

# MARINA UMASCHI BERS

Associate Professor, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development  
Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Computer Sciences  
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## Research Interests

Investigating the impact of learning technologies for fostering positive youth development.  
Studying and implementing the use of technology in formal and non-formal education settings.  
Designing and studying collaborative computational systems for children.

## Education

**Massachusetts Institute of Technology- Media Laboratory (Cambridge, MA 1995-2001)**

Ph.D. in Media Arts and Sciences

M.S. in Media Arts and Sciences

**Boston University- School of Education (Boston, MA 1994-1995)**

M.Ed. in Educational Technology

**University of Buenos Aires- School of Social Communication (Argentina, 1989-1993)**

B.A. in Communication Sciences

**TEA School of Journalism (Argentina 1990-1992)**

Journalist

**Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Israel, 1988-1989)**

Special program

## Languages

Spanish (mother tongue), English, French, Hebrew

## Research Experience

**Tufts University (Medford, MA)**

*Associate Professor, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development (9/2001-present)*

*Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science (6/2005-present)*

**Children's Hospital Boston (Boston, MA)**

*Associate Scientific Staff, Department of Psychiatry (6/2005-7/2011)*

**MIT Media Laboratory (Cambridge, MA)**

*Research Assistant, Epistemology & Learning Group (9/1997-5/2001)*

*Research Assistant, Gesture & Narrative Language Group (9.1995-8/1997)*

**MERL Mitsubishi Electric Research Lab (Cambridge, Summer 1997)**

*Research internship*

**Interval Research Corporation (Palo Alto, Summer 1996)**

*Research fellowship*

## Teaching Experience

**Tufts University**

*Associate Professor, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development, (9/2001-present)*

*Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Computer Sciences*

*Adjunct Associate Professor, Tisch College of Public Service*

**MIT Media Laboratory**

*Teaching assistant, Prof. Mitchel Resnick & Sherry Turkle (9/1997-5/2000)*

*Instructor, IAP program (1/1996-1/1998)*

**Buenos Aires University. Communication Sciences Department**

*Teaching assistant, Prof. Alejandro Piscitelli & Anibal Ford (3/1992-8/1994)*

**La Plata National University. School of Journalism**

*Lecturer (Spring 1993)*

**Systemic Psychology Graduate Institute**

*Instructor (Spring 1993)*

**Anthropology National Graduate Institute**

*Lecturer (Fall, 1993)*

**Work Experience**

**Instructional Materials Center. School of Education. Boston University (8/1994-8/1995)**

Helped faculty, students and teachers to design educational applications and develop computer skills.

**Uno Mismo monthly magazine. Buenos Aires. Argentina (1/1992-6/1994)**

Junior Editor focused on technology, culture and society.

**Free-lance journalist specialized on science, technology and society (1/1990- 12/1998).**

Published articles in magazines (PC Users, Virus Report) and newspapers (Clarín, Pagina 12)

**Ciba-Geigy Laboratory . Buenos Aires, Argentina (1/1991-7/1991)**

Fellowship at the press department

**Santillana Publisher, Buenos Aires, Argentina (3/1990-10/1990)**

Design and content production of social sciences elementary school textbooks.

**National Radio Splendid Buenos Aires, Argentina (3/1989-10/1989)**

Creation of scripts (based on biographies) to broadcast as educational soap operas.

**Fellowships and Honors**

**Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE),** White House, Office of Science and Technology (July 2006)

**Premio Sadosky. Cámara de Empresas de Software y Servicios Informáticos (CESSI)** Argentina. Mención especial. (July 2006)

**Bernstein Award for junior faculty,** Tufts University (2005-2007)

**Schuster Faculty Development Program Award,** Tufts University (December 2005)

**Jan Hawkins Award for Early Career Contributions to Humanistic Research and Scholarship in Learning Technologies,** American Educational Research Association (AERA) April 2005

**Young Faculty Leaders Forum Fellowship,** Harvard University (2002-2006)

**Tisch College Faculty Fellowship,** Tufts University (2004-2006)

## Awarded Grants

**NSF DRK-12 ScratchJr: Computer programming in early childhood education as a pathway to academic readiness and success** (PI Marina Bers, co-PI Mitchel Resnick) DRL-1118664 Awarded \$796,533 (2011-2014)

