Kristine J. Lu, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor, Art + Design
College of Arts, Media and Design, Northeastern University
Faculty Research Affiliate, SNF Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University
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Education

2017 – 2023 **Ph.D. in Learning Sciences,** *Northwestern University*, Evanston, IL
Dissertation: *Participatory Democratic Organizing: Building Capacity to Solve the Paradox of Participatory Democracy*
Committee: Matthew W. Easterday (Chair), Elizabeth M. Gerber, David N. Rapp, Christopher A. Le Dantec

2010 – 2013 **B.A. in English & Comparative Literature**, *Columbia University*, New York, NY
Cum laude

2009 – 2010
(transferred) **B.A. in Radio, Television, & Film; English**, *Northwestern University*, Evanston, IL

Current Academic Appointments

2025 – present **Assistant Professor, Art + Design**
College of Arts, Media, and Design, *Northeastern University*, Boston, MA

Faculty Research Affiliate, P3 Lab
SNF Agora Institute, *Johns Hopkins University*, Baltimore, MD
- Co-leading engaged research to design two transformative learning spaces for mid-career leaders in the social movement organizing ecosystem
- Investigating learning outcomes, participant experiences, and impacts associated with building countervailing power across the Minnesota power ecosystem (2025) and the national climate movement (2025-2027)

Research Experience

2023 – 2025 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**
P3 Lab, SNF Agora Institute, *Johns Hopkins University*, Baltimore, MD
Faculty Advisor: Dr. Hahrie Han
- Co-led engaged research with a coalition of multi-racial, multi-issue, and multi-generational community organizers across California to generate breakthrough understandings in power building across social movements
- Designed and tested novel sociotechnical interventions for supporting four key learning capacities for movement innovation: data, meaning-making, organizational learning, and movement learning capacities.

2017 – 2023 **Graduate Researcher & Senior Design Fellow**
Delta Lab, Center for HCI + Design, *Northwestern University*, Evanston, IL
Advisor: Dr. Matthew Easterday; Co-advisor: Dr. Elizabeth Gerber
- [p3, p2, C3-C5] Led community-based participatory design research to co-design and implement first participatory budgeting process in Evanston, IL

- [p2, p3] Deployed processes and online technology to support deliberative caucuses and volunteer-driven local policy implementation while leading a team of 30 volunteers
- [C4] Designed and tested an online tool for helping civic organizations deliberate about opportunities to take collective action
- [J2] Designed and deployed technology-supported learning environments to support undergraduates plan and organize collective action projects with local civic organizing groups
- [p1] Developed design principles for deliberation technologies that have built voluntary commitment across institutional change contexts including helping the City of Evanston choose a new Police Chief Commissioner and designing the first undergraduate certificate in Human Computer Interaction

2015 – 2017   **Research Assistant, Journalism,** *Pew Research Center*, Washington, D.C.
Mentors: Jesse Holcomb, Amy Mitchell
- Supported quantitative analyses of public opinion surveys on news habits, technology use, and civic information; diary studies; content analysis; census reporting; industry reporting; social media and web browsing data
- Co-authored 15-20 full and short reports; designed data information graphics
- Managed @pewjournalism feed (30K followers) and analytics
- Producer for the Daily Briefing of Media News

2012 – 2015   **Junior Research Specialist,** Computation of Language Laboratory, *University of California, Irvine,* Irvine, CA
Principal Investigator: Dr. Lisa Pearl
- [J1] Co-conducted machine learning, computational linguistic analysis on epistolary authorship cues in Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa*
- Reviewed and presented research on mental states presented in linguistic cues
- Assisted in archival preservation of primary source child language learning data

2014   **Research Assistant,** Project Information Literacy, *University of Washington, WA*
- Supported development of nationwide survey of recent college graduates' information seeking habits
- Co-interviewed Codecademy founder Zach Sims
- Directed, shot, and edited introductory video for Lifelong Learning Study

