

Resume | Samantha McDonald

Expertise:

My interests are in human-computer interaction, user-experience, representative democracy, and civic tech. For my PhD, I critically investigated the ethical, political, and cultural implications of designing civic tech in the U.S Congress.

Education:

Ph.D.	2021	Informatics , Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences University of California, Irvine
M.S.	2019	Informatics , Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences University of California, Irvine
B.S.	2016	Information Systems , Department of Information Systems, University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC)
<i>Abroad</i>	2014	Sophia University 上智大学 Tokyo, Japan

Experience:

Aug 2021	UX Researcher , Facebook <i>Starting August of 2021.</i>
Spring 2021	Independent Consultant , POPVOX Foundation Working with the foundation to develop a civic metric toolkit for participatory governance research and practice.
Summer 2020	UX Intern , Facebook Business Integrity Transparency & Controls team. Established a usability baseline on how people can personalize and control their advertising experience.
Spring/Fall 2020	Lecturer , University of California, Irvine Internet Technologies and Their Social Impact. 130-150 students.
2019-2020	Research Intern , POPVOX User testing, design, and research on a new constituent correspondence and media software called LegiDash.
Summer 2018	Independent Research/Consulting Conducting research and developing public reports in collaboration with the Democracy Fund, Congressional Management Foundation, and the Open Gov Foundation. Advised CMF on matters related to constituent communication technology in Congress.
2017-2018	Teaching Assistant , University of California, Irvine Global Disruption and Information Technology. 200+ students with online discussion forums around technology and sustainability. Organizational Information Systems. 40+ students per class. Taught weekly discussion sections on technical writing and organizational theories.
Summer 2017	Research Assistant , Congressional Management Foundation Performed data analysis for four Congresspersons deploying constituent satisfaction surveys in their districts. Produced public reports on findings.
2016-2017	Research Assistant , Social Code Group, University of California, Irvine Assisted senior Ph.D. students on their technical innovations on sustainable agriculture and polyculture systems research.
2013-2016	Undergraduate Researcher , Prototyping and Design Lab, UMBC Extensive research on 3D printing for assistive technology use and education. Included 3D modeling, rapid prototyping, 3D printer construction, and user-centered design studies.
Summer 2015	Intern , Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab (APL)

Asymmetric Operations Unit. SIRIUS IARPA funded project. Assisted team to test video games to mitigate cognitive biases in intelligence agents. News Article: Drummond, Katie. "U.S. Intelligence Will Train Super-Sleuths With Videogames." *Wired.com*. 22 Nov. 2011. Web.

Summer 2013 **Intern**, Merkle Inc.
Captured SQL database requirements for a new billing application.

Affiliations:

2020-2021 **Member**, Capitol Hill Technology, Science, and Data (TSD) Cohort.
2019 **Graduate Affiliate**, Jack W. Peltason Center for the Study of Democracy. University of California, Irvine.

Technical Skills:

Experience: R, C++, Java, SQL, XHTML, CSS,
Some Experience: Javascript, PHP, PSP, Python, Linux, Unix, 3D Modeling, Git, Arduino, 3D Printer
Hardware Assembly, Computer Hardware Assembly

Research Skills:

Survey Metric Development
Public Report Writing
Iterative Prototyping of Physical Devices
Unmoderated/Moderated Usability Testing
Ethnographic Fieldwork
Cognitive Interviewing For Survey Research
Website User Testing and Protocol Development
Interview Protocol Development and Implementation
Qualitative Coding and Discourse Analysis
Survey Design and Implementation
Survey Regression Analysis and Modeling

Volunteer:

2017-2021 **Court Appointed Special Advocate**, Foster Care Volunteer, CASA Orange County
2019-2021 **Shut Up & Write**, Weekly Writing Group Host, UCI Informatics.
2019 **PhD Workshop Mentor**, Google Explore CRS Undergraduate Workshop
2017-2019 **Rock Wall Setter**, UCI Anteater Recreational Center
Summer 2017 **UCI Organizer**, End of Term Archiving Hackathon (#DataRefuge)
2017 **Volunteer Gardener**, UCI Sustainable Polycultures Project
2016-2017 **Volunteer Robot Inspector**, Vex Robotics Competitions
2016-2017 **Volunteer Builder**, UCI Aquaponics Club
2015-2017 **Trail Volunteer**, Mid-Atlantic Climbers Association
2013 **Guest Panel Speaker**, STEM Girl Power
2013, 2014 **Guest Speaker and Volunteer**, UMBC CWIT Bits and Bytes Retreat For High School Girls
2013 **Donation Coordinator**, Maryland Food Bank CWIT Scholars
2012, 2015 **Treasurer '15-16, Secretary '14-15**, UMBC Rock Climbing Club

Extracurriculars

2020 **ASA 101 Course**, American Sailing Association.
2019 **John Muir Trail**, 16-day backpacking trail in the High Sierras of California.
2016 **Course Completion**, American Alpine Institute – Alpine Rock Climbing
2017-2019 **Rock Wall Setter**, UCI Anteater Recreational Center