

The View from Lewis College

# BIG PICTURE

Spring 2015

IIT Lewis College  
of Human Sciences   
ILLINOIS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Christine L. Himes

Introducing our 606-1-6  
Feature: Work and Play

Lewis College's newest  
faculty members

Research across disciplines



# Dean's greeting

Welcome to our inaugural issue of *Big Picture: The View from Lewis College*. As a new college at IIT, we have many things to learn, but more importantly, many things to share. I hope that through this publication we can highlight for you some of the exciting people I am privileged to interact with every day. In each issue's "606-1-6" feature, we will choose one theme and bring you six perspectives drawn from faculty, students, and alumni that highlight that theme. In addition, we will link to expanded stories and bonus features posted on our website.

Developing a new college is an exciting opportunity. I have the chance to work with the faculty to uncover who we are as a college and where we want to be. Throughout this year we will be focusing on those questions, but let me share a few thoughts I've had already. Pick up any newspaper or visit any news website and you will find a story about the evolving role of technology in our lives—the personal meaning of passwords, the role of women in computing, privacy on Facebook, the popularity of fitness trackers, and more. What does it mean to live in this digital age? How does technology shape our experiences? Where can technology take us?

*Informing the future:  
New worlds of possibility  
at the intersection of  
humanity and technology*

In Lewis College, we work at this intersection of people and technology. Our increasingly knowledge-based economy values the ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and appreciate a range of perspectives. Faculty in our three departments—Humanities, Psychology, and Social Sciences—use their scholarship to learn from the past and look to the future; understand how to help people function at the highest level possible; and examine the broad social and political contexts in which change occurs. We offer courses that push students toward new ideas and perspectives, and provide them with tools to create meaningful futures.

I recognize that while the college is new, the departments are not. One of the best parts of my position is having the opportunity to meet IIT alumni from all over the country and let them know that they are now part of the Lewis College family. I love hearing their stories and telling them about what's happening on campus today. I've heard memories of cooking spaghetti in rusty buckets, of the 1964 College Bowl team, of late night escapades, and fraternity antics. I've also heard about inspiring professors, dear friends, and the new opportunities a college education opened up.

I hope that you will continue to share your stories with me and enjoy hearing the stories we bring you in *Big Picture*.

Christine L. Himes

Dean

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View Lewis College's redesigned website at [humansciences.iit.edu](http://humansciences.iit.edu), and find bonus features for *Big Picture* at [humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture](http://humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture).

# BIG PICTURE

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*Informing the future: New worlds  
of possibility at the intersection of  
humanity and technology*

Lewis College of Human Sciences was formed  
June 1, 2013, and houses the Departments of  
Humanities, Psychology, and Social Sciences.

Illinois Institute of Technology, also known as  
Illinois Tech, is a private, technology-focused  
research university offering undergraduate  
and graduate degrees in engineering, science,  
architecture, business, design, human sciences,  
applied technology, and law.



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Dean Himes with the 2014-2015 Lewis College Student Council.



# A Microcosm:

Small cases reveal big lessons

An Interview with Jonathan Rosenberg, Ph.D.  
Chair, Social Sciences Department



Dr. Jonathan Rosenberg joins IIT's Lewis College of Human Sciences this spring as chair of the Department of Social Sciences. Dr. Rosenberg earned a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1992, and was on faculty at the University of Alaska—Fairbanks from 1993 to 2014. His research evaluates how the activities of development assistance agencies, multilateral lending institutions and non-governmental organizations affect local stakeholders' participation in environmentally sustainable development projects. This research has taken him to Washington, D.C., Grenada, Dominica, St. Lucia, and Barbados. Dr. Rosenberg is the author of several papers and book chapters on Cuban political economy, Mexican parties and interest groups, and participatory environmental management in the Eastern Caribbean. He also co-authored *Comparative Environmental Politics*, and *Political Economy of Oil in Alaska: Multinationals vs. the State*. To get to know the man behind the book titles and academic accomplishments, we asked Dr. Rosenberg a few candid questions upon his arrival.

**Lewis College:** Thank you for speaking with us, and welcome to IIT, Dr. Rosenberg. We understand you grew up in New York City, studied in Los Angeles, and worked in Alaska. Are you expecting a culture shock moving to Chicago?

