

Katherine Wyers

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Profile

Katherine Wyers is an information systems researcher with a background in software engineering in the humanitarian and commercial sectors. She grew a commercial startup company to be operational in nine countries and then moved into the humanitarian space in 2017 to work as a software engineer on refugee and migrant health and education projects in South-East Asia and Africa. In her research, she studies how identity recategorization by governments shapes collaboration and policy implementation among institutional stakeholders, and shapes access to health and welfare programmes for citizens. She completed her doctoral research at the Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, where she studied the consequences of gender recategorization in dropdown menus, digital technologies, and identity documents, a research project that was based on an ethnographic study of transgender and gender diverse people in north India. Katherine is an editor at the Information Technology for Development journal and reviews for ICIS, ECIS, ITD, AOM, EJISDC and several other outlets in the information systems, ICT4D, informatics, public health, and management disciplines.

Research Interests

Government information infrastructures, Identity categories, Digital technologies, Marginalized identities, Social equity

Theories and Methodologies

Ethnography, Information infrastructure theory, Intersectionality, LGBTQ+ Communities.

Academic Work

Academic Publications

- Wyers K (forthcoming) Information Infrastructural Violence: A Critical, Intersectional Study of the Consequences of Gender Recategorization in Government Information Infrastructures, Doctoral Thesis for PhD Information Systems, Department of Informatics, University of Oslo.
- Stelmaszak M, Masiero S, Wyers K, Aaltonen A, Wagner E (forthcoming) Making Personal Data Personal: The Emergence of Enactive Data in Organizations, in Poonamallee L. *Technology and Social Justice: Managerial Perspectives on Innovation, Equity, and Power*, Springer.
- Wyers K (2025) Identity Categories as Boundary Objects: Conflict and Resistance in Collaboration, *Proceedings from the 16th Scandinavian Conference on Information Systems (SCIS2025)*, Oslo, Norway.
 - Best Paper Award at SCIS2025
- Wyers K, Nicholson B (2024) Managing Discretion at the Street Level of Information Systems Use, *Proceedings Annual Workshop of the AIS SIG for ICT in Global Development*, Bangkok, Thailand, December 15th 2024, AIS Electronic Library.
- Wyers K (2024) Health ICTs and Transgender Health Equity: A Research Agenda, *Information Technology for Development*, Taylor & Francis: London.
- Wyers K, Nicholson B, Russpatrick S, Masiero S (2023) Identity Platforms and Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation: Implications for Safeguarding Personal Data, *Joint IFIP Conference 2023*, Hyderabad, India, December 2023, Springer: London.

- Wyers K. (2022) Leaving No-one Behind? A Research Agenda for Queer Issues in ICT4D, *IFIP WG 9.4 Freedom and Social Inclusion in a Connected World*, Lima, Peru, 25-27 May 2022, Springer: London, UK.

Manuscripts in Progress

- Wyers K (in progress) Torqued by an Identity Recategorization: The twisting consequences of rewriting identity categories in information infrastructure. Preparing for submission to *Big Data and Society* journal

