Christopher Kelty’s research focuses on the cultural significance of information technology, especially in science and engineering. This project explores internet-mediated participation by looking across over a hundred cases evaluated for their “participatoriness.” Participation is clearly not an either/or proposition, but a concept and a phenomena with different signatures. However, we have no clear names for the different styles of participation that have emerged in the last decade, nor any clear understanding of how they relate to the large number of other “heteronyms” of participation in the past. In the talk, Chris will offer a proposal for differentiating these signatures of participation and some thoughts on the use of clustering and case-study methods we have employed. The three styles identified — volatile, stable and extractive—allow us to make sense of different expectations of participation ranging from democratic influence to legal control of resources to a subjective sense of the collective.

Christopher Kelty works at UCLA, is the author of *Two Bits: The Cultural Significance of Free Software* (Duke University Press, 2008), co-edits the scholarly magazine *Limm*, and does research on intellectual property, piracy, robots and evolution, freedom, responsibility and other pathologies of software and computing. Christopher is currently engaged in an ethnographic study of research in nanotechnology, focusing on new formulations of responsibility in the study of the environmental and biological implications of new materials.