. In *Proceedings of the SIGCHI conference on human factors in computing systems* (pp. 3257-3266). ACM.

*Lightly Peer Reviewed*

Khovanskaya, V., Dombrowski, L., Harmon, E., Korn, M., Light, A., Stewart, M., & Voida, A. (2018). Designing against the status quo. *Interactions*, *25*(2), 64-67.

Wong, R., Khovanskaya, V. "Speculative Design in HCI: From Corporate Imaginations to Critical Orientations" in New Directions in Third Wave HCI, forthcoming (book chapter)

Khovanskaya, V. "The Personal Relationship Manager: Lost Labors of Critical Technical Research" Aarhus 2015 Workshop on Shifting Borderlands of Technoscience.

Baumer, E.P.S., Halpern, M., Khovanskaya, V., Gay, G. Probing the Market: Using Cultural Probes to Study Sustainable Food Practices at a Farmers' Market in Eat, Cook, Grow: Mixing Human-Computer Interactions with Human-Food Interactions, Choi, J.H., Foth, M. (eds.), MIT-Press 2014 (book chapter).

Khovanskaya, V., Adams, P., Baumer, E.P.S., Voida, S., Gay, G. "The value of a critical approach to personal health informatics." CHI Workshop, 2013.

Baumer, E.P.S., Halpern, M., Khovanskaya, V., Gay, G. "The Practice of Everyday Sustainability: the View from a Farmers' Market." CHI Workshop, 2010.

## Peer Reviewed Workshops Organized

Fox, S., Khovanskaya, V., Crivellaro, C., Salehi, N., Dombrowski, L., Kulkarni, Interest Group, and C., Irani, L., Forlizzi, J. 2019. Worker-Centered Design: Expanding HCI Panel Proposals Methods for Supporting Labor. Workshop in submission at the ACM Conference on Computer Human Interaction 2020 (CHI 2020). Honolulu, HI.

Soden, R., Ribes, D., Jack, M., Sutherland, W., Khovanskaya, V., Avle, S., Sengers, P. and Bødker, S., ( 2019). Fostering Historical Research in CSCW & HCI. CSCW2019. Austin, TX.

## Teaching and Course Design

*Co-instructor for Designing Technologies for Social Impact (Fall 2019)*

*Instructor for Designing Technologies for Social Impact (Summer 2019*
*Co-organizer for Cornell Summer School on Designing Technology for Social Impact (Spring 2018-Summer 2018)*
*Teaching instructor for Introduction to Media Programming (Summer 2017)*
*Teaching assistant for Designing Technologies for Social Impact (Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018)*
*Teaching assistant for Ethics, Law, and Policy of Technology (Spring 2017, Spring 2019)*
*Teaching assistant for Human Computer Interaction Design (Fall 2012)*
*Teaching assistant for Introduction to Rapid Prototyping and Physical Computing (Spring 2012)*
*Teaching assistant for Introduction to Media Programming (Fall 2011)*

## Grants and Awards
Outstanding Teaching Award, Information Science, Cornell University, 2016
NSF-GRFP Honorable Mention, 2016
Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher, Computing Research Association (CRA), 2013
Hunter R. Rawlings III Presidential Research Scholar, Cornell University, 2011-2013
US-UK Fulbright Grant, Recommended Candidate, 2013

## Invited Talks
"Research Artifacts" exhibit in Ethnography and the Arts: Reports from the mediated field, Ethnography and Design: Mutual Provocations (October 27, 2016)
"The long legacy of the 'Common Task'" conference talk at the Technosciences of Post/Socialism, European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (September 3, 2015)
"Open Source in a Closed World", seminar in the ECE/Bovay Program in History and Ethics of Engineering, Cornell University (Mar 16, 2016)
Moscow School of Higher Economics, guest lectures for first year students (November 18 & 20, 2013)
Cornell University, Information Science Breakfast Series speaker (April 17, 2013)

## Relevant Coursework
STS 7201 Emerging Technologies (2016)
INFO 6561 Technologies of Valuation (2015)
INFO 6010 Computational Methods for Information Science Research (2015)
NFO 6210 Info, Technology & Society (2015)
INFO 6310 Behavior and Information Tech (2014)
INFO 6302 Web Information Systems (2012)

## Service
**Associate Chair:** ACM-DIS 2018-2020
**Peer Reviewer:** ACM-CHI 2014-2020, ACM-DIS 2014-2019
**Student Volunteer**: ACM-DIS 2014, ACM-CHI 2013

## Press Coverage
Morozov, Evgengy. "Machines of Laughter and Forgetting." *New York Times* 31 Mar. 2013, New York ed., Op-ed sec.: SR21. Print. [(Web)](#)