Dr. Rosenberg: I think culture shock happens when you expect a place to be anything other than it is. Chicago is a great city, full of opportunities for exploration and enrichment. I may miss the easy access to quiet solitude and wilderness in Alaska, but I expect to relish the great music, art, food, sports, and interesting people of Chicago.

**LC:** Chicago is just a different type of wilderness, perhaps! What is one book that changed your life and why?

JR: I think my answer to that would change every time I was asked! The academic book that comes to mind is, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy: Lord and Peasant in the Making of the Modern World*, by Barrington Moore. It made me realize the scholarly importance of melding history, sociology, political science, and economics, as well as of thinking holistically and humanistically about societal change.

**LC:** What led you to your particular research focus, and what do you find rewarding about your work?

JR: I have always been concerned about progress toward more democratic and equitable societies. My love of the natural environment and concerns about sustainability alerted me to the good that may be done by observing political change and democratization through the lens of environmentally sustainable development. From there, I desired to test the assertions of agencies—such as the World Bank—that claim to have taken a real and substantive turn toward promoting sustainability.

So much of my work is rewarding. I feel hopeful when I discover individuals who are working tirelessly and with little compensation to preserve the ecosystems and cultures that they love. Big players such as the World Bank have made some progress toward promoting environmentally sustainable development and participation by local stakeholders. But it is never clear how much or how little progress until individual cases are carefully examined.

For example, I studied a case in Grenada where the leader of a small, community-based conservation group revealed that a solid waste management project funded by the World Bank would have destroyed some of the last remaining habitat of a highly endangered species, the Grenada Dove. As the case unfolded it became apparent that

the project was also impacting the traditional property rights of local farmers and a prior arrangement between the Grenadian government and a multinational corporation to also clear the land for a major tourist resort. A momentary intervention by an articulate individual revealed competing economic and political agendas and the infinite complexities of environmentally sustainable development. The island is small. The bird is small. But the issues were huge.

The opportunities through my research, writing, and teaching to draw broader lessons from cases like this keep me motivated. I like microcosms: small cases that reveal big things.

**LC:** Do you have any personal hobbies that IIT might see in action someday?

JR: My main passion, outside of work, is music. I am a self-taught drummer and have played in a variety of bands since I was in junior high school. Does IIT have a faculty band? Ha. I also love baseball, making IIT's location a great perk.

