

Sophie Elizabeth Klitgaard

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Evolutionary Social Scientist and Digital Privacy Researcher, UCLA

EDUCATION

PhD in **Anthropology**, expected completion June 2028
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

M.A. in **Anthropology**, June 2024
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

B.S. in Anthropology and Geography, graduated June 2022
California State Polytechnic, San Luis Obispo, CA

GPA: 3.87

Minor in Psychology

Minor in Latin American Studies

PUBLICATIONS

Sinders, C. and **Klitgaard, S. E.** (2026). Dark Patterns in Digital Finance: How Design Harms and Confuses Consumers in Digital Finance Products. *Bridge Over Troubled Water: Aligning Commercial Incentives With Ethical Design Practice To Combat Deceptive Patterns*. Workshop at the 2026 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI EA '26), April 13–17, 2026, Barcelona, Spain

Klitgaard, S. E. and Mengesha, Z. (In Process). Grice as a Lens into Disclosure Behavior and Privacy Expectations in Human-AI Interaction.

Klitgaard, S. E. and Fessler, D. M. T. (Under Review). An evolutionary approach to privacy. *Evolution and Human Sciences*.

Carrigan, C., **Klitgaard, S. E.** and Green, M. W. (Under Review). Perverted Injustice: The Politics of Knowledge and The Body in Computer Science and Engineering. *Big Data and Society*.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Summer Mentored Research Fellowship. Department of Anthropology. Jun. 2023
University of California, Los Angeles.

Graduate Student Research Fellowship (GRFP) Apr. 2023
National Science Foundation.

University Fellowship. Department of Anthropology. Mar. 2022
University of California, Los Angeles.

Del Amo Fellowship. Division of Social Sciences. May 2022
University of California, Los Angeles.

College of Liberal Arts Summer Undergraduate Research Program Fellowship. <i>Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA</i>	May 2021
National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) recipient for work with Coleen Carrigan, PhD. <i>Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA.</i>	Jul. 2020 – Sep. 2021

GRANTS

Dorothy H. Jewell Summer Research Grant. <i>University of California, Los Angeles.</i>	Jun. 2025
Department of Anthropology Research Grant. <i>University of California, Los Angeles.</i>	Jun. 2024
Dorothy H. Jewell Summer Research Grant. <i>University of California, Los Angeles.</i>	Jun. 2024
Department of Anthropology Research Grant. <i>University of California, Los Angeles.</i>	Jun. 2023
Learn By Doing Grant recipient for “The Lies We Tell Our Children” research project. <i>Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA</i>	Apr. 2021

HONORS AND AWARDS

Exceptional Achievement in Evolutionary Anthropology Social Sciences Department. <i>Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA.</i>	Jun. 2022
Dean’s List honoree <i>Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA</i>	Sep. 2018 Jun. 2022
President’s List honoree <i>Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA</i>	Sep. 2018 Jun. 2022
1st place poster award at California Workshop for Evolutionary Social Sciences (CWESS) research competition. <i>California State University, Fullerton.</i>	Jul. 2020
1st place Student Research Award for Anthropology 455 Research and Design Methods original-research-based class project. <i>Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA.</i>	Nov. 2020
1st place Qualitative Methods Award for Anthropology 455 Research and Design Methods original-research-based class project. <i>Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA.</i>	Nov. 2020

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

Lab Manager & Primary Investigator <i>University of California, Los Angeles.</i>	2024 – Present
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“Privacy in the Ethnographic Record” — original research project with members of Dr. Fessler’s UCLA undergraduate research lab. This project utilizes Yale’s Electronic Human Area Files (eHRAF) database to document and analyze patterns in how the concept of privacy is used in disparate cultures.

- Formulation of methodology
- Training and evaluation of research assistants
- Data collection, management, and analysis; code creation and inter-coder reliability testing
- Tutoring undergraduate team members in skills needed for research project (close reading, understanding of evolutionary & psychological theory, qualitative coding, etc.)
- Leading meetings, organizing team members, organizing lab data base, managing project timeline, etc.

Research Assistant

2019 – 2022

Dr. Coleen Carrigan, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

Dr. Carrigan is a feminist anthropologist of science and technology studies. Her work studies the intersections of race, gender, and social values in computing. It asks: What can we learn from comparing subfields of Computer Science that struggle to attract and retain women with those that do not? Are the technical dimensions of computing privileged over the social ones and, if so, to what effect?

- Write & edit articles for submission to academic journals.
- Qualitative data collection: transcribe/collect and code interviews, fieldnotes, built environment analysis, ethnographies, public media, and academic articles for use in research studies. Competence with Dedoose coding software.
- Qualitative data analysis: code creation, domain analyses, creation of novel innovative data analysis methods.
- Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB) application & approval; Grant writing
- As a part of the NAVIGATE and ADVANCING CULTURAL CHANGE projects: creation of case study-based interventions aimed at creating equitable environments via intergroup dialogue and skill building to be used in Computer Science & Engineering classrooms and workplaces.
 - Creation of questions, discussion prompts, teaching guides, and power point presentations for the facilitation of said case study interventions; Assisted in the facilitation of said interventions

ARCHIVAL PAPERS

King, J. and **Klitgaard, S. E.** (2026). Letter to the Federal Trade Commission Re: Negative Option Rule ANPRM, Project No. P064202.

INVITED TALKS & SELECT PRESENTATIONS

“Privacy and LLM-based Chatbots: Current Issues and Insights from Linguistic Theory” Jan. 2026
Invited talk to *Computer Science 263: Advanced Natural Language Processing*.
Instructor: Saadia Gabriel.
University of California, Los Angeles.

