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Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues,

The "Letter from the Chair" first directs your attention to the fruits of last year's 2014 ASA Annual Meeting found in the CITASA Special Issue with iCS. I would like to express great appreciation for the many excellent contributions from CITASA members. In addition, you'll see a preview of the promising research from our section awaiting us in Chicago at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

2015 CITASA Special Issue of iCS
Regarding publications from last year's meeting, Apryl Williams and I are pleased are to announce the recently published special issue of *Information, Communication & Society* featuring research presented at the 2014 ASA Meeting. We would like to thank everyone for participating, the authors for their contributions and our members for showcasing some of the excellent work that is happening across the CITASA section.

The authors and articles are: Jennifer Earl's "CITASA: intellectual past and future"; Veronika Lukacs and Anabel Quan-Haase's "Romantic breakups on Facebook: new scales for studying post-breakup behaviors, digital distress, and surveillance"; Julia Ticona's "Strategies of control: workers' use of ICTs to shape knowledge and service work"; Shelley Boulianne's "Social media use and participation: a meta-analysis of current research"; Deana A. Rohlinger and Leslie A. Bunnage's "Connecting people to politics over time? Internet communication technology and retention in MoveOn.org and the Florida Tea Party Movement"; Andrew M. Lindner, Emma Connell and Erin Meyer's "Professional journalists in 'citizen' journalism"; Laura Robinson, Shelia R. Cotten, Hiroshi Ono, Anabel Quan-Haase, Gustavo Mesch, Wenhong Chen, Jeremy Schulz, Timothy M. Hale and Michael J. Stern's "Digital inequalities and why they matter"; and Alexander Halavais' "Bigger sociological imaginations: framing big social data theory and methods." Online at: http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rics20/18/5.

CITASA in Chicago August 2015
Turning to next year's CITASA events at the 2015 ASA in Chicago, we have two panels and ten roundtables. Our members have submitted so many intriguing papers that we have two full paper sessions and ten full roundtables put together by Council Student Member Erin Evans (more info about Erin at www.emevans.com and Twitter @butiwilltry). Below are details on the paper sessions and round tables so you can start planning your conferencing.

CITASA Paper Session: "Open Topics on Communication, Media, and/or Information."
The panel opens with "Big Data and the emergence of system identities" by Aneesh Aneesh and Matthew McCarthy. Second on the panel, Deana Rohlinger presents "Strategy and social change: Why reputation matters to social movements." The third contribution comes from Wenhong Chen, Cuihua Shen, and Gejun Huang: "The implications of coplay for generalized trust in and beyond a Chinese MMOG world." Fourth up are Weixu Lu and Keith N. Hampton with "Beyond the power of networks: Differentiating network structure and social media for social support."   Next, "A dynamic phenomenon: The uses and types of social network sites" will be presented by Grant Blank and Darja Groselj. The session closes with "Using topic models to study journalist audience convergence and divergence: The case of human trafficking coverage" by Maria Eirini Papadouka, Nicholas Evangelopoulos, and Gabe Ignatow.

Letter from the Chair (cont'd)

CITASA Paper Session: "Inequalities and Communication, Media, and Information Technologies."
The first paper in the panel is "Gender and the internet, revisited" by Hiroshi Ono and Madeline Zavodny. They are followed by Anabel Quan Haase, Kim Martin, and Kathleen Schreurs who will present: "Participation in a digital world: How seniors make sense of and use ICTs." Next up is Gustavo S. Mesch with "Race, ethnicity and the strength of Facebook ties among U.S. adolescents." Next come Christopher Ball, Tim Kuo, Ting Huang, Shelia R. Cotten, RV Rikard, and LaToya O'Neal Coleman with "Invaluable expectations: An expectancy value theory analysis of youths' college motivation." In closing, Josef Ku, Hsun Ma, and Todd E. Vachon will present "Bridging the digital gap between wealthier and poorer students? A cross national analysis."

Round Table 1: Communication Technology and Organizations
The first round table opens with Andrea Gorbatai (Presider) and Laura K. Nelson with "The language of crowdfunding." This is followed by Carrie B. Sanders, Silfrid Laurier, Crystal Weston, and Nicole Schott presenting "Police innovations and accountability: Empirically studying organizational change in Canadian policing." Next is Sara Gaby who shares "Tweeting the message: How online tools shape organizational perceptions of effectiveness." Amanda Rose Martin completes the round table with "Michigan hydraulic fracturing controversy: Evaluating stakeholders' social marketing strategies."

Round Table 2: Communication Technology and Social Construction
Jenny L. Davis (Presider) opens with "Curating social life." Christopher Quiroz follows with "Communicating with the techno-generalized other: The risk of the micro-self through restricted internet-based interactions." Third up is Timothy Recuber presenting "Self-destruction as a self-preservation: Digital suicide notes and the commemoration of the self." Elke Wagner, Johannes Gutenburg, Martin Stempfhuber, and Niklas Barth close the round table with "The intimacy of strange friends: On public and private communication on social network sites."

Round Table 3: Culture: Collective Meaning
Susan Sprecher (Presider), Diane H. Felmlee, Adam Hampton, and Hannah Jones begin with "Can I connect with both you and my social network? Get-acquainted interactions and communication technology." Laura Robinson follows with "Collective memory: September 11th now and then." Xiaoli Tian concludes the round table with "Network domains in social networking sites: Offline life and online activities.

Round Table 4: Media Sociology and Culture
Elizabeth A. Wissinger (Presider) opens with "Fashion models' glamour labor and the mediation of affect." Next, Cassidy Puckett presents "How culture structures opportunity: Adolescents' approach to technology learning and social stratification." In closing, Iva Petkova shares "Revisiting material practices of symbolic distinction: Online fashion organizations as mediators of legitimacy in fashion."

