
Kristin Stecher

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Education

Ph.D., Social Psychology, 12/07
University of Washington, Seattle, WA
Dissertation: Spontaneous trait and goal inferences: A lay theories approach.

B.A., Psychology & Managerial Studies, 6/02
Rice University, Houston, TX

Research

I conduct all aspects of usability research in the Future Social Experiences (FUSE) Labs. Using both qualitative (ethnographic and lab studies) and quantitative (large scale surveys and instrumentation analyses) techniques, I provide feedback to enhance the user experience.

Industry Experience

Microsoft, User Experience Researcher
Contract, Microsoft FUSE Labs, previously Creative Systems (10/09-current)

- Bing Twitter: Identified use case scenarios and improved usability of real time search at Microsoft.
- Kodu: Analyzed the educational impact of Kodu, a visual programming environment for the Xbox. Developed a curriculum and led an eight week after-school program.

Contract, Microsoft Research Creative Systems Group (3/08-10/09)

- Social Networks in Email: Traced the viral spread and usage of Salsa, a social network for email.
- Enterprise Social Networking: Defined and measured successful deployment of widely used Microsoft products.
- Social Computing for Mobile Devices: Conducted usability testing for a new mobile social software prototype.
- Wiki Science: Identified features that encourage contribution to wikis and citizen scientist sites.

Intern, Visualization and Interaction for Business and Entertainment Group (6/07-9/07)

- Profiles Research: Provided suggestions for the creation of abbreviated profiles in mobile social software and other space-constrained digital environments.

Contract, Community Technologies Group (6/06-1/07)

- Profiles Research: Studied the social-cognitive processes behind profile creation.

Quire Inc., User Experience Researcher
Contract (1/08-2/08)

University of Washington, Psychology Instructor
Teaching Assistant (9/02-12/07)

Baylor College of Medicine, Researcher
Intern, Leadership Rice (5/02-8/02)

Houston Independent School District, Researcher
Intern, Leadership Rice (5/01- 8/01)

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| Teaching | <p>Social Psychology, 100 students (7 quarters)</p> <p>Social Psychology for non majors, 5 students (1 quarter)</p> <p>Psychology 101, 500 students (3 quarters)</p> <p>Psychology 101 Lead TA, 500 students (5 quarters)</p> <p>Research Methods, 100 students (1 quarter)</p> <p>Abnormal Psychology, 100 students (1 quarter)</p> <p>Kaplan, SAT Tutor (3/03-9/03)</p> |
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| Professional Service | <p>Reviewer</p> <p>22nd Computer Supported Cooperative Work (CSCW) conference, '08</p> <p>27th Computer Human Interaction (CHI) conference, '09</p> <p>28th Computer Human Interaction (CHI) conference, '10</p> <p>Program Committee</p> <p>4th Int'l AAAI Conference on Weblogs and Social Media (ICWSM), '10</p> <p>Member</p> <p>Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), '02-'08</p> <p>BayCHI, '08, '09</p> |
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| Awards and Achievements | <p>Bolles Dissertation Fellowship (Autumn '07)</p> <p>Microsoft Research, Diversity Travel Grant (Summer '07)</p> <p>Alcor Fellowship (Summer '05)</p> <p>Lead TA Fellow (Autumn '05, Winter '06, Spring '06, Winter '07)</p> <p>National Merit Scholarship ('98-'02)</p> |
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| Skills | <p>Computing</p> <p>Designed personal and course websites (HTML, CSS)</p> <p>Ran queries (SQL)</p> <p>Wrote programs for research studies (Inquisit)</p> <p>Methodology</p> <p>Taught research methodology course to undergraduates</p> <p>Very experienced with complex and varied research design</p> <p>Utilized Microsoft software to design and record studies (OVO)</p> <p>Statistics</p> <p>Experienced with advanced inferential statistics techniques (SPSS)</p> <p>Analyzed large data sets (Excel)</p> |
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| References | On Request |
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Papers

- Stecher, K.**, Counts, S., Cheng, L., Turski, A. & Williams, S. (2009). Salsa: Leveraging email to create a social network for email. *Poster Paper, In Proc. Int'l Conf. Weblogs and Social Media (AAAI)*, ICWSM, '09.
- Counts, S., & **Stecher, K.** (2009). Self-presentation of personality traits during online profile creation. *Poster Paper, In Proc. Int'l Conf. Weblogs and Social Media (AAAI)*, ICWSM '09.
- Luther, K., Counts, S., **Stecher, K.**, Hoff, A., & Johns, P. (2009). Pathfinder: An online collaboration environment for citizen scientists. *In Proc. Computer Human Interaction (ACM SIGCHI)*, SIGCHI '09.
- Stecher, K.**, & Counts, S. (2008). Thin slices of profile attributes, *In Proc. Int'l Conf. Weblogs and Social Media (AAAI)*, ICWSM, '08.
- Stecher, K.**, & Counts, S. (2008). Spontaneous inference of personality traits from online profiles, *In Proc. Int'l Conf. Weblogs and Social Media (AAAI)*, ICWSM, '08.
- Stecher, K.** (2007). Spontaneous trait and goal inferences: A lay theories approach. *Doctoral Dissertation*. University of Washington.
- Plaks, J. E., & **Stecher, K.** (2007). Unexpected change and unexpected stasis: A prediction and control perspective on achievement motivation. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 93, 663-667.
- Stecher, K.** (2007). Identifying automatic processes in social computing. Position paper, Social Computing Workshop, *ACM SIGGROUP '07*, Sanibel Isl., FL.

Posters

- Stecher, K.**, Cheng, L., & Laird-McConnell, T. (2009). An Enterprise Wiki. *DemoFest*, Redmond, WA.
- Counts, S., **Stecher, K.**, & Grudin, J. (2009). Enterprise uses of emerging technologies. *Enterprise 2.0 Conference AND MSR TechFest*. Redmond, WA. AND Boston, MA
- Stecher, K.**, & Plaks, J. E. (2008). The role of confidence ratings in the simultaneous spontaneous inferences of goals and traits. *SPSP*. Tempe, AZ.
- Stecher, K.**, & Plaks, J. E. (2007). Do we all infer alike? Evidence for theory driven spontaneous inferences. *SPSP*. Memphis, TN.
- Stecher, K.**, & Plaks, J. E. (2005). Lay Theories of Personality: How goals, traits, PxS and IPT are terms every can understand.. *SPSP*. New Orleans, LA.
- Stecher, K.**, & Brown, J. (2004). Self-Esteem and Persistence: When the going gets tough, those with low self-esteem get going. *SPSP*. Austin, TX.
- Knight, J. L., Hebl, M. R., & **Stecher, K.** (2003). Casting anchors: The influence of news anchors' and evaluators' gender, race, and age on hiring perceptions. *APS*. Atlanta, GA.
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