Newsletter | CITAMS

Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology section of the ASA

Contents

Editors:
Ian Sheinheit, University at Albany, SUNY
Julie Wiest, West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Brooke Dinsmore, University of Virginia

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

It is with great pleasure that we present the Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology (CITAMS) section winter newsletter. A section's newsletter is a fruitful space in which our community can showcase our work, highlight the important trends of current research, and engage in dialogue. CITAMS is a unique and diverse section with a wide variety of research topics, theoretical positions, and methodologies. Simultaneously staying entrenched in perennial sociological concepts, such as gender, race, crime, power, inequality, socialization, and democracy, while also focusing our attention on communication information technologies and the media, equips our community with a sharp lens to observe our social worlds.

This newsletter showcases the exemplary work of our members. First, as Chair Deana Rohlinger highlights in her letter, we have made great strides as a section and will continue to improve as we move forward. We have an increased social media presence, an updated website (citams.org), and myriad professional opportunities for section members. Deana's letter is followed by a brief recap of some of the events surrounding the recent ASA annual meeting. It is always good to remind ourselves of the great work we showcased. In both the previous newsletter (summer 2018) and the ASA recap we highlight our section's award winners. Because of the strength of the submission pool, we also recognized other submitted work later in this newsletter.

The CITAMS' book award winner, Christo Sims, is interviewed by Ian Sheinheit in a later section of this newsletter. In this interview Christo Sims maps out his book's argument while focusing his attention on his methodological and conceptual insights as well as the future direction of his research.

Rounding out the newsletter is our featured research section. In this section we can see some of the great and diverse scholarship on which our members are working. We have also included a couple intriguing calls for our work.

As was stated in previous newsletters, we understand that with the proliferation of digital communication technologies, there are copious venues and outlets for you to send, or post, your work. Although some of our members may think

that others will step up and contribute (i.e., the bystander effect), the quality of our newsletter relies on the quality of our section members' work and their willingness to share it with our community through this forum. It is with this message that we want to strongly encourage each of you to send us your ideas and suggestions, descriptions of your research projects, and news of your other accomplishments. Examples include, but are not limited to, review essays, methods assessments, book reviews, teaching narratives, and descriptions of your vital work. Please send any contribution ideas to the editors at isheinheit@albany.edu, jbwiest@gmail.com, and bd3tz@virginia.edu. The next issue of the newsletter will be published at the end of the spring semester.

Lastly, we thank everyone who contributed to this issue – without you, it would not exist.

Ian Sheinheit
Julie Wiest
Brooke Dinsmore

Co-editors, CITAMS Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Deana A. Rohlinger
Florida State University

Dear Colleagues,

I write the Chair's Letter with a great deal of enthusiasm about the future of CITAMS. There are a lot of exciting things happening in the section.

Here are some changes you may have noticed.

An increased social media presence. Thanks to the hard work of Sarah Sobieraj and Jeremiah Morelock, CITAMS has increased its social media presence. The section added a couple of hundred followers to Twitter and Facebook in the last two months, and Sarah and Jeremiah update platform content several times a week. Be sure to follow CITAMS on social media (@CITAMS_ASA on Twitter and ASA Section on Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology on Facebook), and share your accomplishments and publications at ASA.CITAMS2018@gmail.com. The social media committee wants to highlight the work of CITAMS members.

A website update (in progress). Laura Robinson, Maxine Hillman, and Sam Scovill are hard at work updating the section website. The committee has updated important section information, such as the call for nominations, and is working on putting more substantive content on the site. Be sure to visit this one-stop source of information at https://citams.org/**.**

Increased attention to entertainment and journalism at ASA. CITAMS members encouraged me to put together panels at ASA that could cut across mediums and potential research interests. While it is impossible to represent the diversity of the section in our two allotted sessions, Nancy Yuen and Stephen Barnard graciously agreed to take on the challenge of putting together paper panels that recognize medium diversity within a substantive research area. The section sessions will focus on entertainment and diversity as well as journalism and inequality, respectively. If you haven't seen CITAMS' call for papers, it is posted on the ASA website at www.asanet.org. Also, don't forget about our roundtable session. Ken Kambara is organizing what is sure to be an engaging roundtable experience.

Here are some things you can look forward to in the upcoming year.

A co-sponsored reception – and hopefully other opportunities – at ASA. This year we will team up with two sections – Science, Knowledge and Technology (SKAT) and Collective Behavior and Social Movements (CBSM) – for our reception. The chairs of each section hope that this will create an opportunity for lively conversation and perhaps even collaboration. A big THANK YOU to reception committee members Ken Kambara, Jessi Grace, and Tamsyn Gilbert for their ongoing efforts on the reception front, as finding an appropriate space is a daunting task. I am also working with some area groups and employers to see what other opportunities we can offer CITAMS members while they are in the New York City area. Stay tuned.

CITAMS issue of Information, Communication & Society. It was a banner year for submissions. According to the journal's managing editor, none of the journal's special issues has ever had so many submissions! I'm working with Jenny Davis, Pierce Dignam, and Cynthia Williams to put together an excellent issue for you. While we wish we could have included more papers, the issue is shaping up to be a nice mix of topics and methods. It will be available online in February.

Most important, here are ways you can get involved!

Help with our graduate student recruitment efforts. Andrew Linder has some great ideas for recruiting more students to our intellectually diverse section. Of course, more folks are always needed to increase a campaign's chance of success, so please contact Andrew or me if you can help out.

Help us launch a CITAMS mentoring program. Senior CITAMS members have been informally mentoring junior faculty and graduate students for years. It is time to work toward formalizing this effort so that it can benefit all section members. There are some interesting ideas floating around – everything from a mentoring reception to a full-blown mentoring program – but we need volunteers to get a program off the ground. If you are interested in being a part of this effort, let me know.

Nominate yourself or others for positions in CITAMS. The nominations committee is putting together a slate of candidates right now. Considering running or nominating a colleague for a position. See the call for candidates on the CITAMS website and get in touch with Jenny Davis, Jeffrey Lane, or Andrew Linder with questions and nominations.

Keep us updated on your accomplishments. We want to spread your good news. Got a promotion, award, or grant? Changed jobs? Published an article or book? Going on the job market? CITAMS wants to help you spread the word. Either email us with your news at

ASA.CITAMS2018@gmail.com or tag the section in your social media post. We'll be sure to share your accomplishments far and wide.

You can see that the section has been hard at work and that there are many exciting developments on the horizon. If you have ideas about other things we could do as a section, or things that we could do better, please feel free to email me.

A special thank you to past-Chair Wenhong Chen for her excellent leadership and to our outgoing Council and committee members Grant Blank, Paul Lopes, Jeffrey Boase, and Leslie Jones.

I hope this finds you well and wish the best as the spring term commences.

Sincerely,

Deana A. Rohlinger
Florida State University

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Please send us your ideas for original contributions for future newsletters. These include but are not limited to review essays, methods assessments, book reviews, and teaching narratives. Send any contribution ideas to the newsletter editors at isheinheit@albany.edu, jbwiest@gmail.com, and bd3tz@virginia.edu.

We're looking forward to hearing from you!

CITAMS ASA 2018

CITAMS' presence at ASA was robust, including a great preconference and excellent panels, presentations, and roundtables. And we capped off our successful conference with a fun night a Dave and Buster's. While there were too many fantastic presentations and events to mention them all, here is a recap of some highlights.

The sixth-annual Media Sociology Preconference was hosted by West Chester University at its downtown Philadelphia campus (thank you, Casey Brienza and Julie Wiest). We had approximately 80 attendees and more than 50 unique presentations. Of particular note was Jen Schradie's keynote. Schradie deftly described what she terms the "Digital Activism Gap," debunking the conventional thinking after the Obama administration of technological dominance by the political left. Schradie instead mapped out the media and technological savvy of the political right. Schradie posed important questions like: Who is able and motivated to make use of new digital tools, and how does this shape their activism? The keynote presentation was an early peek at her forthcoming book, *The Revolution That Wasn't: How Digital Activism Favors Conservatives*.

