

# Alia Reza

Hornbake Library, 4105J, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20740  
areza@umd.edu, aliareza.weebly.com

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on the intersection between immigrant information access and museum studies, specifically how South Asian immigrant communities interact with museums outreach and programming. My work is heavily interdisciplinary and driven by sociopolitical discourse. I value the ability of academic work to make real institutional differences when conducted carefully, and I hope to do the same with my research. By opening the floor to those whose voices have been historically silenced, I believe we can institute lasting change in our museums and other public education institutions.

## EDUCATION

### PhD in Information Studies

In Progress

University of Maryland, College Park, MD

### BA in Anthropology & Art History, *magna cum laude*

2018

University of Denver, Denver, CO

### Foreign Exchange Program in History of Art, Archaeology, & Global Literature

2016

University of Glasgow, Glasgow, UK

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Graduate Student Instructor - INST466: Technology, Culture, & Society. 2024 - Present

*University of Maryland, College of Information Studies, College Park, MD*

- Develop and enhance course curriculum for undergraduate students
- Teach lecture-based and discussion-based courses on information technology, modern society, and cultural impact

### Teaching Assistant - INST466: Technology, Culture, & Society

2023

*University of Maryland, College of Information Studies, College Park, MD*

- Support students in the classroom and with grading and assignment feedback
- Help plan and run individual course sessions and lectures based on student needs

### iSchool Inclusion Institute (i3) PhD Research Design Teaching Fellow

2023

*University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX*

- Expose students to an overview of different types of research methodologies and their strengths, weaknesses, and ethical considerations
- Develop hands-on activities that encourage students across disciplines to connect their interests to information science, research problems, and informing effective solutions

**Associate Teacher & Writing Instructor** **2018-2020**  
*The Logan School for Creative Learning, Denver, CO*  
 • Lead group activities to enhance student’s critical thinking and writing skills.  
 • Evaluate student work in nonfiction and fiction writing to improve student performance.

**PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

**Graduate Research Assistant** **2020-2023**  
*Sustaining Digital Community Collections Project, University of Maryland, College Park, MD*  
 • Contribute to study design, data collection, and analysis  
 • Document workflows identified in the course of the study.

**iSchool Inclusion Institute** **2018-Present**  
*University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA*  
 • Explore the relationships between information science and various interdisciplinary fields to discover new areas of research.  
 • Conduct research remotely with a team to gain experience with project management, interdisciplinary research, and collaborative technology.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Sixteenth International Conference on the Inclusive Museum Emerging Scholar Award	2023
ASIS&T Conference Best Short Paper Award	2021
iConference Best Poster Award Finalist	2020
Front Range Art History Symposium Presenter, Colorado College	2018
Anthropology Departmental Honors, University of Denver	2018
Dean’s List, University of Denver	2014-2018
Anthropology/Sociology Research Scholarship, \$3000, Islamic Scholarship Fund	2017

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Collections Intern** **2017**  
*Clyfford Still Museum*  
 • Collected data on works in museum collection and condensed for online public information.  
 • Created virtual exhibits to help determine possibilities for future exhibitions.

**Education & Outreach Intern** **2016**  
*Denver Art Museum*  
 • Developed and evaluated self-touring programs in the museum for teachers and students.  
 • Linked museum collections to curricula of various fields, including humanities and sciences.

**PUBLICATIONS (by date)**

Fenlon, K., **Reza, A.**, Grimmer, J., Wagner T. (2023) Mutual Sustainability Among Communities and Their Knowledge Infrastructures. Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pra2.775>.

- Reza, A.**, (2023). Inclusive to Some: Examining Immigrant Interactions With Museum Practice. *The International Journal of the Inclusive Museum* 16(2): 109-135.  
<https://doi.org/10.18848/1835-2014/CGP/v16i02/109-135>
- Fenlon, K., Grimmer, J., **Reza, A.**, Thurston, C. Wagner, T. (2022) *Community Centered Strategies for Sustaining Digital Humanities Scholarship* [White paper]. University of Maryland Center for Archival Futures. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.6964682>
- Reza, A.**, Chu, S., Nedd, A., Gardner, D. (2022). Having Skin in the Game: How players purchase representation in games. *Convergence: The International Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/13548565221099713>
- Fenlon, K., Grimmer, J., **Reza, A.**, Thurston, C. (2021). "Meaning in the present": Understanding Sustainability for Digital Community Collections. Proceedings of the Association for Information Science and Technology. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1002/pr2.476>
- Reza, A.**, Nedd, A., Chu, S., Castillo, A., Khan, Z., Gardner, D. (2020). "I like the way the skin looks": Player perspectives on aesthetic appeal and self-representation with video game "Skins." iConference 2020 Proceedings. Retrieved from <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/106593>
- Reza, A.**, Chu S., Khan, Z., Nedd, A., Castillo, A., Gardner, D. (2019). Skins for Sale: Linking Player Identity, Representation, and Purchasing Practices. *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*. Retrieved from <https://link.springer.com>
- Gómez, E. (Producer), & Gómez, E., Peterson, W., **Reza, A.** (Directors). (2018). *Precedent* [Video file]. Retrieved from <https://www.sapiens.org/culture/trump-travel-ban-world-war-ii/>

#### CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (by date)

- Reza, A.**, (2023, July). Inclusive to Some: Examining Immigrant Interactions With Museum Practice. Session presented at Visitor Studies Association Conference.
- Overview of modern academic literature regarding museum history, immigrant information access, museum studies/museology, and immigrants and museums
  - Explores the literature gap between what immigrant communities in the United States want or need from museums and what types of programming museums are conducting.
- Reza, A.**, Fenlon, K., Sorensen, A., Marsh, D., Curliss, L., Jones, M. A., Wagner, T. L. (2022, July). Facilitating Data Re-Use. Panel Presentation and Discussion at Virtual Archival Education and Research Initiative (AERI) Annual Meeting 2022.
- Panel for Recovering and Reusing Archival Data (RRAD) Lab at University of Maryland
  - Discussion Points:
    - Opportunities for data recovery and reuse
    - What reuse means for different communities
    - Variety of contexts, disciplines, and kinds of "data"

**Reza, A., Williams, S.** (2022 April). "Adapt As We Go": Museum Outreach and Programming During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Session presented at 15th Annual Conference of the Inclusive Museum, Moore college of Art and Design, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

- RQ: How are museums adapting outreach and exhibits to a digital setting due to a pandemic?
- Examine new ways museums are conducting outreach and developing programming based on semi-structured interviews with museum staff
- Analyze how differences in funding, public interaction, and digital media use might impact museum' abilities to maintain or develop engagement

**Reza, A., Fenlon, K., Grimmer, J.** (2021, October). "Meaning in the present": Understanding Sustainability for Digital Community Collections. Paper presented at ASIS&T 2019, Salt Lake City, UT.

- RQ: What role does the Lakeland Community Archive play in helping realize community-determined, community-led strategies for sustaining digital collections over time?
- Explore how Lakeland's community understands *sustainability* in the context of their digital archive.
- Contribute to understandings of community-centered sustainability strategies for digital collections.

**Reza, A., Nedd, A.,** (2020, March). "I like the way the skin looks": Player perspectives on aesthetic appeal and self-representation with video game "Skins." Poster presented at iConference 2020, University of Borås, Borås, Sweden.

- RQ: What can survey results and studies by previous scholars tell us about what it means to "like the way a skin looks" and how can players' purchasing practices and reasons behind their purchases allow us to better understand how players from diverse backgrounds interact with "skins?"
- Examine quantitative survey responses to compare responses of various demographic groups and observe statistically significant differences in responses
- Conduct qualitative analysis of open-ended survey responses to gain insight into reasoning behind player purchasing practices.

**Reza, A., Nedd, A.** (2019, April). "Skins for Sale: Linking Player Identity, Representation, and Purchasing Practices." Paper presented at iConference 2019, University of Maryland, College Park, MD.

- RQ: How do in-game representational options tied to microtransactions impact the purchasing practices of players of diverse racial backgrounds?
- Examine relationships between diverse players and transactions.
- Review literature around (1) representation in games, (2) purchasing practices tied to racial identity, and (3) player identity to highlight the gap in research on the intersection of these three categories.

## **ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

- Phi Beta Kappa (ΦBK) 2018-Present
- National Society of Collegiate Scholars (NSCS) 2015-Present
- DU Muslim Student Association (DUMSA), President 2015-2018

## **ACADEMIC AND TEACHING SERVICE**

### **Book Reviewer** 2022 - Present

*Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*

- Read recently released books in media literacy, information justice, and LIS
- Write and publish academic reviews of books in the *Journal of Education for Library and Information Science*

### **Doctoral Mentor** 2022-Present

*SisterMentors*

- Mentor middle and high school girls of color in DC, Maryland, and Virginia through their academic journeys
- Design monthly study plans and mentoring sessions for students to keep up to date with their academics

### **Emerging Scholar Conference Volunteer** 2023

*International Conference on the Inclusive Museum, Vancouver, CA*

- Chair panel sessions and lead discussion within them
- Facilitate and moderate discussion amongst attendees on online conference platform

### **Award Committee Member** 2022 - 2023

*Institute for Information Literacy at Purdue (IILP), Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN*

- Serve on information literacy research award committee
- Read, score, and discuss articles and research projects on information literacy challenges to find the most impactful submission for the IILP award

### **Graduate Student Volunteer** 2022

*Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference, College Park, MD*

- Set up and take down for conference events
- Run discussion tables on archival justice and archival ethics

### **Volunteer Substitute Teacher** 2017-2020

*Jaffari Islamic School, Denver, CO*

- Teach students to apply Islam's values of peace and education to today's sociopolitical climate.
- Plan lessons in short amounts of time to make up for the absence of regular teachers.

## REFERENCES

**Diana Marsh, PhD**, Assistant Professor of Information Studies, Affiliate Assistant Professor of Anthropology, University of Maryland, College Park, [dmarsh@umd.edu](mailto:dmarsh@umd.edu)

**Kayla Booth, PhD**, Director of iSchool Inclusion Institute, iSchool Assistant Professor of Instruction, University of Texas, Austin, [kaylambooth@gmail.com](mailto:kaylambooth@gmail.com)

**Daniel Gardner, PhD**, Postdoctoral Fellow, Grand Challenges Initiative, Chapman University, [dgardner@chapman.edu](mailto:dgardner@chapman.edu)

**Shireen Lewis, PhD**, Executive Director and Founder, SisterMentors, [director@sistermentors.org](mailto:director@sistermentors.org)

Signature: 