

Meryl Alper

Northeastern University, Department of Communication Studies
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Academic Positions

Northeastern University

2015- Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies, College of Arts, Media, and Design

Education

University of Southern California

2015 Ph.D., Communication, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
2013 M.A., Communication, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism

UCLA Extension

2010 Certificate (with Distinction), Early Childhood Education

Northwestern University

2005 B.S. (Magna Cum Laude), Communication Studies and History

RESEARCH

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

2018-2020 **Northeastern University**, Faculty Scholar, Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research
2018-2019 **Northeastern University**, Dean's Research Fellow, College of Arts, Media, and Design
2018-2019 **Northeastern University**, Faculty Fellow, Northeastern Humanities Center
2018 **American Sociological Association**, Outstanding Publication in the Sociology of Disability Award for *Giving Voice*, Section on Disability and Society
2018 **Association of American Publishers**, PROSE Award Honorable Mention for *Giving Voice*, Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division, Media and Cultural Studies Category
2017 **International Communication Association**, Top Faculty Paper Award, Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division
2017 **International Communication Association**, Top 8 Paper Award, Mobile Communication Interest Group
2015-2018 **Harvard University**, Faculty Associate, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society
2015 **International Communication Association**, Top 3 Poster Award, Children, Adolescents and Media Division
2014 **University of Southern California**, Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Department of Communication
2014 **University of Southern California**, Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Program Travel Grant, Department of Communication
2013 **Society for the History of Technology**, Junior Scholar Conference Travel Grant
2011 **International Communication Association**, Top Student Paper Award, Children, Adolescents and Media Division
2010-2015 **Annenberg Foundation**, Doctoral Fellowship, University of Southern California
2005 **Northwestern University**, Communication Studies Senior Thesis Honors
2005 **Northwestern University**, Communication Studies Undergraduate Departmental Excellence

2004 **Northwestern University**, Doron Abosch Memorial Scholarship, Northwestern Club of New York

Research Areas

Children, families, and media; disability and technology; mobile communication; autism and technology; augmentative and alternative communication; digital media and learning; history of personal computing

Publications

Books and Monographs

Alper, M. (2017). *Giving voice: Mobile communication, disability, and inequality*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

* 2018 Association of American Publishers PROSE Award Honorable Mention, Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division, Media and Cultural Studies Category; 2018 American Sociological Association Outstanding Publication in the Sociology of Disability Award, Section on Disability and Society

* Reviewed by *New Media & Society*, *Journal of Children and Media*, *Journal of Interdisciplinary Voice Studies*, *Endeavour*, *Canadian Journal of Disability Studies*, *Choice* (Highly Recommended)

Alper, M. (2014). *Digital youth with disabilities*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

* Reviewed by *Journal of Children and Media*

Journal Articles

Alper, M. (in press). US parent perspectives of media guidance from pediatric autism professionals. *Journal of Children and Media*.

Mello, S., **Alper, M.**, & Allen, A. (in press). Physician mediation theory and pediatric media guidance in the digital age: A survey of autism medical and clinical professionals. *Health Communication*.

Alper, M. (2019). Portables, luggables, and transportables: Historicizing the imagined affordances of mobile computing. *Mobile Media & Communication*, 7(3), 322-340.

Alper, M. (2019). Future talk: Accounting for the technological and other future discourses in daily life. *International Journal of Communication*, 13, 715-735.

Alper, M. (2018). Inclusive sensory ethnography: Studying new media and neurodiversity in everyday life. *New Media & Society*, 20(10), 3560-3579.

Alper, M., & Goggin, G. (2017). Digital technology and rights in the lives of children with disabilities. *New Media & Society*, 19(5), 726-740.

Götz, M., Holler, A., & **Alper, M.** (2016). Children's preferences for TV show hosts: An international perspective on learning from television. *Journal of Children and Media*, 10(4), 497-507.

Jennings, N., & **Alper, M.** (2016). Young children's positive and negative parasocial relationships with media characters. *Communication Research Reports*, 33(2), 96-102.

Alper, M., Katz, V., & Clark, L. S. (2016). Researching children, intersectionality, and diversity in the digital age. *Journal of Children and Media*, 10(1), 107-114.

* Reprinted (2017), in D. Lemish, A. Jordan, & V. Rideout (Eds.), *Children, adolescents, and media: The future of research and action* (pp. 111-118). London: Routledge.

Alper, M. (2015). Augmentative, alternative, and assistive: Reimagining the history of mobile computing and disability. *IEEE Annals of the History of Computing*, 37(1), 93-96.

Alper, M. (2014). "Can Our Kids Hack It With Computers?": Constructing youth hackers in family computing magazines (1983-1987). *International Journal of Communication*, 8, 673-698.

Alper, M. (2014). War on Instagram: Framing conflict photojournalism with mobile photography apps. *New Media & Society*, 16(8), 1233-1248.