The panel on Interpretive Media Sociology organized by Ian Sheinheit, which was cross-listed with the concurrent conference on interpretive sociology that was organized by Tom DeGloma and Julie Wiest, inspired an excellent discussion featuring Phillipa Chong, Dustin Kidd, Brian McKernan, and Stephen Ostertag on the fecundity of the interpretive framework for understanding media technology. By looking at book reviewers (Chong), comic books (Kidd), video games (McKernan), and the news (Ostertag), these media sociologists demonstrated how the process of production and reception are inextricably linked.

The plenary discussion panel on Media, Power, and Sexuality, organized by Apryl Williams, featured scholars Betty Aldana Marquez, Mary Chayko, Jenny Davis, Y. Patrick Hsieh, Jessie Sage, and Ruth Tsuria, who inspired riveting discussion and grappled with the unequal distribution of power.

At the main conference, CITAMS was well represented with two regular sessions, two media sociology sessions, and three internet and society sessions. Altogether, this included 33 individual presentations.

Reflecting on our 30th anniversary as a section, past-Chair Wenhong Chen organized a panel titled "CITAMS@30." In this thought-provoking panel, Keith N. Hampton and Barry Wellman revisited classical sociological questions about networks and technology. And Shelia R. Cotten took us through a personal CITAMS narrative, which concluded with optimism about our section's bright future. (That bright future is hopefully illustrated by this newsletter.) In addition to these two presentations, the panel featured Karin D. Knorr Cetina's work on algorithms and Shaojie Liu's work on China's network society, all clearly demonstrating the importance of CITAMS' methodological and theoretical toolkit.

The section roundtables, organized by Sarah Sobieraj, were bustling, and that energy flowed nicely into the CITAMS business meeting, which was well attended and spirited. Congratulations to all of our award winners!

William F. Ogburn Career Achievement Award
W. Russell Neuman
Professor of Media Technology, NYU & Professor (Emeritus)
Communication Studies, University of Michigan

Best Article Award
Christopher A. Bail, Taylor W. Brown, and Marcus Mann. 2017. "Channeling Hearts and Minds: Advocacy Organizations, Cognitive-Emotional Currents, and Public Conversation." *American Sociological Review* 82(6):1188-1213.

Best Book Award
Christo Sims, University of California, San Diego
Disruptive Fixation: School Reform and the Pitfalls of Techno-Idealism (Princeton, 2018)

Honorable Mention:
Terence E. McDonnell, University of Notre Dame
Best Laid Plans: Cultural Entropy and the Unraveling of AIDS Media Campaigns (Chicago, 2016)

Award Submission Highlights

With so much excellent scholarship conducted by CITAMS members, award committee members face difficult decisions every year. To highlight more of this work, this section compiles notable books and articles that were recently considered for section awards.

BOOKS

Alper, Meryl. 2017. *Giving Voice: Mobile Communication, Disability, and Inequality.* Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Mobile technologies are often hailed as a way to "give voice to the voiceless." Behind the praise, though, are beliefs about technology as a gateway to opportunity and voice as a metaphor for agency and self-representation. In this book, Dr. Alper explores these assumptions by looking closely at one such case—the use of the Apple iPad and mobile app Proloquo2Go, which converts icons and text into synthetic speech, by children with disabilities (including autism and cerebral palsy) and their families. She finds that despite claims to empowerment, the hardware and software are still subject to disempowering structural inequalities. Views of technology as a great equalizer, she illustrates, rarely account for all the ways that culture, law, policy, and even technology itself can reinforce disparity, particularly for those with disabilities.

Childress, Clayton. 2017. *Under the Cover: The Creation, Production, and Reception of a Novel*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

This book follows the life trajectory of a single work of fiction from its initial inspiration to its reception by reviewers and readers. The subject is Jarrettsville, a historical novel by Cornelia Nixon, which was published in 2009 and based on an actual murder committed by an ancestor of Nixon's in the postbellum South. Drawing on original survey data, in-depth interviews, and groundbreaking ethnographic fieldwork, Dr. Childress reveals how decisions are made, inequalities are reproduced, and novels are built to travel in the creation, production, and consumption of culture.

Daniels, Jessie, Karen Gregory, and Tressie McMillan Cottom, eds. 2017. *Digital Sociologies*. Chicago: Policy Press.

This handbook offers a much-needed overview of the rapidly growing field of digital sociology. Rooted in a critical understanding of inequality as foundational to digital sociology, it connects digital media technologies to traditional areas of study in sociology, such as labor, culture, education, race, class, and gender. It covers a wide variety of topics, including web analytics, wearable technologies, social media analysis, and digital labor. The result is a benchmark volume that places the digital squarely at the forefront of contemporary investigations of the social.

González-Bailón, Sandra. 2017. *Decoding the Social World: Data Science and the Unintended Consequences of Communication*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Dr. González-Bailón discusses how the unpredictability of social life relates to communication networks, social influence, and the unintended effects that derive from individual decisions. She describes how communication generates social dynamics in aggregate (leading to episodes of "collective effervescence") and discusses the mechanisms that underlie large-scale diffusion, when information and behavior spread "like wildfire." She applies the theory of networks to illuminate why collective outcomes can differ drastically even when they arise from the same individual actions. By opening the black box of unintended effects, Dr. González-Bailón identifies strategies for social intervention and discusses the policy implications—and how data science and evidence-based research embolden critical thinking in a world that is constantly changing.

Marx, Gary T. 2016. *Windows into the Soul: Surveillance and Society in an Age of High Technology*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
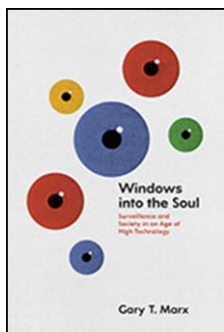
In this book, Dr. Marx sums up a lifetime of work on issues of surveillance and social control by disentangling and parsing the empirical richness of watching and being watched. Using fictional narratives as well as the findings of social science, he draws on decades of studies of covert policing, computer profiling, location and work monitoring, drug testing, caller identification, and much more. Dr. Marx provides a conceptual language to understand the new realities, and his work clearly emphasizes the paradoxes, trade-offs, and confusion enveloping the field. He ultimately argues that recognizing complexity and asking the right questions are essential to bringing light and accountability to the darker, more iniquitous corners of our emerging surveillance society.

McDonnell, Terence E. 2016. ***Best Laid Plans: Cultural Entropy and the Unraveling of AIDS Media Campaigns***. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.
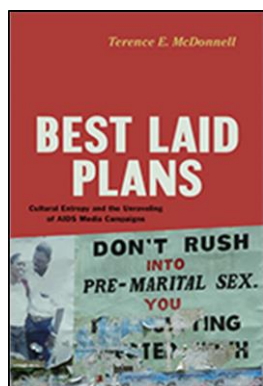
This book explains why expansive media campaigns used by organizations in attempts to persuade the public often fail so badly. Dr. McDonnell argues that these well-designed campaigns are undergoing "cultural entropy": the process through which the intended meanings and uses of cultural objects fracture into alternative meanings, new practices, failed interactions, and blatant disregard. Using AIDS media campaigns in Accra, Ghana, as its central case study, the book walks readers through best-practice, evidence-based media campaigns that fall totally flat. Female condoms are turned into bracelets, AIDS posters become home decorations, red ribbons fade into pink under the sun—to name a few failures. These damaging cultural misfires are not random. Rather, McDonnell makes the case that these disruptions are patterned, widespread, and inevitable—indicative of a broader process of cultural entropy.

Ragnedda, Massimo. 2017. ***The Third Digital Divide: A Weberian Approach to Digital Inequalities***. New York: Routledge.
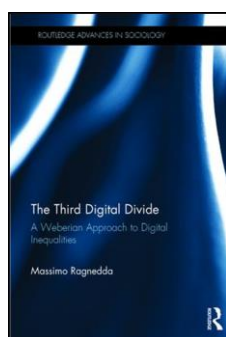
Drawing on the thought of Max Weber, in particular his theory of stratification, this book engages with the question of whether the digital divide simply extends traditional forms of inequality, or whether it also includes new forms of social exclusion, or perhaps manifests counter-trends that alleviate traditional inequalities whilst constituting new modalities of inequality. With attention to the manner in which social stratification in the digital age is reproduced and transformed online, Dr. Ragnedda develops an account of stratification as it exists in the digital sphere, advancing the position that, just as in the social sphere, inequalities in the online world go beyond the economic elements of inequality.

