

LIV OWENS

London, United Kingdom | liv.owens@citystgeorges.ac.uk |

SUMMARY

Social scientist working on how digital systems shape everyday life and how people understand and respond to them. I use participatory workshops, creative practice (including crafting and poetry), and qualitative methods to study these experiences, producing teaching, community-based work, and public-facing writing.

RESEARCH & DOCTORAL WORK

PhD Dissertation: Families as Sites of Critical Data Literacies | 2024 - Present

- Investigating how families understand and respond to datafication in everyday life using participatory and creative methods.
- Focused on local authority infrastructure and governance of data generated through everyday civic life.
- Developing community-based educational materials and policy recommendations on family-centred data literacy and resistance.
- Working alongside Hackney Council's Adult and Family Learning Services.

Queer Digital Lives: Surveillance, Datafication & Community Resilience | 2023 - Present

- Co-Researcher (with Dr. Elisabetta Ferrari and Lily Bichard-Collins)
- Participatory Action Research exploring intersections of queerness, surveillance, and data-driven systems of power.
- Facilitated creative research groups using visual methods, reflexive practice, and crafting-based inquiry.
- Produced a public-facing zine (donated to Glasgow Zine Library) and accompanying methodology materials and website.
- Generated academic outputs including conference presentations and forthcoming journal articles.

EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology — City St George's, University of London | **2024 – 2028 (ongoing)**

MSc, Digital Sociology (Distinction) — University of Glasgow | **2022 – 2023**

BA, Sociotechnical Conflict Analysis (High Distinction) — Indiana University Bloomington | **2017 – 2021**

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Women for Weapons Trade Transparency | 2021–2025

- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Grant Recipient
- Publications:
 - The 1122 Program: An Investigative Analysis (2022)
 - Foreign Military Sales Under Congressional Notification Thresholds
 - Waging War, Wasting Funds (2025)

Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society (Harvard Law School) | Summer 2021

- Research Assistant

Ostrom Workshop (Indiana University Bloomington) | Summer 2021

- Research Assistant

U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (VSFS Program) | 2020–2021

- Virtual Student Federal Service Intern

SELECTED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- **International Conference on Social Media & Society: Workshop** - Collaging the Datafied Self: Mapping Postdigital Subjectivity Through Creative Methods (upcoming)
- **Plymouth Critical Criminology Conference:** Wetware as Refusal: The Ontological Disruption of the Datafied Body (June 2026)
- **Data Justice Conference:** Datafying the Community, Local Experiences of Data Governance and Surveillance in East London (June 2026)
- **Digital Worlds and Tactile Methods symposium:** Writing Research Differently: Poetry as Method (May 2026)
- **London Office of Technology and Innovation Digital Inclusion Symposium:** Mapping Data and (Ex/In)clusion in Everyday Life (May 2026)
- **CHASE Gender and Sexuality Research in Times of Crisis symposium:** 'Queer Digital Lives' (February 2026)
- **Information Lives in DIY Conference:** 'Data Dioramas to Map Surveillance' (November 2025)
- **Digital Intimacies, Young People and Everyday Life Conference:** 'Queer Digital Lives' (September 2025)
- **Pint of Science:** 'Crafting: using creative methods to inform good social research' (May 2025)
- **Royal College of Art Curation Series:** 'On being watched not seen: Reflections from Night Watch' (March 2025)
- **Association of Internet Researchers Conference:** 'Queer Digital Lives' (October 2024)

TEACHING & FACILITATION EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant | City St George's, University of London | Jan 2026 – present

- Designed and delivered weekly undergraduate seminars in Sociology.
- Developed teaching materials, facilitated discussions, and assessed student work.
- Completed Introductory Certificate in Academic Practice; pursuing PGCert in Academic Practice.
- Teaching Qualitative Methods and Social Theory modules.

Hackney Literacy Pirates | Crew Member (Tutor) | Mar 2025 – present

- Support literacy and confidence development for children through structured after-school learning.
- Combine academic support with creative engagement activities to build motivation and resilience.

Kinning Park Complex (IT & Digital Literacy Programme) | Program Coordinator & Tutor | May 2024 – Aug 2024

- Designed and delivered digital literacy workshops for community members.
- Taught practical digital skills including email setup, scam awareness, and Microsoft/Google Suite use.
- Supported learners in overcoming barriers to safe and confident technology use.

City Year (AmeriCorps) | Corps Member (Teacher) | Jul 2021 – May 2022

- Delivered academic enrichment, tutoring, and leadership programming in school and virtual settings.
- Engaged students, families, and communities through educational initiatives and outreach events.

University Tutors | Literacy Specialist | Summer 2021

- Taught targeted literacy interventions to 40 students (ages 5–11).
- Adapted curriculum for individual learning needs and tracked literacy progression data.
- Maintained ongoing assessment reports for students, families, and educators.

SKILLS

Research writing and editing; policy and report writing; public-facing research translation; workshop design and facilitation; teaching and curriculum design; qualitative research (interviews, focus groups, participatory workshops); data collection and basic analysis; digital literacy training; public speaking; creative and visual methods (crafting, zines, collage, poetry-based methods)