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Kat is a digital anthropologist, curator and maker [codekat.net] whose work examines the effects and implications of digital making practices, in particular the tensions between grassroots communities and institutions; she is a co-founder of the Open Design and Hardware Network and for the past decade worked for a variety of cause-based organisations including Mozilla, the Open Knowledge Foundation and Open Media to empower marginalized users of the web.

In 2011, Kat received a MSc Digital Anthropology (Distinction) at UCL for an ethnography of gender identity issues for 30 Millennial-aged hackers in Europe. Her doctoral research, funded by the Sussex Humanities Lab, in collaboration with the Tate and supervised by Dr Tim Jordan, Dr Caroline Bassett and Dr Rebecca Sinker, builds on this work.

Weaving together genealogies of hacker- and makerspaces and museum transformations with empirical analysis, Kat's thesis works from critical geographer Doreen Massey's theory of space as a form of power-geometry to explore the new phenomenon of collections makerspaces, or sites for digital making and learning with a cultural collection, that have opened within museums in the U.K in the last 5 years. Working from a researcher-in-residence model, a multi-site ethnography was conducted at three field sites in London within the Tate Britain, the British Museum and the Wellcome Collection. By building a political economy of each site's user imaginaries and dynamics, the thesis asks whether the introduction of collections makerspaces disrupts, reframes or reinforces the cultural hegemony of heritage institutions.