Yuen, Nancy Wang. 2016. ***Reel Inequality: Hollywood Actors and Racism***. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
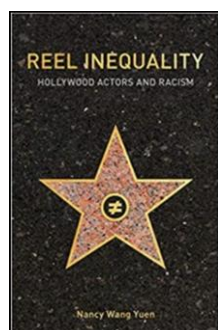
This book examines the structural barriers minority actors face in Hollywood, while shedding light on how they survive in a racist industry. It charts how white male gatekeepers dominate Hollywood, breeding a culture of ethnocentric storytelling and casting. Interviews with working actors and celebrities reveal the day-to-day racism actors of color experience in talent agents' offices, at auditions, and on sets. Further, Dr. Yuen exposes sexist hiring and programming practices, which highlights the structural inequalities that actors of color, particularly women, continue to face in Hollywood.

ARTICLES

Becker, Joshua, Devon Brackbill, and Damon Centola. 2017. "**Network Dynamics of Social Influence in the Wisdom of Crowds**." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 114(26):E5070-E5076.

Abstract: A longstanding problem in the social, biological, and computational sciences is to determine how groups of distributed individuals can form intelligent collective judgments. Since Galton's discovery of the "wisdom of crowds" [Galton F (1907) Nature 75:450–451], theories of collective intelligence have suggested that the accuracy of group judgments requires individuals to be either independent, with uncorrelated beliefs, or diverse, with negatively correlated beliefs [Page S (2008) The Difference: How the Power of Diversity Creates Better Groups, Firms, Schools, and Societies]. Previous experimental studies have supported this view by arguing that social influence undermines the wisdom of crowds. These results showed that individuals' estimates became more similar when subjects observed each other's beliefs, thereby reducing diversity without a corresponding increase in group accuracy [Lorenz J, Rauhut H, Schweitzer F, Helbing D (2011) Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 108:9020–9025]. By contrast, we show general network conditions under which social influence improves the accuracy of group estimates, even as individual beliefs become more similar. We present theoretical predictions and experimental results showing that, in decentralized communication networks, group estimates become reliably more accurate as a result of information exchange. We further show that the dynamics of group accuracy change with network structure. In centralized networks, where the influence of central individuals dominates the collective estimation process, group estimates become more likely to increase in error.

Blank, Grant. 2016. "**The Digital Divide among Twitter Users and its Implications for Social Research**." *Social Science Computer Review* 35(6):679-697.

Abstract: Hundreds of papers have been published using Twitter data, but few previous papers report the digital divide among Twitter users. British Twitter users are younger, wealthier, and better educated than other Internet users, who in turn are younger, wealthier, and better educated than the off-line British population. American Twitter users are also younger and wealthier than the rest of the population, but they are not better educated. Twitter users are disproportionately members of elites in both countries. Twitter users also differ from other groups in their online activities and their attitudes. These biases and differences have important implications for research based on Twitter data. The unrepresentative characteristics of Twitter users suggest that Twitter data are not suitable for research where representativeness is important, such as forecasting elections or gaining insight into attitudes, sentiments, or activities of large populations. In general, Twitter data seem to be more suitable for corporate use than for social science research.

Boulianne, Shelley. 2017. "**Revolution in the Making? Social Media Effects across the Globe.**" *Information, Communication & Society* 22(1):39-54.

Abstract: Social networking sites are popular tools to engage citizens in political campaigns, social movements, and civic life. However, are the effects of social media on civic and political participation revolutionary? How do these effects differ across political contexts? Using 133 cross-

sectional studies with 631 estimated coefficients, I examine the relationship between social media use and engagement in civic and political life. The effects of social media use on participation are larger for political expression and smaller for informational uses, but the magnitude of these effects depends on political context. The effects of informational uses of social media on participation are smaller in countries like the United States, with a free and independent press. If there is a social media revolution, it relates to the expression of political views on social networking sites, where the average effect size is comparable to the effects of education on participation.

Buggs, Shantel. 2017. "**Dating in the Time of #BlackLivesMatter: Exploring Mixed-race Women's Discourses of Race and Racism**." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 3(4):538-551.

Abstract: The author explores the discourses and logics that self-identified multiracial and multiethnic female online daters use to explain their own responses to social justice movements around race and racism in the United States. These women mobilize stances on the social movement Black Lives Matter (BLM) as a metric of racial progressiveness, articulating their own political views on race. Furthermore, mixed-black women in particular describe using attitudes toward the BLM movement as a way to vet potential dating partners. The implementation of BLM as a tool in the contemporary dating "toolkit" suggests that the language around, and produced by, social movements (in terms of mainstream media coverage) influences the ways in which some women discuss race, gender, and racism. Using interview data from 30 in-depth interviews, the author shows how mixed-race women navigate racial politics on an interpersonal level during a time when U.S. media and popular culture is focused on issues of racism and state-sanctioned violence. The use of BLM as a rhetorical frame demonstrates how far the logics of colorblindness and antiblackness extend into everyday life and serves as a signifier of where individuals stand on significant social issues. By analyzing the ways multiracial women talk about dating, the author provides a greater understanding of the shifting meanings of race, racism, and the "postracial" in contemporary American society.

Davis, Jenny L., and James B. Chouinard. 2017. "**Theorizing Affordances: From Request to Refuse**." *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society* 36(4):241-248.

Abstract: As a concept, affordance is integral to scholarly analysis across multiple fields—including media studies, science and technology studies, communication studies, ecological psychology, and design studies among others. Critics, however, rightly point to the following shortcomings: definitional confusion, a false binary in which artifacts either afford or do not, and failure to account for diverse subject-artifact relations. Addressing these critiques, this article demarcates the mechanisms of affordance—as artifacts request, demand, allow, encourage, discourage, and refuse—which take shape through interrelated conditions: perception, dexterity, and cultural and institutional legitimacy. Together, the mechanisms and conditions constitute a dynamic and structurally situated model that addresses how artifacts afford, for whom and under what circumstances.

Dobransky, Kerry and Eszter Hargittai. 2016. "**Unrealized Potential: Exploring the Digital Disability Divide**." *Poetics* 58:18-28.

Abstract: While the digital inequality literature has considered differences in the online experiences of many population segments, relatively little work has examined how people with disabilities (PWD) have

incorporated digital media into their lives. Based on a national survey of American adults, this paper explores this question through considering both barriers to Internet use and the possibilities the Internet offers PWD. Findings indicate barriers for many PWD to accessing the Internet. Those with five of six types of disabilities measured are considerably less likely to be online than those who are not disabled. People who are deaf or hearing impaired to do not lag in Internet access once we account for demographics, Web use skills, and Internet experiences. However, the study also finds evidence that once online, PWD engage in a range of uses of the Internet as much as people without disability. Moreover, PWD take distinct interest in certain online activities, such as sharing their own content and reviewing products and services, pointing to ways they may go online to adapt and respond to the wider inaccessible society. These findings indicate great potential for the Internet for people with disabilities and suggest that moving more of them online holds the potential for considerable gains among this group.

Ignatow, Gabe and Laura Robinson. 2017. "**Pierre Bourdieu: Theorizing the Digital**." *Information, Communication & Society* 20(7):950-966.

Abstract: Pierre Bourdieu is known for his research in the areas of education and cultural stratification that led to a number of theoretical contributions informing the social sciences. Bourdieu's interrelated concepts of field, capital, and habitus have become central in many approaches to inequality and stratification across the social sciences. In addition, we argue that Bourdieu's ideas also feature in what is increasingly known as "digital sociology." To underscore this claim, we explore the ways in which Bourdieu's ideas continue to have a major impact on social science research both on and with digital and Internet-based technologies. To do so, we offer a review of both Bourdieusian theorizing of the digital vis-à-vis both research on the social impacts of digital communication technologies and the application of digital technologies to social science research methods. We contend that three interconnected features of Bourdieu's sociology have allowed his approach to flourish in the digital age: (1) his theories' inseparability from the practice of empirical research; (2) his ontological stance combining realism and social constructionism; and (3) his familiarity with concepts developed in other disciplines and participation in interdisciplinary collaborative projects. We not only reason that these three factors go some way in accounting for Bourdieu's influence in many sociological subfields, but we also suggest that they have been especially successful in positioning Bourdieusian sociology to take advantage of opportunities associated with digital communication technologies.