Alper, M., & Herr-Stephenson, B. (2013). Transmedia play: Literacy across media. *Journal of Media Literacy Education*, 5(2), 366-369.

- Alper, M.** (2013). Developmentally appropriate New Media Literacies: Supporting cultural competencies and social skills in early childhood education. *Journal of Early Childhood Literacy*, 13(2), 175-196.
- Alper, M., Hourcade, J.P., & Gilutz, S.** (2012). Adding reinforced corners: Designing technologies for children with disabilities. *ACM Interactions*, 14(6), 72-75.
- Alper, M.** (2012). Promoting emerging new media literacies among young children with blindness and visual impairment. *Digital Culture and Education*, 4(3).

White Papers

- Whittaker, M., (with **Alper, M.**, Bennett, C. L., Hendren, S., Kaziunas, L., Mills, M., Morris, M. R., Rankin, J., Rogers, E., Salas, M., & Myers West, S.)* (2019). *Disability, bias, and AI*. New York: AI Now Institute at New York University. *co-authors listed alphabetically
- Herr-Stephenson, B., & **Alper, M.**, (with Reilly, E., & Jenkins, H.) (2013). *T is for transmedia: Learning through transmedia play*. Los Angeles and New York: USC Annenberg Innovation Lab and The Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop.

Book Chapters and Encyclopedia Entries

- Alper, M., & Irons, M.** (in press). Digital socializing in children on the autism spectrum. In L. Green, D. Holloway, L. Haddon, K. Stevenson, & T. Leaver (Eds.), *Routledge companion of children and digital media*. London: Routledge.
- Alper, M.** (2019). When face-to-face is screen-to-screen: Reconsidering mobile media as communication augmentations and alternatives. In K. Ellis, G. Goggin, B. Haller, & R. Curtis (Eds.), *Routledge companion to disability and media* (pp. 275-284). London: Routledge.
- Alper, M.** (2017). Transmedia. In K. Peppler (Ed.), *SAGE encyclopedia of out-of-school learning* (pp. 791-792). Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE.
- Alper, M., & Haller, B.** (2017). Social media use and mediated sociality among individuals with communication disabilities in the digital age. In K. Ellis, & M. Kent (Eds.), *Disability and social media: Global perspectives* (pp. 133-145). London: Routledge.
- Alper, M., Ellcessor, E., Ellis, K., & Goggin, G.** (2015). Reimagining the good life with disability: Communication, new technology, and humane connections. In H. Wang (Ed.), *Communication and "the good life"* (International Communication Association Theme Book Series, Vol. 2) (pp. 197-212). New York: Peter Lang.
- Alper, M.** (2013). Children and convergence culture. In D. Lemish (Ed.), *Routledge international handbook of children, adolescents and media* (pp. 148-155). London: Routledge.

Conference Proceedings and Workshop Papers

- Hourcade, J.P., Garzotto, F., Rozga, A., Tentori, M., Markopolous, P., Pares, N., Good, J., Pain, H., & **Alper, M.** (2014). Supporting children with complex communication needs. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI)* (pp. 119-122). Toronto, Canada, April 26-May 1, 2014. New York: ACM.
- Alper, M.** (2013). Making space in the makerspace: Building a mixed-ability maker culture. *ACM International Conference on Interaction Design and Children (IDC)*, Workshop on Evaluating Accessibility in Fabrication Tools for Children, New York, NY.
- Alper, M., Hourcade, J.P., & Gilutz, S.** (2012). Interactive technologies for children with special needs. *Proceedings of the ACM International Conference on Interaction Design and Children (IDC)* (pp. 363-366). Bremen, Germany, June 12-15, 2012. New York: ACM.

Book Reviews

- Alper, M.** (2016). Book Review: *Making Computers Accessible: Disability Rights & Digital Technology* (E. R. Petrick). *Technology and Culture*, 57(4), 1027-1028.
- Alper, M.** (2013). Book Review: *The Parent App: Understanding Families in the Digital Age* (L. S. Clark). *Journal of Children and Media*, 7(4), 525-529.

Alper, M. (2011). Book Review: *Quest to Learn: Developing the School for Digital Kids* (K. Salen et al.). *Journal of Children and Media*, 5(4), 467-471.

Amicus Briefs

Carpenter v. United States, No. 16-402 (U.S. Supreme Court, 2017) (co-signer to Brief of Amici Curiae Data & Society Research Institute and Fifteen Scholars of Technology and Society in Support Of Petitioner).

Commentary

Alper, M., & Jackson, L. (2019, April 25.) [LEGO Braille Bricks](#). *Critical Axis*.

Alper, M. (2018, March 6). [Can technology really 'give voice' to disabled people?](#) *Pacific Standard*.

