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DISCO Network Newsletter Fall 2024

News & Announcements



[Read Fall 2024 Director Letter](#)

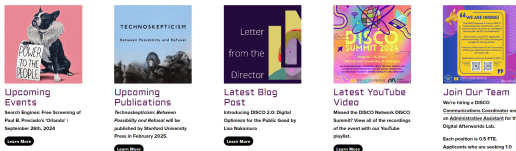
Introducing DISCO 2.0: DISCO Network extends initiatives through 2027

Digital Optimism for the Public Good.

The DISCO Network is very proud to announce that we are continuing our work to envision an anti-racist and anti-ableist digital future as a refreshed and re-booted version of ourselves.



News

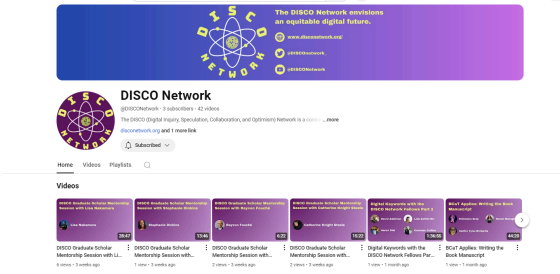


[View our updated website](#)

View our new DISCO Network website & YouTube channel

We've revamped [our website](#)! You can now find our latest projects and publications, a photo gallery, an archive of all of our past events and course syllabi, new blog posts from the DISCO Network team, and more.

We also have a new [YouTube channel](#) (@DISCONetwork) where you can view all of the recordings of our past events.



Subscribe to get notified whenever we upload a new video!

[View our new YouTube channel](#)



Join the DISCO Network staff team

We're hiring a DISCO Communications Coordinator and an Administrative Assistant for the Digital Afterworlds Lab (PI: Lisa Nakamura).

Each position is 0.5 FTE. Applicants who are seeking 1.0 FTE are encouraged to apply to both positions. Positions will be based at the University of Michigan Digital Studies Institute in Ann Arbor, MI.

Applications close on October 2, 2024.

[Communications Coordinator Job Listing](#)

[Administrative Assistant Job Listing](#)

Upcoming Events



Register to attend

Search Engines: Free Screening of Paul B. Preciado's 'Orlando, My Political Biography'

Thursday, September 26, 2024
6:00 - 8:00 PM

State Theater, Ann Arbor, MI

Screening of the documentary will be followed by a conversation with Jessie Beal (Director of U-M Spectrum Center), Laurie Pohutsky (Speaker Pro Tempore for the MI House of Representatives and representative of the 17th House District in Livonia), and Atticus Spicer (Search Engines Undergraduate Program Assistant).



View schedule

BCaT BookClub: Black Homeplaces

Weekly on Wednesdays from September 18 - December 4
12:00 - 1:00 PM

University of Maryland, Skinner 3115 + [Zoom](#)

Engage with art exhibitions, films, readings, and more, while exploring Black placemaking practices across the diaspora. Keep an eye out on the [BCaT Lab website](#) for up-to-date information about the weekly topic.

Bookclub attendees will be eligible to participate in [DISCO CO\(LAB\)](#), our new series of inter-institutional collaborative research projects.



BCaT Applies: Alt-Academia

Wednesday, October 16, 2024

3:00 - 5:00 PM

University of Maryland, Skinner 3115 + [Zoom](#)

If you are a near/recent grad student considering a career outside of academia, join us as we hear from a panel of experts. Keep an eye out on the DISCO website for updated event information, including the list of panelists.

Event Recap



DISCO CO(LAB) Information Session | September 18, 2024

The BCaT Lab hosted an information session on DISCO's new series of inter-institutional collaborative research projects, DISCO CO(LAB). Starting Fall 2024, DISCO CO(LAB) will center digitizing the Black Home, Black placemaking traditions, and Black diasporic overlaps and divergences.

We are seeking collaborators from across the U.S. and beyond to participate. Applications will open in December 2024 for summer microgrants.

Check out the presentation slides on [Deep Blue](#).



