



Mimi Ito

—
*Co-Founder
and Executive Director
Connected Camps*

Mimi Ito is co-founder and Executive Director of Connected Camps, and Director of the Connected Learning Lab at the University of California, Irvine. She is a prominent expert in how children learn through games and online communities, and has researched and developed technology-rich programs for interest-driven and socially connected learning for decades. She has also embraced connected learning with her own two children, including learning how to [play Minecraft](#), [mod Nerf guns](#), [surf](#), and [make pizza together](#). Both her daughter and son are pursuing computer science degrees in college, and help keep their parents up to date on the latest games and technology.



Katie Salen

—
*Co-Founder
and Chief Designer
Connected Camps*

Katie Salen is Chief Designer and co-founder of [Connected Camps](#), a Professor in the Department of Informatics at the University of California at Irvine, and a member of the [Connected Learning Lab](#). She has expertise in the design of play-based learning environments and loves to collaborate with youth to develop tools, programs, and spaces that fit their needs and amplify their voices. Katie has been leading work recently on integrating strategies to support adolescent wellbeing into esports coaching for teens and she has been developing new approaches to community moderation and governance in Minecraft. She has been involved in the design of slow games, online games, mobile games, and big games in both the commercial and independent games sectors. She spends most of her free time crafting, playing, and building games with her twins.