Lindner, Andrew M. and Ryan P. Larson. 2017. "**The Expansion and Contraction of the Journalistic Field and American Online Citizen Journalism, 2000-2012**." *Poetics* 64(3):40-52.

Abstract: While previous research has considered patterns of homogeneity and heterogeneity in the journalistic field, existing literature has largely ignored the factors that contribute to the growth and contraction of the field. Using citizen journalism (CJ) as a case study, we examine how four forces - organizational population dynamics, technological innovations, exogenous political events, and endogenous disruptions elsewhere in the field - shaped the growth of CJ over time and, consequently, the journalistic field. Using a snowball sampling method, we collected a "near-population" of U.S.-based, English-language CJ sites (n = 1829) to measure yearly density and rates of foundings and mortalities. The population of CJ sites increased through most of the period, foundings declined after a spike in 2005, and mortalities rose dramatically after 2010. The results provide evidence that organizational population and technological change affected the size of the population of CJ

sites, while political upheaval and disruptions within professional journalism held less sway.

Liu, Jun. 2016. "**From 'Moments of Madness' to 'the Politics of Mundanity': Researching Digital Media and Contentious Collective Actions in China**." *Social Movement Studies* 16(4):418-432.

Abstract: Information and communication technologies (ICTs) have become an essential part of contentious politics and social movements in contemporary China. Although quite a few scholars have explored ICTs, contentious politics, and collective action in China, they largely focus on the event-based analysis of discrete contentious events, failing to capture, reflect, and assess most of the political ferment in and around the routine use of digital media in people's everyday lives. This study proposes a broader research agenda by shifting the focus from contentious events – "moments of madness" – to "the politics of mundanity": the political dynamics in the mundanity of digitally mediated, routine daily life. The agenda includes, first, the investigation of the dynamics underlying the mundane use of digital media, which not only places the use of ICTs in contentious moments into "a big picture" to understand the political potential of mundane use of ICTs, but also reveals "everyday resistance," or less publicly conspicuous tactics, as precursors of open, confrontational forms of contentious activity. Second, the agenda proposes the examination of mundane experiences to understand the sudden outburst of contention and digital media as the "repertoire of contention." Third, the agenda scrutinizes the adoption of mundane expressions of contentious challenges to authoritarian regimes, as they allow for the circumvention of the heavy censorship of collective action mobilization. Mundane expressions have thereby emerged as a prominent part of the mobilization mechanism of contention in China. Addressing "the politics of mundanity" will provide a nuanced understanding of ICTs and contentious collective action in China.

McDonnell, Terence E., Christopher A. Bail, and Iddo Tavory. 2017. "**A Theory of Resonance**." *Sociological Theory* 35(1):1-14.

Abstract: The metaphor of resonance often describes the fit between a message and an audience's worldviews. Yet scholars have largely ignored the cognitive processes audiences use to interpret messages and interactions that determine why certain messages and other cultural objects appeal to some but not others. Drawing on pragmatism, we argue that resonance occurs as cultural objects help people puzzle through practical challenges they face or construct. We discuss how cognitive distance and the process of emotional reasoning shape the likelihood of cultural resonance. We argue resonance is an emergent process structured by interactions between individuals that shape each other's interpretation of cultural objects, diffuse objects through interactional circuits, and create opportunities for resonance among people facing similarly shaped problems. Our approach thus identifies new processes at micro, meso, and macro levels of analysis that shape resonance and describes the pathways that might allow resonance to crystallize into broader mobilization and social change.

Schradie, Jen. 2018. "**The Digital Activism Gap: How Class and Costs Shape Online Collective Action**." *Social Problems* 65(1):51-74.

Abstract: What is the relationship between social class and online participation in social movements? Scholars suggest that low costs to digital activism broaden participation and challenge conventional collective action theories, but given the digital divide, little is known about cost variation across social

movement organizations from different social classes. A focus on high levels of digital engagement and extraordinary events leaves scant information about the effect of social class on digital mobilization patterns and everyday practices within and across organizations. This study takes a field-level approach to incorporate all groups involved in one statewide political issue, thereby including organizations with different social class compositions, from Tea Parties to labor unions. Data collection spans online and off-line digital activism practices. With an index to measure digital engagement from an original data set of over 90,000 online posts, findings show deep digital activism inequalities between working-class and middle/upper-class groups. In-depth interviews and ethnographic observations reveal that the mechanisms of this digital activism gap are organizational resources, along with individual disparities in access, skills, empowerment and time. These factors create high costs of online participation for working-class groups. Rather than reduced costs equalizing online participation, substantial costs contribute to digital activism inequality.

Shestakofsky, Benjamin. 2017. "**Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work**." *Work and Occupations* 44(4):376-423.

Abstract: While some argue that the rise of software automation threatens workers with obsolescence, others assert that new complementarities between humans and software systems are likely to emerge. This study draws on 19 months of participant-observation research at a software firm to investigate how relations between workers and technology evolved over three phases of the company's development. The author finds two forms of human–software complementarity: computational labor that supports or stands in for software algorithms and emotional labor aimed at helping users adapt to software systems. Instead of perfecting software algorithms that would progressively push people out of the production process, managers continually reconfigured assemblages of software and human helpers, developing new forms of organization with a dynamic relation to technology. The findings suggest how the dynamism of the organizations in which software algorithms are produced and implemented will contribute to labor's enduring relevance in the digital age.

Smirnova, Michelle. 2018. "**Small Hands, Nasty Women, and Bad Hombres: Hegemonic Masculinity and Humor in the 2016 Presidential Election**." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 4:1-16.

Abstract: Given that the president is thought to be the national representative, presidential campaigns often reflect the efforts to define a national identity and collective values. Political humor provides a unique lens through which to explore how identity figures into national politics given that the critique of an intended target is often made through popular cultural scripts that often inadvertently reify the very power structures they seek to subvert. In conducting an analysis of 240 tweets, memes, and political cartoons from the 2016 U.S. presidential election targeting the two frontrunners, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump, we see how popular political humor often reaffirmed heteronormative assumptions of gender, sexuality, and race and equated scripts of hegemonic masculinity with presidential ability. In doing so, these discourses reified a patriarchal power structure.

Tian, Xiaoli. 2017. "**Embodied versus Disembodied Information: How Online Artifacts Influence Offline Interpersonal Interactions.**" *Symbolic Interaction* 40(2):190-211.

Abstract: This article examines how the sheer volume of personal information recorded and searchable online (online artifacts) has transformed the situated activity system central to Goffman's dramaturgical theories. In-depth interviews reveal that individuals believe disembodied information based on online artifacts is a more accurate representation of others than embodied information from spatially and temporally bounded face-to-face (FTF) processes because they represent how others have behaved over time and are attested by their online contacts. However, the n-adic structure of online interaction leads to mismatched expectations about whether disembodied information is taken into account during FTF encounters, and consequently can result in embarrassment.

Tian, Xiaoli and Daniel A. Menchik. 2016. "**On Violating One's Own Privacy: N-adic Utterances and Inadvertent Disclosures in Online Venues**." Pp. 3-30 in *Communication and Information Technologies Annual* (*Studies in Media and Communications, Volume 11*), edited by L. Robinson, J. Schulz, S. R. Cotten, T. M. Hale, A. A. Williams, and J. L. Hightower. Emerald Group Publishing Limited.

Abstract: Purpose: To understand the phenomena of people revealing regrettable information on the Internet, we examine who people think they're addressing, and what they say, in the process of interacting with those not physically or temporally co-present. Methodology/approach: We conduct qualitative analyses of interviews with student bloggers and observations of five years' worth of their blog posts, drawing on linguists' concepts of indexical ground and deictics. Based on analyses of how bloggers reference their shared indexical ground and how they use deictics, we expose bloggers' evolving awareness of their audiences, and the relationship between this awareness and their disclosures. Findings: Over time, writers and their regular audience, or "chorus," reciprocally reveal personal information. However, since not all audience members reveal themselves in this venue, writers' disclosures are available to those observers they are not aware of. Thus, their overdisclosure is tied to what we call the "n-adic" organization of online interaction. Specifically, and as can be seen in their linguistic cues, n-adic utterances are directed toward a non-unified audience whose invisibility makes the discloser unable to find out the exact number of participants or the time they enter or exit the interaction. Research implications: Attention to linguistic cues, such as deictics, is a compelling way to identify the shifting reference groups of ethnographic subjects interacting with physically or temporally distant others.