2013   **Corpus Analysis Group Researcher,** piracy.lab, *Columbia University*
Mentor: Dr. Dennis Tenen
- Collaboratively programmed a Python workflow to strip, parse, and tokenize PDFs of materials on a peer-to-peer community for sharing pirated books

Summer 2012   **Research Assistant,** Columbia Business School Center for International Business Education & Research
Mentor: Nicole Ngo
- Supported analysis of clinical data on respiratory and gastrointestinal disease from industrial pollution in Nairobi, Kenya

──────── **Publications**

Refereed Conference Papers

[C5]   **Lu, K. J.**, Umbelino, G. K., Carlson, S. E., and Easterday, M. W.. 2025.
DeliberationWorks: A Deliberation System for Developing Capacities in Civic Organizing.
Proceedings of ACM Human-Computer Interaction 9, 2, Article CSCW060 (April 2025),
29 pages. https://doi.org/110.1145/3710958

[C4]   Umbelino, G. K., Wu, M., **Lu, K. J**., and Easterday, M. W. 2025. Towards Designing
Organizing Technologies for Increasing Participation and Representation in Open
Democratic Innovations. ACM Conference on Collective Intelligence (CI 2025), San
Diego, CA, USA. https://doi.org/10.1145/3715928.3737485

[C3]   Umbelino, G. K., **Lu, K. J.**, & Easterday, M. W. Increasing Inclusion and Time-Efficiency
in Participatory Policy-Making Deliberations with E-Scribing Technology. *International
Conference on Theory and Practice of Electronic Governance* (ICEGOV 2023), Belo
Horizonte, Brazil.

[C2]   Carlson, S. E., **Lu, K. J.**, Huang, E., Gerber, E. M., & Easterday, M. W. (2020). Designing
a model for deliberation-based learning. *International Conference of the Learning
Sciences*, Nashville, TN.

[C1]   Rees Lewis, D. G., Carlson, S. E., Riesbeck, C. K., **Lu, K. J.**, Gerber, E. M., & Easterday,
M. W. (2020). The Logic of Effective Iteration in Design-Based Research. *International
Conference of the Learning Sciences*, Nashville, TN.

Refereed Archival Journal Articles

[J3]   **Lu, K. J.,** O'Brien, C., Wickerson, G. (2024). Community-Driven Civic Science:
Relationship Building to Prioritize Public Needs. *Journal of Science Policy &
Governance,* Special Issue: Civic Science for Transformative Policy Solutions to Societal
Challenges, 23(2).
Paper Competition Second Place Winner

[J2]   **Lu, K. J.,** Carlson, S. E., Gerber, E. M., Easterday, M. W. (2023). Scoping deliberations:
Scaffolding engagement in planning collective action. *Instructional Science*, 51, 1005-
1041.

[J1]   Pearl, L., **Lu, K. J.,** & Haghighi, A. (2017). The Character in the Letter: Epistolary
Attribution in Samuel Richardson's *Clarissa*. *Digital Scholarship in the Humanities,* 32(2),
355-376.

Refereed Special Interest Groups, Posters, Consortiums & Presentations

2025   **Lu, K. J.,** Umbelino, G. K., Wu, M., and Easterday, M. W. 2025. Technologies for
Building Power in an Age of Democratic Backsliding: Advancing a Vision for People
Power in CSCW Research. SIG accepted to the ACM Conference on Computer-
Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) 2025, Bergen, Norway, October 2025.

2021   **Lu, K. J.** (2021). Designing Democratic Systems for Civic Collective Action. ACM
Conference on Computer-Supported Cooperative Work Doctoral Consortium 2021.

2019   **Lu, K. J.**, Carlson, S. E., Gerber, E. M., & Easterday M. W. (2019) Designing socio-
technical systems for group deliberation in collective action. Poster presented at the
inaugural Symposium on Computer Science and Learning Sciences, Northwestern
University, April 2019.

