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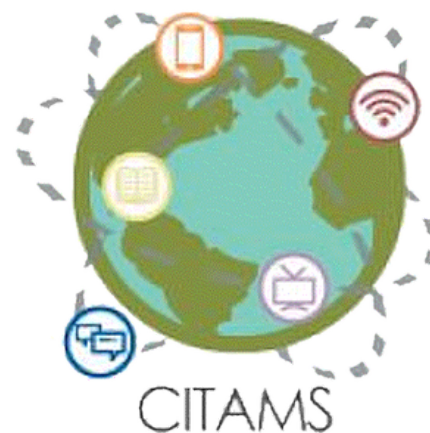
FEATURED ARTICLES

Helpful Links

CITAMS Homepage

CITAMS ASA Section Page

Slack Community: Sociologists of Digital Things

Newsletter Editors

Jeremy Brenner-Levoy, University of Cincinnati

Yijia Zhang, University of British Columbia

Risa Murase, UNC Chapel Hill

Don't forget to register for ASA!

119TH ASA ANNUAL MEETING

Intersectional Solidarities: Building Communities of Hope, Justice, and Joy

AUGUST 9-13, 2024
MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC

Early Bird Registration (register before July 12 at 11:59 p.m. Eastern)

Membership must be current through 8/14/2024 to receive the reduced member rate. If your membership expires before 8/14/2024, you must renew/join to receive the member rate. Your registration category will match your membership category. For example, only those with a Retired Sociologist membership can select Retired Sociologist registration.

$262 – Regular Member/Affiliate Member

$140 – Student/International Associate/Community College Faculty/Part-time Contingent Faculty/Not Employed Sociologist/Retired Sociologist/High School Teacher

Regular Registration (July 13 – August 13)

Membership must be current through 8/14/2024 to receive the reduced member rate. If your membership expires before 8/14/2024, you must renew/join to receive the member rate. Your registration category will match your membership category. For example, only those with a Retired Sociologist membership can select Retired Sociologist registration.

$319 – Regular Member/Affiliate Member

$185 – Student/International Associate/Community College Faculty/Part-time Contingent Faculty/Not Employed Sociologist/Retired Sociologist/High School Teacher

Registration info available here:

https://www.asanet.org/2024-annual-meeting/registration/

ASA 2023 CITAMS Sessions

Our amazing CITAMS Sessions!

MONDAY, AUGUST 12th

ASA Sections and Communities Open House
8:00 to 9:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 517A
Table 4: Section on Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13th

Media, Technology, and Emotion
8:00 to 9:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 519B
Presider: Timothy Recuber, Smith College

- Black Men, Film, and Affective Reflections
  - *Anthony Jerome Stone, University of Memphis*
- Data Auxiliaries: Making Online Dating 'Work' with Dating Spreadsheets
  - *Skyler Wang, University of California, Berkeley*
- Emotional Tipping Points: Digital Photography and Video as Moral Shocks in Online Social Movements
  - *Jeff T. Sheng, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*
- Political Claimsmaking and Emotional Expression
  - *Deana Rohlinger, Florida State University; Christian Alexander Vaccaro, Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Brian McKernan, Pace University*
- When the Baby Never Comes: Perinatal Loss and Claiming the (Cyber)Space for Grieving
  - *Ayrlia Welch, SUNY - Buffalo; Mari Plikuhn, University of Evansville; Elizabeth Long*

ASA 2023 CITAMS Sessions

The Sociology of Artificial Intelligence
10:00 to 11:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 519B
Presider: Taylor M. Cruz, California State University-Fullerton

- Attitudes Towards AI Text and Image Generation in Media Fandom Communities
    - *Irissa Cisternino, Stony Brook University*
- Goddess in the Machine: Constructing What Counts as Women in Livestreaming
    - *Jun Zhou, University of Michigan Ann Arbor*
- Opening the Black Box: Explaining Automated Software Systems
    - *Alka Menon, Yale University; Zabba A. Abba Omar, Yale University*
- The Rise of Open Science and Corporate Power in Artificial Intelligence Research
    - *Zhuofan Li, University of Arizona*
- Twitter Dreams of AI: Understanding AI Futurity Through Sentence Embeddings
    - *Stephanie Zhang, UCLA*

Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Roundtables
12:00 to 1:00pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 517A

- Table 01: COVID-19
- Table 02: Gaming
- Table 03: Sex and Gender
- Table 04: Artificial Intelligence
- Table 05: Political Communication
- Table 06: Social Inequality
- Table 07: Online Safety & Community
- Table 08: Media Studies
- Table 09: News Media
- Table 10: Social Movements
- Table 11: Theory & Methods

Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Business Meeting
1:00 to 1:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 517A

ASA 2023 CITAMS Sessions

Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Open Panel
2:00 to 3:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 511E
Presider: Celeste Campos-Castillo, Michigan State University

- Closure Mechanisms for the Creation of Audience Overlap in Triads of Social and Communication Platforms
  - Yu Xu, Northwestern University
- Data Practices of Singapore's Smart City
  - Josephine Seah
- More than Money and Metrics: Exploring the Journey of Atheist Influencers
  - Esther Chan, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee; Di Di, Santa Clara University
- Public Attitudes toward State and Corporate Privacy Invasions
  - Long Doan, University of Maryland-College Park; Brian T. Connor, University of Maryland-College Park
- Transparency and Trust: Race, Gender, and Surveillance in Romantic Relationships
  - Anna Gjika, SUNY-New Paltz; Fanny Ramirez

CITAMS-related sessions of interest!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10th

21022- Technology, Innovation, Uncertainty, and Change in Organizations
4:00 to 5:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 513F

21039 - Pandemic and AI Impacts on Teaching
4:00 to 5:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 519A

SUNDAY, AUGUST 11th

30408 - Politics of Artificial Intelligence
10:00 to 11:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 511D

30627 - The Joy of AI for Teaching and Learning in Sociology
12:00 to 1:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 515B

30822 - Social Media and the Internet II
2:00 to 3:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 513F

ASA 2023 CITAMS Sessions

MONDAY, AUGUST 12th

40221 - Media and Society
8:00 to 9:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 513E

40223 - Media, Memory, and Everyday Life: Cultural Narratives and Social Practice
8:00 to 9:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 514A

40420 - Sex, Sexualities, and Technologies
10:00 to 11:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 513D

40436 - Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology Roundtables
10:00 to 11:00am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 517C
- Table 4: Exploring digital spaces and technologies

40857 - Open Refereed Roundtables
2:00 to 3:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 7, 710A
- Table 18: Culture & Media
- Table 22: Media & Online Community

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13th

50232 - The 2024 Presidential Election and the Politics of Media
8:00 to 9:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 516D

50404 - Gendered Glitches: Race, Class, Gender, and Technology
10:00 to 11:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 510C

50630 - Surveillance and Technology
12:00 to 1:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 516B

50657 - Section on Sociology of Culture Roundtables
12:00 to 1:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 7, 710A
- Table 12: Extremely Online Culture

Recent Work from CITAMS Members

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

"Identity Theft, Trust Breaches, and the Production of Economic Insecurity" in the American Sociological Review.
By Jordan Brensinger.

Across various domains of social life, organizational reliance on personal data and exposure to unanticipated financial hardship have transformed Americans' life chances and access to opportunities. This article examines an area where they intersect: the hardship caused by breakdowns in information systems. I focus on the case of identity theft, showing how that event—experienced by tens of millions of Americans annually—contributes to economic insecurity. To do so, I first develop a theory of insecurity that links feelings of precariousness to breaches of trust at three levels: interpersonal, organizational, and systemic. Drawing on an original qualitative study of identity theft resolution, I find that most victims worried about their financial lives because they could no longer count on certain people, organizations, or systems. Beneath this commonality, race and class informed feelings of insecurity and associated coping strategies following identity theft. Low-income people and people of color tended to direct suspicion at personal networks and report ending relationships and informal assistance. In contrast, middle- and upper-income and White individuals disproportionately blamed organizations and demanded their protection. These findings—along with the trust-based theory that helped make them visible—have important implications for the study of insecurity, inequality, and trust in the information age.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224231189895

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"The Culture of Censorship: State Intervention and Complicit Creativity in Global Film Production." in the American Sociological Review.
By Jun Fang.

How does state censorship shape global creative production? To explore the merger of art and the state in a global context, I adopt a micro-sociological approach to examine the culture of censorship and reconceptualize censorship as an ongoing, social process. Based on participant observation within a global film studio and interviews with industry insiders in Beijing and Los Angeles, I investigate how global cultural producers navigate China's rigid film censorship system. My analysis reveals how China's state censors use multistage gatekeeping and intermediated censorship to infiltrate the creative process and exert global influence. I then show how informality transforms these organizational procedures into a relational process that is hard to trace. In this, studio executives and filmmakers are induced to engage in complicit creativity, seeking creative negotiations through working with, rather than against, the state; specifically, they practice

concession, reconfiguration, and collusion. These processes anchor a culture of censorship characterized by the symbiotic relationship between censors and creators, epitomizing a dynamic dance between everyday state power and everyday resistance. This relational model of censorship provides useful analytic scaffolding, extending our knowledge of the inner workings and consequences of state intervention in the new global cultural economy.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224241236750.