Ian Sheinheit: In what ways did your interdisciplinary training help strengthen your analysis of the Downtown School? In what ways do you think specific sociological concepts helped sharpen your analysis?

Christo Sims: I've spent all of my professional career in interdisciplinary settings, first in the field of user-experience design, then as a graduate student at UC Berkeley's School of Information, and now in the Department of Communication at UCSD. Studying and working in these settings has introduced me to literatures and perspectives that I probably would not have encountered if I was working in a more conventionally disciplined department and field. For example, perhaps the biggest analytic breakthrough for me when I was working on the book occurred when I read James Ferguson's *The Anti-Politics Machine* and Tania Murray Li's *The Will to Improve*, both of which are classics in anthropological studies of international aid and development initiatives. Since my book focuses on a school reform project in the United States, I hadn't initially thought to look at this literature. But I also had colleagues at both Berkeley and UCSD – Janaki Srinivasan, Elisa Oreglia, and Lilly Irani, for example – whose work focuses on technology and development, and I found many surprising resonances in our cases despite our seemingly very different field sites. It was through these colleagues that I first got exposed to scholars like Ferguson and Li.

In terms of the influence of these works on my analysis, Ferguson's book helped me make an important shift in the questions I was asking of my case. Before reading *The Anti-Politics*

Machine, my analysis had been tacitly preoccupied with questions that tend to predominate in social reform initiatives, questions like: What did and didn't work in this case? Why? How can we do better next time? These are understandable questions, particularly if you're charged with envisioning or enacting a reform project, but they also significantly narrow our understanding of what's happening in a reform endeavor, and they can be especially hard to decenter or see beyond once you've been professionally enculturated. Before reading Ferguson's book, I hadn't realized the degree to which my thinking and practices had been beholden to these sorts of questions; they were just part of the background of the reform initiatives in which I was participating, and they had a strong ethical pull on me because I often longed for similar social justice outcomes to those that the reformers were seeking.

What I found refreshing in Ferguson's book is that he shifted the problematic away from these sorts of technocratic questions while also remaining deeply committed to ethico-political concerns. Ferguson observed, rightly in my opinion, that it is not surprising that development projects routinely "fail" to accomplish their stated aims because they aren't setup in a way that they possibly could. It struck me that educational reformers and socially-minded technology designers are often caught in a similar predicament: for a variety of reasons they are compelled to promise outcomes that many people want but that the experts don't have the power to realize, even with the seemingly unprecedented powers of new technologies. If we acknowledge as much, we can start asking different questions, such as: How do these sorts of projects persist as a favored mode of social change despite a long history of disappointments? What do they produce even as they fall short of their stated aims? And how does all this happen? Tania Murray Li's book, and particularly her notions of *problematization* and *rendering technical,* helped provide tools for answering these sorts of questions. James Scott's *Seeing Like a State* was also helpful in this regard, as was Timothy Mitchell's *Rule of Experts* and many others!

IS: Disruptive fixation is a really fruitful concept. In what ways do you envision other scholars thinking through this concept to help them better understand and be reflexive in their own work?

CS: It's difficult to predict and impossible to control if and how others will take up the concept, but I can speculate about the sorts of situations where the concept may be useful based on my own attempts to think through its potential applicability to other cases. In the most general

> "Often, idealistic feelings and ideas about the seemingly unprecedented powers of new technologies and techniques play a prominent role in how these interventions are envisioned and justified."

sense, I use the concept to refer to a social process in which widespread and often genuine longings for substantive social change get translated into expert-designed interventions that end up unintentionally remaking and sometimes exacerbating many of the patterns and problems that they are designed to redress. The process appears to recur, albeit in new forms and in different historical conditions, when experts are charged with solving problems whose origins and dynamics are far beyond their reach. Often, idealistic feelings and ideas about the seemingly unprecedented powers of new technologies and techniques play a prominent role in how these interventions are envisioned and justified. This techno-idealistic orientation helps win resources and legitimation for a new intervention, and it helps recruit many people who commit themselves in sincere ways to the cause. But, that idealism also entails many blind spots. More specifically, it leads experts to figure the worlds into which they intend to intervene as if those worlds are both intelligible and controllable with the new tools and techniques that the experts have on hand, which is where Li's notions of problematization and rendering technical come into play. Because of these blind spots, factors and forces that were overlooked during processes of problematization and rendering technical quickly overflow a project as soon as it is launched, and this overflowing significantly destabilize reformers' carefully crafted plans. James Ferguson has a terrific description of this moment of destabilization, so it is worth quoting:

"[The] project was not simply acting on a system in place, but was itself acted on; grabbed and pulled and twisted every which way by forces it did not understand or have the means to deal with. When the project set itself down in Thaba-Tseka it quickly found itself in the position not

of a craftsman approaching his raw materials, but more like that of a bread crumb thrown into an ants' nest" (1994, 224-5).

This barrage of destabilizing forces compels those charged with executing an intervention to quickly look for ways to stabilize the project, and it is through this urgent search for stabilizing resources that social processes and asymmetrical relations of power end up being fixed and extended into familiar and often problematic forms.

When I was trying to map out the dynamics of this process, I was obviously thinking about my own ethnographic case study as well as various well-intentioned development interventions, such as those studied by Ferguson and Li. But I also kept thinking of various forms of military interventionism and, particularly, the U.S. wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that began in the early 2000s. While these are obviously very different from a school reform project, they seemed to follow an analogous process in terms of some of the ways they were called for, envisioned, and justified, as well as in the chaos that ensued after they were launched, and in the manner by which actors then attempted to regain a semblance of control amidst the chaos.

IS: Your excellent book effectively and astutely highlights how, despite earnest attempts at education reform, this particular technologically driven intervention reproduced the very inequalities and inequities it set out to disrupt. That said, without, of course, echoing "sanctioned counterpractices," were there any successful interventions you would like to highlight?

CS: In the cases I've been closest to, there are always some "success stories" that are

"Those myths endure in part because of how we isolate and ritually celebrate the success stories, and the endurance of those myths plays a powerful role in shaping how efforts at social change are imagined and made."

comforting to tell and warmly received. So, for example, in the case study that is at the center of my book, I was quite moved by several lower-income students of color who seemed to be genuinely benefitting from the intervention and in ways that they probably wouldn't have if they had attended a more conventional school. Similarly, I was inspired by a special week-long period that occurred at the end of every trimester in which regular school routines were suspended and something more akin to the idealized version of the intervention was enacted. The problem, as you begin to note in your reference to the book's discussion of the concept of *sanctioned counterpractices*, is that Americans, in particular, have a tendency to isolate and celebrate these success stories at the expense of a more sobering and systemic analysis. In many ways it's the Horatio Alger problem, where a few hopeful cases appear to affirm a legitimating myth or discourse, such as those linking meritocracy, educational opportunities, technological expertise, and social mobility. Those myths endure in part because of how we isolate and ritually celebrate the success stories, and the endurance of those myths plays a powerful role in shaping how efforts at social change are imagined and made.

Take, for example, the heartwarming stories we hear from organizations like Code.org. They do a good job of affirming hopeful feelings about the prospect of lifting today's young people, regardless of their background, into the celebrated occupations of the new economy. But if you look at the actual and projected division of labor in the U.S., it's a fantasy to think that our educational systems can be reformed in ways that will allow all of today's young people to someday participate in a middle-class life, if only they work hard and play by the rules. I ran the

numbers a few years ago, and the percentage of U.S. workers that the Bureau of Labor Statistics anticipated to be employed in Computing and IT professions within ten years was something like 2.75%. And many of the occupations that are anticipated to produce the most jobs in the years ahead are low-paying and do not require extensive higher educational training. Given the structure of the division of labor that we've allowed and to some degree engineered, and given that educational systems not only sort people into this division of labor but also legitimate the sorting, it's not surprising that we see increasingly fierce and divisive competitions amongst parents as they attempt to provide their children with a leg up in the educational contests that mediate access to what's left of the middle classes. It's similarly not surprising that families that are relatively privileged are much better positioned to win these contests. If we really want to get out of this competitive and divisive dynamic – which nobody seems to like – then it seems to me that we need to focus on what we can do to ensure that all people can live secure, meaningful, and dignified lives in and beyond their work. We have to focus on ameliorating the inequalities in the conditions through which people make their lives, and not just on educational inequalities and barriers to social mobility.