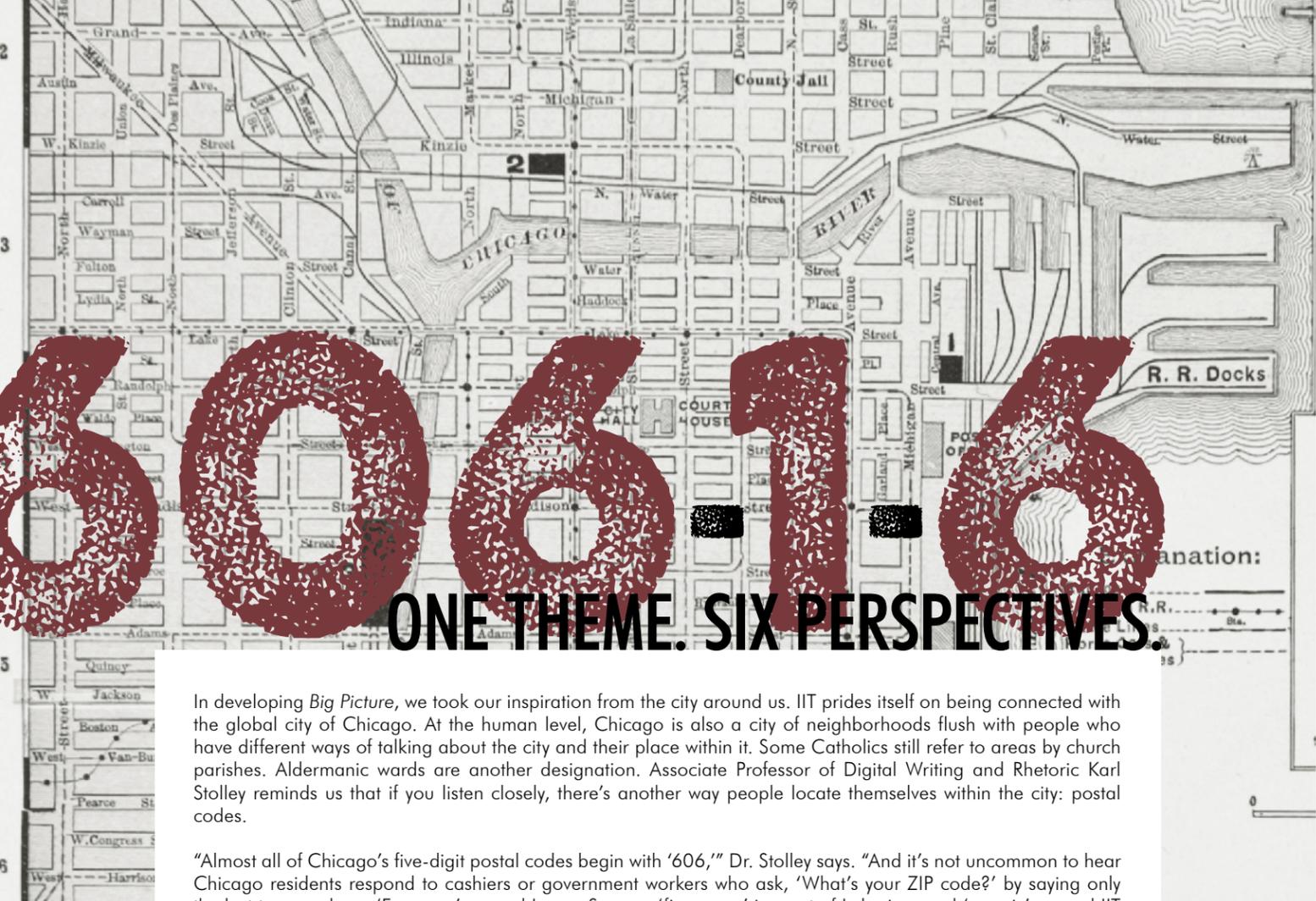
**LC:** You could start a faculty band! You've had many adventures through your work, but what adventure is still on your bucket list?

JR: I like to hike and bike, but I have yet to take on any epic, muscle-powered adventure like hiking the entire Pacific Crest Trail or biking the U.S. from coast to coast.

**LC:** Lastly, what excites you most about IIT's Social Sciences Department?

JR: I am humbled by the faith shown in me to provide some leadership for a very productive and dedicated faculty. First and foremost, it is my new colleagues that excite me. I am also very excited about working across the social science disciplines, and finding ways to grow and develop the social sciences in the context of a technologically oriented institution. Not to mention, I am excited about the opportunity to help students who will be on the leading edge of life-enhancing technological advancements to think critically and expansively, and to understand their current and future social, political, and policy landscapes.

Read other student, faculty, and alumni profiles and interviews at [humansciences.iit.edu/profiles](https://humansciences.iit.edu/profiles).



In developing *Big Picture*, we took our inspiration from the city around us. IIT prides itself on being connected with the global city of Chicago. At the human level, Chicago is also a city of neighborhoods flush with people who have different ways of talking about the city and their place within it. Some Catholics still refer to areas by church parishes. Aldermanic wards are another designation. Associate Professor of Digital Writing and Rhetoric Karl Stolley reminds us that if you listen closely, there's another way people locate themselves within the city: postal codes.

"Almost all of Chicago's five-digit postal codes begin with '606,'" Dr. Stolley says. "And it's not uncommon to hear Chicago residents respond to cashiers or government workers who ask, 'What's your ZIP code?' by saying only the last two numbers: 'Four one' around Logan Square, 'five seven' in most of Lakeview, and 'one six' around IIT in Bronzeville."

Building from Dr. Stolley's observation, each issue of *Big Picture* will center on one unifying theme and present six distinct perspectives from our community—"606-1-6". The "1-6" theme highlights the common scholarly spaces we inhabit and the different perspectives with which we view the world.

Our first theme is: "Work and Play."