Conference Presentations and Panel Discussions

- Kuczyńska Z, Wyers K (2025) Digital infrastructures, future archives, and the production of queer joy: An interdisciplinary conversation, "Queer Joy, Revisited", *Symposium of the Queer Joy as a Digital Good project*, University of Southampton, July 2025.
- Wyers K, (2024) Co-design and gender in ICT4D/ICTD research, *ICTD2024 Conference*, Nairobi, Kenya, December 2024.
- Wyers K, Russpatrick S (2024) How can DHIS2 reduce harm? *DHIS2 Research, Development, and Implementation Seminar Series*, HISP Centre, University of Oslo.
- Wyers K, Nicholson B (2024) Dropdown menus, identity categories, and bureaucratic discretion: How street-level bureaucrats shape social equity in welfare programmes *ICT4D North of England Workshop*, University of Bradford, UK, July 2024.
- Russpatrick S, Wyers K, Frost M, Masiero S (2024) Do No Harm: Let's get the conversation started, *DHIS2 Annual Conference*, University of Oslo, Norway, June 2024.
- Wyers K (2024) Information Infrastructures and Transgender Equity: How the Indian state's categorization of 'transgender' identities impacts on India's transgender and gender diverse people, *Pride@IFI* event, Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, June 2024.
- Wyers K, Nicholson B, Sandset T, Vandeskog H (2024) Dropdown menus, identity categories, and bureaucratic discretion: How street-level bureaucrats shape social equity in welfare programmes, *ICT4D North of England Conference*, University of Bradford, UK. June 2024.
- Wyers K (2024) Gender Theory in ICT4D, *Panel Discussion: Gender, Technology and Society*, *IFIP WG 9.4 Reshaping an Unequal World Through Social Justice and Digital Technologies*, Cape Town, South Africa, 20-22 May 2024.
- Wyers K (2023) Making Space? Gender identity categories and gendered spaces in north India, *Human Development and Capability Association: Global Dialogue Week 2023*.
- Wyers K, Vandeskog H (2023) How plural understandings of gender diversity shape transgender health access in Himachal Pradesh, India, *IPATHCON2023, Indian Professional Association for Transgender Health Conference 2023*, Delhi, India, Nov. 2023.
- Wyers K (2023) Social Categories and Transgender Health Equity: Perspectives from north India, *Human Development and Capability Association Conference*, Sofia, Bulgaria, Sept 2023.
- Wyers K, Nicholson B, Russpatrick S, Masiero S (2023) Identity Platforms and Anti-LGBTQ+ Legislation: Implications for Safeguarding Personal Data, *ICT4D North of England Conference*, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK. Sept 2023.
- Wyers K (2022) Health Equity, Information Communication Technologies, and Transgender People, *IPATHCON2022, Indian Professional Association for Transgender Health Conference 2022*, Delhi, India, Nov. 2022.
- Wyers K (2022) Understanding healthcare choices for transgender populations: How do digital interventions mediate questions of health equity? *Human Development and Capability Association Conference*, Antwerp, Belgium, 19-22 Sept. 2022.

- Kuczyńska Z, Wyers K (2022) Queering Data Justice: Using Archival Methodologies to Recover Transgender Histories in Healthcare Data, *European Feminist Research Conference*, Milan, Italy, 15-17 June 2022.
- Wyers K, Masiero S (2022) Disrupting Transphobia in the Design of Digital Platforms, *European Feminist Research Conference*, Milan, Italy, 15-17 June 2022.
- Wyers K (2022) Queering Scholarship in ICT4D: Shaping Research Methodologies for Greater LGBTQ+ Visibility, Panel Discussion: Feminist and Queer Approaches to Technological Resistance in the Global South, *IFIP WG 9.4 Freedom and Social Inclusion in a Connected World*, Lima, Peru, 25-27 May 2022.
- Wyers K (2020) Keeping patient-data safe: Implementing a secure instant messaging network at a Myanmar healthcare clinic, *DSAI Annual Conference*, Dublin, Ireland, 29 October 2020.

Other Publications

- Wyers K (2023) Systemic Trans Exclusion: How can Health ICTs Make a Difference? *Centre for Gender Research, University of Oslo*, <https://www.stk.uio.no/english/research/pride/systemic-trans-exclusion.html>

In the Media

- Hogan, S (2025) Universities face 'difficult balance' after Supreme Court gender ruling, *Research Professional News*, <https://www.researchprofessionalnews.com/rr-news-uk-politics-2025-7-universities-face-difficult-balance-after-supreme-court-gender-ruling>
- Melteig E (2024) En lovendring i India i 2014 sikret transpersoner flere rettigheter. En forsker har sett på utslagene, *Titan Forskningsnyheter om realfag og teknologi*, June 2024, <https://www.titan.uio.no/livsvitenskap/2024/transpersoner-har-en-lang-historie-i-india-lovend.html>

