

Allyson Poston



Allyson Poston, Augustana College, Psychology, [ASDS](#)

sicky

Posted on [August 3, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

Don't worry all, I'm still alive.. barely. (Don't worry, I'll spare you details.) I can't believe how sick I've been this summer.. on top of everything else. My best friend is in the hospital right now, which helps me forget about how badly I feel sometimes, but I am really just ready for all of this to be over.

I've been trying to help edit our paper and such from home, but until about half an hour ago, I was without an internet connection (other than my phone) which did not make it easy.

As for things I liked about the program, I generally really enjoyed the luncheon lectures. It was interesting learning about the development of the field and its applications.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Comments Off](#)

back in action

Posted on [July 28, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

After a rough start to the week, I'm back and ready to keep chuggin away. We have our team meeting this afternoon, then we're running our (hopefully) final pilot study. We still have a bit of work to do on the poster, but I think it's coming along nicely. We also seem to be making good progress on our final paper. I can't believe how close we are getting to the end!!

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Comments Off](#)

keep going

Posted on [July 20, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

I haven't been feeling so well again, I'm pretty convinced our apartment is inland with disease.

We ran another "informative" study today, trying to gather more information to help us tweak what will be our final study. I think some major changes are in order. I just feel like we're running out of time.. can't believe there is only 2 1/2 weeks left.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)

heat wave

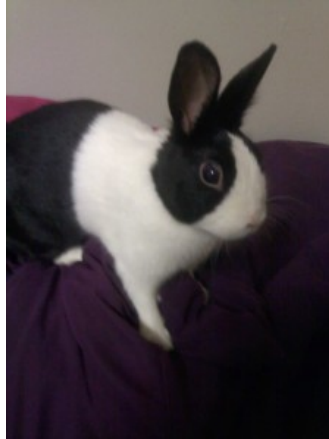
Posted on [July 18, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

Although the heat and humidity here today is not nearly as bad as it was in

Minnesota over the weekend, it's still pretty gross. I'm nostalgic for summers in Rapid City.

The past few days have been pretty rough. Hubbell, my bunny, died Thursday night from what Jeanette said was a stroke. I took it pretty hard, and I'm still really struggling with it. He was my man. I'm so grateful for Jeanette and all of her help with everything though, even opening up her home to me this weekend and helping me bury him.

We're hoping to run a second pilot study today. So many small details and kinks to work out! It's nice to have so much free/ unstructured time this week to get stuff done! Hopefully we'll make a lot of good progress.



miss my baby 😭 ... <3 Hubbell

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Comments Off

almost friiiiday!

Posted on [July 14, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

I like Thursdays. Thursdays are good.

We have our group meeting this afternoon and I think we're going to take most of the time to run a pilot with our mentors as the test subjects. Should be interesting...

Alicia and I are busily working on our poster.. I'm constantly amazed by how much work goes into something that really doesn't seem like such a big deal (to me, anyways).

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | Comments Off

ethics homework.. guess i forgot to post?

Posted on [July 14, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

Engineering and Social Justice

Chapter 4:

I like that communication is identified as being critical in working for social justice. During our ethics discussions, and during other open forum-type discussions, it is obvious that many people do not take the time to think before they start speaking; you can see the evolution of their thought process while they are speaking, which could lead to many issues. First, by not thinking before speaking, unintentionally offensive things may be said. Second, it's rude and turns people off from listening. Later in the section, communication skills in presentations, writing, and posters are referenced as being important. I think this program is doing a good job of helping us to develop these skills.

Chapter 5:

I like the fact that this chapter presents "strategies for change" through a series of case studies. There is no one way to bring about change or work toward social

justice and for the book to have attempted to even identify the best methods would have been a bit ridiculous. However, presenting a variety of case studies helped show that social justice is an extremely pressing issue and can be important in many different venues. The case studies also showed that there isn't necessarily a right way to advocate and push for social justice.

I really liked the journal article that we read and I wish we would have been able to discuss it in class. I especially like that a conclusion was drawn that verbal labels are one of the most important contributing factors to bias. Even the kids in the control group exhibited bias in their question responses when the questions included group labels. However, in both groups, bias wasn't nearly as common in activities such as playing together, bringing about the conclusion that the development of bias is fueled by the labels.

And speaking of the importance of labels, and the impact of language in general, the use of "he/she" and "her/him" throughout the book Engineering and Social Justice is a nice attempt at making it "gender neutral", but I think it just deepens the gender distinction. Despite the lack of assigning a gender to objects and changing the adjectives accordingly, English is an extremely gender-based language and not acknowledging that is not working toward "equality". We either have to reinvent the English language with a gender neutral pronoun, or we can just accept the flaws and move on to real issues.

(That's my rant. The end.)

Posted in [Ethics](#) | [Comments Off](#)

rain, rain go away

Posted on [July 12, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

This weather is the suck. I want some sun!

I really enjoyed today's luncheon lecture, mostly because it was so informal. I also thought it was really cool seeing pictures and hearing about research being done around the world.. it kind of puts things into a more global perspective.

Today, my group and I are finishing up the (rough draft) of our tutorials for ASDS and Inventor. We just recorded the Inventor tutorial. Now I just have to finish/edit the script for ASDS, and then we'll record that too.

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [Comments Off](#)

monday blues

Posted on [July 11, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

Ethics class this morning was.. interesting. I am still frustrated with the fact that there is a lack of etiquette during the discussions, but I suppose it's my fault I don't speak up more forcefully to be heard. I do think there was a LOT that we didn't even touch on the subjects of racism and sexism. I've taken a few classes on feminist theory and thought, so of course I would have liked to talk more in depth on the subject.

The weekend was alright. I enjoyed the canoe trip, although I anticipated it to be a bit longer. Kayla and I were sad we didn't see any sweet wildlife though 😞 Sunday I went to Ankeny for a friend's baseball tournament, then there was this sweet summer festival thing going on with carnival rides and fireworks! It helped numb the pain of the fact that everyone went to Des Moines for the day and I didn't get an invite.

This week is going to be important for finalizing everything with our study and running a few pilots. I'm also looking forward to getting to work on our poster. Organization and presentation are some of my strong points (or so I like to think).

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [2 Comments](#)

ice ice baby

Posted on [July 8, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

My creativity is minimal today.. and ice ice baby was playing during lunch. Thus, my title.

I didn't enjoy our ethics class today as much as I did last week. I didn't really understand the point of all of the engineer jokes. Maybe if we would have talked

about the implications of the stereotypes being exploited in the jokes?

Later this afternoon, my group and I are running a very informal pilot study with our (awesome) mentor, Trevor. **I say "awesome" because he made me. And because he came in late last night to help me understand ASDS better to be able to write our tutorial script.

Kerstyn, Alicia, and I (and Ramy 😊 .. and anyone else!) are hoping to go to the pool later 😊

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [2 Comments](#)

Thursday used to be my favorite day.

Posted on [July 7, 2011](#) by [Allyson](#)

Thursday is almost Friday, which means it's almost the weekend, which is wonderful. I hope the weather holds up for the weekend so we can go canoeing.. I love canoeing.

This morning, I spent a lot of time going over the article Jeanette, Ashley, and I are presenting at journal club tomorrow. I really enjoyed the luncheon lecture, even though I was a bit tired (I think it was the weather getting to me). It's always interesting to hear about the various, unexpected ways that cognition can be affected. I'm looking forward to seeing what new topic we will address in our ethics class tomorrow.

Kerstyn makes delicious cake. Happy birthday girl 😊

Posted in [Uncategorized](#) | [1 Comment](#)
