

# **Aleecia M. McDonald**

**Assistant Professor at Carnegie Mellon University**

Pittsburgh, PA, US

Aleecia McDonald focuses on the public policy issues of Internet privacy, user expectations for privacy tools and behavioral economics.

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## **Biography**

Aleecia M. McDonald, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of the Practice, based at the CMU Silicon Valley campus. She focuses on the public policy issues of Internet privacy, including user expectations for privacy tools, behavioral economics and mental models of privacy, and the efficacy of industry self regulation. She co-chaired the WC3's Tracking Protection Working Group, which was an effort to establish international standards for a Do Not Track mechanism that users can enable to request enhanced privacy online. Aleecia's decade of experience working in software startups adds a practical focus to her academic work, and she was a Senior Privacy Researcher for Mozilla prior to working as Director of Privacy at Stanford. Her findings have been featured in media outlets such as the Washington Post, Ars Technica, and NPR. She has presented findings in testimony to the California Assembly, and contributed to testimony before the United States Senate and the Federal Trade Commission.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Information Technology and Services, Computer Software, Computer Networking, Public Policy

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## **Areas of Expertise**

Internet Law and Regulation, Behavioral Economics, Cybersecurity, Privacy Tools, Public Policy issues of Internet Privacy

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## **Affiliations**

Cylab : Member, Stanford's Center for Internet & Society : Non-resident Fellow, Privacy Rights Clearinghouse : Board of Directors, EPIC : Advisory Board

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## **Education**

**Carnegie Mellon University**

Ph.D. Engineering & Public Policy

**Carnegie Mellon University**

M.S. Engineering & Public Policy

**Carnegie Mellon University**  
M.S. Public Policy and Management

**Carnegie Mellon University**  
B.A. Professional Writing

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