Manuscripts Submitted & In Preparation

[p5]   **Lu, K. J.**, Booth-Tobin, J., Han, H. (manuscript under review for the ACM Conference of Computer-Supported Cooperative Work 2026 [CSCW 2026]). *Social Computing Systems for Movement Innovation: Using Time-Tracking Technology to Drive Learning across a Social Movement..*

[p4]   **Lu, K. J.**, & Easterday, M. W. (manuscript under review at ACM Transactions of Computer Human Interaction [TOCHI]). *Designing for People Power: A Framework for HCI Design & Research to Leverage Power for Structural Change.*

[p3]   **Lu, K. J.**, Umbelino, G. K., Easterday, M. W. (manuscript in preparation). Designing Open Democratic Processes for Participatory Policy Development.

[p2]   **Lu, K. J.**, Umbelino, G. K., Easterday, M. W. (manuscript in preparation). A Capacity-Building Model for Participatory Budgeting.

[p1]   **Lu, K. J.,** Carlson, S. E., Rapp, D. N., Gerber, E. M., & Easterday, M. W. (manuscript in preparation). Designing Deliberation Systems for Building Voluntary Commitment.

▬▬▬▬ Academic Awards & Recognition

2024   **Paper Competition Second Place Winner, JSPG, Sigma XI and the Rita Allen Foundation Special Issue: Civic Science for Transformative Policy Solutions to Societal Challenges**
"The Special Issue will promote the concept of civic science to broad audiences, provide a platform for emerging leaders in civic science to showcase the policy implications of their work, and elevate policies needed to advance civic science initiatives to serve society. Published articles were entered into a competition judged by an external review committee."

2021   **Northwestern Ph.D. student representative, Human Computer Interaction Consortium 2021: "Building Alliances, Working with Difference: Toward Equity and Accessibility"**
"The Human-Computer Interaction Consortium was founded in 1988 as a means of fostering interaction among universities, companies, and government research laboratories interested in promoting academic training, basic and applied research, and technology transfer in the area of Human-Computer Interaction."

2021   **Northwestern Norman Design Fund Awardee**
"The Norman Design Fund provides small, rapid allocations of funds to support student activities in human-centered design (HCD). The goal of the fund is to enhance and encourage human-centered design work by Northwestern students."

2018 – 2019   **Northwestern Segal Design Research Cluster Fellowship**
"The Design Cluster brings together a dynamic group of faculty and graduate students from a variety of disciplinary perspectives – including but not limited to engineering, communication studies, arts, architecture, psychology, journalism, business and management, and music. One of the main objectives of the cluster are to discover, develop, teach, and practice the common principles and techniques underlying design and idea creation."

2018 – 2019   **Northwestern Advanced Cognitive Science Fellowship**
"These competitive fellowships are intended to foster interdisciplinary research in cognitive Science. These fellowships are awarded on the basis of quality and interdisciplinarity of the proposed research, the student's record in the program, and the faculty letters."

2017 – 2018   **Northwestern Laurine E. Fitzgerald Graduate Student Fellowship**

──────   ## Leadership & Community Experience

2022 – 2023   **Participatory Budgeting Technical Assistant Co-Lead**
City of Evanston, IL
- Co-led technical implementation of participatory budgeting in Evanston, IL, to help community of 77,500 residents allocate $3 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds
- Developing tools and templates to train community member budget delegates measure and address equity issues in policy development

2022 – 2023   **Lead Community Organizer**
PB Evanston, Evanston, IL
- Trained 38 community member leaders and grassroots organization of 28 students & volunteers in conducting outreach, planning, and facilitating idea collection events
- Facilitated idea collection assemblies with Evanston community members and special demographic groups, such as an AAPI-focused assembly