Round Table 5: Media, Culture, and Identity
David A. Martin (Presider) presents "User ID (entity): Examining the role of online interaction in racial identity formation, "followed by Change Zhe Lin' with "A new digital divide: Social context and the selective value of internet use in American neighbourhoods." Next is Trenton James Lee with "The boyfriend tag: An exploration of YouTube participatory culture and gender, sexual, and relationship ideologies." Yu-Ying Hu closes with "Queer girls in the digital world: Technologized connectivity, cultural transnationalization and lesbian youth identity."

Letter from the Chair (cont'd)

Round Table 6: Media Sociology and Issues of Access

Michael Haight (Presider), Anabel Quan-Haase, and Andrew Nevin open with "Barriers to internet access: Digital inequality as experienced by residents of low-income housing." Matthew Manierre continues with "Gaps in knowledge: Tracking and explaining gender differences in health information seeking." Concluding the round table is Alexander I. Stingl with "Digital cultural health care capital."

Round Table 7: Media Sociology and Social Movements I

Joan M. Donovan (Presider) begins with "Can you hear me now? Phreaking the party line from operators to occupy." Next up are Austin Choi-Fitzpatrick, Tautvydas Juskauskas, and Mohammad Sabur with "All the protestors fit to count: Using unmanned aerial vehicles to estimate protest crowd size." Joseph DiGrazia follows with "Google search as a measure of economic and ethnic threat in predicting right-wing mobilization." Fangzhau Ding concludes with "Screen activist in the Hong Kong umbrella movement."

Round Table 8: Media Sociology and Social Movements II

First is Selen Yanmas (Presider) with "Gezi as a contemporary social movement: Affective resistance and transformation of collective action through ICTS." Next, Sun Hyoung Lee presents "Critical mass of online space and blogs for social change." In closing, Afife Idil Akin shares "Online social movement action: The case of petition signing."

Round Table 9: Structure of Communication Technology

Casey Brienza (Presider) opens with "Publishing between profit and public value: Academic books and open access policies." Daniel Guangnin follows with "Free and open source communities between hedonism and advocacy: Renegotiating the distinction between experts and lays." Next, Monica M. Brannon shares "This is not a picture: Satellite imagery and technovisual authority." Guang Ying Mo concludes with "Does diversity create innovation?"

Round Table 10: International Perspectives

Barry Wellman (Presider) opens Round Table 10 with "Social Networks and Asian Values: Findings and Speculations," co-written with Vincent Chua. Next, Asha Rathian Pandi speaks on "Social movements and new media in Malaysia," followed by Matthew Pearce who shares "Democratic influence of internet participation." Finally, Fan Mai closes with "Glocalization: American expatriates reconstruct media environment in China."

See you in August!

Best wishes,

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CITASA and ICS: How the Relationship Began[1]

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Ron Burt's concept of "structural holes" (1992) argued that people who connect different realms gain comparative advantages through their brokerage.

Burt was talking about individual brokerage. But, what about the realms they connect? Do they do better or worse when the holes between them get bridged?

In the case of CITASA and *ICS*, each has done well by and for the other. CITASA numbers have gone up, while *ICS'* readership and diversity of articles has widened. Here's the story as told by me, the broker, who gained *naches* from watching CITASA and ICS synergistically connect with each other.

The Start-Up

In the mid-1990s, both CITASA and ICS were doing well, but had yet to realize their potential. CITASA had bootstrapped itself up from 99 members to over 300, thanks to great membership work by a small group of young scholars, riding the large wave of internet enthusiasm (Earl, 2015): Keith Hampton, Eszter Hargittai, and Anabel Quan-Haase loom large in my memory. I was involved with this, first as membership head of CITASA, and then as section chair for 2004-2006 and council member 2006-2008.

Concomitantly, *ICS* had become a leading journal in studying the internet and other digital stuff, but it had a United Kingdom base: That's probably why *ICS* editors Brian Loader and William Dutton asked me to become its North American Editor in 2003.

Here is where serendipity meets network brokerage. When I was spending a week in the beautiful Yorkshire Dales, I took a short train ride to the city of York to meet *ICS* Editor Brian Loader in the L'antica Locanda restaurant in The Shambles. We sat in this olde timber-framed house in an overhanging window from which offal used to be poured (Figure 1).

It was not a shambolic meeting. As we sipped wine, Brian and I got to the point. We talked about how *ICS* would like more articles and had the space for them with its imminent expansion from six to eight issues per year. At the same time, CITASA had considered that the time was not right to start its own journal devoted to the sociology of ICTs, because: 1) journals take up a lot of time and money to run, even when online only; 2) starting one would require a laborious, problematic search for a publisher; 3) starting a section journal requires American Sociological Association approval, as no section is a legal entity and cannot publish on its own. I had gone through this when starting the *City & Community journal* for the Community and Urban Sociology section, and I knew what a lengthy and problematic process it was.

Need met need. The solution was simple. CITASA would prepare one issue a year, based on papers presented the previous August at the American Sociological Association annual conference. Leading CITASA members would edit, working hard to get the best papers from the conference—not necessarily presented at the CITASA section meetings. To show off both CITASA and *ICS,* each would work hard to get the issue out before the next ASA annual meeting. *ICS* got to fill one of its two expansion issues, and CITASA had a publishing home. The solution was quickly implemented, as both the *ICS* board and the CITASA Council and Membership meeting—led by chair Jim Witte and incoming chair Keith Hampton—easily agreed. It was a win-win for both CITASA and *ICS.*

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[1]CITASA" is the Communications and Information Technology section of the American Sociological Association, while "ICS" is the *Information, Communication & Society"* journal.

