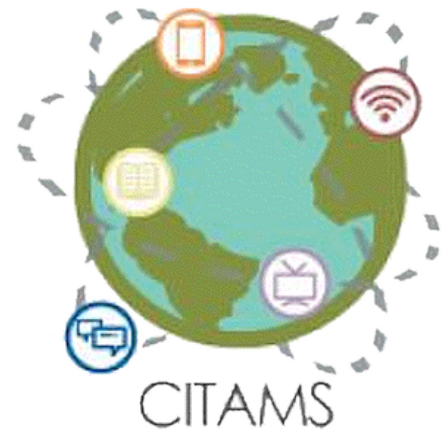


Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology section of the ASA



FEATURED ARTICLES

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Helpful Links

[CITAMS Homepage](#)

[CITAMS ASA Section Page](#)

[Slack Community: Sociologists of Digital Things](#)

Newsletter Editors

Irissa Cisternino, Stony Brook University

Risa Murase, UNC Chapel Hill

Letter from the Chair: Celeste Campos-Castillo

Much has changed since my last letter. This period has tested our adaptability as scholars, teachers, and technologists. We've reframed proposals, built new partnerships, and recalibrated course content, to name a few. In other words, we've done what we've always done: innovate.

We innovated because we remain committed to researching, teaching, and building systems, media, and forms of communication that enhance our society. The demand for our work remains strong and we are more determined than ever to meet this demand and create new pathways to achieve our desired ends.

As a section, we too have innovated over the past year. We built new partnerships with other sections. This includes co-sponsoring a paper session on artificial intelligence in the workplace with Organization, Occupations, and Work. We will be celebrating with them and three other sections at our reception. You can read more details about both events in the newsletter, along with other engaging events that our colleagues have put together.

We will be in good hands with incoming chair, Dhiraj Murthy. He will be joined by an amazing slate of new leaders: Neal Caren (Chair-elect), Hannah Waight (Secretary/Treasurer), Bibi Reisdorf (Council Member), Chao Yu (Council Member), Benjamin Shestakofsky (Nominations). I am grateful to Marcus Brooks and the rest of our Nominations Committee for thoughtfully putting together a slate of candidates for us.



Thank you to Tim Recuber (Past-chair), Daniel Karrell (Secretary/Treasurer), Stephanie Ortiz (Council Member), and Matt Rafalow (Council Member) for serving our section. I also wish to extend my gratitude to others from our section who gave the gift of their time, including our two newsletter editors: Risa Murase and Irissa Cisternino.

It's been a privilege to serve this extraordinary community and to help carry forward our shared mission.

Warmly,
Celeste Campos-Castillo
CITAMS Chair

Call for CITAMS Newsletter Editors

Get Involved with the CITAMS Community!

Join the Newsletter Editorial Team!

Are you looking to become more active in the CITAMS community? Here's your chance! We are seeking enthusiastic individuals to join the CITAMS newsletter editorial team for the 2025-26 academic year.

Being a part of the editorial team is a fantastic opportunity to learn about the work of your peers, network, and engage with the broader CITAMS community. A modest stipend is available. If you're interested, please reach out to Risa Murase at risa@live.unc.edu or Irissa Cisternino at irissa.cisternino@stonybrook.edu for more information.

ASA 2025 CITAMS SESSIONS

We hope to see you all in Chicago!!!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th

Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Roundtables

8:00 to 9:00am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level, Grand Ballroom A

- Table 01: Artificial Intelligence I
- Table 02: Artificial Intelligence II
- Table 03: Digital Infrastructure I
- Table 04: Digital Infrastructure II
- Table 05: Digital Phenomena, Broadly Construed
- Table 06: East and South Asia
- Table 07: Politics and Conspiracies
- Table 08: Social Media I
- Table 09: Social Media II
- Table 10: Social Media III

CITAMS Business Meeting

9:00 to 9:30am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level, Grand Ballroom A