“An Evolutionary Account of Privacy” May 2024
Conference Presentation
California Workshop of Evolutionary Social Sciences, Santa Barbara.

“Evolutionary Foundations of Privacy Perceptions” Mar. 2024
Poster
American Association of Biological Anthropology, Los Angeles.

“Are there ethical risks to applying life history theory to human behavioral variation?” Apr. 2023
Poster
Human Behavior and Evolution Society (HBES), Palm Springs.

LITIGATION CONSULTING

Junior Litigation Consultant for Expert Witness 2025 – Present
Dr Jennifer King, UXpert Research LLC

I provide assistance to *Jennifer King, PhD*, a Privacy and Data Policy Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Human Centered Artificial Intelligence, in her work providing expert services to clients (Federal Trade Commission, Federal Reserve Board, State of Washington, City of Santa Monica, City of Santa Cruz., and others) focusing on online disclosures, negative option continuity programs, online credibility, deception, dark patterns, and general website usability issues.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Teaching Assistant 2024 – 2025
Dept. of Psychology, University of California, Los Angeles.

- Psychology 120A Cognitive Psychology
- Led discussion sessions in which I:
 - fostered student understanding of course content through engaging PowerPoint-based lectures, interactive activities, and office hour discussions
 - fostered student understanding of course content through
- Graded assignments, papers, and exams, offering constructive feedback to improve performance.
- Assisted in development and assessment of projects, quizzes, exams, and homework.
- Administered exams and ensured adherence to academic integrity policies.
- Fostered an inclusive and interactive learning environment to support diverse student needs.
- Troubleshooting technical issues on Zoom, Canvas, Moodle, and Google Drive; Updating learning management system pages (Canvas, Moodle)
- Other tasks such as: taking attendance, managing & sending permission numbers, etc.

Teaching Assistant 2020 – 2022
Dept. of Anthropology, Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

- Anthropology 201 Cultural Anthropology
- Anthropology 345 Human Behavioral Ecology
- Anthropology 384 Professional Preparation for Anthropologists and Geographers
- Tutor students on professional writing and speaking skills for resumes, cover letters, interviews, etc.

Student Assistant
Property Department - Data Management
Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo, CA

2019 –2020;
2021 –2022

- Assist in the maintenance of the acquisitions, transfers, adjustments, and dispositions of over 40,000 items in the centralized database for state owned equipment at Cal Poly University.

SKILLS

- Mixed method research design
- Consent form design and ethical research with humans
- Qualitative data analysis; Dedoose coding software
- Qualitative research methods, ethnographic theory & methodology, fieldnote collection, behavioral observation
- Citation Organization: Endnote, Zotero
- Interview transcription softwares: Trint, Rev
- Excel, Google Sheets
- Word, Google Docs
- PowerPoint, Google Slides
- Intermediate Spanish
- Quantitative data analysis; Statistical Programs (R, SPSS, Jamovi)
- Data cleaning, management, and variable transformation
- Visual representation of empirical data tables/charts
- Survey creation; Questionnaire software: Qualtrics, Survey Monkey, Google Forms, Kobo Toolkit
- ArcGIS Pro - Geographic Information Systems software
- Communication and Project Management systems: Trello, Slack, Discord, Doodle
- Learning Management Systems: Canvas, Moodle

RELEVANT COURSEWORK

- Digital Technologies and the Constitution
- Ethnography in Technology
- Anthropology Research Designs and Methods
- Action Oriented Ethnography
- Philosophy: Ethics and Political Philosophy; Logic and Argumentative Writing
- Statistical Concepts and Methods
- Psychology: Social Psychology, Cognitive Psychology, Behavioral Neuroscience, Psychology of Memory
- Human Behavioral Ecology

VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Anthropology Graduate Student Association (AGSA) President.
University of California, Los Angeles.

2025—Present

- Coordinated goals, policies, and events for over 90 graduate students. Served as the primary point of contact between AGSA and Faculty Leadership (incl. the Department Chair and Vice Chair). Attended all faculty meetings, facilitated regular meetings between AGSA Leadership and Faculty Leadership.

- Directed concerns of students to appropriate administrative or faculty audiences; and directed concerns of faculty to the appropriate student audiences (i.e. the correct committee members).
- Scheduled and moderated AGSA meetings, bi-annual town halls.

Social Sciences Council (SSC) Vice President. 2025—Present
University of California, Los Angeles.

- As a subsidiary of the UCLA Graduate Student Association (GSA), SSC represents over 21 graduate degree programs within the social sciences.
- Maintained SSC budget and all budget documents. Handled submission of all requisition forms to Student Government Accounting offices.

Student Organizer for UCLA, California Workshop on Evolutionary Social Sciences 2024—Present

- Assisted in organizing annual workshop for collaboration among undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty from across California.

Lab Manager, Cal Poly Human Evolutionary Ecology Lab 2021—2022

- Led the conduction of yearly faculty-led undergraduate research projects
- Teach first year or unexperienced lab members the required theory, grant writing, statistical software, public speaking, or interview skills necessary for our current project
- Organize grant application, data collection & analysis, poster/paper creation, and conference presentation
- Schedule and lead meetings, organize data bases, recruit new lab members

Co-Director of National Communications, Deputy Director of Social Media, Wolf Pac 2021—2024

- *Nonpartisan Political Action Committee dedicated to passing a Free & Fair Elections amendment to the constitution, which seeks to end the role that corporations and special interests play in US politics.*
- Writing and editing social media posts, opinion pieces, and newsletters for distribution to over 100,000 followers & subscribers
- Managing a team of 20 volunteers