Alper, M. (2017, July 21). [Talking like a "Princess": What speaking machines say about human biases](#). *Lady Science*, no. 34.

Alper, M. (2017, June 13). [Personal computing and personhood in design and disability](#). CASTAC (Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology & Computing), General Anthropology Division, American Anthropological Association. (Invited Commentary)

Alper, M., & Greene, D. (2017, June 7). [Author Interview: Meryl Alper on "Giving Voice."](#) *Culture Digitally*. (Invited Interview)

Alper, M. (2017, January 3). [Comments on "Overstimulated Consumers or Next-Generation Learners? Parent Tensions About Child Mobile Technology Use."](#) *Annals of Family Medicine*. (Invited Commentary)

Alper, M. (2016, September 21). [What ABC's new TV series *Speechless* can tell us about "voice."](#) *Motherboard*.

Alper, M. (2016, April 21). [No child's brain is the same](#). *Zócalo Public Square* (Syndicated by *Dallas Morning News*). (Invited Commentary)

Research Grants

External

2015-2020 U.S. Department of Education, Ready to Learn Grant, 2015-2020, "Superhero School: Harnessing the Power of Science, Literacy, and Media" (\$36,765,832 overall, \$10,000 dedicated; Role: Project Consultant)

Internal

2018-2019 Dean's Research Fellow Award, College of Arts, Media, and Design (\$3750; Role: PI)

2018-2019 Health Equity Pilot Award, Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research, Northeastern University (\$5,000; Role: PI)

2017-2018 Latifa Al Khalifa Grant, College of Arts, Media and Design, Northeastern University, "Growing Up Autistic in the Digital Age" (\$10,000; Role: PI)

2013 Diploma in Innovation Grant, University of Southern California (\$5,000; Role: PI)

Scholarly Presentations

Keynote Addresses

Alper, M. (2019, August). *Digital media, youth, and disability*. Keynote address at +aprendizajes Conference, Fundación Ceibal, Montevideo, Uruguay.

Alper, M. (2019, June). *Redefining mediated human connections through disability and digital technology*. Keynote address at #ScreentimeBU Graduate Student Conference, Division of Emerging Media Studies, Boston University, Boston, MA.

Alper, M. (2016, April). *Universal design for learning*. Keynote address at U.S. Department of Education Ready to Learn Grant Advisory Board Meeting. Twin Cities Public Television, Washington, DC.

Sponsored Panels

- Alper, M. (2018, May). *Screen time and the lives of children* (with Amy Jordan, Jan Van den Bulck, and Sun Sun Lim, co-panelists). Sponsored session at International Communication Association, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Alper, M. (2017, September). *Media for social responsibility: Life with autism spectrum disorder* (with Ron Suskind, featured panelist; Tina Caswell, Susanne Bruyere, & Nadine Vogel, co-panelists). Park Distinguished Visitor Series, Park School of Communications, Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY.
- Alper, M. (2016, August). *Creative computing for all* (with Karen Brennan, moderator; Nick Giacobbe & Rhianon Gutierrez, co-panelists). Keynote panel at Scratch Conference, MIT Media Lab, Cambridge, MA.

Invited Talks

- Alper, M. (2020, March). *Disability, voice, and the social implications of communication technologies*. University of Delaware Grand Challenges Program, Designing Inclusive Futures Project, University of Delaware, Newark, DE.
- Alper, M. (2020, February). *Promoting equity in digital learning through inclusive sensory ethnography*. Connected Learning Lab, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA.
- Alper, M. (2019, October). *Digital media, disability, and youth: Opportunities for learning, voice, and sociality*. Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- Alper, M. (2019, May). *Disability, voice, and the social implications of communication technology*. LEAD20@MIT: Leadership in the Digital Age, Ruderman Family Foundation and MIT Sloan School of Management, Cambridge, MA.
- Alper, M. (2019, February). *Disability and the social implications of communication technology*. Learning Sciences Speaker Series, Center for Teaching & Learning, Boston University, Boston, MA.
- Alper, M. (2018, November). *Disability and the social implications of communication technology*. Doctoral Colloquium in Learning and Development, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Alper, M. (2018, November). *Disability tech*. Architectural Access Workshop Series, Department of Architecture, MIT, Cambridge, MA.
- Alper, M. (2018, August). *The cultural politics of “sensory-friendly” mediated spaces*. Communicating Universal Design, Department of Design Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, Lund University, Lund, Sweden.
- Alper, M. (2018, April). *Reconsidering connection and conversation through disability and communication technology*. Disrupting Distance: Evolving Connections and Disconnects in the Digital Age Symposium, Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY.
- Alper, M. *Giving voice: Mobile communication, disability, and inequality* (Invited book talks after publication).
- University of Michigan, Department of Communication Studies, Communication and Media Speaker Series, Ann Arbor, MI (2017, November).
- University of Southern California, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, Annenberg Research Seminar, Los Angeles, CA (2017, August).
- UC San Diego, UCSD Center for Humanities, Transdisciplinary Disability Studies Reading Group, San Diego, CA (2017, May).
- Harvard University, Berkman Klein Center for Internet and Society (with Elizabeth Ellcessor), Cambridge, MA (2017, May).
- Institute for Human Centered Design, Boston, MA (2017, May).
- University of Maryland, Human-Computer Interaction Lab, College Park, MD (2017, April).
- Data & Society Research Institute, New York, NY (2017, April).
- University of North Carolina, School of Journalism and Mass Communication, Mary Junck Research Colloquium Series, Chapel Hill, NC (2017, January).