**NSF DRK-12 Ready for Robotics: The missing T and E of STEM in early childhood education** (PI Marina Bers) Awarded \$ 408,262. NSF DRL-1118897 (2011-2014)

**NSF REU Tangible programming in kindergarten.** Undergraduates Research Experiences (PI Marina Bers) Awarded \$32,775

**NSF REU Virtual communities of learning.** Undergraduates Research Experiences (PI Marina Bers) Awarded \$18,000

**NSF “Tangible Programming in Early Childhood: Revisiting Developmental Assumptions through New Technologies”** (PI Marina Bers; co-PI Robert Jacob) (2008-2011) NSF DRL-0735657. Awarded: \$445,110.

**Deborah Munroe Noonan Memorial Fund.** “A virtual community for Pediatric Transplant Patients” (PI) (2008-2009) Awarded \$75,000

**NSF “CUSP: Computing Undergraduate Scholars Program** (PI) (2006-2008) NSF IIS-0447166 Awarded \$32,238

**CICU Cardiac Clinical Research and Education Fund.** Children’s Hospital, Boston (PI) (7/2007-1/2008) Awarded \$10,000

**NSF “Telling the Story - Learning Math, Science and Engineering Through Animation”** PI Chris Rogers, co-PI Marina Bers, (Tufts), co-PI A Finkelstein, co-PI M Klawe & coPI Rusinkeiwicz (Princeton) (2005-2008) Awarded \$319,186. NSF IIS-0511979

**NSF Career Award** “Communities of learning and care: Multi-user environments that promote positive youth development” (PI) (2005-2009) Awarded \$476,066 NSF IIS-0447166

**Tisch College Faculty Fellowship.** Tufts University. “New technologies and civic engagement” (PI) (2004-2006) Awarded \$30,000

**Academic Technology.** Tufts University. A Partnership in Technology Faculty Grant Program. “Virtual Communities of Learning and Practice: A Constructionist Authoring Toolkit” (PI) Awarded \$ 30,000 plus equipment (2002-2003)

**Tisch College.** Education for Active Citizenship Grant. Tufts University “A virtual participatory community: technology and civics education”( PI) (2002) Awarded \$ 3,500

**NSF “Multi-threaded Instruction: Forming Multi-disciplinary Research Groups to Improve Undergraduate Education** (Co-PI; PI Chris Rogers). (2002-2005) Awarded \$ 372,972

**NSF “ Tufts’ Pre-College Engineering for Teachers (PCET) Project** (consultant) (PI Martha Cyr, Co-PI Christine Cunningham) (2002-2007) Awarded \$1,728,412

**Microsoft Research Virtual Worlds Research.** (PI) (1998-1999) Awarded \$ 30,000 plus equipment, trips and stipend

## Professional Service

Member of the Board of Center of Design Innovation, University of North Carolina.

Member of the editorial board of the Journal of the Learning Sciences, the on-line Experience Journal, the Journal of Advances on Human Computer Interaction, the Journal of Applied Developmental Science.

Reviewer for proposals for NSF and the Israeli National Science Foundation

Reviewer of papers for the Journal of Educational Computing Research, AERA and ICLS conference, Multimedia on Story

Representation, Mechanism and Context (ACM), Developmental Psychology Journal, Early Education and Development Journal, International Workshop on Groupware '07, Cyberpsychology & Behavior, CHI

Reviewer of book proposals for MIT Press, Merrill Prentice Hall, Oxford University Press

### **Published Books and Special issues**

Bers, M. (forthcoming) Designing Digital Experiences for Positive Youth Development: From playpen to playground. Oxford University Press

Bers, M.U. (Winter 2010). *New Directions for Youth Development*. Special Issue: New Media and Technology: Youth as Content Creators, Issue 128.

Bers, M (2008) Blocks to Robots: Learning with Technology in the Early Childhood Classroom. Teachers College Press, NY, NY.

