

JENNY RYAN

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Mission

My ongoing mission is to work alongside existing and emerging organizations to build strong and resilient human communications networks and collectively-owned infrastructure. I collaborate closely with open source projects, grassroots communities, and global initiatives rooted in the shared struggle to reclaim the commons - creating public spheres; cultivating open spaces for collaborative cultural production and caring communities; exploring cooperative legal and economic frameworks; and building people-powered alternatives to broken systems.

Education

- **Quickbooks ProAdvisor Online Certification**, May 2018.
- **MA, Communication**, May 2012. University of California, San Diego.
- **MA, Anthropology**, May 2008. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.
- **BA, Psychology**, May 2007. Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT.
- **TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) Certificate**, July 2008 from [ITTO](http://ITTO.org).

Experience



Co-Founder, Community Organizer & Secretary/Treasurer, **Omni Commons**

Dec 2013 - Current

Co-creator of the Omni Commons, a community space located in North Oakland comprised of eleven member collectives stewarding shared space and resources and experimenting with consensus-based governance.

- **Commons WG**: Set up [booking system](#) and [calendar](#); created guidelines for booking & bottomlining events; Served as event bottomliner for over 100 events (booking, promo, day-of setup, A/V, runner and cleanup).
- **Communications WG Facilitator**: Setting up and maintaining online presence ([wiki](#), [website](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [mailing lists](#)); designing and publishing [newsletters](#), swag, and flyers; community outreach; [documentation](#);
- **Finances WG Facilitator**: Accounting; budgeting; [financial reporting](#); state filings & exemptions; legal contracts;
- **Fundraising WG**: Grantwriting; crowdfunding; procuring community loans; donor management;
- **Building WG Facilitator**: Workparty coordination; maintaining [To Do List](#), facilities maintenance & construction.



Co-Founder, Community Organizer & Treasurer, **Sudo Mesh**

Jan 2013 - Current

Coordinating an all-volunteer nonprofit organization building the [People's Open Network](#), a community-owned and -operated WiFi network in Oakland; [DisasterRadio](#), a long-range, off-grid mesh network; and [Build Your Own Internet](#), a toolkit for building DIY WiFi networks.

- **Project Management**: Built and maintain project management system (Trello, Github, Google Suite);
- **Community Outreach**: Community outreach and coalition-building with [local](#) stakeholders and [global](#) community partners; Onboarding, organizing and retaining volunteers;
- **Events Coordinator**: Giving [talks and presentations](#) at conferences, schools and festivals; Hosting and promoting regular [classes & workshops](#); Organizing weekly node mounts at locations across the Bay Area.
- **Communications**: Documentation of meetings, research and tech; [Web](#) and graphic design; [Press](#) liason;
- **Participatory Research**: Conducted [ethnographic research](#) and designed [use cases](#);
- **Administration**: Manages finances, [state filings](#) and exemption paperwork; Fundraising and grant-writing; Developed business plan and projected budget.

JENNY RYAN



Co-Founder, Omni Delegate & Community Organizer, [Sudo Room](#)

Oct 2011 - Current

Creating an open membership, nonhierarchical, collaborative community working towards social change. Personal focus on collaboration, documentation, inclusivity and collective processes for accountability, facilitation and communication.

- *Organizer*: Developing community policies and processes; Facilitating and documenting meetings; Coordinating space maintenance and organization;
- *Finance & Fundraising*: Managing finances, state filings and exemption paperwork; Grantwriting & crowdfunding;
- *Communications*: Blogging and social media; Press liason; Onboarding new members; Conflict mediation;
- *Event Management*: Hosted monthly [cryptoparties](#) for 2.5 years; Co-organizer of several Bay Area Consortium of Hackerspaces unconferences; Maintainer of calendar.
- *Projects*: Laptop salvage and distribution to low-income, youth and people of color; Designing a community asset-mapping and auto-documentation tool ([Mycelia](#)); [HackPack Project](#).



Community Outreach Coordinator, [De Novo Group](#)

July 2014 - Jan 2015

Nonprofit turning cutting-edge research into applicable technological solutions to address the needs of deserving communities in developing regions.

- *Core Activities*: Community outreach and relations; Events; Web and graphic design; Blogging and social media.



Technology Evangelist, [Open Garden](#)

April 2013 - July 2014

Early employee of a San Francisco-based startup creating a mobile mesh networking application for sharing Internet connectivity among mobile devices.

- *Core Activities*: Managing events; crafting and publishing press releases; developing community and corporate partnerships; community engagement (forum, social media, newsletters); writing and research.



GNOME Intern, [Open Technology Institute](#)

Jan - April 2013

- Developed use cases and conducted user research for Tidepools, a hyperlocal mobile mapping platform designed to run on community mesh networks such as [Commotion](#).



Graduate Student Instructor, [University of California, San Diego](#)

March 2010 - March 2012

- Taught courses on critical theory and communication to undergraduates in the Communication Department.



Research Assistant, [Howard Rheingold](#)

August 2009-March 2010

- Researching digital literacy skills for the 21st century: participation, collaboration, crap detection, network awareness, and attention for Howard's most recent book, [Net Smart: How to Thrive Online](#).



Research Assistant, [Harvard Berkman Center for Internet & Society](#)

May 2008-Aug 2010

Policy research initiative on Internet and society issues.

- Worked with danah boyd to publish "[Pro-Self-Harm and the Visibility of Youth-Generated Problematic Content](#)," conducting an extensive literature review as well as digital ethnography of some of the darker corners of the web.



Ethnographer, [Wesleyan University Academic Library Services](#)

Fall 2006

- Conducted ethnographic interviews with Wesleyan students, eliciting creative brainstorming for the mapping of future study spaces on campus.