*The work of children is play. As we grow older and gain responsibilities, the time we have for play decreases. But in Lewis College, many of us have kept a sense of curiosity about the world and continue to explore and experiment in our work. Rather than draw strict boundaries between work and play, we examine the value of play as part of our work; we study the effect of games on behavior and culture; we investigate what makes us happy, and how to balance work and family life. In this issue of Big Picture, we highlight some of the ways members of Lewis College explore the worlds of work and play.*

## WORK, PLAY, AND HEALTH.

My research in industrial and organizational psychology lies at the intersection of work and health. I explore the inner psychological experience of work and examine how it relates to health and performance. I study the causes and consequences of mind-wandering at work, the ebb and flow of workplace emotions, and how daily work stressors and cognitive fatigue lead to decreased well-being and the development of job-burnout.

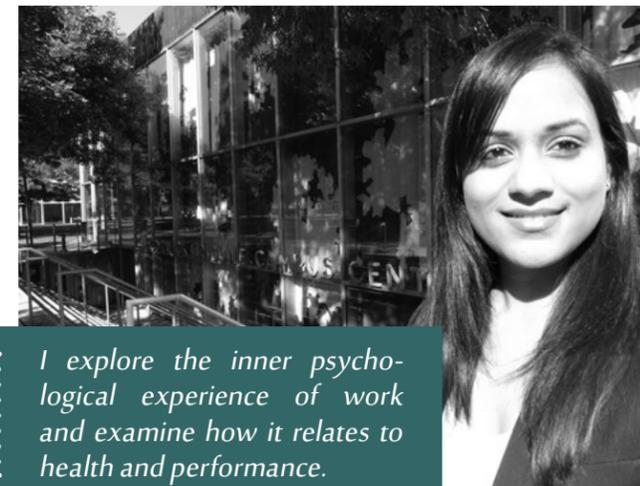
On the other end of the spectrum, I examine how people recover from work demands and replenish lost psychological resources. In addition to sleep, vacations, and break activities, I am interested in scientifically understanding how activities, such as meditating and interacting with technology as a method of "play," aid rest and recovery.

I largely use the *experience sampling method* to capture dynamic psychological states as they occur in real time. Through the course of the day and through weeks, I "beep" participants as they go about their daily work lives. Employees respond to our questions using a smartphone app programmed per my needs, an electronic device such as an iPad that I may provide, or a website portal. The research question determines the modus operandi. For example, participants may engage with a game-like computer experiment to map reaction times or fill out short surveys that assess their current emotional states.

Recently, graduate and undergraduate students in my lab and I embarked on a study examining the experience for women who are targets or victims of workplace incivility in the STEM disciplines. Interesting findings are emerging that highlight the role incivility may play in health, performance, and turnover. This study is particularly relevant at IIT given the emphasis on the STEM fields, and we are excited about presenting our findings at the annual convention for the Association for Psychological Sciences in May this year.

I recently received a grant from the Society of Industrial and Organizational Psychology that will allow me to explore the intersection of work and health for informal workers in order to promote decent work and well-being for the working poor around the world. This project is in line with the International Labor Organization and the United Nation's Sustainability Development Goals.

**Dr. Mahima Saxena, Assistant Professor of Psychology**



*I explore the inner psychological experience of work and examine how it relates to health and performance.*

## HISTORY OF VIDEO GAMES.

In the United States, video games have become one of the most prominent cultural forms. For the past few years, the games industry has outpaced the national economy in growth and out earned Hollywood. Not surprisingly then, more and more universities, including IIT, are turning their attention to the business of studying and making games.

In my "History of Video Games" class this fall, students played *Super Mario Bros.*, read up on professional e-sports, and explored contemporary art games, but they also rolled up their sleeves and did the hands-on work of history. Working in groups, students interviewed competitive gamers and coin-op professionals from around the Chicago area, including arcade owners, a ranked fighting game player, and a coin-op repairman.

The coin-op industry has a rich history in Chicago, which for many years served as the capital of the U.S. pinball industry. The Chicago area is still home to Stern Pinball, one of the country's few remaining pinball companies, and today arcades still dot the Chicago landscape. These arcades often present a living history of coin-op by preserving older games and keeping them readily accessible. In part because of the number of arcades in the area, Chicago also has a lively competitive gaming scene, and, in recent years, the city has developed a vibrant community of independent game developers as well.



Most of the students who signed up for my class love games, but few had visited any of the arcades or considered how much game design and production might be happening within a few miles of campus. By the end of the semester, students were trading interview anecdotes, comparing arcade operation strategies, and discussing competitive gaming culture.