### **Referred Papers in Academic Journals**

Cantrell, K; Fischer,A; Bouzaher, A; Bers, M (2011) The role of e- mentorship in a virtualworld for youth transplant recipients, *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*

Bers, M.U. (2010). Beyond computer literacy: Supporting youth's positive development through technology. *New Directions for Youth Development*, 128, 13 - 23.

Bers, M.U. (2010). The TangibleK Robotics Program: Applied Computational Thinking for Young Children. *Early Childhood Research and Practice*, 12(2).

Hauser, S.H.I ., Golberg, G., Wilde, P.E., Bers, M.U., Ioannone, L., & Economos, C.D. (2010) *Comparison of Online and Face-to-Face Dissemination of a Theory-Based After School Nutrition and Physical Activity Training and Curriculum*. *Journal of Health and Communication*, 15(8), 859 - 879.

Cantrell, K., Fischer, A., Bouzaher, A., & Bers, M. (2010). E-mentorship in virtual communities for youth transplant recipients. *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*, 27(6), 344-355.

Bers, M., Beals, L., Chau, C., Satoh, K., Blume, B., DeMaso, D., & Gonzalez-Heydrich, J. (2010). Use of a virtual community as a psychosocial support system in pediatric transplantation. *Pediatric Transplantation*, 14, 261-267.

Bers, M & Chau, C. (2010). The virtual campus of the future: stimulating and simulating civic actions in a virtual world. *Journal of Computing in Higher Education*, 22(1), 1-23.

Horn, M.S., Crouser, R.J., & Bers, M.U. (2011) Tangible Interaction and Learning: The Case for a Hybrid Approach. *Personal and Ubiquitous Computing* (special issue on Tangibles and Children).

Cantrell, K., & Bers, M. (2010). Zora Camp4All: A virtual community to augment the hopefulness of pediatric camping. *Child Life Focus*, 28(3), 1-7.

Bers, M. (2010). Let the Games Begin: Civic Playing on High-Tech Consoles. *Review of General Psychology*, 14(2), 147–153.

Beals, L., & Bers, M.U. (2010). Evaluating participation in an international bilingual virtual world educational intervention for youth. *Journal of Virtual Worlds Research*, 2(5).

Hauser, S.H.I ., Golberg, G., Wilde, P.E., Bers, M.U., Ioannone, L., & Economos, C.D. (2010) *Comparison of Online and Face-to-Face Dissemination of a Theory-Based After School Nutrition and Physical Activity Training and Curriculum*. *Journal of Health and Communication*, 15(8), 859 - 879.

- Cantrell, K., Fischer, A., Bouzaher, A., & Bers, M. (2010). E-mentorship in virtual communities for youth transplant recipients. *Journal of Pediatric Oncology Nursing*, 27(6), 344-355.
- Bers, M.U. (2010). Beyond computer literacy: Supporting youth's positive development through technology. *New Directions for Youth Development*, 128, 13 - 23.
- Bers, M.U. (2010). The TangibleK Robotics Program: Applied Computational Thinking for Young Children. *Early Childhood Research and Practice*, 12(2).
- Bers, M. U. (2009). New Media for New Organs: A Virtual Community for Pediatric Post-Transplant Patients. *Convergence: The Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*. 15(4), 462-469.
- Beals, L. & Bers, M.U. (2009). A developmental lens for designing virtual worlds for children and youth. *The International Journal of Learning and Media*, 1(1), 51-65
- Bers, M (accepted for publication) Parents and children: Engaging in positive technological development through robotics. *Early Childhood Development and Care*. Article accepted for upcoming special issue on Ecological Perspectives on Children's ICT Experiences, edited by Cynthia Carter Ching and X. Christine Wang. Publication expected 2009.
- Bers, M. U. (2008). "Civic identities, online technologies: from designing civic curriculum to supporting civic experiences." *Civic Life Online: Learning how digital media can engage youth*. Bennett, W. L. (Ed.). The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundations Series on Digital Media and Learning. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. 139-160.
- Bers, M (2007) Project InterActions: A multigenerational robotic learning environment. *Journal of Science and Technology Education*. Volume 16, Number 6 / December, 2007 Springer. 537-552
- Bers, M., & Chau, C. (2006). "Fostering civic engagement by building a virtual city". *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 11(3). article 4.
- Bers, M (2006) "The role of new technologies to foster positive youth development" *Applied Developmental Science*. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Mahwah, NJ, Volume 10, Number 4, 2006
- Beals, L. & Bers, M. (2006). "Robotic Technologies: When Parents Put Their Learning Ahead of their Child's". *Journal of Interactive Learning Research*. 17 (4), pp. 341-366. Chesapeake, VA: AACE.
- Bers, M. Portsmore, M (2005) "Teaching Partnerships: Early Childhood and Engineering Students Teaching Math and Science Through Robotics", *Journal of Science Education and Technology*, Volume 14, Issue 1, Mar 2005, Pages 59 - 73.
- Bers, M, New, B. & Boudreau, L (2004) "Teaching and learning when no one is expert: Children and parents explore technology" *Journal of Early Childhood Research and Practice*. Vol 6, N 2
- Bers, M, Gonzalez-Heydrich,G., DeMaso, D. (2003) "Use of a Computer-Based Application in a Pediatric Hemodialysis Unit: A Pilot Study". *Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*. 42:4, April 2003
- Bers, M (2003) "Kaleidostories: Teachers and Students Creating a Cross Cultural Virtual Community through Narrative." *Convergence: The Journal of Research into New Media Technologies*. 9(2), pp. 54-8). Bedfordshire:UK.
- Bers, M, Ponte I, Juelich,K, Viera, A & Schenker, J (2002) "Teachers as Designers: Integrating Robotics into Early Childhood Education" *Information Technology in Childhood Education*. Annual AACE: pp 123-145
- Bers, M, Gonzalez-Heydrich,G., DeMaso, D. (2002) "Future of Technology to Augment Patient Support in Hospitals". *Studies in health, technology and informatics* . 80:231-44.
- Bers, M. (2001) "Identity Construction Environments: developing personal and moral values through the design of a virtual city". *Journal of the Learning Sciences*, 10 (4) pp 365-415. NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, Inc.
- Bers, M & Cassell, J. (1999) "Interactive Storytelling Systems for children: using technology to explore language and identity." *Journal of Interactive Learning Research*, volume 9 (2), pp. 603-609.

## Referred Papers in Conference Proceedings

- Cantrell, K., & Bers, M. (2011). Psycho-educational technologies for children with cancer. *Proceedings at the National Conference on Cancer Nursing Reserach*, 12-13 February 2011, California: Los Angeles.
- Kazakoff, E.R., & Bers, M.U. (2010). Computer programming in kindergarten: The role of sequencing. (Large File) *Proceedings of the ICERI 2010 International Conference of Education, Research and Innovation*, 15-17 November 2010, Spain: Madrid. (Paper and Virtual Presentation)
- Cantrell, K. & Bers, M. (2010) Virtual communities to augment psychosocial care. *Proceedings of the Association of Virtual Worlds Conference*, 10 November 2010, Massachusetts: Boston.
- Cantrell, K. & Bers, M. (2010) Zora Camp4All: Virtual community for youth with cancer. *Proceedings from the International Society of Pediatric Oncology- Pediatric Psycho-Oncology Pre-meeting*. 21-23 October 2010, Massachusetts: Boston. (Poster and Presentation)
- Horn, M., Bers, M., & Jacob, R. (2009). Tangible programming in education: A research approach. CHI'09, April 2009, Boston
- Bers, M., Chau, C., Satoh, K., & Beals, L. (2007). *Virtual Communities of Care: Online Peer Networks with Post-Organ Transplant Youth*. Proceedings of the 2007 Computer Supported Collaborative Learning Conference Proceedings, New Brunswick, NJ.
- Chau, C., & Bers, M. (2006). Positive Technological Development: A systems approach to understanding youth development when using educational technologies. In Proceedings of the International Conference of the Learning Sciences. (Eds. S. Barab, K. Hay, & D. Hickey). LEA Publishing, 902-903.
- Chau, C., Mathur, A., & Bers, M. (2006). Active Citizenship through Technology: Collaboration, connection, and civic participation. In Proceedings of the International Conference of the Learning Sciences.(Eds. S. Barab, K. Hay, & D. Hickey). LEA Publishing, 904-905.
- Kahn, J & Bers, M (2005) "An Examination of Early Elementary Student's Approach to Engineering" Proceedings of the 2005 *American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition*, American Society for Engineering Education.
- Staszowski & Bers, M (2005) "The Effects of Peer Interactions on the Development of Technological Fluency in an Early-Childhood, Robotic Learning Environment" Proceedings of the 2005 *American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference and Exposition*, American Society for Engineering Education.
- Bers, M, Gonzalez-Heydrich,G., DeMaso, D. (2001) "Identity Construction Environments: Supporting a Virtual Therapeutic Community of Pediatric Patients undergoing Dialysis". In *Proceedings of ComputerHuman Interaction (CHI'01) ACM*, pp 380-387
- Bers, M. (1999) "Zora: a Graphical Multi-user Environment to Share Stories about the Self." In *Proceedings of Computer Support for Collaborative Learning (CSCL'99)*, pp. 33-40.
- Bers, M. & Best, M. (1999)"Rural Connected Communities: A Project in Online Collaborative Journalism" In *Proceedings of Computer Support for Collaborative Learning (CSCL'99)*, pp. 41-46.
- Bers, M. (1999) "Narrative Construction Kits: Who am I? Who are you? What are we?" In *Proceedings of Narrative Intelligence Fall Symposium, AAAI'99*, pp. 44-51.
- Bers, M. &Urrea C. (1999) "Con-science: Parents and Children Exploring Robotics and Values". In *Proceedings of EUROLOGO'99*, Sofia, Bulgaria, pp. 356-366.
- Bers, M. (1999) "A constructionist approach to values through on-line narrative tools" In *Proceedings of International*

*Conference for the Learning Sciences*  
(ICLS'98), AACE, pp 49-55.

Bers, M.; Ackermann, E.; Cassell, J.; Donegan, B.; Gonzalez-Heydrich, J.; DeMaso, D.; Strohecker, C.; Lualdi, S.; Bromley, D.; Karlin, J. (1998) "Interactive Storytelling Environments: Coping with Cardiac Illness at Boston's Children's Hospital" In *Proceedings of Computer-Human Interaction (CHI'98)* ACM, pp. 603-609.

Gonzalez-Heydrich J, Bromley D, Strohecker C, Marks J, DeMaso DR, Ackermann E, Gibson S, Shen C, Umaschi M. (1998) "Experience journals: Using computers to share personal stories about illness and medical intervention." *MedInfo '98*, 9th World Congress on Medical Informatics. IOS Press. 1998, pp. 1323-1327.

Umaschi, M. & Cassell, J. (1997) "Storytelling Systems: Constructing the Innerface of the Interface." In *Proceedings of Cognitive Technologies '97*, IEEE, pp.98-108.

Umaschi, M. (1997) "Soft Toys with Computer Hearts: Building Personal Storytelling Environments" In *Proceedings of Computer-Human Interaction (CHI'97)* ACM, pp. 20-21.

D. Roy, M. Hlavac, M. Umaschi, T. Jebara, J. Cassell, and A. Pentland.(1997) "Toco the toucan: A synthetic character guided by perception, emotion, and story". In *Visual Proceedings of Siggraph*, page 66, 1997.

Glos, J & Umaschi, M. (1997) "Once Upon an Object: Computationally augmented Toys for Storytelling" In *Proceedings of International Conference on Computational Intelligence and Multimedia Applications (ICCIMA'97)*, pp. 245-249.

Umaschi, M. (1996) "SAGE Storytellers: Learning about Identity, Language and Technology". In *Proceedings of International Conference for the Learning Sciences (ICLS'96)*, AACE, pp.526-531.

Umaschi, M. (1996) "Rabbi: exploring the inner world through stories. " In *Proceedings of American Association of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI '96)*, Volume II, MIT Press, pp. 1413.

### **Book chapters**

Bers, M., & Cantrell, K. (Forthcoming May 2011). Virtual worlds for children with medical conditions: Experiences for promoting positive youth development. In A. Smedberg's *E-Health Communities and Online Self Help Groups: Applications and Usage*.

Bers, M., Beals, L., Chau, C., Satoh, K., and Khan, N. (2010). Virtual worlds for young people in a program context: Lessons from four case studies. *New Science of Learning: Cognition, Computers, and Collaboration in Education*. (Eds. M. Khine and I. Saleh). pp. 357-383. Springer Publishing Company.

Bers., M. (2010). When robots tell a story about culture...and children tell a story about learning. In N. Yelland, (Ed.) *Contemporary Perspective on Early Childhood Education*. pp. 227-247. Maidenhead, UK: Open University Press.

Bers, M. & Horn, M. (2010). Tangible programming in early childhood: Revisiting developmental assumptions through new technologies. In I. R. Berson & M. J. Berson (Eds), *High-tech tots: Childhood in a digital world*. pp. 49-70. Greenwich, CT: Information Age Publishing.

Bers, M (2008). A palace in time: Supporting children's spiritual development through new technologies. In *Youth, Development & Spirituality: From Theory to Research* . (Eds) Richard Lerner, Robert Roeser, & Erin Phelps. Templeton Foundation Press: West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania.339-358.

Bers, M. (2008). Engineers and storytellers: Using robotic manipulatives to develop technological fluency in early childhood. In O. Saracho and B. Spodek (Eds), / *Contemporary Perspectives on Science and Technology in Early Childhood Education* (pp. 105-125). Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.

Bers, M (2007). Constructionism. In Rebecca S. New and Moncrieff Cochran (Eds.), *Early Childhood Education: An International Encyclopedia*. Vol. 1, pp. 149-152. Westport, Connecticut: Praeger.

Bers, M & Chau, C (2007) "Technology and Early Childhood Education" In Rebecca S. New and Moncrieff Cochran (Eds.), *Early Childhood Education: An International Encyclopedia*. Vol. 3, pp. 798-801 Westport, Connecticut: Praeger.

Bers, M. (2003) "We Are What We Tell: Designing Narrative Environments for Children " In *Narrative Intelligence*. Edited by P.Sengers & M. Mateas. Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

Bers, M & Cassell, J. (2000) "Children as Designers of Interactive Storytellers:"Let Me Tell You a Story about Myself..." In *Human Cognition and Social Agent Technology* . Edited by K. Dautenhahn. Amsterdam: John Benjamins, pp. 61-83

Bers, M. & Urrea, C (2000) "Technological Prayers: Parents and Children Working with Robotics and Values" In *Robots for Kids: Exploring New Technologies for Learning Experiences*. Edited by A. Druin & J. Hendler. NY: Morgan Kaufman, pp. 194-217.

### **Refereed Conference Presentations**

Kazakoff, E.R., & Bers, M.U. (2011). The Impact of Computer Programming on Sequencing Ability in Early Childhood. *Paper to be presented at American Educational Research Association Conference(AERA)*, 8 - 12 April, 2011, Louisiana: New Orleans.

Kazakoff, E.R., & Bers, M.U. (2011). Kindergarten Robotics: Understanding and Programming Robots in Early Childhood. *Poster to be presented at SRCD Society for Research in Child Development*, 31 March - 2 April, 2011, Canada: Montreal.

Kazakoff, E.R., & Flannery, L. (2011). Kindergarten Robotics Workshop to be conducted at the *Digital Media and Learning Conference*, 2 - 5 March 2011, California: Los Angeles.

Satoh, K, Blume, E, DeMaso, DR, Gonzalez-Heydrich, J & Bers, M (2008). *A Virtual Community for Post-Transplant Pediatric Patients*. Abstract of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation 28th Annual Meeting and Scientific Sessions; Boston, Massachusetts; 2008 April 9-12.

Satoh, K., & Bers, M. (2008, April). *Virtual community for Pediatric Post solid-organ transplant patients*. Poster session presented at the 2008 National Conference on Child Health Psychology, Miami Beach, Florida.

Bers, M & LeeKennan, D (2007) "Ready for Robotics: a project-based approach to teach young children and their teachers about technology by making and programming interactive robots." *NAEYC Annual meeting*. Chicago, November 7-10, 2007

Irish-Hauser, Goldberg, Wilde, Bers, Ioannone, & Economos (2007) Using Technology and Online Collaboration to Enhance Training of After School Program Leaders in Nutrition and Physical Activity. International Conference on Urban Health. Oct 31-Nov 2, 2007. Baltimore, MD.

Bers (2007) "An intergenerational community of practice: Engaging in positive technological development through robotics" AERA Annual Meeting, April 9-13. Chicago

Bers (2007) "Technobiographies: Researching Life Stories with Technology" Discussant for session at AERA Annual Meeting, April 9-13. Chicago

Bers (2007) "Developmental Technologies: Positive Uses of Technology for Youth Learning and Development". Chair of symposium presenting papers from students in my DevTech research group. SRCD-Biennial meeting- Boston 2007

Satoh, K., McVey, M., Grogan, D. & Bers, M (2006). Zora: Implementing Virtual Communities of Learning and care (VCLC). Presentation at the New Media Consortium's, Regional Conference at San Antonio TX.

Bers, M (2006) "Developmental Technologies vs. Educational Technologies: Designing and studying learning experiences in complex contexts". *American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting SF* April 2006

Chau, C., & Bers, M (2006) "Exploring the Relationships Between Educational Technology and Youth Development: A Case Study of Lego Summer Camp". *American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting SF* April 2006.

Bers, M (2006) "Early Childhood Robotics for Learning". Innovative symposium presented at the *International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS'06)*, *7th International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS '06)*, Bloomington, IN

Chau, C., Mathur, A., & Bers, M. (2006). "Active Citizenship through Technology: Collaboration, connection, and civic participation". *7th International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS '06)*, Bloomington, IN.

Chau, C., & Bers, M. (2006) "Positive Technological Development: A systems approach to understanding youth development when using educational technologies". *7th International Conference of the Learning Sciences (ICLS '06)*, Bloomington, IN

Chau, C., & Bers, M. (2005). Positive technological development: A research methodology for exploring relationships between youth development and educational technologies. Symposium presentation at the *2005 Annual American Psychological Association Convention (APA)*, Washington DC.

Bers, M (2005) "Networked technologies to foster positive youth development. Symposium Organized and chaired at the *American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention'05*. Washington, DC

Bers, M (2005) "Identity Construction Environments: the Zora Virtual Community" Presentation at the American Psychological Association (APA) Annual Convention'05. June 21, 2005. Washington, DC.

Bers, M (2004), "Parents, Children and Technology: Making Robots, Exploring Cultural Heritage and Learning Together" *American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting LA*, April 2004

Bers, M (2003) "The use of virtual environments to develop a sense of self and personal values" *American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting Chicago*, April 2003

Bers, M., Gonzalez-Heydrich, G., DeMaso, D., Corsini, E. & Harmon, W. (2000) "Zora: A Pilot Virtual Community in the Pediatric Dialysis Unit." *American Society for Pediatrics., Boston, MA*

### **Invited Presentations**

Bers, M (2008) "De robots a mundos virtuales: nuevas tecnologias en la educacion". Seminario de Actualizacion. Fundacion Educ.ar. Ministerio de Educacion. April 14th , Argentina.

Bers, M (2008) "De robots a mundos virtuales: nuevas tecnologias para el aprendizaje". Seminario Permanente de Metodologia de la Investigacion. Universidad de San Andres, April 26th, 2008 an Isidro, Provincia de Buenos Aires, Argentina,

Bers, M (2008) Nuevas tecnologias para el aprendizaje. Carrera de Ciencias de la Comunicacion. Universidad de Buenos Aires, April 1 st, 2008, Capital Federal, Argentina

Bers, M (2007) Positive Technological Development in Complex Learning Settings. Georgia Tech. College of Computing. January 8, 2007

Bers, M (2007) "Post-Transplant pediatric patients: virtual communities of learning and care" Medical Informatics Seminar. Boston University. Boston University Medical Campus (BUMC), January 25, 2007

Bers, M (2007) "Virtual Communities of Learning and Care" NYU Steinhardt School of Education, April 16, 2007.

