

**Fall 2023 PhD Program Colloquium (16:194:601)  
Wednesday 15 November \* 12:15–1:45 pm \* Rm 323**

**SC&I Alumni Book Panel**

**Allie Kosterich, *News Nerds: Institutional Change in Journalism*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022.**

The content of news has not changed much over the last century—yet, the ways in which journalists both gather and disseminate information have been turned on their head. Today’s journalists are coding, programming, running analytics, and developing apps. These “news nerds” are working in jobs at the intersection of traditional journalist positions and technologically-intensive positions that were once largely separate. Their titles and jobs might differ, but one thing is common: they are using technology differently and the institutionalized view of a professional journalist has changed. Understanding the reasons for that turn, its mechanics, timing, and impact are the goals of this book. *News Nerds* explores how technological, economic, and societal changes are impacting the institutionalized profession of journalism. The book draws on a mixed-method research design combining interviews with professional journalists, textual analysis of trade press, and social network analysis of journalist career histories. Taken together, these data reveal the ways in which the institution of the profession of journalism is evolving to incorporate new technological skillsets and new routines of production. In telling these stories and sharing these findings, *News Nerds* directly confronts what happens when new skillsets and new ways of understanding and producing news start to collide with the old routines of journalism.

**Allie Kosterich** is an assistant professor of communications and media management at Fordham University’s Gabelli School of Business. She holds a Ph.D. in Communication from Rutgers University. Merging theory with practice, Dr. Kosterich has established an active research agenda that studies the interaction of media organizations, institutions, and new technologies. Her new book, *News Nerds: Institutional Change in Journalism*, is now out with Oxford University Press. Other work has been published in leading academic journals, as well as in the popular press. Dr. Kosterich’s research and teaching interests stem in part from her professional media background, which includes management and production positions in newsrooms and television studios. Prior to that, she earned a B.S. in communication from Cornell University.

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**Jiqun Liu, *A Behavioral Economics Approach to Interactive Information Retrieval: Understanding and Supporting Boundedly Rational Users*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer, 2023.**

Many existing formal models of information retrieval (IR) were built upon psychologically unrealistic assumptions about user rationality. As a result, IR community still face significant challenges when seeking to bridge the gap that separate users' perceptions and actual behaviors from the predictions made by rational-agent models. To address the challenge, this book brings together the insights from two separate disciplines, IR and Behavioral Economics, and shows how this new interdisciplinary approach can advance our knowledge about users, especially their seemingly irrational decisions. This book is especially intended for information scientists seeking a new perspective on fundamental problems of interactive IR, such as user modelling, search evaluation, and the development of bias-aware intelligent information systems. With the first thorough review of this new field, Liu offers graduate students and researchers a comprehensive description of interdisciplinary methods, state-of-the-art results, as well as open research opportunities on both user and system sides.

**Jiqun Liu** is an assistant professor of data science and affiliated assistant professor of psychology at the University of Oklahoma. He holds a PhD in Information Science from Rutgers SC&I. His research program focuses on the intersection of human-computer interaction (HCI), information retrieval and recommendation, and cognitive psychology. His work seeks to apply the knowledge learned about boundedly rational users interacting with information in user modeling, adaptive and proactive recommendation, bias-aware evaluation and intelligent nudging.

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**Marisa Holmes, *Organizing Occupy Wall Street: This Is Just Practice*.  
Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan, 2023.**

This book is the first study of the processes and structures of the Occupy Wall Street movement, written from the perspective of a core organizer who was involved from the inception to the end. While much has been written on OWS, few books have focused on how the movement was organized. Marisa Holmes, an organizer of OWS in New York City, aims to fill this gap by deriving the theory from the practice and analyzing a broad range of original primary sources, from collective statements, structure documents, meeting minutes, and live tweets, to hundreds of hours of footage from the OWS Media Working Group archive. In doing so, she reveals how the movement was organized in practice, which experiments were most successful, and what future generations can learn.

**Marisa Holmes** is an organizer, filmmaker, writer, and educator based in Brooklyn, NY. She is currently completing her PhD in Media Studies at Rutgers SC&I. She is the director of two non-fiction feature films, *All Day All Week: An Occupy Wall Street Story*, which captures the occupation at Zuccotti Park, and *After the Revolution*, a non-linear narrative of the post-2011 context in North Africa. In addition, she has authored numerous short films and articles. Her work has appeared in Truthout, Paris-Luttes, Nawaat, PBS, and Al Jazeera, and *We Are Many: Reflections on Movement Strategy from Occupation to Liberation*. Currently, she teaches courses on social movements and media at Rutgers University and Fordham University.

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