Completing oral histories helps familiarize students with this history while providing them with hands-on experience in conducting interviews. These kinds of projects often surprise students, who expect to spend more time reading and less time scheduling interviews, photographing arcades, and navigating the city, but they also exemplify the project-based approach that makes humanities courses at IIT distinctive.

**Dr. Carly Kocurek, Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities and Media Studies**

View "*Gamers vs. Tropes vs. Women in Video Games*," a video produced by Dr. Kocurek for the *Journal of Digital and Media Literacy*, at our website: [humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture](http://humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture).

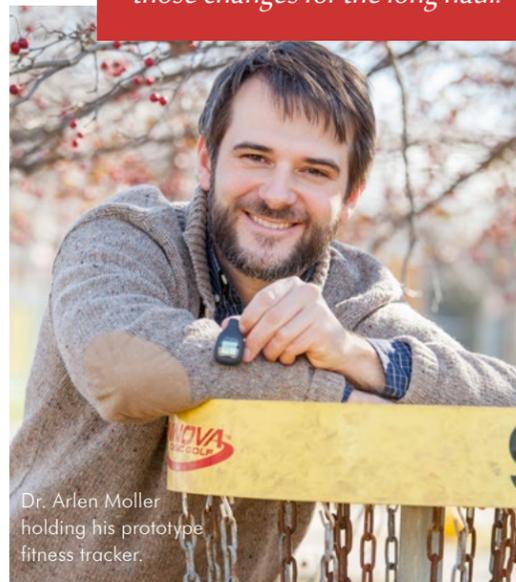
## GAMES FOR HEALTH.

One theme that helps to define my research program and teaching philosophy is, “Make it more fun.” In particular, over the last three years, with the help of my team of undergraduate lab members, we have been working on research in an area called “Games for Health”—using principles from psychology theories and the entertainment video game industry to try and make exercising more fun. One active video game that we’ve worked the most on is “Active Fantasy Sports,” a version of online fantasy sports that rewards participants after weeks when they’ve been physically active, and punishes them when they haven’t (e.g., by dropping a player from their fantasy team’s roster).

The first two studies on this work were recently published in the *Journal of Medical Internet Research: Serious Games*. Seven IIT undergraduates worked on this research and are included as co-authors on that paper.

Continuing forward, we’re scaling up both the number of participants we can reach, and the length of time we study them. My hypothesis is that the more fun the game is, the more likely participants are to make meaningful lifestyle changes and stick with those changes for the long haul.

### Dr. Arlen Moller, Associate Professor of Psychology



Dr. Arlen Moller holding his prototype fitness tracker.

*My hypothesis is that the more fun the game is, the more likely participants are to make meaningful lifestyle changes and stick with those changes for the long haul.*

Dan Lezotte, Ph.D., is a Principal in the Workforce Strategy and Analytics group at Mercer, and sits on the Board of Overseers for IIT’s Lewis College of Human Sciences. He received his master’s and Ph.D. from IIT in Industrial/Organizational Psychology and was on the faculty of the Institute of Psychology from 2000 to 2006.

## FINDING A BETTER FIT.

After taking a psychology class in high school, I never wavered about my career goal—to become a psychologist and study human behavior. My focus eventually became the behavior and well-being of individuals while at work. I’ve always subscribed to the idea that work and play do not have to be distinct aspects of our lives. Research supports the notion that “fit,” meaning a job that fits an employee’s skills and working style, plays a huge role in employee satisfaction.

As a consultant, I once worked with a national consumer products company in the automobile sector. They had a long history of extremely high turnover, especially within the first three months of employment. The company estimated that the average cost of hiring and onboarding one employee was \$2,300, making high turnover very costly, before factoring in the impact on the company’s customers. Given the early leave pattern, it was apparent that the company was not hiring the right people into their positions – they were hiring a lot of people, just not very many whose skill set and work style “fit” the requirements of the jobs.

To help the company better fit potential employees, we devel-

oped and implemented a work-style inventory that became part of their application process. The questions were targeted to assess the work style of applicants, such as conscientiousness, interpersonal skills, and sales orientation, as well as their preferences in work environment. We were able to demonstrate that new hires scoring in the top quartile on the assessment were 20 percent more productive than those scoring in the bottom quartile. Also, those scoring in the bottom quartile were four times more likely to leave within the first 90 days on the job. We conservatively estimated we could save \$1.5 million in turnover costs by using the assessment to avoid hiring applicants scoring in the bottom quartile. Within a year, the turnover rate decreased drastically.