CITASA and ICS: How the Relationship Began (cont'd)

My notes show a summarizing memo of March 2007 to CITASA members. Here are parts of that memo, *with my 2015 comments in italics.*

1. Once a year, *ICS* would contain a special section of CITASA papers, drawn from CITASA sessions, other CITASA activities (such as mini-conferences), plus other germane papers from the ASA annual meeting. *In practice, these have all been from the most recent ASA annual meeting, including the CITASA section meeting but also including CITASAish work present outside of CITASA sessions at the ASA meeting.*

2. The issue would comprise 5 or so articles in a special section, but if the quality were sufficient we could go to 7 articles (which would comprise a full issue). The *ICS* editor and the CITASA editors would have the final word about the number of articles in a particular year. *There have always been enough papers to fill an entire issue. In 2009, there were so many good articles, that three on social movements spilled over into another issue.*

3. The special section/issue would have an introductory editorial from the CITASA editors. *Yup, and they are quite good.*

4. The papers would be peer reviewed. *All papers are rigorously peer-reviewed under tight deadlines. A commitment to the CITASA special issue and support by the community has allowed CITASA/ICS to get the issue out in the spring or early summer before the next ASA meeting. This allows CITASA and ICS to display the just-published issue proudly and publicly at the ASA meeting, thereby demonstrating to potential new contributors the efficacy of the process.*

5. The actual administration of refereeing, proofing, etc. would be taken care of by the *ICS* journal office (but who would undertake to use referees suggested by the CITASA editors). *In practice, the refereeing is all done by CITASA, not ICS. Soon after the meetings, the editors of the next CITASA/ICS issue get letters out requesting submission of germane papers for editorial consideration. The editors then arrange for refereeing. The final mechanics of getting the issue proofed and out is done by ICS, using their standard ScholarOne system. Brian Loader has continued as ICS' intrepid and supportive editor. Sarah Shrive-Morton has been its the efficient and responsive managing editor for a number of years.*

6. CITASA members would also be free to submit papers to *ICS* independently, that is under the same submission rules as operate now. That is, the five-paper rule would be a minimum, and not a maximum, of papers that *ICS* could publish in a year from CITASA members. *CITASA members not only fill the special issue, they publish other papers to ICS.*

7. CITASA members are encouraged, but not required, to submit their papers to this special issue. This would be an additional opportunity available to CITASA members, and not a requirement: CITASA members would continue to be free to seek publication wherever they want. *For example, the "Stellar Seven" finalists in CITASA's Best Paper awards competition come from a number of journals. An annual Emerald Studies in Media and Communications started in 2013 devoted to CITASA-like articles, with its editors graciously agreeing to wait until the forthcoming ICS issue has made its offers and decisions. In some cases, the authors of papers presented at the ASA meetings already have journal acceptances in hand and have to decline when CITASA/ICS editors express interest in their papers.*

8. CITASA would have at least one person on the *ICS* editorial board who among other things would serve as liaison. Normally this would be the CITASA member serving as editor. *This has not been strictly followed, but I have been on the board since the start of the series and am an informal liaison. Other CITASA members now on the board include Mary Chayko, Keith Hampton, Eszter Hargittai, James Katz, David Lyon, and Gustavo Mesch. Many have won CITASA awards.*

9. Both sides agreed to maintain the relationship for a minimum of five years. *Nearly a decade later, it is still going strong.*

CITASA and ICS: How the Relationship Began (cont'd)

The Process and the Product

To the victor, belongs the work. I agreed to be a co-editor of the first issue, together with CITASA chair Keith Hampton. Keith and I had often worked together. We were both efficient and trusted each other.

To obtain papers for the first CITASA/ICS issue, we contacted the authors of 105 relevant papers in the ASA program. Twenty-three were submitted for consideration, and we used a two-stage refereeing process to select the seven papers that appear in the first 2008 issue. We set tight deadlines, and had quick turn-around. We argued, in our introductory article (Hampton & Wellman 2008) for the link between sociology and communication (see also Early 2015), and we pointed with pride to the doubling of membership in CITASA 2003-2008.

The papers were "a nice combination of systematically coded content analysis—of *Google* search results and the *New York Times* website—survey analyses of specialized and national samples, in-depth interviewing and field observation" (Hampton and Wellman 2008: 416). Unlike recent issues, authors had not gotten around to scraping *Facebook* or Twitter. The lead article was by Jennifer Earl (now a recent CITASA chair) and Katrina Kimport (current secretary-treasurer). Other authors included Emily Thorson, Jeffrey Boase, Patricia Drentea, (recent chair) Shelia Cotten, (current Council member) Anabel Quan-Haase, Jessica Collins, Zeynep Tufekci, (future issue editor) Shanyang Zhao, and (past chair) David Elesh.

Christena Nippert-Eng and I edited the second issue, based on the papers that had been submitted at the 2008 ASAs. The issue came out on time in Spring 2009. There were so many good papers that *ICS* published seven thematically relevant ones in this second issue and a special section about online social movements in a follow-up issue (Nippert-Eng and Wellman, 2010)

The watchword for the 2009 issue was "diversity". The articles had diverse objects of study; diverse theories (among them habitus and dependency); diverse locales with a majority of papers ranging far beyond North America; and diverse methods. The papers showed how embedded ICTs are in everyday life—at a time when pundits, pop book writers, and the media persisted in thinking of ICT use as separate from ordinary pursuits. The digital divide had become increasingly multifaceted with digital skills and use divides becoming apparent (Wellman and Nippert-Eng, 2009).

After putting two issues to bed, it was time for other hands and voices to take over (see Table 1). I can say with absolute objectivity that the special issue tradition has thrived. Many editors have been authors in earlier CITASA issues. Many have chaired the section at about the same time their issue was being prepared. Each set of editors—there have always been two—has maintained diversity and quality. Most have provided valuable training by involving junior faculty and grad students in the process.

What will happen in the near and medium future? As I am both an *ICS* editor and member of the CITASA Council, I feel comfortable in saying both journal and section seem to be happy. *ICS* is now more widely read, with the majority of readers looking at it online. It has expanded from eight to twelve issues annually. ICS' interdisciplinary scope goes well beyond sociology—including a number of special issues—and it has developed a strong international authorship and readership. The journal has recently appointed Hong Kong communication scientist Jack Qiu to become its Asian editor. Even with *ICS'* multidisciplinarity, the 2013 Journal Citation Reports ranked it in the first quartile of sociology journals (32/138), with an impact factor of 1.283.

