

danah boyd

Professor of Communication, Cornell University

Everyday practices involving social media, artificial intelligence, and algorithmic technologies



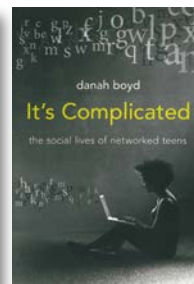
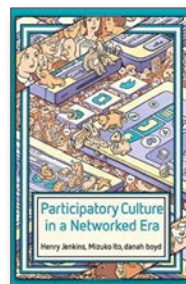
Biography

danah boyd is an internationally recognized authority on the ways people use social media, artificial intelligence, and other networked technologies. Dr. boyd is a researcher who investigates the interplay between technology, society, and policy. Her research spans from how teenagers and parents navigate the digital world to the statistical work of government agencies, from how organizations incorporate AI into their practices to how privacy attitudes shape public policy. She is Professor of Communication at Cornell University.

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Topics & Books

Lifestyle Entrepreneur
Technology
Social Networking



Dr. boyd has written three books that focus specifically on different facets of how young people interact with technology. *It's Complicated: The Social Lives of Networked Teens* is an eye-opening book in which danah examines some of the major myths regarding teens' use of social media. Building on this work, danah co-authored *Participatory Culture in a Networked Era: A Conversation on Youth, Learning, Commerce, and Politics*, which examines the ways in which our personal and professional lives are shaped by experiences interacting with and around emerging media. danah was also one of the researchers in a multi-year study of digital youth funded by the MacArthur Foundation, resulting in the publication of *Hanging Out, Messing Around, and Geeking Out: Kids Living and Learning with NewMedia*.

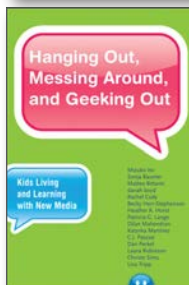
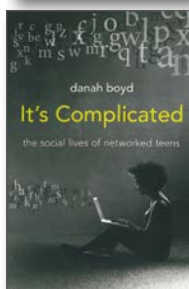
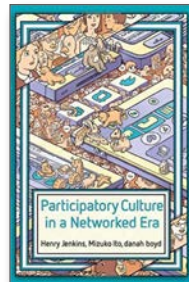
In founding Data & Society, danah helped support dozens of researchers to examine the social implications of using AI and other technologies in areas such as education, criminal justice, labor, and public life, as well as how individuals navigate privacy and publicity concerns. Other projects she oversaw included large studies about media manipulation, the future of work, accountability in machine learning, combating bias in data, and the cultural dynamics surrounding artificial intelligence.

Since 2018, danah has been conducting an ethnographic study of the US census in order to examine how data quality is entangled with the legitimacy of data. This work showcases the challenges involved in making high-stakes data - and the political tensions that shape the making of data. Her book on the topic is expected to be published in 2026.

Dr. boyd was a Partner Researcher at Microsoft from 2009 to 2025, addressing social and cultural inequities. She also worked as an ethnographer and social media researcher for various corporations, including Intel, Tribe.net, Google and Yahoo! She has advised and consulted for dozens of other companies. She also spent five years creating and managing a large-scale online community for V-Day, a non-profit organization working to end the violence against women and girls worldwide.

danah is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. She is also on the board of the Computer History Museum and an advisor of the Electronic Privacy Information. She was previously a founding director of Crisis Text Line - an organization that provides counseling services to struggling youth through text messaging - and a Trustee of Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian.

She also regularly writes academic publications and mainstream essays, published in a range of venues, including *The Guardian*, *New York Times*, and *TIME*. danah is one of *Foreign Policy*'s 2012 Top 100 Global Thinkers. She was named to *Fast Company*'s list of the Most Influential Women in Technology and named the smartest academic in tech by *Fortune Magazine*. She won CITASA's Public Sociology Award and the Pioneer Award from the Electronic Frontier Foundation. She is also a 2011 Young Global Leader by the World Economic Forum.



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