Communication, Information Technology, and Media Sociology Open Topic Panel

10:00 to 11:30am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level, Michigan 2

Presider: Dhiraj Murthy, University of Texas at Austin

- Between Social Cohesion and Fragmentation: Exploring Digital Technologies in Neighborhood Activism
 - Niccolò Morelli, *Università di Genova*
- Generative Chatbots as Truth Tellers: A Turning Point in the Social Production of Shared Knowledge
 - Shanyang Zhao, *Temple University*
- "I Want Out": Expatriation, Meaning-Making Processes, and Racialized Discourse on Reddit
 - Victoria Lauren Isaac, *University of Illinois-Chicago*; Charity Coleman, *University of Illinois-Chicago*; Jiyoung Yoo, *University of Illinois-Chicago*
- Privacy and Power in the Smart Home: New Findings and Future Directions
 - Sarah Elizabeth Farr, *University of Michigan*; Denise L Anthony, *University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*; Chelsea Bruno, *University of Michigan*
- The Moral Orer of the Manosphere
 - Tomas Guarna, *Stanford University*; Angèle Christin, *Stanford University*

ASA 2025 CITAMS SESSIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th

Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace (Co-sponsored by Section on Organizations, Occupations and Work)

Sat, August 9, 2:00 to 3:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 2

Presider: MaryTherese Escueta, University of Delaware

- A Processual Approach to Skill Changes in Digital Automation: The Case of the Platform Economy
 - Jack Linzhou Xing, Georgia Institute of Technology; Naubahar Sharif
- Bridging the Human-AI Gap at Whose Cost? Skill and Organizational Alignment in AI Data Annotation Work
 - Tongyu Wu, Zhejiang University
- The Same New Story? AI as an Accelerator of Institutional Isomorphism
 - Franziska Hein-Pensel; Institut für Angewandte Informatik (InfAI) e. V.; Sabine Hartig, InfAI (University Leipzig); Sebastian Schuhmann, Institute for Applied Informatics at the University of Leipzig; Amit Kirschbaum, Institute for Applied Informatics at the University of Leipzig
- The Unexpected Value of Tedium: How Automation of Routine Expert Work Disrupts Professional-Client Identification in Medicine
 - Farnam Mohebi, University of California, Berkeley

MONDAY, AUGUST 11TH

Joint Reception: Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work; Section on Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology; Section on Sociology of Consumers and Consumption; Section on Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society

7:00 to 9:00pm, Offsite, D4 Irish Pub & Cafe

CITAMS-RELATED SESSIONS OF INTEREST

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9th

20461 - Teaching and Learning Symposium Roundtable Session

10:00 to 11:30am, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency B

- Table 1: AI, Identity, and Ethics
- Table 2: AI & Teaching

20861 - Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements Roundtables

2:00 to 3:00pm, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency B

- Table 5: How do Digital Technologies and New Media Influence Collective Action?

20881 - Section on Labor and Labor Movements Roundtables

2:00 to 3:00pm, Swissotel, Concourse Level, Zurich B

- Table 6: Technology and the Future of Work

21027 - Generative AI and the Future of Work

4:00 to 5:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Hall I

21054 - Media

4:00 to 5:30pm, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Bronze, Water Tower

21061 - Section on Race, Gender, and Class Roundtables

Sat, August 9, 4:00 to 5:00pm, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency B

- Table 3: Media, Art, and Culture

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th

30216 - Emerging Work Practices in the Age of AI

8:00 to 9:30am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Bronze, Roosevelt 3A

30260 - Joint Roundtables: Section on Social Psychology and Section on Sociology of Emotions

8:00 to 9:30am, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency A

- Table 5: Social Media and Attitudes

30416 - The Culture and Politics of Emerging Technology

10:00 to 11:30am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Bronze, Roosevelt 3A

CITAMS-RELATED SESSIONS OF INTEREST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10th (CONTD.)