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"How Segregation Ruins Inference: A Sociological Simulation of the Inequality Equilibrium." in Social Forces.
 By Jonathan Mijs and Adaner Usmani.

Why do many people underestimate economic and racial inequality and maintain that theirs is a meritocratic society? Existing work suggests that people are rationalizing, misinformed, or misled. This article proposes an additional explanation: Inequality itself makes economic and racial disparities difficult to understand. In unequal societies, individuals establish their networks at formative institutions patterned by class and race. As a result, they unwittingly condition on key causal pathways when making descriptive and causal inferences about inequality. We use a simple agent-based model to show that, under circumstances typical to highly stratified societies, individuals will underestimate the extent of economic and racial inequality, downplay the importance of inherited advantages, and overestimate the relative importance of individual ability. Moreover, we show that they will both underestimate the extent of racial discrimination and overestimate its relative importance. Because segregated social worlds bias inference in these ways, all individuals (rich and poor) have principled reasons to favor less redistribution than they would if their social worlds were more integrated.
DOI: https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soae033

BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions for 2024
By Kristen M. Budd, Heather Dillaway, David C. Lane, Glenn W. Muschert, Manjusha Nair and Jason A. Smith

The Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions for 2024 provides accessible insights into some of the most pressing social problems and proposes public policy responses to those problems. The book will be of interest to scholars, practitioners, advocates and students interested in public sociology, the study of social problems and the pursuit of social justice.

https://policy.bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/agenda-for-social-justice-3
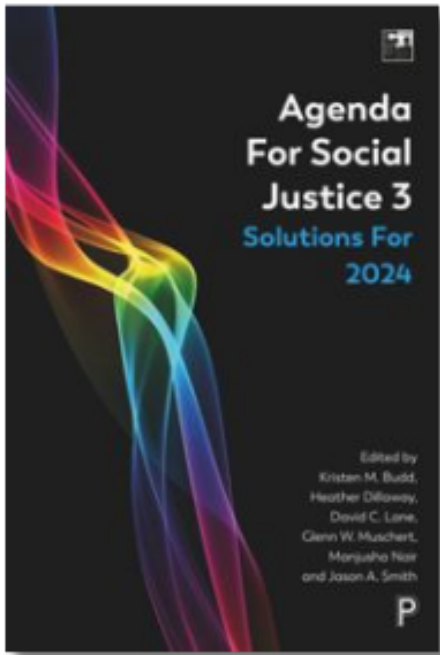
Noteworthy Publication CFPs At A Glance

Journal Special Issue CFPs At A Glance

Title	Organization/ Editors	Deadline
"Care-ful convening: towards low carbon and inclusive knowledge sharing"	Journal of Environmental Media	May 15, 2024
Dialogue Section: The promises and perils of synthetic data and surveillance	Surveillance & Society	June 1, 2024
A Brave New Democracy: The impact of social media, algorithms and AI on politics & citizenship	New Media & Society	June 1, 2024
Reimagining visual journalism theory and practice in the digital age	Digital Journalism	June 1, 2024
Guiding distinctions of social theory. Analogue guidelines or digital transformers?	Current Sociology	June 15, 2024
Technological Change, Power and Work	British Journal of Industrial Relations	July 31, 2024
Beyond traditional fieldwork -- Digital ethnography's role in understanding modern work(places)	Journal of Organizational Ethnography	November 1, 2024

Noteworthy CFPs

JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES

Special Issue for the Journal of Environmental Media
"Actualize" and "Fantasize" Sections of the Journal Special Issue on "Care-ful convening: towards low carbon and inclusive knowledge sharing"
Edited by Juliet Pinto and Patrick Brodie
This special issue will illustrate how numerous scholars have employed media theories and techniques to adjust decarbonization amidst precarity, leading to new forms of gathering to support one another and imaginatively blend head and heart, theory and practice, academia and activism. Its lessons must be brought to light alongside other sectors that may face similar challenges. In a context where competition for positions and financial resources is intense and facing sociotechnical change, such as the use of algorithms in journalism (Christin 2020), how can we imagine, test and make possible, convivial, lowtech, low-carbon, exploratory and equitable projects?
https://www.intellectbooks.com/asset/79161/1/JEM_6_2_CFP.pdf
Manuscript by May 15, 2024