JENNY RYAN

Skills

Research Skills:

Ethnographic Research	★★★★★	Survey Analysis	★★★★★
Interviewing	★★★★★	Data Analysis	★★★★★
Legal Research	★★★★	Data Visualization	★★★

Nonprofit Operations and Administration:

Documentation	★★★★★	Accounting and Budgeting	★★★★★
Facilities Management	★★★★★	Project Management	★★★★★
Communications	★★★★★	Group Facilitation	★★★★
Community Outreach	★★★★	Volunteer Coordination	★★★★
Event Management	★★★★	Press / Public Relations	★★★★
Fundraising/Grantwriting	★★★	Donor Relations	★★★

Technical Skills:

Linux Server Admin	★★★★	UX Design	★★★★
Computer Networking	★★★★	Web Development	★★★
Graphic Design	★★★	Livestreaming/Video Editing	★★★

Languages:

English (fluent)	★★★★★	Social Media (fluent)	★★★★★
Danish (semi-fluent)	★★★	Spanish (1yr):	★★
French (5yrs):	★★	Swahili (1yr)	★

Tools:

Wordpress	★★★★★	Mediawiki	★★★★★	Trello	★★★★★
Google Suite	★★★★★	Quickbooks	★★★★	Github	★★★★

Publications

2019 (in process). "Building Decentralized Internet Infrastructure: A History and Overview of Mesh Networking," in McKelvey, Karissa (ed.), *Decentralize Everything: How technologist-activists are battling a broken Internet* [working title].

November 2012. "Hacking the Commons: How to Start a Hackerspace," posted on Shareable.net. [Link]

August 2012. "The Digital Graveyard: Online Social Networking Sites as Vehicles of Remembrance," in Mike Wesch and Neil Whitehead (eds.), *Human No More: Digital Subjectivities, Unhuman Subjects, and the End/s of Anthropology*. University of Colorado Press. [PDF]

Winter 2011. "Pro-Self-Harm and the Visibility of Youth-Generated Problematic Content," with danah boyd and Alex Leavitt. *Journal of Information Law & Society*. [PDF]

June 2010. "Weaving the underground web: Neotribalism and psytrance on Tribe.net," in Graham St. John (ed.), *The Local Scenes and Global Culture of Psytrance*. Routledge: New York & London. [PDF]

May 2008. "The Virtual Campfire: An Ethnography of Online Social Networking," *Master's thesis*. [PDF]

Talks & Presentations

2 August 2018. "How do we create sustainable funding for Open Source Projects?" at [Decentralized Web Summit](#) in San Francisco, CA. [[Video](#)] -

Moderator: Jenny Ryan (Sudo Mesh)

Panel: Nico Pace (AlterMundi), Dominic Tarr (Secure Scuttlebutt Consortium), Andrew Lee (Handshake Foundation), and Mehan Jayasuriya (Mozilla Foundation).

14 July 2018. "Our_stable_networks" with Grant Gallo at [Our Networks](#) in Toronto, Canada. [[Video](#)] [[Slides](#)]

19 September 2015. "Hacker Q&A" at [Symbiosis Festival](#). [[Slides](#)].

Panel Presenters: Marc Juul & Jenny Ryan (Sudo Mesh), Electronic Frontier Foundation and Open Whisper Systems.

30 April 2015. "The Future of the Internet After Net Neutrality: A Learning Session," w/ Marc Juul at SF City Hall. [[Slides](#)].

October 2-3, 2014. Panel (*Women and Community Wireless: Addressing Challenges, Sharing Successes*) & Workshop (*Coalition-Building for Community Wireless Networks*) at the International Summit for Community Wireless Networks at c-base in Berlin, Germany. [[Agenda](#)]

26 June 2014. "From the Bottom Up: Building Community-Owned and -Operated Mesh Networks," with Sudo Mesh, wlan-slovenia, Personal Telco Project, and Kansas City Freedom Network at Open Source Bridge, Portland.

Presenters: Jenny Ryan, Marc Juul, Mitar (wlan-slovenia), Russell (Personal Telco), and Isaac Wilder (KC Freedom Network). [[Slides](#)] [[Notes](#)]

12 December 2013. Sudo Mesh presentation with Matt Senate for Professor Sameer Verda's Wireless Networking class at San Francisco State University. [[Video](#)] [[Slides](#)]

31 August 2013. "Mesh the Planet! - A Presentation on the Oakland Community Mesh Network Project," with Marc Juul at Information Day, hosted by The Public School and Sudo Room, Oakland, CA. [[Wiki Documentation](#)]

15 November 2012. "Free the Means: Co-Creating Ethnographies of the Future," at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, California. [[Crib Notes](#)]

16 November 2011. "Reimagining the 'Global Village' in an Age of Networked Materiality: Designing Online Spaces for Group Coordination, Participation and Collaboration," at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

Panel Title: No Matter Where: Tracking New Media Materialities and Ideologies.

November 21, 2010. "Weaving the Underground Web: Neotribalism and Psytrance on Tribe.Net," at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

Panel Title: Embodiment, Trance, and Gender: Papers on the Anthropology of Consciousness.

December 8, 2009. "The Digital Graveyard: Online Social Networking Sites as Vehicles of Remembrance," at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.

Panel Title: Human No More: Digital Subjectivities, Unhuman Subjects, and the End/s of Anthropology.

April 24, 2008. New Media & the Internet Panel, Wesleyan University. *Speakers:* Jenny Ryan and Sam Han.

Organizational Memberships



**Sustainable
Economies
Law Center**



Internet Society
Community Networks SIG
Women SIG
SF Bay Area Chapter