CITASA has continued to grow in numbers and in the quality of its papers. It is running an annual pre-conference because the number of quality papers outnumbers the availability of germane ASA annual meeting sessions. *ICS* and CITASA have had a happy and productive relationship that should continue fruitfully in the foreseeable future. The structural hole has been well bridged.

CITASA and ICS: How the Relationship Began (cont'd)

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Figure 1: L'Antica Locanda on The Shambles in York, England

(Source: Google Maps, Retrieved May 7, 2015)

CITASA and ICS: How the Relationship Began (cont'd)

Table 1: CITASA Special Issue Editors and Section Chairs

Year	ICS Volume	Special Issue Editors	CITASA Section Chairs *(changes at end of ASA meeting in August)*
2008	11	Keith Hampton & Barry Wellman	Keith Hampton
2009	12	Christena Nippert-Eng & Barry Wellman	Keith Hampton > Gustavo Mesch
2010	13	Gustavo Mesch & Shanyang Zhao	Gustavo Mesch > Christena Nippert-Eng
2011	14	Gustavo Mesch & Nalini Kotamraju	Christena Nippert-Eng > Gina Neff
2012	15	Gina Neff & Laura Robinson	Gina Neff > Shelia Cotten
2013	16	Shelia Cotten & Michael Stern	Shelia Cotten > Jennifer Earl
2014	17	Jennifer Earl & Katrina Kimport	Jennifer Earl > Laura Robinson
2015	18	Laura Robinson & Apryl Williams	Laura Robinson > Andrea Tapia

Note: Brian Loader has been ICS Editor throughout the entire period.

Senior Scholar Article

"Digital Sociology"
Jessie Daniels
CUNY | http://justpublics365.commons.gc.cuny.edu/

Digital sociology as a field is gaining traction in Australia, Canada and the UK, while lagging somewhat behind is the U.S. Still there are some strides toward establishing this field here in the U.S. In February of this year, I and Karen Gregory and Tressie McMillan Cottom, organized a Digital Sociology Mini-Conference under the auspices of the Eastern Sociological Society. The convening brought together an international group of scholars around the topic of digital sociology for two days of panels and round table presentations. All together, the conference generated over sixty (60) submissions from eleven (11) countries. (You can access information about the conference here: http://digsoc.commons.gc.cuny.edu/).

As members of this section know well, digital technologies now underpin academic work at all levels -- from theorization and conceptual work, to research methods and data collection, to the professionalization of disciplines. Yet, as Deborah Lupton notes in her recent book, *Digital Sociology* (Routledge, 2014), the discipline of sociology more broadly has only just begun to take account of the broader implications that the digital has raised about the "practice of sociology and social research itself." Clough and colleagues (2014) suggest that the "datalogical turn" underway in the social sciences poses not only serious challenges to sociological methodologies, but also requires more robust theorizing of what we mean by *the social* itself. Social media platforms such as Twitter and blogging are not simply megaphones for broadcasting research done offline, but are becoming the very mechanisms we use to create sociological knowledge, formulate ideas, write first drafts, and engage in peer review (Daniels, 2013). But the burgeoning field of digital sociology is still "before the beginning" in theorizing and articulating the digital turn for the social sciences (Wynn, 2009).

Why digital sociology? Why now?

To call for digital sociology is to engage in an act of (or an attempt at) disciplinary transformation. My colleague at CUNY, Cathy Davidson, contends that disiciplines are "so last century" (Davidson, 2011). She foresees a future of higher education where disciplinary boundaries matter less and less. In the 21st century university we are all interdisciplinary. She is probably right, so what is the point of trying to transform sociology at this particular moment?

The fact is that many of the social implications of the Internet were articulated decades ago by leading sociologists without calling themselves "digital sociologists". Scholars such as Castells, 1996; Back, 2002; DiMaggio, et al., 2001; Hampton 2002; Ignacio, 2000; Sassen, 2002; Wacjman, 1991; and Wellman, 2001, have all made important contributions to our understanding of how the digital and the material are imbricated, to paraphrase Sassen. Yet, overall sociology as a discipline has been relatively unconcerned with explicitly defining a disciplinary relationship to the digital. Instead, sociology has often ceded this terrain to other disciplines. While this expansive view of sociology as a kind of universal donor discipline has worked to the advantage of job candidates with dissertations focused on digital technologies, it has disadvantaged the discipline and our understanding of the social world today. If sociology is to be relevant in the 21st century, we must offer a compelling theoretical understanding of digital media technologies. If we expect to attract graduate students and the next generation of scholars, we have to offer some guidance on what sociological research methods might be in a digital era.

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Senior Scholar Article (cont'd)

Other disciplines are doing the work that digital sociologists could, and perhaps should, be doing; more than this, they are reaping rewards that we are not. Disciplines such as communications, cultural and media studies, library and information science, and journalism have eagerly stepped in to the void left by sociology to claim many of our top job candidates. When sociology loses top job candidates to other fields, it is likely that they will publish less often in sociology journals, attend fewer of our conferences and contribute less to knowledge that circulates within sociology.

The digital humanities claims most of the research money and sets much of the agenda for how we think about digital media technologies in relation to teaching and digital tools for scholarship. The traditional humanities disciplines - literature, philosophy, religion, languages, and musicology – are now often joined with history, linguistics, and semiotics as part of the digital humanities. Social sciences such as anthropology and sociology are sometimes included under the umbrella of DH, as I heard one preeminent scholar exclaim at a recent talk, "I have a colonizer's view of what is included in the digital humanities – if you're doing digital work, it's digital humanities!" In many ways, the early and ardent embrace – even expansionism -- of the digital by the humanities was a response to threats (perceived or actual) to cuts in humanities programs and funding. To looks at the funding infrastructure of the Office of Digital Humanities division of the National Endowment for the Humanities (http://www.neh.gov/divisions/odh), this was a shrewd, strategic move on the part of forward thinking humanities scholars of twenty years ago.

