emily saltz

Researcher and writer on AI, trust & safety, and public interest technology

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EXPERIENCE

Saltern Studio, NYC — *Founder & Principal Researcher*

DEC 2025 - PRESENT

Consultancy specializing in prosocial product design and ethnographic research. Work includes: global desk research & interview analysis for Meta's Integrity team, workshop design & facilitation for a Partnership on AI workshop on AI and suicide prevention, hosted by OpenAI, and launch videos for Revise Robotics (YC 2025).

Jigsaw (Google), NYC — *Senior UX Researcher*

APR 2022 - APR 2025

0-to-1 research with online community members and community moderators for Perspective API's bridging classifiers & customizable LLM attributes, used by organizations like NYT, Nextdoor, and Viafoura to improve comment quality.

Led research with local leaders in Bowling Green, Kentucky for Jigsaw's Sensemaking Tools with 8k community members; a majority (83%) reported the interactive site helped them understand viewpoints they disagreed with.

Parsons School of Design, The New School, NYC — *Lecturer*

SEPT 2022 - MAY 2023

Taught "Designing for Usability" for the Design + Technology MFA program.

Partnership on AI, NYC — *Research Fellow*

MAR 2020 - JULY 2021

Conducted and published foundational user research on labeling interventions for manipulated media, in collaboration with First Draft; co-authored reports on principles for labeling manipulated media & the zine Making AI Art Responsibly.

New York Times R&D Lab, NYC — *UX Lead (Contract)*

JUNE 2019 - FEB 2020; AUG 2021 - DEC 2021

Oversaw iterative design & research as UX team of one for the News Provenance Project, a blockchain prototype for labeling photojournalism which went on to inform the C2PA industry standard for verifying media sources.

Bloomberg LP, NYC — *Interaction Designer*

JAN 2017 - MAY 2019

Led design research with users with visual impairments for the MHCI Capstone (Jan-Aug 2017), resulting in Stockgrok, an accessible data sonification tool.

SKILLS

RESEARCH Qualitative methods (in-depth interviews, contextual inquiry, diary studies, multimedia ethnography, thematic analysis); global desk research; survey design and analysis; experimental design (A/B testing, large-scale experiments)

AI-ASSISTED ANALYSIS Claude Code, Gemini CLI, Python, Jupyter/Colab; AI-assisted synthesis workflows for qualitative and interview data

WRITING & MEDIA Tech and media blogging (NYT Open, Nieman Lab, Tech Policy Press), academic publishing (CHI, EPIC, AIES); radio hosting and audio production (WFMU); independent documentary and essay film, zines

FACILITATION Workshop design & facilitation for multistakeholder convenings (e.g., AI labs, civil society, community leaders); public speaking

LANGUAGES

English (native), French & Russian (limited working proficiency)

Continued with UX design and research for Bloomberg Terminal charting & news.

EDUCATION

Salt Institute for Documentary Studies, Maine College of Art & Design, Portland, ME — *Graduate Certificate in Short Film*

SEPT-DEC 2025

Completed multiple short films, including *The 19%*, an essay film exploring Maine's civic culture, including declining public meetings and a contentious referendum on voter ID and absentee voting & *Marsh Periscope*, a mockumentary set in Maine's Scarborough Marsh documenting the breakdown of a DIY periscope.

Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA — *Master's in HCI*

2016 - 2017

Published research on empathy frameworks for virtual reality, and supported research on kinetic typography using biosignals.

UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA — *B.A. in Linguistics*

2009 - 2012

Graduated cum laude with honors with Russian & cognitive science focus. Research assistant in the Phonetics Lab moderating multiple eye-tracking studies.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS & TALKS

How AI Companies Are Handling Suicide and Self-Harm Today — *Partnership on AI (2026)*

Co-author (with Claire Leibowicz) of an in-depth analysis of how frontier AI companies detect and respond to users in suicide and self-harm mental health crises, including a taxonomy of six common intervention types and key open questions for the field, building on the Cross-Sector Primer for AI and Suicide Prevention and findings from an expert workshop at OpenAI.

How Collaboration Can Enable Action on AI and Mental Health — *Tech Policy Press (2026)*

Co-authored a perspective piece arguing that AI labs, clinicians, policymakers, and people with lived experience must collaborate on shared practices and independent evaluation for AI and mental health.

AI and the Future of Digital Public Squares — *Collective Intelligence by Sage & ACM (2026)*

Led the "community moderation" section of a review article developed from a convening of civil society experts and technologists on how large language models could strengthen or undermine digital public squares across four areas: collective dialogue systems, bridging systems, community moderation, and proof-of-humanity systems.

Facilitation in the AI Era: A Community Roadmap for Technologies to Support Practitioners — *Jigsaw Research Note (2025)*

Lead co-author (with Ian Beacock) of a collaborative report with 13 global experts in facilitating dialogues to explore how AI could best support public conversations.

Using LLMs to Support Online Communities — *Jigsaw on Medium (2025)*

Co-author of a post on how LLMs can support online community members and moderators based on ethnographic insights.

An Ecological Framework for AI and Community Moderation — *EPIC Talk & Case Study Paper (2025)*

Case study paper and talk describing ethnographic research and codesign with community moderators to develop LLM-based moderation tools.

AI for Meaningful Dialogue in the Public Square — *Psych. of Tech. Research Presentation (2024)*

Talk for the Psychology of Technology Institute detailing several research streams, including the evaluation of "bridging" attributes for Perspective API, development of "annotator-in-the-loop" annotation methodologies, and a workshop to further measurement frameworks for prosocial interventions.

Annotator in the Loop: A Case Study of In-Depth Rater Engagement to Create a Prosocial Benchmark Dataset — *AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society (2024)*

Co-author of a case study on engaging raters in depth to build a benchmark dataset for prosocial content.

Independently Testing Prosocial Interventions: Methods and Recommendations from 31 Researchers — *Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences (2024)*

One of three lead co-authors of cross-disciplinary recommendations for rigorously and independently evaluating prosocial interventions online.

So You've Been Targeted by a Government-Backed Attack Online. Now What? — *Jigsaw on Medium (2023)*

Co-author of a public guide for people targeted by government-backed online attacks, drawing on research with at-risk users.

Misinformation Interventions Are Common, Divisive, and Poorly Understood — *Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review (2021)*

Lead author of research on public attitudes toward platform misinformation interventions.

Shadow Bans, Fact-Checks, Info Hubs: The Big Guide to How Platforms Are Handling Misinformation in 2021 — *Nieman Lab (2021)*

Lead co-author of a guide to how major platforms were handling misinformation in 2021.

From Deepfakes to TikTok Filters: How Do You Label AI Content? — *First Draft News (2021)*

Co-author of an article on the challenges of labeling AI-generated and manipulated media.

How Do People Decide Whether to Trust a Photo on Social Media? — *NYT Open Blog (2020)*

Solo-authored two-part series on audience research from the News Provenance Project.

It matters how platforms label manipulated media. Here are 12 principles designers should follow — *Partnership on AI (2020)*

Lead author of 12 principles for how platforms should design labels for manipulated media.