2020 – 2022   **President & Co-Founder; ARPA Policy Development Campaign Lead**
The Open Democracy Project/Indivisible Northwestern, Northwestern University
- Co-led and trained a grassroots organization of 30+ students and volunteers to implement participatory budgeting in Evanston for the first time
- Led team of 15-20 science and social policy volunteers to research and develop over 75 policy seed ideas
- Founded a student-based chapter of Indivisible, a national grassroots network dedicated to training student leaders in civic action

2013 – 2014   **Communications & Community**
The Open Syllabus Project, Columbia University
- Planned, coordinated, and organized a Hackathon with 40 participants, including faculty from over 10 universities, students, and nonprofit leaders
- Digital project management for creation of open online library of 2 million+ syllabi
- Planned conference events, including speaker panels, with academic and legal scholars on creating a massive open online resource of university syllabi

──────   ## Teaching Experience

2019 – 2023   **Graduate Teaching Assistant,** Northwestern University
SESP 195/295: Community Engagement
SESP 351: Civic Learning in the Public Sphere
LS, LOC 308: Designing Everyday Organizations
- Designed and implemented novel learning curriculum for on-the-street canvassing

- Provided coaching, feedback, designed activities, and supported teaching in two undergraduate courses, approximately 25 students each, on topics related to political science, community and civic engagement, human-centered technology design, and organizational science

2019 – 2022 **Senior Design Fellow**
Segal Design Research Cluster, Northwestern University
- Organized 12 meetings between 40 faculty and students to discuss topics in design research, present current work, and design an undergraduate certificate in HCI
- Led a design research reading group with Ph.D. fellows to discuss foundational readings in design research across HCI, Mechanical Engineering, Learning Sciences, and Management Science

2017 – 2019 **Design Critic**
Design of Learning Environments, Northwestern University
Service Design, Northwestern University (bi-quarterly)
- Provided constructive weekly online and in-person feedback for a class of 15 graduate students designing projects to support group deliberation, a class of 10 graduate students designing training materials for participatory budgeting, and a class of 20 undergraduates designing a department-wide Town Hall on equity issues

———— Academic Service

Conference Paper Reviewer
CHI 2021
CSCL 2019

Journal Paper Reviewer
Transactions on Human Computer Interaction (TOCHI)

———— Invited Talks

2023 2023 National Student Vote Summit. Opening plenary discussion presentation: *Understanding Strategic Capacity & The Power of Collaboration*. University of Maryland, College Park. November 16, 2023.

2022 Johns Hopkins University P3 Lab Meeting (PI: Dr. Hahrie Han). April 18, 2022.

2022 April Indivisible Evanston Monthly Meeting: Intergenerational Activism. April 12, 2022.

———— Select Professional & Service Experiences

2016 **Community Representative**
Digital Public Library of America, Washington, D.C.
- Designed an exploratory user research study to increase understanding of public interactions with educational resources on DPLA website

2013 **Associate Naturalist & ROOTS Leader**
Newport Bay Conservancy & California Coastal Commission, Newport Beach, CA

- Contributed to habitat restoration projects through native planting efforts
- Supported natural history group education sessions in the Newport Back Bay area

2012	**Campus Ambassador**

Teach For China, Columbia University, New York City, NY
- Led recruitment efforts to connect Columbia students to a fellowship to teach English language skills to underserved students in rural China

2012 **Patient Advocate**
HealthLeads NY, Harlem Hospital, New York City, NY
- Staffed volunteer center at OBGYN unit of Harlem Hospital to connect low-income families to social support & legal services
- Followed up with patients and social, legal services to set up patient benefits

2011 **Communications & Business Development Intern**
TWG Tea Company Pte. Ltd., Singapore, Singapore
- Organized publicity campaigns for multiple new product launches
- Supported production assistance on print campaign with Harpers' Bazaar Singapore
- Conducted data analysis of sales data for international brand expansion

2008 **Marketplace/Business Intern**
The Orange County Register, Santa Ana, CA
- Published over 50 business articles, blogs, and interviews in print and online
- Researched real estate, small business, retail, and restaurant trends in Orange County

──────── **Selected Press & Non-Peer Review Publications**

Media Mentions of Work

He, C. (2023, April 18). "'Democracy working in action': Evanston, NU collaborate on participatory budgeting pilot program." *The Daily Northwestern*. https://dailynorthwestern.com/2023/04/18/lateststories/participatory-budgeting-democracy-working-in-action/.