The result, however, is that digital humanities as a field ends up preserving and archiving a predominantly white, male canon of literature (McPherson, 2012). Of course not all digital humanities projects focus on white men. The NEH Office of Digital Humanities has funded a project called "W.E.B. DuBois in Cyberspace" to digitize and make available all of DuBois' papers (http://www.neh.gov/divisions/preservation/featured-project/web-du-bois-in-cyberspace). This important work of preservation and access is at the heart of digital humanities, and it is part of what makes digital sociology possible. Such tools create an opportunity for "rethinking sociological craft" (Carrigan, 2013), but it would be repeating the mistakes of DH to focus too heavily on tools in digital sociology. Instead, the promise of digital sociology is to first consider the "disciplinary value of sociology and the theoretical frameworks of digital second, we arrive at a much more satisfying future for the intersection of digital and social" (Cottom, 2015).

So, to return to the questions I posed earlier: why digital sociology and why now? Perhaps I am resisting the interdisciplinary future of the university, but I tend to agree with Jacobs (2014) that there is a place for disciplines. That said, the discipline of sociology is woefully under-prepared to face the digital present of the contemporary social world. I think that we – those of us reading this newsletter – are already doing digital sociology that should be transforming the discipline as a whole, but most of us don't call our work digital sociology. I want to suggest that there is a power in naming what we do 'digital sociology' that we might well consider. As for why now, the moment we're in is one in which there are sociologists around the globe who are doing related, relevant work and by simply tagging our work with digital sociology – we can find each other, as some of us did in February in New York this year.

Senior Scholar Article (cont'd)

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The Stellar Seven: Top Papers from the CITASA Best Published Article Awards Competition

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The CITASA Best Paper Committee kvelled[2]. We had so many good papers! Not only were they good, they were diverse in theory, method, and content. And they all have been published in fine journals.. While we picked an official winner and Honorable Mentions – you'll get that news elsewhere – we wanted to share with you the Stellar Seven. As they are all winning pieces of scholarship, we wanted to bring them to your attention. Not only is each an elegant article, taken together they show the exciting panoply of work that we're doing. Here are summaries (often using the papers' own words) to guide your reading and research pleasure, listed in alphabetical order by first author. CITASA is doing great stuff. We hope this summarization of stellar nominees—be they seven or some other number—becomes an annual tradition.

Centola, Damon and Andrea Baronchelli. 2015. "The Spontaneous Emergence of Conventions: An Experimental Study of Cultural Evolution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS).* **"The Spontaneous Emergence of Conventions: An Experimental Study of Cultural Evolution." 112, 7 (February): 1989-94.** Theories of the evolution of social conventions have been hindered by the difficulty of evaluating the creation of new collective behaviors in large decentralized populations. The authors present results of controlled experiments. Their basis is Wittgenstein's proposal that repeated interactions produces collective agreement among a pair of actors. The experimental trials varied in social network structure. Participants (recruited from the Web) were rewarded for coordinating locally, but they did not have either incentive or information to achieve large scale agreement. The results show that "changes in network connectivity can cause global social conventions to spontaneously emerge from local interactions, even though people have no knowledge…that they are coordinating at a global scale."

Chen, Wenhong. 2013. "The Implications of Social Capital for the Digital Divides in America." *The Information Society,* **29: 13-25.** Does social capital in Time 1 predict digital divides in Time 2? Uses a large 2-wave over-time panel study to show how social networks/social capital facilitates internet access and use. Position generator survey data identified the Rs' higher & lower status network connections. Bonding capital was indicated by the number of occupations in which R knew someone via a strong tie; bridging capital by the number of occupations in which R knew someone via a weak tie. Although bridging capital is positively associated with Internet access, the average resources available via bonding capital are the most versatile, positively related to internet access, general use, and online communication. "Before the Internet can revitalize social capital, there must be the right social capital in place to close the digital divides." [see also Laura Robinson's article]

Davis, Jenny. 2014. "Triangulating the Self: Identity Processes in a Connected Era." *Symbolic Interaction 37, 4: 500-23.* With the self comprised of multiple social identities in a "networked era", people negotiate identities and strike "a presentational balance between ideal and authentic." Uses 1:1 in-person interviews (N=17) and synchronous text exchanges (N=32) from a snowballing generated from the author's own Facebook network. Finds three key interaction conditions: "fluidity between digital and physical, expectations of accuracy, and overlapping social networks….Social actors accomplish the ideal-authentic balance through self-triangulation, presenting a coherent image in multiple arenas and through multiple media." Self-triangulation has two aspects: "networked logic"—individuals' seamless incorporation of multiple media into "performative practices"; "preemptive action"—the proactive "decision to engage in some act within one arena primarily as a means to support performances in other arenas."

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[1]Although Barry Wellman volunteered to write this, it reflects the consensus and editorial comments of the two other Awards committee members: Celeste Campos-Castillo and Katrina Kimport.
[2]*Kvell: "*To beam with immense pride and pleasure." Leo Rosten, *The New Joys of Yiddish.* New York: Crown, 2001, p. 198.

The Stellar Seven: Top Papers from the CITASA Best Published Article Awards Competition (cont'd)

Hampton, Keith, Lauren Sessions Goulet, and Garrett Albanesius. 2015. **"Change in the Social Life of Urban Public Spaces: The Rise of Mobile Phones and Women, and the Decline of Aloneness Over Thirty Years"**. *Urban Studies*. **52(8): 1489-1504**. Americans have become less socially isolated using public spaces than a generation ago, due in part to using mobile devices. The study is based on comparing videos of the same public spaces that William H Whyte's team filmed in 1969+. It uses detailed coding from NYC and Philadelphia of the behavior and characteristics of 143,593 observations, then and now. The most dramatic change has been an increase in the proportion of women in public spaces, and a corresponding increase in the tendency of men and women to spend time together in public. The rate of mobile phone use in public is small, especially in groups. Mobile phone use occurs somewhat more often in public spaces where people might otherwise be walking alone. This suggests that mobile phone use is associated with reduced public isolation and with an increased likelihood of lingering in public. We note that *The New York Times Magazine* has already run a feature story about this research: Mark Oppenheimer, "Technology Is Not Driving Us Apart After All": http://www.nytimes.com/2014/01/19/magazine/technology-is-not-driving-us-apart-after-all.html?_r=0

