

**Kate Tyrol**  
**Curriculum Vitae**  
**January 2018**

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Science and Technology Studies Department  
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
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Troy, NY 12180

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**EDUCATION:**

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|---------------------------|--|
| May 2018<br>(anticipated) | Ph.D., Science and Technology Studies<br>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute      |
| 2014                      | M.S., Cognitive Science<br>Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute                    |
| 2010                      | B.S., Computer Science, <i>magna cum laude</i><br>University of Southern Maine |

**HONORS:**

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|-------------|--|
| 2016 – 2018 | RPI Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Fellow   |
| 2012 – 2013 | Rensselaer Graduate Fellow                         |
| 2009 – 2010 | Academic Dean's List, University of Southern Maine |
| 2007 – 2008 | Academic Dean's List, University of Southern Maine |

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Sociocultural Construction of Fat; Gender, Sexuality, and Identity Studies; Discourse Analysis; History of Medicine; Biomedicalization; Fat Studies; Anthropology of Health and Healthcare; Cultures of Behavioral Health; Feminist STS

**PUBLICATIONS:**

- ▶ Manuscripts In Preparation
  - Tyrol, K. (2018). Iatrogenic Substance Use: The Contemporary History of an Afflicted Will, *Social History of Medicine*
  - Tyrol, K. (2018). Maternal Binds: Invocations of Motherhood in Weight Loss Surgery Discourse, *Feminist Studies*

**INVITED TALKS:**

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2017 | “Constructions of the Flawed Will: Explanations for Alcohol Use After Weight-Loss Surgery”, Five Colleges Women’s Studies Research Center, Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA |
|      | “Re-thinking Fat”, Guest Lecture in Undergraduate Course: “Law, Medicine, and Society”, Hampshire College, Amherst, MA   |
| 2015 | “A Newcomer’s Perspective on the Archives”, Phelan Lecture Series,   |

Rensselaer County Historical Society, Troy, NY

**INSTITUTIONAL TALKS:**

- 2017 "Alcohol and the Willful Self: WLS and Its Constructions of Self Control"  
RPI Science and Technology Studies Colloquium, Troy, NY
- 2016 "Queer Politics of the Body", Guest Lecture in Undergraduate Film Course,  
RPI Science and Technology Studies Department, Troy, NY
- "Argon4 Master Class", Guest Lecture in Undergraduate Digital  
Humanities Course, RPI Communication & Media Department, Troy, NY
- "Intro to Statistics", Guest Lecture in Undergraduate Research Methods  
Course, RPI Science and Technology Studies Department, Troy, NY
- 2014 "An Empirical Investigation of Factors that Contribute to Perceptions of  
Fatness in the U.S." at the Issues in Cognitive Science Lecture Series,  
RPI, Troy, NY

**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

- 2017 "Altering Risk and Exposure: Expanding the Lay and Expert  
Understandings of Susceptibility to Food and Alcohol Post-Weight-Loss-  
Surgery" at the meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Stanford  
University, Palo Alto, CA
- "Multiplicities in Experiences of Weight and Weight Loss Surgery" at the  
Capital District Feminist Studies Conference, Albany College of Pharmacy  
and Health Sciences, Albany, NY
- 2016 "Teaching Mobile Augmented Reality Design and History through  
Community-University Collaboration" (with co-presenters Rebecca Rouse  
and Kathy Sheehan) at the Engage for Change Conference, Siena  
College, Albany, NY
- 2015 "Technology Adoption Promotion as a Tool for Ideological Reproduction" at  
the Northeast STS Graduate Student Conference, MIT, Cambridge, MA
- 2010 "A Cognitive Science Model of Playing Ms. Pac-Man" at the 30th Soar  
Workshop, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

*Teaching Assistantships:*

- 2016 IT & Society, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- 2015 Intro to Sociology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- 2014 Learning, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
- 2013–14 General Psychology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

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- Experimental Methods and Statistics, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
2013 Intro to Sports Psychology, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

- 2015 Research Assistant, Research Data Alliance  
Evaluated communication needs of the organization and produced an informational video designed to introduce the group and its function to a general audience.
- 2014–15 Research Assistant, Communication and Media Department, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Performed technical development of augmented reality and web projects that make facets of historical experience available in interactive ways to modern day end users
- 2012–13 Research Assistant, Social Interaction Lab, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
Developed virtual and game environments using Unity 3D  
Programmed speech recognition, chat, and conversational agent tools for use in those and other similar environments  
Supervised undergraduate programmers and artists  
General lab management