Special issue of New Media & Society
A Brave New Democracy: The impact of social media, algorithms and AI on politics & citizenship
Edited by Karolina Koc-Michalska, Darren Lilleker, Bente Kalsnes, Homero Gil de Zuniga, and Thierry Vedel
This special issue aims to understand the role of new communication processes, the development of multiple platforms and the role of AI in reshaping political and social interactions, and how they are related to citizens, and their role as active actors in democratic or non-democratic societies. It aims to explore the roles of networked active publics within and across nations and the extent that their deliberative and communicative activities contribute positively or negatively to civic and democratic culture, pluralism and societal cohesion. It also aims to understand how organizations facilitate and employ AI, algorithmic based social media information, and other technological developments in building citizenry or on the contrary how they limit the role of individual citizens. Topics may include the construction of new norms and understandings of citizenship across the political spectrum, the replacement of civic groups with networked-based communication, and the proliferation of identity-based language codes. These features of changing citizen-communication ecologies may be involved in building a sense of community, altruism and belonging, but they may also facilitate polarization, antagonism, isolation, and disruption (Koc-Michalska et al., 2023).
https://heyzine.com/flip-book/ea268941cf.html#page/3
Abstract by Jun 1, 2024

Special issue of Surveillance & Society
Dialogue Section: The promises and perils of synthetic data and surveillance
Edited by Bryce Newell
We invite expressions of interest to write short (~2000-word) position papers for an upcoming Dialogue section of Surveillance & Society focused on the promises and perils of synthetic data. The Dialogue will address the surveillance implications raised by the development of synthetic data through machine learning processes, including those which serve as training data for artificial intelligence (AI) and generative AI applications. We aim to publish the section in the December 2024 issue of Surveillance & Society.
https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/wa-jisc.exe?A2=SURVEILLANCE;ba615588.2404
Abstract by Jun 1, 2024

Special issue of Digital Journalism
Reimagining visual journalism theory and practice in the digital age
Edited by T. J. Thomson, Ryan J. Thomas, Iulila Alieva, and Shangyuan Wu
This special issue examines the intersection of visual communication, emerging technology, and digital journalism, and has two primary aims. First, it seeks to explore how visual research methods and visualization approaches can be used to help map the present and future of visual journalism studies. Second, it seeks to critically interrogate and empirically assess how emergent technology is reinforcing, disrupting, or transforming the theory and practice of visual journalism. In doing so, the issue deepens our understanding of digital visual journalism studies as a field, while also providing urgently needed insight into how longstanding models, frameworks, and theories can be adapted or recast to account for the realities, challenges, and opportunities afforded by emerging visual technologies in journalism.
https://think.taylorandfrancis.com/special_issues/reimagining-visual-journalism-digital-age/
Abstract by June 1, 2024

Special issue of Current Sociology
Guiding distinctions of social theory. Analogue guidelines or digital transformers?
Edited by Steffen Roth, Steve Watson, Harry F. Dahms, and Arthur Atanesyan
ICT and the increasing availability of digital data are dramatically changing the processes of research and knowledge production in sociology. While the pace, scale, and scope of methodological innovation in digital sociology and the computational social sciences are impressive, theory development is much less dynamic in these fields (Roth 2019; Roth et al., 2019) not least due to resistance against the digital transformation, including the digital transformation of social theory, particularly among critical sociologists (Ossewaarde 2019). This mismatch is problematic as digital methods do not only provide ever-larger datasets for the testing of established theories, but also allow and even call for new forms of digital theorising (Kitchin 2014). Novel and innovative forms of theorising would imply the translation of analogue content into digital, binary distinctions such as 1/0.
https://derroth.com/2023/12/01/cfa-special-issue-guiding-distinctions-of-social-theory-analogue-guidelines-or-digital-transformers/
Abstract by June 15, 2024

Special issue of British Journal of Industrial Relations
Technological Change, Power and Work
Edited by Peter Turnbull

We invite contributions that explore both the theoretical and empirical aspects of different and emerging technologies that are currently transforming workplaces, including both traditional technological tools like automation and new ones like digitalization, robotization and AI, with particular attention to the technologies affecting frontline workers. Our main focus is on understanding how these technologies are socially integrated within particular sectors and workplaces. We need to consider the power dynamics that drive how work is reorganized and assess their effects on labour, such as work intensification, industrial democracy, and workers' autonomy and discretion in the workplace. Power is a central interest, and we welcome articles that explore the power of employers, forms of individual and collective resistance and influence by workers and trade unions to negotiate technological change, and interventions by states at both national and supra-national levels. We welcome articles that explore the opportunities and resources available for organised labour to mobilise in countering some of the more deleterious effects of technological change.