Bhavnani, M. (2023, Feb. 2). "What's next for city's $3 million fund?" *Evanston RoundTable*. https://evanstonroundtable.com/2023/02/02/whats-next-for-citys-3-million-pool/.

He, C. (2023, Feb. 2). "'More representation, more visibility': Evanston's Asian American community claims its voice in participatory budgeting." *The Daily Northwestern*. https://dailynorthwestern.com/2023/02/02/lateststories/more-representation-more-visibility-evanstons-asian-american-community-claims-its-voice-in-participatory-budgeting/.

Hirsch, K. (2022, Nov. 16). "Participatory budgeting seeking participants." *Evanston Now*. https://evanstonnow.com/participatory-budgeting-seeking-participants/.

Harrison, A. (2022, Aug. 25). "Framework developing for how to spend $3 million in stimulus money." *Evanston RoundTable*. https://evanstonroundtable.com/2022/08/25/ framework-developing-for-how-to-spend-3-million-in-stimulus-money/.

Harrison, A. (2022, Aug. 5). "Engagement, outreach keys to participatory budgeting effort. *Evanston RoundTable*." https://evanstonroundtable.com/2022/08/05/engagement-outreach-keys-to-participatory-budgeting-effort/.

Smith, B. (2022, Mar. 3). "NU group offers 'participatory budgeting' help." *Evanston Now.* https://evanstonnow.com/nu-group-offers-participatory-budgeting-help/.

Kim, C. (2022, Apr. 24). "Organizations discuss intergenerational activism at Indivisible Evanston meeting." *The Daily Northwestern.* https://dailynorthwestern.com/2022/04/24/city/organizations-discuss-intergenerational-activism-at-indivisible-evanston-meeting/.

Bechky, A. (2022, April 21) "ETHS student activists lead first Climate Justice Conference." *The Daily Northwestern.* https://dailynorthwestern.com/2022/04/21/lateststories/eths-student-activists-lead-first-climate-justice-conference/

Che, C. (2022, Jan. 10) "Indivisible Northwestern partners with undergraduates seeking the Civic Engagement Certificate." *The Daily Northwestern.* https://dailynorthwestern.com/2022/01/10/campus/indivisible-northwestern-partners-with-undergraduates-seeking-the-civic-engagement-certificate/.

Sample Non-Peer Review Publications

"Growth in mobile news use driven by older adults," Pew Research Center Fact Tank. June 2017.

"Blacks more likely to follow up on digital news than whites," Pew Research Center Fact Tank. March 2017.

"10 facts about the changing digital news landscape," Pew Research Center Fact Tank, with Katerina Eva Matsa. September 2016.

"More than half of smartphone users get news alerts, but few get them often," Pew Research Center Fact Tank, with Katerina Eva Matsa. September 2016.

"Election 2016: Campaigns as a Direct Source of News: Digital news developments in U.S. presidential campaigns, 2000-2016," with Amy Mitchell. Pew Research Center. July 2016.

"State of the News Media 2016: Digital News Revenue, Digital News Audience," Pew Research Center. June 2016.

"Long-Form Reading Shows Signs of Life in Our Mobile News World," Pew Research Center, with Amy Mitchell, Galen Stocking, and Katerina Eva Matsa. May 2016.

"In 21 states, local newspapers lack a dedicated D.C. reporter covering Congress," Pew Research Center Fact Tank, with Jesse Holcomb. January 2016.

"Grocery prices jump 8.5 percent compared to last year," *The Orange County Register*. July 20, 2008.

"Gas prices blamed for growing Calif. building slump," *The Orange County Register*. June 26, 2008