- Alper, M. (2017, May). *Growing up autistic in the digital age: Early fieldwork and findings*. Access for All: Designing Experiences for People with Autism Symposium, New York Transit Museum, Brooklyn, NY.
- Alper, M. (2017, April). *Augmenting communication for non-speaking youth with new media and popular culture*. Tech Kids Unlimited, NYU Tandon School of Engineering, Brooklyn, NY.
- Alper, M. (2016, May). *Reconsidering conversation: Mobile media as communication augmentations and alternatives*. Department of Communication, University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- Alper, M. (2016, January). *Networked immobility*. Faculty Ideas Session, Berkman Center for Internet and Society, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- Alper, M. (2015, October). *New directions in supporting digital youth with disabilities*. Center on Media and Child Health, Children's Hospital Boston, Boston, MA.
- Alper, M. (2015, June). *Playing with transmedia and gender in children's storytelling*. St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences, Vienna, Austria.
- Alper, M. (2015, January). *Making a difference. One app at a time?: Disability, distinction, and domestic access*. Microsoft Research New England, Social Media Collective, Cambridge, MA.
- Alper, M. (2014, October). *Augmenting communication for non-speaking youth with new media and popular culture*. Department of Informatics, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA.
- Alper, M. (2014, October). *Giving "screen time" a time-out: Rethinking media use among youth with disabilities*. Center for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders, Santa Ana, CA.
- Alper, M. (2014, May). *"I wish he loves games": The media practices of autistic youth with complex communication needs*. Robotics and Autonomous Systems Center Interaction Lab, Viterbi School of Engineering, USC, Los Angeles, CA.
- Alper, M. (2014, March). *Digital media and early learning: "Greatest hits" 2014*. UCLA Early Care and Education Center, Los Angeles, CA.
- Alper, M. (2013, October). *Youth with disabilities and their digital media use*. New America Foundation, Washington, DC.
- Alper, M. (2012, October). *From Minnie Mouse to Minecraft: Children's transmedia storytelling and play*. Advertising Research Foundation Youth Forum, Burbank, CA.

Invited Panelist

- Alper, M. (2017, May). *Conversation with Heben Nigatu, BuzzFeed's Another Round Podcast* (with Jonathan Sun, moderator; Kishonna Gray, co-panelist). MIT Online Humor Conversation Series, Cambridge, MA.
- Alper, M. (2016, October). *The turn to "tween": An age category and its cultural consequences* (with Marah Gubar, moderator; Tyler Bickford, co-panelist). MIT Communications Forum, Cambridge, MA.

Workshop Organizer

- 2017 Shared Realities: Disability, Technology, and Inclusion (sponsored by Microsoft Research, co-organized with Dylan Mulvin, Microsoft Research)

Sponsored Workshops and Institutes

- 2019 Invited Participant (with full funding), Workshop on Disability, Bias, and AI, Microsoft Research and the AI Now Institute, New York, NY.
- 2018 Invited Participant (with full funding), Communicating Universal Design, Department of Design Sciences, Faculty of Engineering, Lund University, Lund, Sweden.
- 2018 Invited Participant (with full funding), Developmental Science in the Digital Age, Society for Research in Child Development and Jacobs Foundation-sponsored, Irvine, CA.
- 2018 Invited Participant, Making Sense of Algorithmic Systems, STS Program, Tufts University.
- 2018 Invited Participant (with partial funding), Social Science Foo Camp, Facebook HQ.
- 2016 Participant, Jacobs Foundation-sponsored Pre-Conference Workshop, Society for Research in Child Development Special Topic Meeting: Technology and Media in Child Development.

- 2016 Participant, Early Career Mentoring Program, Society for Research in Child Development Special Topic Meeting: Technology and Media in Child Development.
- 2016 Invited Participant (with full funding), NSF Workshop on Youth, Learning, and Data Science, UC Berkeley.
- 2015 Participant (with full funding), NSF-sponsored Doctoral Colloquium, iConference.
- 2014 Participant, Oxford Internet Institute, Summer Doctoral Program.