**RESEARCH PROJECTS:**

- 2016–18 *The Fat Subject in Transition* (dissertation research project)  
Utilizing archival research, participant observation, and ethnographic interview, I investigate how weight loss surgery affects fat subjectivity, the neoliberal discourse of health as an individual responsibility, the medicalization and biomedicalization of fat, and phenomenological experiences of embodiment, will, eating, and appetite.
- 2015–16 *Below Stairs*  
Developed an augmented reality app on two different platforms for the Rensselaer Country Historical Society's 19<sup>th</sup> century mansion museum that enables user to interact with (view, speak to, and hear) fictionalized historical figures that might have worked and lived in the home in the 1850s.
- 2015 *RDA Informational Video*  
Produced promotional video (including research, writing, visual design, animation, and video editing) about the mission and operations of the Research Data Alliance.
- Towards an Ethnographic Understanding of Mothers' Bodies*  
Performed ethnographic interviews with women who had previously had weight loss surgery and were raising children to understand how they

perceive of themselves before, during after the surgery and/or weight loss and how those processes impacted their understanding of themselves as mothers.

2014 *Fairlandia*

Developed prototype of an augmented reality app for use at the site of the 1964 World's Fair.

App successfully pilot tested on site by undergraduate students.

Began development of a more advanced version of the app with which to elicit additional funding for expansion of the project.

*Digital Blackfriars*

Developed all web content for a cross-disciplinary, cross-institutional project that presents both scholars and a general audience with tools for understanding a selection of circa 17<sup>th</sup> century plays created for the Blackfriars theatre as works of site-specific theatre.

*Scouting, Belonging and Identifying at PAX East*

As an initial exploration into both performativity and ethnographic participant-observation and in response to a troubling divide in the geek community around who is oppressed and oppressor, I designed and created a cosplay, then performed it at the PAX East gaming convention in Boston, Massachusetts to observe how attendees organize themselves around social justice issues and alternative & mainstream identities and how participation in the cosplay aspect of the convention increases, decreases, or alters experiences of enculturation and acceptance.

2013-14 *An Empirical Investigation of Factors that Contribute to Perceptions of Fatness*

While looking at the migration of fat bodies from a private concern to a public one, the use and effects of the concepts of self-control, shame and knowledge in the discourse on the subject, what can and cannot be said about fatness in various contexts, and the effects of the marginalization of fat people on other marginalized groups, this work attempts to empirically determine what factors an individual takes into account when classifying a person as fat or not fat.

2012 *A Virtual Space for Children to Meet and Practice Chinese*

Developed an immersive virtual environment with integrated voice chat for children working from different locations to interact and solve puzzles in for the purpose of practicing foreign language skills. The environment was designed with future research projects into the effects of virtual avatars and culturally-situated story-telling on language acquisition.

2010 *A Cognitive Science Model of Playing Ms. Pac-Man*

Created a Soar based agent that plays Ms. Pac-Man  
Explored alternative strategies for decision making

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- 2009 *An Investigation Into Part of Speech Taggers*  
As preparation to attempt to improve word completion systems (such as iPhone's auto-correct feature) by utilizing parts of speech to increase accuracy of suggested words, compared different combinations of tools (taggers, tagsets, and corpora) to find the optimal toolset for use on that project.

**SERVICE:**

- 2015–16 *STS Graduate Representative*  
Served on a three-person committee to facilitate the organizational needs of the graduate student body of the STS department and to liaise between the STS faculty and graduate students
- 2013–14 *HASS Graduate Colloquium Steering Committee*  
Served on a committee of graduate students from each department of the school of humanities, arts, and social sciences to plan a new school-wide colloquium and solicit student recommendations for panel members
- 2012–13 *Unlearn Event Planning Committee*  
With a team of 7 other graduate students, designed and staged a panel of student and faculty speakers presenting to all members of the college on the subject of formative moments in their education.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

- 2009–12 *Programmer Analyst*, Maine MSO, Portland, Maine  
Designed reports and utilities using .NET, SQL, and SSRS to support medical practices in their efforts to improve and quantify patient outcomes and obtain government funding for doing so
- 2007–09 *Database Analyst*, Strategic Diagnostics, Newark, Delaware  
Developed and supported the in-house MS Access application and SQL databases and provided basic tech support to employees
- 2004–07 *Application Analyst*, Spurwink Services, Portland, Maine  
Implemented and maintained a proprietary electronic health record (EHR); supervised training of all clinical staff on the EHR
- 2002–04 *IS Administrator*, Crossroads For Women, Portland, Maine  
Developed and maintained an in-house patient records application and provided basic network admin services; supported and trained employees on basic computer use