Lewis, Kevin. 2013. "The Limits of Racial Prejudice." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS)* **110, 47 (November), 18814–19.** Uses a very large sample of interactions on online dating site *OKCupid* to find that daters from all racial backgrounds are equally or more likely to cross racial boundaries when reciprocating rather than initiating dating contact. Further, finds that daters who have received a cross-race message are more likely to initiate their own interracial exchange, although the effect trails off quickly and varies according to several factors, including the racial background of the original sender. Findings illuminate the ongoing production of racial segregation in romantic networks through interactive choices as well as point toward mechanisms whereby such underlying biases may be reduced.

Robinson, Laura. 2014. "Endowed, Entrepreneurial, and Empowered-Strivers: Doing a Lot with a Lot, Doing a Lot with a Little." *Information, Communication & Society* **17, 5: 521-36.** Uses 1:1 and focus group in-person interviews with California high school students to show how access to or deprivation from information resources influences how students synthesize information for school. "Endowed-Strivers" with a synergistic access to information resources have a self-reliant habitus. "Entrepreneurial-Strivers" with few home resources rely on others. "Empowered-Strivers" benefit from school-based interventions that provide multiple information channels: they develop more self-reliance. The "relationships between access conditions, information opportunity structures, and types of information habitus…show how the synergistic use of informational resources plays a critical role in larger digital inequalities." [see also Wenhong Chen's article}.

Van de Rijt, Arnout, Soong Moon Kang, Michael Restivo, and Akshay Patil. 2014. "Field Experiments of Success-Breeds-Success Dynamics." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science (PNAS* **111, 19 May): 6934-6939.** Why do similar individuals have different degrees of success? Randomized experiments through interventions in *Kickstarter, change.org, Wikipedia, and epinions.org* show that "different kinds of success (money, quality ratings, awards, and endorsements)" all improved subsequent rates of success. There were limits to this as "greater amounts of initial success failed to produce much greater subsequent success."

CITASA has a bright future: all of the authors are mid-career or younger. Taken together, these articles make a great reading list. They show the use of CITASA's work on a variety of fields: norms, social capital, symbolic interaction, urban, gender, race, teens, and social psychology. The papers all come from solid journals. Yet, none of the mainstreamers with "social" or "sociological" in their titles appear. Those laggards will catch on some day.

Recent Publications

Aneesh, A. 2015. *Neutral Accent: How Language, Labor and Life Become Global.* Durham: Duke University Press.

Barnard, Stephen R. 2015. "'Tweet or Be Sacked': Twitter and the New Elements of Journalistic Practice." *Journalism: Theory.* doi: 10.1177/1464884914553079.

Brainin, Esther and Efrat Neter. 2014. "Inside Technology: Opening the Black Box of Health-Website Configuration and Content Management." *Future Internet* 6:773-99.

Chesley, Noelle and Britta Johnson. 2015. "Technology Use and the New Economy: Work Extension, Network Connectivity, and Employee Distress and Productivity." *Research in the Sociology of Work,* 26:61-99.

Daniels, Jessie. 2015. "My Brain Database Doesn't See Skin Color" Color-Blind Racism in the Technology Industry and in Theorizing the Web." American Behavioral Scientist doi:10.1177/0002764215578728.

Daniels, Jessie. 2013. "Race and Racism in Internet Studies: A Review and Critique." New Media & Society 15(5):695-719.

Dimitrova, Dimitrina, Diana Mok and Barry Wellman. 2015. "Changing Ties in a Far-Flung, Multidisciplinary Research Network: The Case of GRAND." *American Behavioral Scientist* 59(5):599-628.

Dimitrova, Dimitrina and Barry Wellman. 2015. "Networked Work and Network Research: New Forms of Teamwork in the Triple Revolution." *American Behavioral Scientist* 59(4):443-56. Introduction to the Special Issue on Networked Work.

Dimitrova, Dimitrina and Barry Wellman. 2014. "Networked Work and Network Research: New Forms of Teamwork in the Triple Revolution." *American Behavioral Scientist* 59(5):527-30. Introduction to the Special Issue on Networked Research.

Drissel, David. 2015. "Reframing the Taliban Insurgency in Afghanistan: New Communication and Mobilization Strategies for the Twitter Generation." Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression 7(2):97-128.

Cowles, Cowels and Edward Nelson. 2015. *An Introduction to Survey Research.* New York, NY: Business Expert Press.

Gervais, Elizabeth Anne. 2015. "Social Network Websites as Information Channels for the US Social Forum." *Media, Culture & Society.* doi: 10.1177/0163443714566899.

Gruzd, Anatoliy and Barry Wellman. 2014. "Networked Influence in Social Media: Introduction to the Special Issue." *American Behavioral Scientist* 58(10):1251-60. Special Issue on Networked Influence in Social Media.

Recent Publications (cont'd)

Hogan, Bernie and Barry Wellman. 2014. "The Relational Self-Portrait: Selfies Meet Social Networks." Pp. 53-66 in *Society and the Internet,* edited by Mark Graham and William Dutton. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Irani, Lilly. 2015. "Hackathons and the Making of Entrepreneurial Citizenship." *Science Technology & Human Values*. doi: 10.1177/0162243915578486.

Karen E.C. Levy. 2015. "The Contexts of Control: Information, Power, and Truck Driving Work." *The Information Society* 31: 160-74.

Kim, S. J., and Hancock, J. T. 2015. "Optimistic Bias and Facebook Use: Self-Other Discrepancies about Potential Risks and Benefits of Facebook Use." *Cyberpsychology, Behavior, and Social Networking 18*(4):214-20. doi:10.1089/cyber.2014.0656.

