

PATRICIA GARCIA

**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR,
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN SCHOOL OF INFORMATION**

INTERMEDIATION: ALGORITHMS, HOMELESSNESS, AND THE POLITICS OF BEING IN-BETWEEN

Homelessness is a significant and growing crisis in the United States. In an effort to more efficiently and fairly distribute limited housing resources, jurisdictions across the U.S. have adopted algorithmic prioritization systems to help select which unhoused people should receive resources. In this talk, we discuss how frontline bureaucrats mediate between the rigidity of the homeless services infrastructure and the messy social worlds of people experiencing homelessness. Drawing on theories of translation and articulation work, Dr. Garcia proposes “intermediation” as a means of understanding the position and labor of being in-between an infrastructure and the social worlds it intersects.

Garcia’s work examines how historically marginalized groups develop agentic relationships with technology and data. She draws on feminist and critical data approaches to investigate how data is generated, captured, analyzed, and deployed in public service contexts.



iSCHOOL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM
MONDAY, APRIL 1, 12:30 P.M. ● ZOOM

 **Information School**
UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON