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Left to our own devices:
Technology insights from a clinical psychologist
Pavillon Claire McNicoll, Salle Z-110, 15h15

In this talk I will share insights from my work at the intersection of psychology, technology and design. Throughout out my career, I’ve focused on weaving psychological concepts into the technologies that are a part of daily life. As a research scientist at Intel collaborating with developers and designers, I created prototypes and studied use of social sensing in homes, mobile apps and wearables for stress management, and connected devices to support emotional communication. I will describe how participants used these prototypes and how individuals draw on mainstream social media and other apps as they navigate identity, relationships and health. Across this work, I’ve learned that technologies become helpful as people adapt them to their own objectives. Psychologists are uniquely suited to understand the emotional and social dynamics associated with different uses of technology and to identify implications for development and design. An understanding of how individuals bring technology into their relationships and how they push products beyond their intended use will enhance clinical practice and research, as well as the development of future technologies.