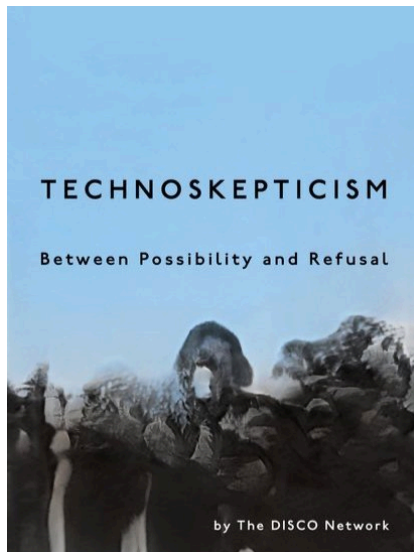
DISCO Summit | June 14-15, 2024

The DISCO Summit was a two-day interdisciplinary summer symposium about digital social inequalities in celebration of the third year of the DISCO Network. The DISCO Summit included nine panel conversations about the past, present, and future of the intersection between digital technology, culture, race, disability, gender, sexuality, and liberation.

Watch the panels on [YouTube](#).

Learn more on [DISCO's event archive](#).

Publishing Updates



Technoskepticism: Between Optimism and Refusal

February 2025, [Stanford University Press](#)

This is a book about possibility and refusal in relation to new technologies. Though refusal is an especially powerful mode—particularly for those who have historically not been given the option to say no—people of color and disabled people have long navigated the space between saying yes and saying no to the newest technologies. Technoskepticism relates some of these stories to reveal the possibilities skepticism can create.

[Read more](#)



[Read more](#)

Accessing Disability Culture Anthology **Produced by the Digital Accessible Futures Lab** **(PI: Remi Yergeau)**

Accessing Disability Culture is a reflection of experience, resistance to ableism, and documentation of disabled, neurodivergent, chronically ill, and Deaf students at the University of Michigan.

Artwork by Abbie Stochmal.



[Read more](#)

Gaming Blockchain and the Asiatic Forms of Web3 by Huan He

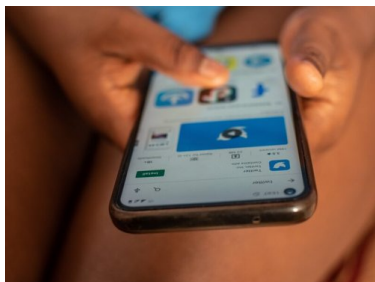
This field review explores the phenomenon of crypto-games (digital games built on blockchain technologies) and new racialized forms of play-based labor.



[Read more](#)

Big Bad Feelings: AI Depression Diagnosis and the Technopolitics of Disability by Jeff Nagy

This field review addresses systems like Project Seabreeze as an opportunity to think at the intersection of depression, disability, and digital media, with an eye to the logics of translation and scale.



#RIP Twitter: The Conditions of Black Social Media Platform Migration by Rianna Walcott

This field review frames the history of Black Twitter as both coparticipants in the platform's design and transgressive reconceptualizers of its intended

[Read more](#)

functions, as a practice of adapting Twitter into a viable home.

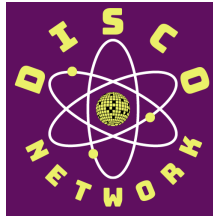
Project Updates

Thanks to the continued support of the Mellon Foundation, the DISCO Network is extending its projects and launching several new initiatives to focus our work towards more public audiences. Our new initiatives include:

- **DISCO CO(LAB)**: a series of inter-institutional collaborative research projects hosted by the [Black Communication and Technology \(BCaT\) Lab](#) at the University of Maryland. DISCO CO(LAB) will fund and support three new research teams to develop digital humanities projects that center speculation and optimism about race and disability.
 - **DISCO JAMS**: a series of collaborative article-writing and media-making convenings hosted and curated by the [Humanity and Technoscience \(HAT\) Lab](#) at Northwestern University. DISCO JAMS will produce open-source, rapid-response writing that bridges the gap between traditional academic research and public discourse about identity and technology.
 - **DISCO TECH**: a curriculum development, research, and instruction project hosted by the [Digital Accessible Futures \(DAF\) Lab](#) at the University of Michigan. DISCO TECH will gather data about the impact of teaching race, gender, and disability to budding designers, programmers, and creators enrolled in digital studies courses, then share those findings in both public and academic venues.
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DISCO PI Updates

- [Rayvon Fouché awarded NSF Grant to develop the Critical STEM Faculty Alliance \(C-STEM\).](#)
 - [Catherine Knight Steele awarded a 2024-2026 Just Tech Fellowship.](#)
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