Conference Presentations

- Alper, M. (2019, May). *The cultural politics of “sensory-friendly” mediated spaces*. International Communication Association, Activism, Communication and Social Justice Interest Group, Washington, DC.
- Alper, M. (2019, May). *Portables, luggables, and transportables: Historicizing the imagined affordances of mobile computing*. International Communication Association, Mobile Communication Interest Group, Washington, DC.
- Alper, M., Mello, S., & Allen, A. (2019, May). *Physician mediation theory and pediatric media guidance in the digital age: A survey of autism medical and clinical professionals*. International Communication Association, Health Communication Division, Washington, DC.
- Allen, A., Alper, M., Shane, H., & Haynes, C. (2018, November). *Attitudes & use of screen media in families of children with autism: A survey*. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Boston, MA.
- Alper, M., Paulsen, K., Hjorth, L., Parisi, D., & Archer, J. (2018, October). *On haptics, touch, and the internet*. Roundtable panel at the Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR), Montreal, QC.
- Alper, M. (2018, August). *Disability and digital technology*. Special session on “Digital Innovations for Change: Public Sociology in the 21st Century.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- Alper, M. (2018, May). *Future talk: Lay theories of technological and other futurities*. International Communication Association, Children, Adolescents and Media Division, Prague, Czech Republic.
- Allen, A., Alper, M., Shane, H., & Haynes, C. (2017, November). *Interprofessional development of a survey exploring mobile technology use among families of children with autism*. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA.
- Patel, R., & Alper, M. (2017, November). *Giving voice to social communication outcomes in an increasingly diverse & digital age*. American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Annual Convention, Los Angeles, CA.
- Alper, M. (2017, August). *Disability: Making “sense” of computing through sensory processing disorder and autism*. Panel on “Making Sense of Computing: Methods, Uses, and Histories.” Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Studies of Science, Boston, MA.
- Alper, M. (2017, May). *Hearing synthetic speech as human: Disability, technology, and the politics of listening to computerized voice*. International Communication Association, Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division, San Diego, CA. **(Top Faculty Paper Award, ICA Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division)**
- Alper, M. (2017, May). *Making a case for iPad cases: Theorizing mobile accessories and materiality*. International Communication Association, Mobile Communication Interest Group, San Diego, CA. **(Top 8 Paper Award, ICA Mobile Communication Interest Group)**
- Alper, M. (2017, May). *Keeping voices attached to people: Disability, demagogues, and design in media*. International Communication Association Conference, Pre-Conference on Media Justice: Race, Borders, Disability, Data, San Diego, CA.
- Alper, M. (2016, November). *Bringing in disability to bring back class: Understanding media and technology for contemporary times and people*. Plenary on Media and Class in the 21st Century. Media & Class in the 21st Century Pre-Conference, National Communication Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA.

- Alper, M. (2016, October). *The communicative value of recreational media use among children with complex communication needs*. Society for Research in Child Development, Special Topic Meeting: Technology and Media in Children's Development, Irvine, CA.
- Katz, V., Alper, M., & Clark, L. S. (2016, October). *Researching children, intersectionality, and diversity in the digital age*. Society for Research in Child Development, Special Topic Meeting: Technology and Media in Children's Development, Irvine, CA.
- Alper, M. (2016, October). *Disability, digital media, and the "home technology divide."* Digital Media and Learning Conference, Irvine, CA.
- Goggin, G., & Alper, M. (2016, July). *Disability, children, and new challenges to digital policy and human rights*. International Association for Media and Communication Research Pre-Conference, Children's and Young People's Rights in the Digital Age. London School of Economics, London, UK.
- Alper, M., & Goggin, G. (2016, June). *Children with disabilities: Rights, digital tech, freedoms*. International Communication Association, Children, Adolescents and Media Division, Fukuoka, Japan.
- Alper, M. (2015, June). *Networked im/mobility: Infrastructural barriers to school district deployment of iPads as assistive technologies*. Digital Media and Learning Conference (DML), Los Angeles, CA.
- Alper, M. (2015, May). *The trouble with "screen time": Disability and the social construction of children's mediated bodies*. International Communication Association Conference, Popular Communication Division, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Alper, M. (2015, May). *"There's many ways that I know that he can read": Towards an asset model of childhood disability and children's media use*. International Communication Association Conference, Children, Adolescents and Media Division, San Juan, Puerto Rico. **(Top 3 Poster Award, ICA Children, Adolescents and Media Division)**
- Alper, M. (2015, May). *Speak, spell, touch, tell: A history of mobile talking machines*. International Communication Association Conference, Communication History Division, San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- Alper, M. (2014, May). *Reconsidering theories of ICT adoption: The case of tablet-based augmentative and alternative communication devices*. International Communication Association Conference, Theme Session, Seattle, WA.
- Alper, M. (2014, May). *Augmentative, alternative, and assistive: Reimagining mobile communication and disability*. International Communication Association Conference, Mobile Communication Pre-Conference, Seattle, WA.
- Alper, M. (2013, October). *"Can Our Kids Hack It With Computers?": Making hacking "family-friendly," 1983-1987*. Society for the History of Technology Conference, Portland, ME.
- Alper, M., & Jennings, N. (2013, June). *Young children's positive and negative parasocial relationships with media characters*. International Communication Association Conference, Children, Adolescents and Media Division, London, UK.
- Holler, A., Götz, M., & Alper, M. (2013, June). *Children's preferences for TV show hosts: An international perspective on learning from television*. International Communication Association Conference, Children, Adolescents and Media Division, London, UK.
- Alper, M. (2013, May). *War on Instagram: Framing mobile photography apps in embedded photojournalism*. MIT Media in Transition Conference, Cambridge, MA.
- Alper, M. (2013, March). *Mixed-ability maker culture*. DML Conference, Chicago, IL.
- Alper, M. (2012, March). *Promoting emerging new media literacies among young children with blindness and visual impairments*. DML Conference, San Francisco, CA.
- Alper, M. (2011, May). *Representations of non-American "foreigners" in American children's television*. International Communication Association Conference, Children, Adolescents and Media Division, Boston, MA. **(Top Student Paper Award, ICA Children, Adolescents and Media Division)**
- Alper, M. (2011, March). *"There's a nap for that!": Parents' YouTube videos of babies and toddlers using iPhones, iPads, and iPod Touch devices*. DML Conference, Long Beach, CA.