30606 - Exploring the Impacts of Platform Work

12:00 to 1:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 2

30626 - Platform and Logistics Labor

12:00 to 1:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Hall H

30805 - Technology and Community Contexts and the Future

2:00 to 3:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Concourse Level/Bronze, Michigan 1C

30868 - Digital Communities, Cultural Narratives, and Social Trust

2:00 to 3:30pm, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Floor: Ballroom Level/Gold, San Francisco

MONDAY, AUGUST 11th

40214 - Digital Sociology: Politics, Artificial Intelligence, and Online Community

8:00 to 9:30am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Bronze Level/C Floor, Roosevelt 1

40228 - Education and Stratification in the AI Era

8:00 to 9:30am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Hall J

40266 - Technology and Organization of Family Life

8:00 to 9:30am, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Toronto

40816 - Digital Lives and Social Ties: Examining Identity, Agency, and Influence Online

2:00 to 3:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Bronze, Roosevelt 3A

40820 - Section on Sociology of Sex and Gender Roundtables

2:00 to 3:00pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Ballroom A

- Table 14: Gender, Tech, and Online Spaces

40827 - Platform Work

2:00 to 3:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Hall I

CITAMS-RELATED SESSIONS OF INTEREST

MONDAY, AUGUST 11th (CONTD.)

40829 - After GPT: How do we do Higher Ed now?

2:00 to 3:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Hall K

40860 - Section on Economic Sociology Roundtables

2:00 to 3:00pm, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency A

- Table 1: Algorithmic Economies

41021 - Student Forum Refereed Roundtables

4:00 to 5:30pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Ballroom B

- Table 13: Technology and the Evolution of Artificial Intelligence
- Table 20: Critical Media Studies

41059 - Gender, Representation, and Identity in Digital Media

4:00 to 5:30pm, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Concourse Level/Bronze, Wrigley

TUESDAY, AUGUST 12th

50220 - Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work Roundtables

8:00 to 9:00am, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Ballroom A

- Table 1: Technology and Platform Work
- Table 2: Automation and AI

50460 - Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology Roundtables

10:00 to 11:00am, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency A

- Table 4: Technologies of Governance

50462 - Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology Roundtables

10:00 to 11:00am, West Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Regency C

50620 - Section on Environmental Sociology Roundtables

12:00 to 1:00pm, East Tower, Hyatt Regency Chicago, Ballroom Level/Gold, Grand Ballroom A

- Table 16: Information Technology and the Environment

Election and Award Winner Announcements

2025-2026 CITAMS Council Election Results

We are pleased to announce the incoming CITAMS council. Congratulations to our incoming council members and thank you to all of the applicants.

Chair-Elect

Neal Caren

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Secretary/Treasurer

Hannah Waight

University of Oregon



Nominations Committee

Benjamin Shestakofsky

University of Pennsylvania



Council

Bibi Reisdorf

University of North Carolina at Charlotte



Election and Award Winner Announcements

2025-2026 CITAMS Council Election Results

We are pleased to announce the incoming CITAMS council. Congratulations to our incoming council members and thank you to all of the applicants.

Council

Chao Yu

Northwestern University



CITAMS Award Winner Announcements

BEST PAPER AWARD WINNERS

Arvind Karunakaran. 2024. "Frontline Professionals in the Wake of Social Media Scrutiny: Examining the Processes of Obscured Accountability". *Administrative Science Quarterly* 69(3), 747-790.

Professional accountability is considered important to the legitimacy and survival of a profession. Prior research has examined the role of top-down scrutiny by audiences, such as supervisors, regulators, and certification agencies, in improving professional accountability. But the advent of social media platforms has increasingly enabled the bottom-up scrutiny of professionals—especially professionals on the front line—by audiences such as customers and the public. In this research, I examine how and when bottom-up scrutiny through social media (hereafter, social media scrutiny) impacts the accountability of frontline professionals. Conducting an ethnography of 911 emergency management organizations, I find that social media scrutiny of 911 call-takers—the frontline professionals in this setting—can obscure rather than improve professional accountability. I elaborate on how, why, and under what conditions social media scrutiny pushes frontline professionals to deviate from their mandate, which, in turn, obscures their sense of professional accountability. These processes also generate spillover effects on the everyday work and mandate of downstream professionals (e.g., 911 dispatchers, police officers), producing a cascading set of unintended consequences that further obscures accountability for multiple actors across the professional ecosystem.

