

DIGITAL FUTURES INSTITUTE

Building the future of learning

What's Going on at DFI

DFI Speaker Series - Luisa Covaria
April 13th, 12:30 pm - 2:00 pm



Join us for the last visiting scholar in our spring DFI Speaker Series! For our final talk we are happy to welcome Luisa Corvaria, Head of Partnerships at Neol!

Luisa is a creative strategist, systems thinker, storyteller and community organizer with 15 years of experience working with fortune 500 companies, philanthropies, startups, governments and creatives. Trained as a filmmaker and interaction designer and turned startup executive, Luisa is currently the Head of Partnerships at Neol, a community powered platform for the most audacious creative minds. Previously, Luisa spent a decade as Executive Design Director at IDEO and Co-lead at OpenIDEO- IDEO's open innovation platform. Luisa is a thought leader on equitable and inclusive design and community powered platforms.

She has been driven by one question throughout her career: How do we unleash the creative power of communities to tackle some of the hardest challenges faced by humanity? In this conversation, Luisa will share her insights building and growing community-powered platforms, based on her decade-long experience as Co-Lead at OpenIDEO, a pioneer in the field, and now at the creative start-up [Neol.co](https://neol.co)

This session will take place in DFI Mixed Media Space (RH509)

[Register for the talk here!](#)

The DFI Speaker Series invites scholars, researchers, and other experts

to present their work at the intersections of education, emerging technologies, and new digital realities.

Fostering Student Writing with Formative Assessment Supported by AI

We are excited to welcome Thorben Jansen and Jennifer Meyer to DFI on their brief visit to Teachers College this week. These scholars will give a short talk about their current research and ongoing projects.

Feedback can be effective on average but not every student profits in the same way. According to recent feedback models, student characteristics and feedback features can determine feedback effectiveness. Addressing the main research question “What makes feedback effective for whom?”, we introduce our current research projects focusing on formative assessment using AI in the context of students’ writing, taking account of the role of students’ individual differences when working with feedback.

Join us today from 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm in the DFI Mixed Use Space (RH509) for this visiting scholar talk!

Join *Pop & Play* at AERA in Chicago!



Join hosts Haeny Yoon and Nathan Holbert and members of the *Pop & Play* production team for an interactive session on experiences with podcasting and play as scholars!

Session info:

Media, Culture, and Learning SIG Business Meeting, Featuring Pop and Play Podcast Panel

Sat, April 15, 2:50 to 4:20pm CDT

Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: West Tower - Ballroom Level, Acapulco

[Add it to your AERA personal schedule!](#) See you there!

And if you haven't yet, subscribe on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you listen. We're in the midst of Season 3 which focuses on intergenerational play!

MASCLab Mediafest
April 28th, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

MASCLab's Mediafest is an annual celebration and presentation of media making and multimodal scholarship. As a signature event of our lab, this year's showcase will include various projects from our three working teams: Media Literacy team, Multimodal Scholarship team and Podcast team.

The event will take place in-person at Teachers College, Columbia University in the Smith Learning Theater on Friday, April 28th from 4-6pm, visit the [official website to register and learn more about it](#).

Auto Captions Now Available on All Videos in TCDM

All videos uploaded to TC Digital Media (TCDM) will now be automatically captioned. Auto captions utilize Artificial Intelligence (AI) to process human speech into readable text. Although auto captions do not meet ADA standards for individuals with disabilities, they provide a baseline of accessibility. Captions make TC inclusive and accessible to the entire community, including English language learners and individuals with disabilities.

The time it takes for TCDM to add automatic captions depends on the length of your video and the number of videos being processed by TCDM. It can take from an hour up to 24 hours; be sure to continue to check TCDM to see if your video is complete. The process is free but is not as accurate as captioning created by a human. Once automatic captions are created, follow the directions below to edit your captions for accuracy

Faculty - [Edit captions in TCDM](#)

Students and Staff - [Edit Video Captions in TC Digital Media](#)

DFI Affiliated Research

Playful Testing

DFI Affiliated Researcher Nathan Holbert recently published his work with other scholars around the integration of play into K-12 assessment.

"In this volume, an interdisciplinary team of researchers shares insights from three years of intensive design research resulting in a game for assessment of computer science and data science skills. The context, grounded in New York City public schools and the needs of middle school students and teachers, set a challenging innovation agenda. Beats Empire, the formative assessment game designed in response to these challenges, quickly garnered many awards and downloads."

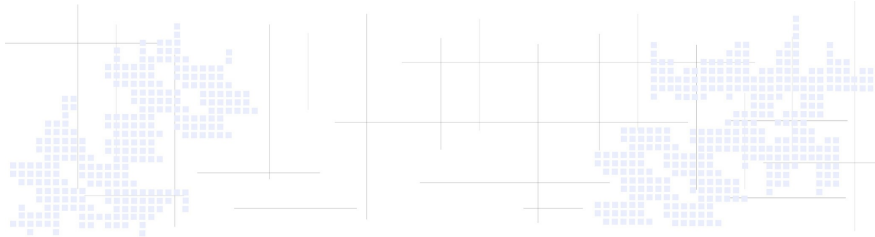
[Get a copy here!](#)

TikTok as a Key Platform for Youth Political Expression: Reflecting on the Opportunities and Stakes Involved

DFI Affiliated Researcher Ioana Literat recently published her work about the ways TikTok influences youth and how they engage with politics and activism.

"Reflecting on 6 years of our research—which began on musical.ly and transitioned into TikTok—we argue that TikTok is a vital space to study social movements due to its centrality in youth lives and its ability to give voice to youth political expression in richly creative ways. We see the political expression happening on TikTok as a harbinger of the changing nature of this phenomenon, and a necessary impetus to broaden our understandings of activism and political expression today. At the same time, we must also consider the implications of TikTok becoming such a valuable space for youth politics and activism, in terms of the kinds of expression it affords or constrains, and the power it gives the platform. In closing, we encourage scholars to maintain a balanced and constructive approach in researching the platform, and embrace the messiness and complexity inherent in this endeavor—which mirrors the messiness and complexity of the platform itself."

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