Academic Guest Lectures

- Are your Digital Records Erasing Identities? – Rethinking Gender Categories in Electronic Health Records, Masters-level Course: *Healthcare and Information Needs*, University of Oslo, Norway
- Field/Notes: a response to collecting queer data as a queer person, *Queer Data Showcase*, Gender and Sexuality Data Lab, Edinburgh, UK, Jun 2025.
- Are your Digital Records Erasing Identities? – Rethinking Gender Categories in Electronic Health Records, *Sykehuspartner*, Oslo, Norway, May 2025.
- Infrastructuring Gender Identities: The evolving representation of transgender identities in India's public service information systems 2014-2024, *Norwegian Queer Research Group*, Oslo, Sept 2024.
- Understanding Gender and Technology: Applying an Intersectional Lens, Masters-level Course: *ICT4D and Global Inequalities*, University of Oslo, Norway, Sept 2024.
- Programming in Python, Masters-level Course: *Health Informatics*, University of Oslo, Norway, Nov 2023.
- Feminist and Queer Research in ICT for Development, Masters-level Course: *ICT4D – Building a Better World?*, University of Oslo, Norway, Oct 2023.
- Leaving No-one Behind? Issues of Gender and Gender Queerness in ICT for Development, Masters-level Course: *ICT4D – Building a Better World?*, University of Oslo, Norway, Sept 2022.

Professional Qualifications

- 120 hours Pedagogy Course: Foundations in University Pedagogy, LINKEN Centre for Learning, Innovation and Academic Development, University of Oslo, Sept-Dec 2024.

Awards

- Best Paper Award, Scandinavian Conference on Information Systems, Oslo, Norway, Aug 2025.
- Best Reviewer Award, Academy of Management Annual Meeting, Technology and Innovation Management (TIM) Division, Chicago, USA, Aug 2024.
- Outstanding Distinction Award, University of Hertfordshire Board of Examiners, UK, 2018
- Nominated for Student of the Year, University of Hertfordshire, UK, 2018.

Track Chair, Editor, and Reviewer Experience

- Track Chair: 'Intersectionality in ICT4D Research and Practice', IFIP9.4 conference 2026.
- Editor: Information for Technology Journal, Taylor & Francis Group.
- Reviewer: Academy of Management, International Conference on Information Systems (ICIS), Global Public Health Journal, European Conference on Information Systems (ECIS), Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Development Countries (EJISDC), Information Technology for Development journal, Australasian Conference on Information Systems (ACIS), Human Development and Capability Association (HDCA) conference, IFIP8.2, IFIP9.4.

Projects

- Diversity Minimal Item Set (DiMIS): Member of the Norwegian and International working groups for the DiMIS which provides a means of collecting and presenting identity-based diversity-specific information on respondents in medical research. Lead by Charite at the Universitat Medizin Berlin.
- COST Action funding application to create a European consortium to study Digital Technologies and Gender Justice

Funding Secured

PhD Scholarship, University of Oslo, 2021-2025	€210,000
Competitive Startup Fund, Enterprise Ireland, 2016	€50,000
New Frontiers Startup Fund, Enterprise Ireland, 2016	€15,000

Professional Experience

Jun 2024 – Present

- Vice-President Communications, Association of Information Systems Special Interest Group for Global Development.

Aug 2021 – Oct 2025

University Lecturer, Supervisor, and Course Administrator

Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, Norway.

- Guest lectures on masters-level and PhD-level courses
 - Healthcare and Information Needs (DIGHEL4350)
 - ICT4D and Global Inequality (IN5370)
 - ICT4D – Building a Better World? (IN5390)
 - Health Informatics
- Supervising two master students in the Department of Informatics
- Three years as administrator and seminar-leader for PhD level course: 'Contemporary Theories of Information Systems Development'
- Software development tutor and examiner for Masters-level course: 'Software development in platform ecosystems'

May 2021 – July 2021

Senior Software Engineer, United Nations Technical Consultant

UNESCO project for OpenEMIS development and implementation, Eastern Cape, South Africa

- Technical documentation writing for OpenEMIS (Open Education Management Information System), Training the outsourced development team, Test-driven development, Agile development, Liaising with Eastern Cape Ministry of Education, Conducting training for implementation and system maintenance.
- PHP, Linux, MySQL, Apache server

Oct 2019 – April 2021

Senior Software Engineer

M-FUND Migrant Health, Thailand and Myanmar

- Full-stack development (LAMP stack and Node.js), VueJS JavaScript frontend, Offline Progressive Web Application, Laravel PHP, MySQL, Ubuntu, data warehousing, database design, code refactoring and maintenance, managing the development team, training and hiring, Agile software development with geographically distributed team, strategic planning, scaling the platform.