Academic Research Positions

- 2010-2013 **University of Southern California**, Annenberg Innovation Lab
Research Assistant (Prof. Henry Jenkins)
- 2011-2012 **University of Southern California**, Annenberg Research Seminar
Graduate Assistant (Prof. Larry Gross and Prof. Peter Monge)
- 2010 **University of Southern California**, Project New Media Literacies
Research Assistant (Prof. Henry Jenkins)
- 2003-2005 **Northwestern University**, Children's Digital Media Center
Lab Assistant Manager & Research Assistant (Dean Barbara O'Keefe)
- 2002 **Northwestern University**, Spatial Intelligence and Learning Center
Research Assistant (Prof. David Uttal)

Industry Research and Management Positions

- 2017- **PBS KIDS and WBGH**
Freelance Educational Media & Technology Consultant
- 2008-2010 **Nickelodeon**, Los Angeles, CA
Research Manager, Nick Jr. Preschool Television
- 2005-2008 **Disney Channel**, Burbank, CA
Programming Scheduling Coordinator, Programming Department
- 2004 **Nickelodeon**, New York, NY
Intern, Noggin/The-N, Brand Creative Department
- 2003 **Sesame Workshop**, New York, NY
Intern, *Sesame Street*, Domestic Research and Education Department

Selected Media Coverage

- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/CBC Radio: Spark*. [Disability design](#). November 8, 2019.
- La Diaria* (Uruguay). Meryl Alper: [“Hay que involucrar a la persona con discapacidad en la creación del producto que es para su beneficio.”](#) August 22, 2019.
- VICE Magazine*. [Facing tomorrow's high-tech school surveillance](#). October 29, 2018.
- TechRepublic*. [Microsoft's new AI app to assist the blind could be a 'game changer' in accessibility](#). July 12, 2017.
- Mental Floss*. [7 academic studies of Instagram](#). July 7, 2017.
- TechRepublic*. [Despite its promise, modern technology often fails to help disabled users](#). May 25, 2017.
- Engadget*. [The enduring myth of the hacker boy-band](#). May 5, 2017.
- Digg*. [Can Amazon's Alexa be your friend?](#) March 31, 2017.
- Canadian Broadcasting Corporation/CBC Radio: Spark*. [Can technology really give a voice to the voiceless?](#) March 12, 2017.
- PRI's The World*. [Barbie typewriter toys had a secret ability to encrypt messages — but they didn't think girls would care](#). January 17, 2017.
- The Guardian*. [Sesame Street's Count von Count and the lack of foreign voices on children's TV](#). January 15, 2017.
- Tech Insider*. [If you have over 25 photos on Instagram, you're no longer cool](#). May 26, 2016.
- School Library Journal*. [Transmedia and education: How transmedia is changing the way we learn](#). June 11, 2014.
- The Verge*. [You should be reading tween hacker magazines from the 1980s](#). June 5, 2014.
- Gizmodo*. [How teen hackers were portrayed in 1980s family magazines](#). June 5, 2014.
- The Atlantic*. [In defense of Instagramming conflict in Crimea](#). March 7, 2014.
- ACM Computers in Entertainment*. [Playing with transmedia: An interview with Becky Herr-Stephenson and Meryl Alper](#). May 21, 2013.

Wired. [Babies and iPads: A new type of discussion](#). October 20, 2011.

