

Kieran Andrew James Helbling

Atlanta, Georgia
kal.helbling@gmail.com
kieranandrewjames.com

Scholar and community practitioner working across rhetoric, mediation, predictive systems, trans studies, public scholarship, and critical making.

EDUCATION

Clemson University - PhD student, Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Design

The Pennsylvania State University - Master of Business Administration

San Diego State University - Bachelor of Arts, Urban Studies

RESEARCH AREAS

Rhetorical theory; mediation; predictive systems; AI and platforms; trans studies; classification and recognition; media ethics; visual rhetoric; institutional forms; critical making.

SELECTED RESEARCH AND WRITING

Synthetic Sophists and the Predictive Situation. Research in progress bringing rhetorical theory, critical technology studies, and trans studies into conversation around predictive systems.

In Consideration of Mediation as the Sixth Rhetorical Canon. Developing theoretical project mapping mediation across rhetoric, philosophy, media theory, and cultural studies.

Keyword Essay: Fantasy. Selected writing sample treating fantasy as a historically layered, contested, and rhetorically mobile term.

Reframing Photography as Political Relation. Presentation on Ariella Azoulay's *The Civil Contract of Photography*, visual theory, and political obligation.

SELECTED PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP AND MEDIA

2025 Transgender Social Media Safety Report. Comparative platform research across fifteen social media platforms.

An Open Letter to the Media. Public advocacy and media criticism, November 22, 2024.

Trans Day of Visibility interview. Public-facing conversation with Atlanta News First, 2026.

Trans Joycast. Public conversation and community storytelling connected to Trans Joy.

COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP AND PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Trans Joy - Co-founder and CEO. Community events, advocacy, public storytelling, and trans care initiatives.

Technology and management - More than twenty-six years of leadership and management experience.

SPEAKING AND MEDIA TOPICS

AI and predictive persuasion; trans representation and media ethics; platforms and trans digital safety; community practice as public scholarship; mediation, visibility, and critical making.

This selected CV includes verified information represented in the public research portfolio. A fuller professional record is available by request.