Jul 2018 – Sep 2019

Senior Software Engineer

Shoklo Malaria Research Unit, Thailand

- Oxford University centre for malaria research. Software and data systems engineering to support low-resource clinical practice and public health research. Work with medical staff, IT staff and researchers to build solutions to improve data-quality, research efficiency and analytics. Data warehousing using Talend for ETL.
- Languages: VBA for Access and Excel, C# for hardware integration and user interface, PHP for backend processing.

Feb 2017 – Jun 2018

Data-systems Consultant

Save the Children, Thailand

World Education, Thailand

Burma Children Medical Fund, Mae Tao Clinic, Thailand

- Designed and built several data-management systems to support refugee education and public health at nine refugee camps. Complex technical and logistical problem-solving in a low-resource context, Languages: VBA for Access and Excel, PHP, Frontend development

Mar 2014 – Jan 2017: Founder and Technical Lead

Melody College, the Live Online Music School

- Founded an eLearning company. Full-stack web-development (LAMP stack), digital marketing and human resources. Global network of teachers and students in nine countries including the US and Australia.

Jul 2011 – Oct 2013: Founder and Developer

DublinJazz.ie, Web-marketing Platform

- Founded a web-marketing platform linking Irish creative artists with their audiences, Full-stack development (LAMP stack)

Education

2021 – 2025: PhD Information Systems

Department of Informatics, University of Oslo, Norway

- PhD Fellowship: Defending in November 2025
- Thesis: *Information Infrastructural Violence: A Critical, Intersectional Study of the Consequences of Gender Recategorization in Government Information Infrastructures*
- Theories: Information infrastructures, Street-level bureaucracy theory, Boundary Objects theory, Intersectionality, Structural violence, Queer theory
- Ethnographic fieldwork in north India

2017 – 2018: MSc Software Engineering

University of Hertfordshire, United Kingdom

- Classification: Distinction
- Commendation from Board of Examiners for achieving 'Outstanding Distinction'
- Received nomination for Student of the Year
- Java development, Agile methodologies (SCRUM, eXtreme Programming), Database management, Full-stack development (LAMP stack)
- Thesis title: *Clinicom: Sustainable, Secure, Open-source Instant Messaging for Healthcare Teams in Developing Countries: A Pilot Study on the Thailand-Myanmar Border*. Action research, System development and implementation following the WHO *mHealth Assessment and Planning for Scale Toolkit*

2016 – 2022: Short Courses and Qualifications

- 2022: Digitalisation, health, and society, PhD course, Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo. June 20-22, 2022.
- 2017: Global Health Informatics to Improve Quality of Care: Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- 2016: Health Informatics on FHIR: Georgia Institute of Technology

2009 – 2011: MA(Research) Music Composition

Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland

- Computer-systems for automated music generation. Spectral analysis
- Portfolio of music compositions for jazz ensemble, string quartet, solo piano, large orchestra, and chamber ensemble.

2005 – 2008: BA(Hons) Jazz Performance

Newpark Music Centre, Ireland

- Classification: 2.1
- Music pedagogy, composition, music-analysis, saxophone
- Thesis: The evolving large-scale compositional style of British free-jazz composer Keith Tippett.

2000 – 2004: BA(Hons) International Hospitality Management

University of Wales, United Kingdom

- Classification: 2.1
- Human resources, strategic planning, managerial accounting

Languages

English (native), Dutch (fluent), French (B1 certificate), German (conversational), Norwegian (conversational)