TEACHING

Undergraduate Teaching

Communication, Technology, and Society; Northeastern: F19 (new course preparation), S20
Mobile Communication; Northeastern: F16 (new course preparation), F17, S18, S19, F19
Youth and Communication Technology; Northeastern: F15, S16 (two sections), F16, F17, S18, F18 (two sections), S20
Cultures of New Media; USC: S15

Advising and Mentorship

(Students are affiliated with Northeastern University's Communication Studies undergraduate program unless otherwise noted.)

Doctoral Dissertation Committee Member

2017- Alex Ahmed (Northeastern University, Ph.D. in Personal Health Informatics)

Advisor, Graduate Practicum Research

2017 Adesewa Adelekun (Harvard School of Public Health, Master of Public Health)

Advisor, Undergraduate Research Assistant

2018- Erika Christiansen

2017-2018 Madison Irons

Advisor, Undergraduate Directed Research

2016 Danielle Mokarzel

Guest Lectures

(2018, November). *Giving Voice*. University of Maryland, College of Information Studies (Technology, Culture & Society; Undergraduate).

(2018, February). *Giving Voice*. University of Virginia, Department of Media Studies (Media Bodies; Undergraduate).

(2018, January). *Giving Voice*. USC, Department of Communication (Humanistic and Social Scientific Approaches to Human Communication; Graduate).

(2017, October). *Giving Voice*. Cornell University, Department of Communication (New Media & Society Graduate Reading Group).

(2017, April). *Giving Voice*. NYU, Department of Anthropology. (Constructing North America; Graduate).

(2016, October). *Media, Technology, and Disability*. MIT, Department of Comparative Media Studies. (Introduction to Media Studies; Undergraduate).

(2016, March). *Mobile*. Harvard University, Graduate School of Education. (Learning, Teaching, and Technology; Graduate).

(2015, September). *Empowerment and Inequality*. MIT Media Lab. (Unpacking Impact: Reflecting as We Make; Graduate).

SERVICE

Professional Service

Professional Society Leadership

2019- Invited Member, International Communication Association (ICA) Inclusion, Diversity, Equity & Access (IDEA) Task Force

Journal Editorial Board Member

- 2019- *New Media & Society* (2019 Google Scholar: #1 in Communication; 2018 Journal Citation Reports: #2 in Communication)
2019- *Journal of Children and Media*

Book Manuscript Reviewer

- 2019 Bloomsbury

Book Proposal Reviewer

- 2018 MIT Press (two proposals)
2017 MIT Press, University of Minnesota Press, Bloomsbury
2015 Oxford University Press

Grant Proposal Reviewing

- 2019 National Science Foundation (ad hoc)

Journal Manuscript Reviewer

- 2020 *Journal of Children & Media; New Media & Society; Social Media + Society*
2019 *Health Communication; International Journal of Communication; International Journal of Qualitative Methods; Journal of Children and Media; Media Psychology; New Media & Society; Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research; Television and New Media*
2018 *Catalyst: Feminism, Theory, Technoscience; International Journal of Communication; Journal of Children and Media; Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication; Media Psychology; New Media & Society*
2017 *Journal of Children and Media; New Media & Society*
2016 *International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction; Human-Computer Interaction; International Journal of Communication; Journal of Children and Media; Media Psychology; New Media & Society; Social Media + Society*
2015 *First Monday; International Journal of Communication; Journal of Children and Media; New Media & Society; Television and New Media; Universal Access in the Information Society*
2014 *International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction; International Journal of Communication; New Media & Society*
2013 *International Journal of Child-Computer Interaction; International Journal of Communication; Journal of Children and Media; Journal of Early Childhood Literacy*
2012 *International Journal of Communication; Journal of Children and Media*
2011 *Journal of Children and Media*

Conference Program Committees

- ACM CHI Works-in-Progress Program Committee, Associate Chair (2013)
ACM IDC Workshops Co-Chair (2012, 2013), Publicity Co-Chair (2013)

Conference Mentorship

- 2017- ICA, Research Escalator Session Mentor, Children, Adolescents and Media Division

Conference Paper Reviewer

- 2019 ACM CHI (Computer-Human Interaction), ACM DIS (Designing Interactive Systems), ACM IDC (Interaction Design and Children), ICA
2018 ACM CHI, ICA
2017 ACM CHI, ACM Conference on Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW), ACM Symposium on User Interface Software and Technology (UIST), ICA
2016 ACM CHI, ICA

2015 iConference, ACM IDC
 2014 ACM CHI, ICA
 2013 ACM CHI, ICA, ACM IDC
 2012 ICA
 2011 ICA

