

## **Sophie Maddocks**

Provost's Graduate Academic Engagement Fellowship at the Netter Center  
Biography and Project Description

### **Biography**

Sophie Maddocks is a first-year doctoral student at the Annenberg School for Communication. Broadly, her interests span cyber civil rights, youth media literacy, and popular culture. Sophie's current research explores individual, organizational, and legislative responses to image-based digital abuse.

Sophie holds an M.A. in Media Studies from the New School for Public Engagement where she was a Fulbright Scholar, a Postgraduate Certificate in Education from the University of Warwick, and a B.A. in Politics, Psychology and Sociology from the University of Cambridge. Before joining the Annenberg School, Sophie held various teaching and advocacy roles in the British education system.

### **Project Description**

Through the Provost's Graduate Academic Engagement Fellowship, I intend to pilot a program of teaching and research that addresses the issue of digital abuse. From cyberbullying and grooming to revenge porn and trolling, digital abuse disproportionately affects young people, women, and minoritized groups. The cornerstone of this proposal is an undergraduate ABCS course. During this course, undergraduates will co-develop with high school students a collection of 'digital rights' resources advocating for young peoples' prosocial, safe, and critical engagement online. I envisage 'digital rights' as a vehicle through which to address the social and emotional challenges that students face across both physical classrooms and digital platforms.

My second fellowship year will focus on community engagement beyond the classroom through the launch of a one-day conference on image-based digital abuse. Led by students, this event will facilitate knowledge-exchange between young people at the forefront of online harms and scholars who study digital abuse. While much scholarship and policymaking on digital abuse concerns adults' experiences, my doctoral work centers young people, who are particularly vulnerable to online harms. I seek to intervene in the field of digital abuse scholarship through participatory research that investigates with students their lived experiences of digital abuse precarity, their reception of existing e-safety guidance, and their construction of critical 'digital rights' resources.