Matzat, U., and Sadowski, B. 2015. "Access to Specific Social Resources across Different Social Media: Divergent Consequences of the Time Spent with New Contacts." *Information, Communication & Society*. doi: 10.1080/1369118X.2015.1021270.

Matzat, U., and Rooks, G. 2014. "Styles of Moderation in Online Health and Support Communities: An Experimental Comparison of their Acceptance and Effectiveness." *Computers in Human Behavior* 36:65-75. doi:10.1016/j.chb.2014.03.043.

Mo, Guang Ying, Tsahi Hayat, and Barry Wellman. 2015. "How Far Can Scholarly Networks Go? Examining the Relationships between Distance, Disciplines, Motivation, and Clusters." Pp. 109-35 in *Emerald Studies in Media and Communication 9: Communication and Information Technologies Annual - Politics, Participation, and Production*. Edited by Laura Robinson, Shelia R. Cotton, & Jeremy Schulz. Bingley, UK: Emerald.

Mok, Diana Ka-Yan, Barry Wellman, and Dimitrina Dimitrova. 2015. "Modeling Communication in a Research Network: Implications for the Good Networked Life." Forthcoming in *The Good Life* (International Communication Association theme book), edited by Hua Wang. Bern: Peter Lang.

Schachtner, Christina. 2015. "Transculturality in the Internet: Culture Flows and Virtual Publics." *Current Sociology* 63(2):228-43.

Schulz, Markus S. 2015. "Future Moves: Forward-Oriented Studies of Culture, Society, and Technology." *Current Sociology* 63(2):129-39.

Schulz, Markus S. (ed.) 2015. *Current Sociology* 63(2). Special issue on the theme Future Moves: Forward-Oriented Studies of Culture, Society, and Technology

Recent Publications (cont'd)

Ticona, Julia. 2015. "Strategies of Control: Worker's Use of ICTs to Shape Knowledge and Service Work." *Information, Communication & Society* 18(5): 509-23.

Wellman, Barry. 2015. The Expert Panel on Memory Institutions and the Digital Revolution. *Leading in the Digital World: Opportunities for Canada's Memory Institutions*. Ottawa: Council of Canadian Academies, February, 2015. Pp.185.

Wellman, Barry, Dimitrina Dimitrova, Zack Hayat, Guang Ying Mo, and Lilia Smale. 2014. "Networking Scholars in a Networked Organization. " Pp. 475-93 in *Research in the Sociology of Organizations: Contemporary Perspectives on Organizational Social Network Analysis.* Edited by Daniel Brass, Joe Labianca, Ajay Mehra, Daniel Halgin, and Stephen Borgatti. Bingley, UK: Emerald.

Dissertation Profiles

Colin Doty, Ph.D. Candidate | Year of graduation: 2015

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"Misinformation on the Internet?:

An Analysis of Online Comments About Vaccine Safety Beliefs"

This dissertation addresses the perceived prevalence of misinformation in the digital age. This issue is usually attributed to the Internet's ease of content production, the lack of editorial oversight, rapid diffusion through social media, and online "echo chambers" achieved through content filtering. While all seem to play a role, none explain what seems to be the essential question: Does the Internet change what people believe? To examine this question, this study conducted a content analysis of Internet user comments about vaccine safety, seeking to determine how people justify their own beliefs and reject the beliefs of others. Contrary to the usual binary characterization of pro-vaccine and anti-vaccine thinkers, individuals construct complex belief profiles as if from a buffet, choosing their own combinations of available options. To evaluate this buffet of beliefs, users customarily conduct risk-benefit calculations that are justified through reason and authority under the considerable influence of emotional personal experiences. Through this framework, the study moves toward a model of misinformation on the Internet, showing the ways in which the means of evidence evaluation overlap and interrelate, including the similar tactics adopted on both sides of the debate.

Dissertation Profiles (cont'd)

Guang Ying Mo, Ph.D. Candidate | Year of graduation: 2015
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How Does Diversity Impact Innovation in Research Network? A Multilevel Study with GRAND NCE

In this dissertation, I study the interplay between network structure and group characteristics of diversity as well as the motivation of members in a collaborative research network and the innovative outcomes produced by its members. To achieve this goal, I examine GRAND (an acronym for Graphics, Animation and New Media), a Canadian network with over 200 researchers funded by the Canadian government. I develop a framework which combines multilevel models and social network analysis, in order to understand how memberships in multiple projects, disciplinary diversity in research projects, members' motivation to participate in multidisciplinary collaborations (MDCs), and prior collaborations influence GRAND members' cross-disciplinary collaborations as well as creation of innovation. I conducted qualitative analysis to explain the complexity of MDCs by discussing the difficulties brought about by disciplinary diversity, the disciplinary differences in MDC norms, researchers' perceptions of disciplinary boundaries, and the various types of MDC activities. The findings show that the network structure and multidisciplinary culture emphasized by GRAND indeed foster intellectual interactions cross disciplinary boundaries. However, disciplinary diversity does not directly lead to innovation. Instead, its effect is mediated by diversity in researchers' ego networks. Furthermore, motivation also has a strong effect on diversity in ego networks rather than on innovative outcomes. In other words, diversity in interaction rather than diversity in composition creates innovation, and the former type of diversity can be increased by a high level of motivation and membership in multiple projects.