> "Simply put, educational systems can't solve many of the problems with which they are routinely tasked."

IS: What are some ideas you would proffer to help create a more just and equitable education system? Does technology and new media with its diverse affordances have any part in this process?

CS: As I was getting at toward the end of my last answer, one of the things I hope readers will take from my book is that if we want to address things like systemic inequality then we have to look beyond educational systems as a mode of bringing about hoped-for transformations.

Simply put, educational systems can't solve many of the problems with which they are routinely tasked. So, if we're serious about addressing those problems, we have to look at how to change other structures and that means talking about politics. That said, educational systems can be designed in better or worse ways for those they aim to help, and media technologies will play a role in however those systems are designed. If we lower our expectations about what educational systems can accomplish, then there are lots of more modest ways in which experts and practitioners can try to be of benefit to those they aim to help. Unfortunately, however, these more modest improvements take time and require deep and mutual engagements with the intended beneficiaries. Moreover, because we live in a diverse and heterogeneous society, we can't expect solutions that are developed in dialog with one group of intended beneficiaries to work with another. Put differently, we can't expect solutions to easily "scale." One of the big challenges for those of us who are entangled in educational systems is that we are compelled to overpromise in order to secure the resources we need in order to do our work, and even then much of what we can do has been delimited by forces we cannot control. If we admit the limits of our power, we're more likely to succeed, but then it's also difficult to secure resources in our current systems.

IS: How have your findings influenced your overall research agenda? That is, what do you see as the core questions motivating your research going forward?

CS: I've been increasingly interested in the sources, allure, and sociopolitical consequences of what I above glossed as technological idealism, particularly in relation to historical changes in the organization of capitalism. Much

of my new work is historical, but I'm trying to approach these topics with similar orientations to those that I developed while working on my last book, which was largely ethnographic. For example, I'm especially interested in how idealistic feelings and ideas about new technologies are learned and experienced in concrete ways. When you start talking about idealism, it can be tempting to fixate on ideas or consciousness: on what people said, on how they justified themselves, on the sociotechnical imaginaries they constructed, and so forth. All of that interests me but I also want to understand how idealistic feelings and ideas are produced and experienced in practice, and for that I think we have to look more closely at the relations and affinities between various technocultures and religious practices. I think we have to get a handle on how those practices were produced and changed in historically situated ways in order to get a handle on the workings and consequences of techno-idealism.

FEATURED RESEARCH

Shelley Boulianne
MacEwan University

Boulianne, Shelley. "**Twenty Years of Digital Media Effects on Civic and Political Participation."** *Communication Research.*

More than 300 studies have been published on the relationship between digital media and engagement in civic and political life. With such a vast body of research, it is 22difficult to see the big picture of how this relationship has evolved across time and across the globe. This article offers unique insights into how this relationship manifests across time and space, using a meta-analysis of existing research. This approach enables an analysis of a 20-year period, covering 50 countries and including survey data from more than 300,000 respondents. While the relationship may vary cross-nationally, the major story is the trend data. The trend data show a pattern of small, positive average coefficients turning into substantial, positive coefficients. These larger coefficients may be explained by the diffusion of this technology across the masses and changes in the types of use, particularly the rise of social networking sites and tools for online political participation.

Angèle Christin
Stanford University

Christin, Angèle. "**Counting Clicks: Quantification and Variation in Web Journalism in the United States and France."** *American Journal of Sociology.*

Sociological studies often emphasize the role of metrics in broader processes of convergence and homogenization. Yet numbers can take on different meanings depending on their contexts. This article focuses on the case of journalism, a field transformed by quantification in the form of "clicks." Drawing on ethnographic material gathered at two news websites—one in New York, the other in Paris—it documents important differences in the uses and meanings assigned to audience metrics in the United States and France. At the U.S. website, editors make significant decisions based on metrics, but staff journalists are relatively unconcerned by them. At the French website, however, editors are conflicted about metrics, but staff writers fixate on them. To understand these differences, this article analyzes how the trajectories of the U.S. and French journalistic fields affect newsroom dynamics. It shows how cultural differences can

be reproduced at a time of technological convergence.

Simon Gottschalk
University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Gottschalk, Simon. ***The Terminal Self Everyday Life in HyperModern Times.*** Routledge.

At the dawn of the 21st century, we must increasingly interact with computer terminals in order to participate in everyday life. These interactions require that we adjust to five terminal 'default settings': interactivity, personalization, visibility, connectivity, and surveillance. These adjustments disrupt, respectively, five key domains of social life: sensory-motor, cognitive, and perceptual aptitudes, intrapersonal experience, a sense of identity, interpersonal relations, and routine participation in social institutions. These disruptions impair users' skills and knowledge, compromise their experiences, infantilize them, and prompt the emergence of a terminal self. Increasingly dragged to the terminal and ordered to sync to its logic, the terminal self both manifests contemporary cultural trends and accelerates them. Combining symbolic interaction and hypermodern theory, this book examines these disruptions and suggests ways to resist them.

Peter Hart-Brinson
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire

Hart-Brinson, Peter. 2018. ***The Gay Marriage Generation: How the LGBTQ Movement Transformed American Culture.*** New York University Press.

How did gay marriage—something unimaginable two decades ago—come to feel inevitable to even its staunchest opponents? Drawing on over 95 interviews with two generations of Americans, as well as historical

analysis and public opinion data, Peter Hart-Brinson argues that a fundamental shift in our understanding of homosexuality sparked the generational change that fueled gay marriage's unprecedented rise. Hart-Brinson shows that the LGBTQ movement's evolution and tactical responses to oppression caused Americans to reimagine what it means to be gay and what gay marriage would mean to society at large. While older generations grew up imagining gays and lesbians in terms of their behavior, younger generations came to understand them in terms of their identity. Over time, as the older generation and their ideas slowly passed away, they were replaced by a new generational culture that brought gay marriage to all fifty states. Through revealing interviews, Hart-Brinson explores how different age groups embrace, resist, and create society's changing ideas about gay marriage. Religion, race, contact with gay people, and the power of love are all topics that weave in and out of these fascinating accounts, sometimes influencing opinions in surprising ways. The book captures a wide range of voices from diverse social backgrounds at a critical moment in the culture wars, right before the turn of the tide. The story of gay marriage's rapid ascent offers profound insights about how the continuous remaking of the population through birth and death, mixed with our personal, biographical experiences of our shared history and culture, produces a society that is continually in flux and constantly reinventing itself anew.

Gary T. Marx
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Gillham, Patrick F. and Gary T. Marx. **"Changes in the Policing of Civil Disorders Since the Kerner Report: The Police Response to Ferguson, August 2014, and Some Implications for the Twenty-First Century."** *The Russel Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 4(6).

The Kerner Commission identified factors contributing to police ineffectiveness during the 1960s civil disorders. Since release of the Kerner report, the frequency and intensity of civil disorders has declined and the policing of disorders has changed. Using the report recommendations as a framework, we analyze changes in police disorder management during the 2014 events in Ferguson as these involve operational planning and equipment. Data for the Ferguson case are constructed from media reports, police and activist accounts, after action reports, and field observations. We link changes seen in Ferguson to larger institutional changes in law enforcement over the last fifty years. We conclude with discussions on what did and did not work in the policing of Ferguson and highlight implications for policing of protest and disorder in the twenty-first century.