https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/pb-assets/assets/14678543/cfp/BJIR-CFP-Technological-Change-Power-and-Work-1710467358137.pdf

Long Abstract by July 31, 2024

Special Issue of the Journal of Organizational Ethnography
Beyond traditional fieldwork: Digital ethnography's role in understanding modern work(places)
Edited by Marko Orel and Heidi Dahles

This special issue explores the evolving role of ethnography in organization and management studies, focusing particularly on its application in workplace research. Originating from anthropology and gaining prominence through the Malinowskian paradigm of the 1930s, ethnography combines fieldwork with ethnographic writing (Clifford, 1986; Hirsch & Gellner, 2001). It has evolved to address the complexities of modern organizational environments, including digital and hybrid workplaces (Luff & Heath, 2019; Ritter, 2021). Initially used by psychologists and sociologists in the early 20th century, organizational ethnography now delves into work-life experiences, workplace cultures, and power dynamics (Zickar & Carter, 2010; Brannan et al., 2007). The digital era, marked by global pandemics and technological advancements, has catalyzed the rise of digital ethnography or 'netnography' (Dominguez et al., 2007; Murthy, 2008; Góralska, 2020). This method has been instrumental in understanding remote work dynamics, gender relations, and mental health challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic (Manzo et al., 2020; Gera & Hasdell, 2021; Watson & Lupton, 2022). That being said, this issue aims to expand discussions on the utility and challenges of digital ethnography in workplace studies. It will cover a range of topics, including the contribution of ethnography to organizational studies, the impact of digital methods on workplace research, issues in ethnographic writing, and the role of ethnography in corporate strategy and intervention. Finally, it will explore new fields and forms in workplace ethnography, such as the use of immersive technologies (i.e., XR), and critique digital approaches in this context.

https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/calls-for-papers/beyond-traditional-fieldwork-digital-ethnographys-role-understanding-modern

Full Manuscript by November 1, 2024

Conferences

Born-Digital Collections, Archives and Memory

Abstract by May 15, 2024

April 2-4, 2025, London & online

https://easychair.org/cfp/borndigital2025

Digital Media and Gaming Culture – NEPCA Hybrid Fall Conference 2024

Abstract by June 15, 2024

October 3-5, 2024, Dudley, MA & online

https://nepca.blog/2024/04/03/cfp-digital-media-and-gaming-culture-nepca-hybrid-fall-conference-2024/

58th Annual Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences (HICSS)

Abstract by June 15, 2024

January 7-10, 2025, Hawaii

http://hicss.hawaii.edu/authors/

Workshops

Generative AI as a method in social sciences

Abstract by May 13, 2024

June 27, 2024, Melbourne & online

https://ecrea.eu/page-18206/13344989

AI Governance in Global Dynamics at the Crossroads of Geopolitics and Technopolitics

Deadline: June 15, 2024

September 12-13, 2024, York University, Toronto, Canada

Grants and Awards

Internet Society Foundation Research Grant

Abstract by May 14, 2024

https://www.isocfoundation.org/grant-programme/research-grant-programme/?utm_source=Interview+Pollicy&utm_medium=linkedin&utm_campaign=Interview+Pollicy+Link

Labor Tech Research Network Book, Graduate Student Paper, and Social Justice Awards

Abstract by Jun 1, 2024

http://labortechresearchnetwork.org/index.php/call-for-submissions-labor-tech-research-network-book-graduate-student-paper-and-social-justice-awards/

Job Ads

Tenure-Track Faculty Position in Emerging Communication and Media Technologies
The University of Texas at Austin: Moody College of Communication:
School of Journalism and Media
Applications by Oct 1, 2024
https://apply.interfolio.com/144419

Want something included in the August newsletter?

We are accepting the following submissions through the linked google form:
- New Publications:
    - Recently published articles, book chapters, and books
- Conferences and CPFs Information:
    - Call for publications, conferences, and workshops due after August 2024
- Job Postings:
    - Job posts due after August 2024

If you would like to include any other information such as...
- Summaries of conferences, preconferences, workshops
- Other events related to CITAMS

please feel free to email Risa Murase (risa@live.unc.edu).