SocPop Bio

Name of Scholar:
Meg Martin

Undergraduate Degree:
Emory University, BA, Political Science
Columbia University, BS, Nursing

Graduate Program:
PhD, Health Policy

Advisor/PI:
Ruth Malone, RN, PhD

Year of Study:
3rd Year doctoral student

Research Interests:
I am interested in the ethical, legal, and social implications of technology development for health.

       I study digital health production in order to learn how social processes inform algorithmic platforms, and how algorithmic platforms inform social processes within clinical and start-up environments. I use a variety of qualitative methods including ethnography, phenomenology, and media/policy analysis to get at some of the understudied outcomes enabled by decision-making support software. Current empirical work on technology development for health care often focuses the usability and effectiveness of products; I chose to investigate an earlier stage in the product

lifespan, where implicit bias and social positioning have a heightened risk of impacting the human assumptions informing digital health products.

I hope to contribute to the body of public health research by examining understudied outcomes of widespread technology dissemination. By identifying these outcomes, my hope is to better enable us to identify and respond to some of the negative externalities of technology adoption, whether through community, institutional, or legislative change. I chose UCSF for its pioneering role in the development of qualitative research methodologies, and in order to work among a multi-disciplinary group of scholars with close proximity to digital health's epicenter in Silicon Valley.

Following my PhD, I would like to continue researching the social impacts of technology development in a multi-disciplinary environment.