

## MA Defense

### Treading the Line: Seeking balance in information sharing and privacy in *ActionADE* by Serena Small

This is a news update from School of Communication, Simon Fraser University  
News Editor: Christine Ackerley

Our dear colleague, Serena Small will defend her MA thesis on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at Harbour Centre, Room 2200 (10:00-12:00). Here is the abstract of her thesis "Treading the Line: Seeking balance in information sharing and privacy in *ActionADE*."

#### Abstract

Patient data in health care offers both opportunities and challenges that benefit from study through a sociotechnical lens. This thesis examines issues related to data sharing and privacy in the context of the development and implementation of *ActionADE*, a system designed to enable the communication and documentation of adverse drug events (ADEs), which are the harmful and unintended consequences of medication use. This thesis first explores the current policy environment surrounding health data privacy in British Columbia as it relates to *ActionADE*, and then contributes patient perceptions and attitudes about data sharing and privacy in the context of *ActionADE* through an analysis of focus group data. This thesis results in a series of recommendations for *ActionADE*, in order to identify information sharing preferences, privacy concerns, and policy constraints at the outset, striking a balance between the need to both disclose and protect personal health information.

**Keywords:** health data; information and communication technologies; data privacy; public policy; adverse drug events; patient perceptions