Dan Lezotte, Ph.D., with friends of IIT.

I’d also like to say that maintaining my connections with fellow IIT alumni has had a tremendous impact on my career. I have received job opportunities from alumni, as well as hired several IIT alumni myself. I give back to the university out of gratitude for the doors opened for me while a student and as an alumnus. I will continue to help those current students who are where I once was—struggling to make it through the college and graduate school years.

Dan Lezotte, Ph.D. (PSYC M.S. ’83, Ph.D. ’89)



IIT Psychology students work with a child to learn therapeutic methods.

## CHILD’S PLAY.

My work is play. That is, as a psychology professor and child clinical psychologist, my professional roles include playing with children in therapy and watching them play in my research.

Most people think about play as a way for young children to advance their cognitive skills, not realizing that it is also the primary way in which they develop their socioemotional skills. Through play children learn about their own emotions; how to regulate their emotions, and how to relate to other children and adults. My research involves videotaping young children while they are playing, and studying how they cope with an emotionally challenging situation, for example being given a disappointing gift, like a plain wooden block. Some children get angry in this situation (one child even threw the block at the research assistant), while others manage to contain their feelings and behave in a more socially appropriate manner, like the child who said, “My baby brother will like this.” One of the goals of my research program is to determine what aspects of the child’s environment are helpful in promoting more adaptive coping, which is the key to emotional health.

In therapy with young children who don’t have the words to express their feelings, play is essential to helping them work through a trauma or stressful experience. Often the play by a child in therapy sessions isn’t a literal representation of a real life experience, which makes the psychologist’s ability to interpret and “translate” the child’s emotions critical. For example, in one case I was treating a child whose parents were divorcing, and they claimed that they never fought in front of their child. However, in a play therapy session the child used the “dad” doll to knock the “mom” doll off of the roof of the house. In that case, the child’s play wasn’t exemplifying literal abuse, but was a clue for me to see that he was internalizing the anger and hostility felt beneath the surface of their relationship.

I have an inherent fascination with the emotional life of infants and young children as expressed in play, which makes my job very rewarding. Sometimes I even think to myself, “I can’t believe I am getting paid to do this!”

### Dr. Joyce Hopkins, Associate Professor of Psychology

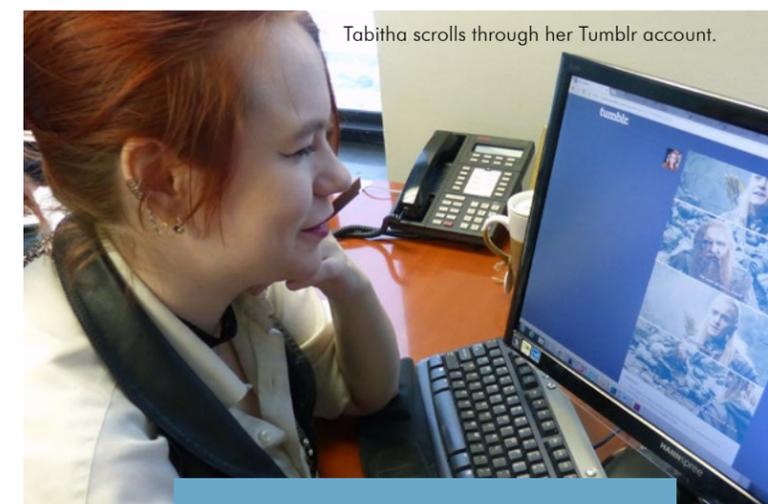
## TUMBLR—A SECOND HOME.

Some of my happiest moments are when I am immersed in the kind of work I love. My majors in psychology and sociology exemplify that work—I often treat those subjects with the same excitement as my hobbies. Many times, the latest concept I learned in class spills over into my lunch conversation with friends. I find myself bringing my academic experiences into my daily life in many ways. I try to understand the behaviors of characters in games and movies, or of my friends and people on the internet, based on the principles of psychology and sociology.