Doctoral Consortium Abstract Reviewer

2016 Society for Research in Child Development, Special Topic Meeting: Technology and Media in Children’s Development

Professional Society Memberships

2010- International Communication Association (ICA)
 2018 American Sociological Association (ASA)
 2017 Society for Social Studies of Science (4S)
 2014 Association of Computing Machinery (ACM)
 2013 Society for the History of Technology (SHOT)

University Service

University Service

2016 Faculty Marshal, Commencement, Northeastern University

College Service

2017-2018 Faculty Co-Organizer, CAMD Food for Thought Faculty Lecture Series
 2017 Faculty Marshal, CAMD Commencement
 2017 Interviewee, CAMD Website Rebranding Stakeholder Interviews
 2016 CAMD Dean’s Portfolio Reviewer, Northeastern Undergraduate Admissions

Department Service

2019-2020 Member, Search Committee (Tenured/Tenure-Track; Computational Social Science)
 2015-2020 Host, Dinner with the Faculty, Communication Studies Department
 2018-2019 Chair, Search Committee (Tenured/Tenure-Track; Race, Equity, and Inclusion)
 2016-2019 Member, Communication Studies Curriculum Committee
 2017-2018 Member, Non-Tenure Track Promotion Committee
 2016-2017 Member, Communication Studies Merit Review Committee
 2016, 2018 Attendee, Communication Studies Senior Cording Ceremony & Luncheon
 2016, 2019 Attendee, Communication Studies Honors Banquet

Presentations at Northeastern Events and Symposia

Alper, M. (2019, October). *Assistive technologies for speech and communication*. Northeastern University, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, EECE 2750: Enabling Engineering.
 Alper, M. (2019, April). *The cultural politics of “sensory-friendly” mediated spaces*. Design for Human Experience: Automation and the Senses, 2018-2019 CAMD Dean’s Research Fellows Presentation.
 Alper, M. (2019, April). *Adaptive design: Nurturing achievement for individuals, design teams, and wider society with Alex Truesdell*. Discussant, CAMD Dean’s Distinguished Lecture Series.
 Alper, M. (2019, February). *Giving voice*. Northeastern University, Department of Sociology, SOCL 2225: Sociology of Disability.
 Alper, M. (2019, February). *The cultural politics of “sensory-friendly” mediated spaces*. Northeastern University, Faculty Works-in-Progress Colloquium Series, College of Social Sciences and Humanities and the Northeastern Humanities Center.

- Alper, M. (2018, November). *Advancing digital and health equity for autistic children*. Northeastern University, Department of Health Sciences and the Institute for Health Equity and Social Justice Research, Works in Progress Series.
- Alper, M. (2018, October). *Disability*. Design for Human Experience: Automation and the Senses, 2018-2019 CAMD Dean's Research Fellows Project Launch.
- Alper, M. (2018, February). *Giving voice*. Northeastern University Undergraduate Speech & Hearing Club.
- Alper, M. (2017, November). *Disability awareness*. Faculty panel representative, Meeting of Northeastern University Students Against Institutional Discrimination.
- Alper, M. (2017, October). *Assistive technologies for speech and communication*. Northeastern University, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, EECE 2750: Enabling Engineering.
- Alper, M. (2017, June). *Interpersonal relationships and communication* (with Dania Jekel, moderator; Justin Robbins & Dot Lucci, co-panelists). CHATTER Symposium (Collaboration Highlighting Autism Through Technology for Emotion & Relationships), Northeastern University.
- Alper, M. (2017, April). *Giving voice: Mobile communication, disability, and inequality*. Northeastern University, School of Law, Faculty Colloquia.
- Alper, M. (2017, February). *Growing up autistic in the digital age: Early fieldwork and findings*. Northeastern Center for the Arts Faculty Lunchtime Colloquium.
- Alper, M. (2016, April). *Assistive technologies for speech and communication*. Northeastern University, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, EECE 2750: Enabling Engineering.

Northeastern Office of Marketing and Communications

- News @ Northeastern*. [The power of 'voice,' and empowering the voiceless](#). April 17, 2018.
- News @ Northeastern*. [TTYL, AIM: How we used AOL Instant Messenger, for better or worse](#). November 16, 2017.
- News @ Northeastern*. [How new research and Sesame Street are expanding our understanding of autism](#). March 31, 2017.
- News @ Northeastern*. [Professor examines benefits, social inequalities of voice technologies](#). February 28, 2017.

Public Service

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| 2006- | Northwestern University, Alumni Admissions Council (Los Angeles and Boston), Undergraduate Admissions Interviewer |
| 2018 | Invited Judge, Machine Learning Accessibility Hackathon, Microsoft New England Research and Development, Cambridge, MA |
| 2017 | UNICEF Innovation Fund, Augmentative and Alternative Communication Solutions for People with Disabilities, Advisor and Proposal Reviewer |
| 2013-2014 | The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, National Coalition for Core Arts Standards, Special Education Review Team Co-Lead for Media Arts Standards |