D. Nicole English, Ph.D. Candidate | Year of graduation: 2015
Sociology/Psychology, University of Missouri-Kansas City
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Dance as a Community of Practice:

Exploring dance groups in the Kansas City Area

This dissertation examines the embodied cultural practice of dance among several groups in the Kansas City area. Dance groups were studied as Communities of Practice (CoP), as outlined in the Lave-Wenger model of CoP. The CoP model uses the complementary concepts of "reified structures" and "peripheral participation" to explain social learning. This dissertation argues that participation in dance activities create body schema and form social bonds that make dance a powerful mechanism for learning and teaching social behaviors. The dance groups studied covered the following genres: folkloric, popular, hip-hop, ballroom, ballet, and modern dance. Data were collected from participant-observation, interviews, archives, Websites, and published materials. Archival documentation included photos, videos, and survey data available for secondary analysis. Grounded Theory Methodology based on qualitative data was deemed as the most appropriate approach. Certain social processes were consistently observed, including, 1) that similarities in dance practice across groups led to similar social practices and processes, and 2) that the more structured the aesthetic of the dance genre, then the more structured and hierarchical the organization of the dance group, 3) that certain factors/attributes of the CoPs contributed to the dance group's robustness and longevity, and 4) that the mediation of time and space with other dancers (during dance) served as a model of interactions between self and others, and developed the skills of collaboration. Overall, this study found that the sharing and mediation of time and space during dance shaped individual social interactions into increasingly cooperative and collaborative activities.

Dissertation Profiles (cont'd)

Casey S. Pierce, Ph.D. Candidate | Year of Graduation: 2015
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Policy as Text and Tech:

A case study of policy and technology implementation within a healthcare organization

Recent U.S. federal policies associated with the Affordable Care Act (ACA) have prompted the implementation of new technologies within healthcare organizations. Given the penalties for failing to comply with federal policies and the high costs of implementing new technologies, managers have a pragmatic impetus to ensure that both artifacts—policies and technologies—are successfully implemented. To address these concerns, this dissertation examines the intersection between information technology (IT) and policy implementation in a large, global healthcare manufacturer. Through this research, I am interested in explaining the interconnections between IT and policy in organizations and how both artifacts are continually shaped through communicative processes. I conceptualize policy implementation in organizations as a communicative process in which people try to reconcile the discrepancies between how the written policy directs them to act and what the technology affords them the ability to do. To this point, I conceptualize policy implementation in organizations as a process of translation that constitutes both text and technology artifacts, representing the policy in principle and performance. Using data from observations, semi-structured interviews and a network survey, I examine how employees use a new IT platform in response to financial transparency policy changes associated with the ACA. The key finding emerging from this research is that the meanings employees ascribed to policy and technology are reflective of their interpretations of the relationship *between* the two artifacts. These findings challenge current theories of policy and technology implementation in organizations, which largely view both artifacts as existing independently from one another.

Announcements

Media Sociology Preconference Registration Now Open!

http://asamediasociology.blogspot.co.uk/2015/04/preconference-registration-now-open.html

Registration for the Media Sociology Preconference to be held at the downtown Chicago campus of Northwestern's Kellogg School of Management on August 21, 2015 is now open. Please click here to register.

Fees this year are $20 for faculty and $12 for students/low income. Coffee and lunch will be provided. All attendees are expected to register.

This year's keynote speaker will be Tressie McMillan Cottom (Virginia Commonwealth University, starting fall 2015). A special plenary session organized by Laura Robinson (Santa Clara University) on "The Future of Digital Sociology" will feature Shelia Cotten (Michigan State University), Eszter Hargittai (Northwestern University), Saskia Sassen (Columbia University), Judy Wajcman (LSE), and James Witte (George Mason University).

If you are a presenter, you must register NO LATER THAN MAY 31, 2015 to guarantee your place on the program.

A preliminary program schedule will be announced in June.

Contact Casey Brienza (casey.brienza.1@city.ac.uk) or Matthias Revers (matthias.revers@uni-graz.at) with any questions.

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Announcements (cont'd)

Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide (PPDD)

2015 International Conference

Creating Connections, Building Bridges: Advancing the Digital Divide Research, Policy, and Practice Agenda

October 21-22, 2015

Arizona State University SkySong

Scottsdale (Phoenix), Arizona USA

Please join us in October in warm and sunny Arizona to enrich the dialogue, connect research, policy and practice, and advance the agenda on the digital divide at the 2015 International Conference of Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide (PPDD).

Given the enormous success of the PPDD 2014 Preconference at the International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference in Seattle (description at http://www.icahdq.org/conf/2014/aroundtheworldcfp.asp and Preconference Program at http://www.icahdq.org/conf/2014/ppddpreconference_program.pdf) and that all 150+ participants found the meeting so enriching and exciting, it is important to continue that momentum and provide a permanent home where cutting-edge scholarship is written, shared, commented upon, and published and ideas on policy and practice are envisioned, formulated, explored, and discussed as well as a venue where this community of shared interest can come together to connect, engage, and build partnerships on digital divide issues.

As a result, starting in 2015, PPDD will be sponsoring a biennial Conference similar in structure and purpose to the 2014/Seattle Preconference. In addition, to create a powerful critical mass of high-quality scholarship that can serve as a deep resource and driver of future innovation, as a major outcome of the 2015 and each subsequent biennial PPDD Conference, we will produce an edited volume of the top papers as well as special issues of journals on specific themes within the digital divide area.

Hosted by a coalition of units across Arizona State University (ASU) headed by the School of Public Affairs, PPDD's 2015 Conference "Creating Connections, Building Bridges: Advancing the Digital Divide Research, Policy, and Practice Agenda" will be Wednesday, October 21-Thursday, October 22 at ASU's high-tech SkySong in the Scottsdale area of Phoenix (https://skysong.asu.edu/) with complimentary transport to/from discounted hotel room blocks ($109 and $119/night including breakfast and evening reception) in pleasurable Old Town Scottsdale.

PPDD is co-located with the Association of Internet Researchers' (AoIR) IR16 for our 2015 Conference. Given that IR16's preconference day is October 21 and the balance of their conference is October 22-24, the overlap with PPDD will help facilitate time-away-from-work and money savings for those who wish to attend both. For those attending IR16 immediately after PPDD, we will facilitate transportation from our hotels to the IR16 Embassy Suites via a very easy 20 minute/$2 public bus ride straight down Camelback Rd. or an inexpensive cab ride.

Please consider contributing your unique insights and expertise to this important effort. Full Conference details and website forthcoming shortly with the submission deadline July 1. Please email <conference@ppdd.org> for information and to be added to the Conference emailing list.

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