I am particularly interested in the culture and community of Tumblr, an online blogging website. For one, Tumblr has its own vernacular. There are specific, unspoken rules about how to type when expressing different emotions. For example, when I find a post particularly hilarious and I want to comment on it, I intentionally use zero punctuation, as that is the norm for the community. More intriguing to me is that Tumblr has become a haven for those interested in geek culture; i.e. Dr. Who, Star Trek, etc., as well as for activist-types. When Texas State Senator Wendy Davis enacted an 11-hour filibuster in June of 2013 regarding abortion rights, it’s all anyone was talking about on Tumblr. It took over the site in a way that didn’t happen on other social media platforms.

People often argue whether online communication hinders or helps real, in-person relationships. In the case of Tumblr, the sociologist in me believes it can help build strong friendships. I see people that feel like an outcast in their own families find acceptance and support on Tumblr. It has become a second home, of sorts, for many people. I have always used Tumblr, but only after taking classes in psychology and sociology did I start analyzing the culture in this way. I see everything differently now.

### Tabitha Anderson, junior Double major in Psychology and Sociology



Tabitha scrolls through her Tumblr account.

*There are specific, unspoken rules about how to type when expressing different emotions.*

# STRENGTHENING SCHOLARSHIP

# ACROSS DISCIPLINES



**Elisabeth Hildt, Ph.D.**, joins IIT as director of the Center for the Study of Ethics in the Professions at IIT. After having completed her undergraduate studies in biochemistry, Dr. Hildt became a fellow of the post-graduate program Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities at the University of Tübingen in Germany, where she wrote her doctoral thesis on personal identity issues in neural grafting. Afterwards, she was the scientific coordinator of the interdisciplinary project European Network for Biomedical Ethics. After several years of post-doctoral experience at the University of Munich, she became an assistant professor at the University of Tübingen. From 2008 to 2014, she was the head of the Research Group on Neuroethics/ Neurophilosophy in the Department of Philosophy at University of Mainz.

"I think it is crucial for a society to reflect on the societal and ethical implications of science and technology," Dr. Hildt says. "What I find rewarding is to work at the interface of the humanities and the natural sciences, accompanying new scientific and technological developments."

Read an interview with Dr. Hildt at [humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture](http://humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture).



**Mél Hogan, Ph.D.**, joins Lewis College as Assistant Professor of Communication in the Department of Humanities. She received her undergraduate degree in sociology from Acadia University in Nova Scotia, and after working as a graphic designer for a few years, went back to school to receive a Graduate Production Diploma in Intermedia, a master's degree in media studies, and a Ph.D. in communication studies from Concordia University in Montréal.

"My Ph.D. was special because it was considered a research-creation Ph.D., where production is central to the final product," she says. "Research-creation not only allows for new modes of knowing, but also challenges what counts—or has traditionally counted—as knowledge."

Dr. Hogan recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship in digital curation at the University of Colorado–Boulder. Her research interests include media, archiving, the environment, and surveillance. Dr. Hogan says IIT is an ideal fit for her scholarship. "There's tremendous appeal in the direction Lewis College is going—highlighting the importance of both theory and practice," she says.

Read more about Dr. Hogan's research projects at [humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture](http://humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture).



**Nicole Legate, Ph.D.**, joins IIT as Assistant Professor of Psychology in the Department of Psychology, where her primary focus is teaching undergraduate courses. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Rochester in 2014, and completed a pre-doctoral internship at the University Counseling Center at the University of Rochester.

"I've always rooted for the underdog, so I think I naturally gravitated toward the psychology of stigmatized and oppressed groups," she says. Her research interests focus on how the social environment (friends, family, peers, etc.) can support those with a stigmatized identity to buffer against minority stress and its impact on health. She also looks at how the social environment can thwart these individuals and contribute to disparities in mental and physical health. Much of her work has focused on the coming out process, finding that lesbian, gay, and bisexual individuals are more "out" with those who support their autonomy, and that they experience better mental and physical health with these people when they come out.

"My favorite thing about working with students is when they ask questions or pose ideas in class that had never occurred to me," she says. "I look forward to learning from my students."

Lewis College faculty are incredibly productive in their research, many times crossing disciplinary boundaries to collaborate with faculty in other fields and areas of interest, both at IIT and around the world. Here are a few of the collaborations Lewis College faculty members are participating in.