Bers, M (2007) "Virtual Communities of Learning and Care: Post-transplant pediatric patients @ Children's Hospital Boston". Center for Communication Disorders. Children's Hospital Waltham. Waltham, MA. March 15 2007.

Bers (2007) "Active Citizenship through Technology: a pre-orientation for incoming freshman" Educating the Ne(x)t generation conference. Experimental College. Tufts University. February, 2, 2007

Bers, M (2007) "From virtual worlds to robots: Engaging children in positive uses of technology" Freestschrift for David Elkind. Eliot Pearson Department of Child Development. Tufts University. May 9, 2007

Bers (2007) Positive Technological Development in Complex Learning Settings. Georgia Tech. College of Computing. January 8, 2007

Bers, M (2006) "Virtual communities of learning and care: technologies to promote positive youth development", *APA Science Leadership Conference (SciLC)*, Washington, DC

Bers, M (2006) "A Pediatric Post-transplant Virtual Community" E-Media and Behavior Change, *New England Research Institute*, Watertown, MA.

Bers, M (2006) Tecnologías y Educación: desafíos y oportunidades. Keynote speaker (via video conference) in the Conference in "Internet como espacio educativo" organized by Educ.Ar, Educational Technologies division of the *Argentine Ministry of Education. Jornadas de capacitación docente educ.ar - Instituto Marín*

Bers, M (2006) "The design of developmental technologies" *Technologies for Lifelong Kindergarten, MIT Media Laboratory.*

Bers, M (2005). *Virtual Communities for Learning and Care..* Research seminar. Dept. of Psychiatry. *Children's Hospital. Boston, MA*

Bers, M (2005) "Technologies to foster Positive Youth Development". IDEAS Institute. *MIT Media Laboratory.*

Bers, M (2005) "Virtual Environments: Strategies for Reducing Suffering in Traumatic Medical Treatment" *Future of Health Symposium*, September 26-27 2005, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Bers, M (2004) "Fostering civic engagement by building a virtual city". Faculty forum on civic engagement. *Tufts University*

Bers, M (2003) "Learning by Designing and Inhabiting Virtual Cities." Academic Technology's seminar *Tufts University*

Bers, M (2003) "Project InterActions: parents and children learning robotics". Young Faculty Leaders Forum. *Harvard University.*

Bers, M (2002) "Educational Technologies: Designs and Challenges". Young Faculty Leaders Forum *Harvard University.*

Bers, M (2002) "A virtual community in a pediatric dialysis unit". *Massachusetts Psychological Association*

Bers, M (2002) "Computational Environments for Exploring Identity". Technology and self seminars, *MIT's Initiative on Technology and Self.*

Bers, M (2001) "Using technology to create virtual support groups" Cyberpsychology Colloquium. *Harvard University.*

Bers, M (2000) "Identity Construction Environments: Technological Tools for Self-Exploration". Invited talk at *Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital.*

Bers, M (2000) "Developing computer tools to support communities of pediatric patients and families" *Health Care Technology Summit, MIT.*

Bers, M (1999) "Social Dimensions of the Use of Interactive Technologies by Young People". Invited to NSF workshop organized by Center for Advanced Technology in Education, *University of Oregon.*

Bers, M (1999) "Children, Creativity and New Technologies: Implications for the Future". Guest speaker at conference organized by the Institute for Media Technology, *Jonkoping University, Sweden.*

Bers, M (1998) "Jornadas Internacionales de Informatica Educativa" guest speaker at teacher conference organized by the National Educational Technologies Institute, Bs. As., Argentina.

Bers, M (1998) "A constructionist perspective on values: a response to postmodern fragmented identity" Presentation at symposium "Identity, formation, dignity: The impacts of Artificial Intelligence upon Jewish and Christian Understandings of Personhood" organized by The Boston Theological Institute, MIT Artificial Intelligence Lab and Center for Faith and Science Exchange.

### **Invited Published Papers**

Bers, M. (2007). Positive technological development: Working with computers, children, and the Internet *MassPsych*, 51/(1), 5-7, 18-19

Bers, M. U. (2008). *Virtual Worlds as Digital Playgrounds*. *EDUCAUSE Review*, 43(5), 80-81