Marx, Gary T. 2018. **"Inside the Tent: Some Reflections on Working for the 1967 Kerner Commission."** *The Harvest of American Racism.*

In the summer of 1967, in response to violent demonstrations that rocked 164 U.S. cities, the National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders, a.k.a. the Kerner Commission, was formed. The Commission sought reasons for the disturbances, including the role that law enforcement played. Chief among its research projects was a study of 23 American cities, headed by social psychologist Robert Shellow. An early draft of the scientists' analysis, titled "The Harvest of American Racism: The Political Meaning of Violence in the Summer of 1967," provoked the Commission's staff in November 1967 by uncovering political causes for the unrest; the team of researchers was fired, and the controversial report remained buried at the LBJ Presidential Library until now….This article expands on the recollections and offers further thoughts about the Commission, the role of commissions more generally and a critique of the hastily written last chapter of the report.

Guzik, Keith and Gary T. Marx. *Forthcoming.* **"Global Security Surveillance."** *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Criminology and Criminal Justice.*

Recent literature at the intersections of surveillance, security, and globalization trace the contours of global security surveillance (GSS), a distinct form of social control that combines traditional and technical means to extract or create personal or group data transcending national boundaries to detect and respond to criminal and national threats to the social order. In contrast to much domestic state surveillance (DSS), GSS involves coordination between public and private law enforcement, security providers, and intelligence services across national borders to counteract threats to collectively-valued dimensions of the global order as defined by surveillance agents. While GSS builds upon past forms of state monitoring, sophisticated technologies, the preeminence of neoliberalism, and the uncertainty of post-Cold War politics lend it a distinctive quality. GSS promises better social control against both novel and traditional threats, but it also risks weakening individual civil liberties and increasing social inequalities.

Marx, Gary T. 2017. **"What's It All About?' Reflections on Meaning in a Career."** *Sociological Lives.*

Marx, Gary T. 2018. **"Where does the truth lie, or does it? Varieties of Verite."** Introduction for Kam C. Wong, *Public Order Policing in Hong Kong –The Mongkok Riot.* Palgrave.

Laura Robinson
Santa Clara University

Robinson, Laura, Øyvind N. Wiborg, and Jeremy Schulz. 2018. **"Interlocking Inequalities: Digital Stratification Meets Academic Stratification."** *American Behavioral Scientist.*

This article examines digital inequality in conjunction with curricular tracking on academic achievement. Our survey data come from a large American public high school with a predominantly disadvantaged student body. The school's elective tracking system and inadequate digital resources make for an excellent case study of the effects of a differentiated curriculum and digital inequalities on academic achievement. Multilevel random-effects and fixed-effects regression models applied to the survey data reveal the important role played by digital inequalities in shaping academic achievement as measured by GPA. As the models establish, academic achievement is positively correlated with both duration of digital experience and usage intensity regarding academically useful computing activities, even when students' curricular and class placement are taken into account. In contrast, both leisure computing and smartphone usage are negatively correlated with academic achievement as measured by GPA. Also with regard to GPA, findings show that students in the higher curricular tracks benefit more from longer durations of digital experience than do students in lower curricular tracks. These results underscore the importance of focusing attention on the ways in which digital inequalities combine with curricular tracking in shaping academic achievement.

Robinson, Laura. 2018. **"The Identity Curation Game: Digital Inequality, Identity Work, and Emotion Management."** *Information, Communication & Society*

The research examines an understudied facet of digital inequality: how digital inequality impacts identity work and emotion management. The analysis reveals how unequal access to digital resources shapes how well youths are able to play what I call the identity curation game. Digital resources determine youths' ability to succeed in this game that is governed by three implicit rules: (1) constantly update or be sidelined, (2) engage in constant reciprocated identity-affirming interactions, and (3) maintain a strategy of vigilance to remove traces of failed identity performances. This article draws on Symbolic Interactionism and pays particular attention to Hochschild's theory of emotion management. Drawing on these frameworks, the findings reveal how under-resourced youths experience connectivity gaps that disrupt their ability to play the identity curation game, as well as the resulting emotional consequences. Under-resourced youths manage distinctive negative emotions arising from connectivity gaps that hinder their digital identity work, as well as engaging in distinct kinds of suppressive work to police their own emotions including longing, envy, shame, frustration, and stigmatization. In making these linkages, the research reveals the cascading effects of digital inequality among youths where constant connectivity is the sine qua non of social inclusion.

Robinson, Laura and Brian Gran. 2018. **"No Kid is An Island: Privacy Scarcities and Digital Inequalities."** *American Behavioral Scientist.*

This article examines how digital inequalities give rise to privacy practices and resource acquisition strategies among disadvantaged youths. Based on in-depth interview data, the article probes the hidden costs of digital inequality among high school students in an agricultural belt of California. The analysis pays special attention to high-achieving students engaging in capital-enhancing activities such as schoolwork and college applications

necessitating the use of digital resources. The findings examine the emotional costs paid by disadvantaged strivers whose privacy is compromised in their struggles to obtain the digital resources critical to college admissions, scholarship, and financial aid applications—almost all of which must be completed online. More specifically, the data show how youths facing a dearth of digital resources must manage their lack of physical privacy and digital footprints, as well as adaptively disclose private information to resource gatekeepers. When underresourced youths seek digital resources necessary for capital-enhancing activities, they must weigh the benefits of access to resources against the emotional costs of potentially shaming disclosures. In this way, for these youths lacking resources but with high educational aspirations, privacy and resource acquisition are negotiated processes that require emotional labor.

Michael Schudson
Columbia Journalism School

Edited by Pozen, David E. and Michael Schudson. 2018. ***Troubling Transparency: The History and Future of Freedom of Information.*** Columbia University Press

Today, transparency is a widely heralded value, and the U.S. Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is often held up as one of the transparency movement's canonical achievements. Yet while many view the law as a powerful tool for journalists, activists, and ordinary citizens to pursue the public good, FOIA is beset by massive backlogs, and corporations and the powerful have become adept at using it for their own interests. Close observers of laws like FOIA have begun to question whether these laws interfere with good governance, display a deleterious anti-public-sector bias, or are otherwise inadequate for the twenty-first century's challenges. *Troubling*

Transparency brings together leading scholars from different disciplines to analyze freedom of information policies in the United States and abroad—how they are working, how they are failing, and how they might be improved. Contributors investigate the creation of FOIA; its day-to-day uses and limitations for the news media and for corporate and citizen requesters; its impact on government agencies; its global influence; recent alternatives to the FOIA model raised by the emergence of "open data" and other approaches to transparency; and the theoretical underpinnings of FOIA and the right to know. In addition to examining the mixed legacy and effectiveness of FOIA, contributors debate how best to move forward to improve access to information and government functioning. Neither romanticizing FOIA nor downplaying its real and symbolic achievements, *Troubling Transparency* is a timely and comprehensive consideration of laws such as FOIA and the larger project of open government, with wide-ranging lessons for journalism, law, government, and civil society.

Schudson, Michael. 2018. ***Why Journalism Still Matters.*** Polity Press.

Can we talk about the news media without proclaiming journalism either our savior or the source of all evil? It is not easy to do so, but it gets easier if we put the problems and prospects of journalism in historical and comparative perspective, view them with a sociological knowledge of how newsmaking operates, and see them in a political context that examines how political institutions shape news as well as how news shapes political attitudes and institutions. Adopting this approach, Michael Schudson examines news and news institutions in relation to democratic theory

and practice, in relation to the economic crisis that affects so many news organizations today and in relation to recent discussions of "fake news." In contrast to those who suggest that journalism has had its day, Schudson argues that journalism has become more important than ever for liberal democracies as the keystone institution in a web of accountability for a governmental system that invites public attention, public monitoring and public participation. For the public to be swayed from positions people have already staked out, and for government officials to respond to charges that they have behaved corruptly or unconstitutionally or simply rashly and unwisely, the source of information has to come from organizations that hold themselves to the highest standards of verification, fact-checking, and independent and original research, and that is exactly what professional journalism aspires to do.

Schudson, Michael 2018, paperback. *The Rise of the Right to Know: Politics and the Culture of Transparency, 1945-1975.* Harvard University Press.