**Maureen Flanagan, Ph.D.**, Humanities Department Chair, is now an affiliated faculty member of IIT's College of Architecture. As an urban historian who examines issues of the built environment and gender, among others, Dr. Flanagan advises architecture Ph.D.'s in ideas around architectural history and constructing urban space as a historical concept, especially as they intersect with gender.

**Mél Hogan, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Communication, and Laura Forlano of IIT's Institute of Design are creating the Critical Futures Lab, which engages in complex technological, ethical, social and political questions through prototypes, experiments, and explorations in multimodal formats that bridge creative thinking and critical making. Their first workshop examined both the potential and hype of big data as it pertains to discourses of human enhancement and betterment in design, the humanities, and social sciences. You can follow their progress at <http://criticalfutureslab.org/>.

**Carly Kocurek, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Digital Humanities and Media Studies, and **Rebecca Steffenson, Ph.D.**, Social Sciences Department Associate Chair, are delivering a unique study abroad experience this summer: a month-long program in Stirling, Scotland where students will take both "Scottish Politics" and "Transnational Cinema" courses to immerse themselves in the country and culture.

**Ron Landis, Ph.D.**, Nambury S. Raju Endowed Chair in Psychology, has been appointed to a joint faculty position in IIT's Stuart School of Business, which will allow for collaborative teaching and research opportunities for both faculty and students. While many industrial and organizational psychologists teach in business schools, this appointment is the first of its kind at IIT. To learn more about Dr. Landis, his work, and his appointment, visit [humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture](http://humansciences.iit.edu/bigpicture).

**Frank Lane, Ph.D.**, Head of Rehabilitation Psychology, is working with Associate Dean of Armour College of Engineering and Professor of Biomedical Engineering Philip Troyk, Ph.D., to incorporate feedback from people with blindness in the development of a cortical vision prosthesis to restore visual perception. Drs. Lane and Troyk are using data from end-user focus groups and individual interviews of individuals who were previously implanted with vision prostheses in the design of the study. The psychology-engineering collaboration began in 2008 and is funded by the Telemedicine and Advanced Technology Research Center (TATRC).

**Eun-Jeong Lee, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Psychology, is working with Associate Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering Mahesh Krishnamurthy, Ph.D., on a project titled, "Electrifying Wheelchairs: A Psychology Driven Initiative." The project, funded by the IIT Wanger Institute for Sustainable Energy Research (WISER), seeks to develop a human-centered electrified mode of transportation for wheelchair users by including wheelchair users and stakeholders in the technology development process.

**Jonathan Rosenberg, Ph.D.**, Chair of the Social Sciences Department, is part of a group project called, "Accountability in Global Environmental Governance." The group consists of social scientists from universities in the U.S., Canada, Australia, Sweden, and Norway. They held a workshop and sponsored a panel at the International Studies Association annual convention in February 2015, and are preparing to submit a special edition to a major environmental studies journal.



# IIT turns 125 years old!

As IIT commemorates a milestone and newly formed Lewis College of Human Sciences begins traditions to last a century more, join the celebration at one of our commemorative events this year.



ILLINOIS TECH

REMEMBER. CELEBRATE. DREAM.

**March**

Presidential Lecture: Wiel Arets  
March 30

**April**

“The Big Event”  
April 18

Annual Alumni Awards Luncheon  
April 24

**May**

Commencement Ceremony  
May 16

**June**

125th Gala honoring President John Anderson  
June 12

**September**

Presidential Inauguration and IIT Spirit Day  
September 18

Homecoming  
September 19

For a full listing of events, as well as details about attending, visit [web.iit.edu/125](http://web.iit.edu/125).

And plan to attend Lewis College’s seminal event celebrating the 125th anniversary:

## THE LEWIS COLLEGE ROUNDTABLE

### Algorithms: Human Influence on the World of Data

Fall 2015—Exact Date and Time TBD

Algorithms convert data into results—online news aggregation, investment trading decisions, and targets of surveillance programs are all determined by them. But this process is not morally or politically neutral, each algorithm carries in it cultural and political values. Behind every computation sits a person who has decided what information to collect, how to store it, and how to use it. In this Roundtable, we will discuss how algorithms shape the information we receive, and how transparent the social and political implications of these equations should or shouldn’t be. Event details to come.