The American founders did not endorse a citizen's right to know. More openness in government, more frankness in a doctor's communication with patients, more disclosure in a food manufacturer's package labeling, and more public notice of actions that might damage the environment emerged in our own time. As **Michael Schudson** shows in *The Rise of the Right to Know*, modern transparency dates to the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s—well before the Internet—as reform-oriented politicians, journalists, watchdog groups, and social movements won new leverage. At the same time, the rapid growth of higher education after 1945, together with its expansive ethos of inquiry and criticism, fostered both insight and oversight as public values. Schudson provides case studies of precedent-setting disclosure practices: the

Freedom of Information Act (1966), reforms of supermarket labeling (1970s), sunshine legislation in the Congress (1970), the complicated conceptual and legislative origin of the "environmental impact statement," and newsroom changes that increased the independence and analytical sophistication of news coverage after 1968. These changes brought a "right to know" into political life and helped define a new era for representative democracy—less focus on parties and elections, more pluralism and more players, year-round monitoring of government, and a blurring line between politics and society, public and private. The rise of openness marks a new stage in self-government.
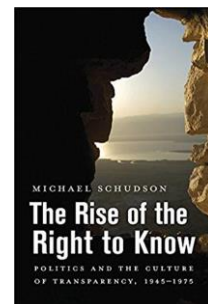
Daniel B. Shank
Missouri University of Science and Technology

Project: The Perceived Morality and Mind of Artificially Intelligent Agents.

Several questions frame my research: Do people perceive AIs to be moral wrongdoers? Are AIs attributed morality differently from humans? Does this change for human-AI teams? When do people perceive AIs as having a mind? When do people perceive AIs as committing a moral wrong? I have conducted four studies that begin to address these questions. Two experimental studies show people's reactions to real-life media-publicized events where AIs' actions lead to moral violation outcomes. Specifically, they show that people do blame AIs when AIs are the proximal agent in a wrongdoing, but this blame is weaker than the blame for humans in the same position. For human-AI teams, the humans get the lion's share of the blame. Two qualitative studies reveal the conditions which people

perceive an AI to have a mind or to commit a moral wrong in their everyday personal interactions with it. A majority of participants when reporting an encounter where they perceived mind in an AI simultaneously experienced emotions such as surprise, amazement, happiness, disappointment, amusement, unease, or confusion, suggesting a link. The study on morality allowed participants to report AIs which violate one of the six different moral foundations, and it is currently being analyzed.

Jason A. Smith
George Mason University

Smith, Jason A. 2018. **"Learning from a 'Teachable Moment': The Henry Louis Gates Arrest as Media Spectacle and Theorizing Colorblind Racism."** *Media and Power in International Contexts.*

Racism in the United States is complex given the cultural logics that uphold notions of "post-race" or "colorblindness" as a means for understanding racialized events. The various forces at play within media institutions create paradoxes in the power that the media wields in society. Utilizing the concept of "media spectacle" and putting it into dialogue with colorblind racism, the author looks at local coverage of the 2009 arrest of Henry Louis Gates. The author's primary concern is to identify not only the narratives that uphold or challenge colorblind racism during racialized events, but also the dynamic in which racialized events are mediated in contemporary society. Through a critical discourse analysis of two Boston newspapers, the author demonstrates the way colorblind racism adapts during a racialized event. This study demonstrates the contested nature of the media and nuance to the ways we understand colorblind racism in an increasingly mediated society.

Roberta Spalter-Roth, Jean Shin, Jason A. Smith, Amber C. Kalb, Kyle K. Moore, Ismail Cid-Martinez,and Jermaine Toney. 2018. **"'Raced' Organizations and the Academic Success of URM Faculty Members in Sociology."** *Sociology of Race & Ethnicity.*

Racism in the United States is complex given the cultural logics that uphold notions of "post-race" or "colorblindness" as a means for understanding racialized events. The various forces at play within media institutions create paradoxes in the power that the media wields in society. Utilizing the concept of "media spectacle" and putting it into dialogue with colorblind racism, the author looks at local coverage of the 2009 arrest of Henry Louis Gates. The author's primary concern is to identify not only the narratives that uphold or challenge colorblind racism during racialized events, but also the dynamic in which racialized events are mediated in contemporary society. Through a critical discourse analysis of two Boston newspapers, the author demonstrates the way colorblind racism adapts during a racialized event. This study demonstrates the contested nature of the media and nuance to the ways we understand colorblind racism in an increasingly mediated society.

Smith, Jason A. 2018. **Book review of Media Activism in the Digital Age, edited by Victor Pickard and Guobin Yang.** *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, online first.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Call for Papers: Media Sociology Preconference 2019

Venue: LIM College, New York, NY

Date: August 9, 2019

We invite submissions for a preconference on media sociology to be held at LIM College in Manhattan on Friday, August 9, 2019. (This is one day before the start of the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in NYC.) To encourage the widest possible range of submissions, we have no pre-specified theme again this year and invite both theoretical and empirical papers on any topic related to media sociology. Submissions from graduate students and junior scholars are particularly welcome.

This preconference, now in its seventh consecutive year, is linked to an effort to strengthen media sociology within the ASA: After a long period of negotiation, the media sociology steering committee was able to broker a deal with the Communication and Information Technologies section (CITASA) at the end of 2014. CITASA officially changed its section name to "Communication, Information Technologies and Media Sociology" in 2015 and is officially sponsoring the Media Sociology Preconference in 2019. **Free registration to the preconference will be offered to all current CITAMS members.**

Media sociology has long been a highly diverse field spanning many topics, methodologies, and units of analysis. It encompasses all forms of mass-mediated communication and expression, including news media, entertainment media, as well as digital ("new") and non-digital ("old") media. Outstanding research exists within the different subfields both within and beyond the discipline of sociology. Our aim is to create dialogue among these disparate yet complementary traditions.

Papers may be on a variety of topics including, but not limited to:
-production processes and/or media workers
-political economy (including the role of the state and markets)
-media and the public sphere
-mediatization
-media content
-the Internet, social media, cellular phones, or other technology

-the digital divide
-new uses of media
-media globalization or diaspora
-media effects of media consumption
-identity, the self, and media

Invited Speakers

Past keynote speakers have included Dhiraj Murthy (Goldsmiths, University of London), Clayton Childress (University of Toronto – Scarborough), Eric Grollman (University of Richmond), Nicholas Boston (Lehman College, CUNY), and Jen Schradie (Sciences Po).

We are pleased to announce that this year's keynote speaker will be Phillipa Chong (McMaster University).

A special plenary session in the afternoon, "Media Representations of Crime: Constructing Culture and Shaping Social Life," will feature Julie B. Wiest (panel organizer and moderator), Valerie J. Callanan (Kent State University), Nickie Phillips (St. Francis College), and additional speakers TBA. This plenary is sponsored by Emerald Studies in Media and Communications.

Submissions

We will accept both individual abstract submissions and fully constituted panel submissions (of 4-5 participants).

Individual paper submissions should include:
-Title, name and affiliation, and email address of author(s).
-Abstract of 150-200 words that discusses the problem, research, methods and relevance.
-Use Microsoft Office or PDF format.

Panel proposal submissions should include:
-Title of panel and 100-word rationale.
-Titles, names and affiliations, and email addresses of panelists.
-Abstracts of 150-200 words for each presentation that discusses the problem, research, methods and relevance.
-Use Microsoft Office or PDF format.

Send submissions to casey.brienza@gmail.com. Please write "Media Sociology Preconference" in the subject line.

Abstract deadline is March 31, 2019
Notification of acceptance will occur sometime in mid-April.
Contact Casey Brienza (casey.brienza@gmail.com) for more information about the preconference.

PPDD 2019 International Conference

22-24 May 2019 – Washington, District of Columbia, USA

Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide (PPDD) is the only academic professional organization in the world focused solely on the digital divide and on connecting research to policymaking and practice to strategize actions and catalyze solutions to this pressing societal concern. The academic research and practitioner community represented by PPDD stands ready to advance the agenda on broadband and the digital divide, to address the many challenges and opportunities presented by the digital world, and to further evidence-based policymaking and practice so that all citizens can participate fully in the digital, networked age.

The interdisciplinary Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide 2019 International Conference brings together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners for an extended, in-depth dialogue about key issues that inform information and communication technologies and the digital divide around the world. The Conference works to identify new areas of necessary, productive focus, foster greater understanding, advance research, and enlighten policy and practice going forward.

Please save the date (immediately before ICA) and plan to join us! For more information, visit http://www.ppdd.org/conferences/ppdd2019/.