CITAMS Award Winner Announcements

BEST PAPER AWARD WINNERS

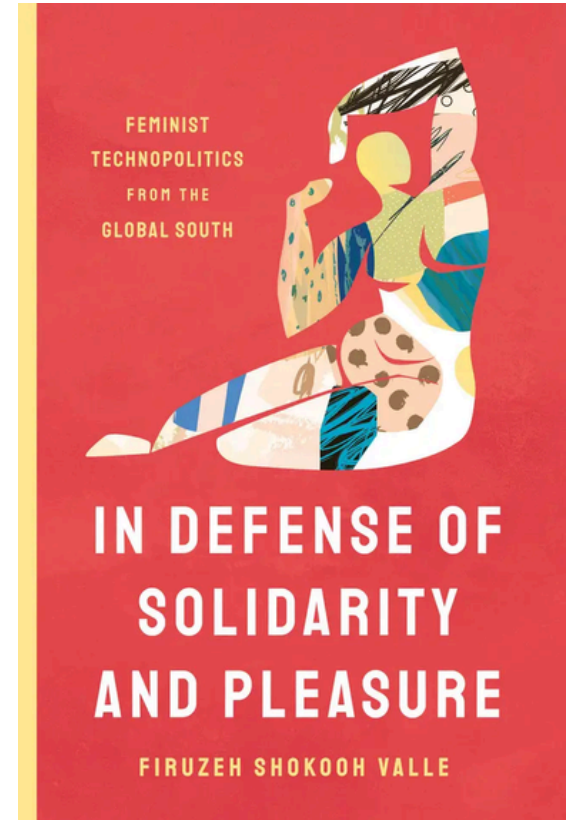
Benjamin Shestakofsky. 2024. "Cleaning Up Data Work: Negotiating Meaning, Morality, and Inequality in a Tech Startup". *Big Data & Society*, 2024, July-September: 1-14.

Data work—the routinized, information-processing operations that support artificial intelligence systems—has been portrayed as a source of both economic opportunity and exploitation. Existing research on the moral economy of data work focuses on platforms where individuals anonymously complete one-off projects for as little as one cent per task. However, data work is increasingly performed inside organizational settings to promote more consistent and accurate output. How do technologists and data workers construct and morally justify these arrangements? This article is based on 19 months of participant-observation research inside a San Francisco-based startup. Drawing on theories of relational work, I show how managers in San Francisco and contractors in the Philippines collaborated to “clean up” the morally questionable status of data work. Managers attempted to engineer interactions with data workers to emphasize fun and friendship while obscuring vast inequalities. Filipino data workers framed American managers as benevolent patrons and themselves as grateful clients to reinforce managers’ sense of responsibility for their well-being. By shifting attention from the structure of roles to the structure of relationships in organization-based data work, this article demonstrates the function of culture and meaning-making in both generating reliable and accurate data and reproducing status hierarchies in the tech industry. Additionally, this article's examination of the complex and often contradictory dynamics of organizational attachment and marginalization has implications for debates about how the conditions of data work can be improved.

BEST BOOK AWARD WINNER

Firuzeh Shokooh Valle (2023). *In Defense of Solidarity and Pleasure: Feminist Technopolitics from the Global South*, Stanford University Press

Including women in the global South as users, producers, consumers, designers, and developers of technology has become a mantra against inequality, prompting movements to train individuals in information and communication technologies and foster the participation and retention of women in science and technology fields. In this book, Firuzeh Shokooh Valle argues that these efforts have given rise to an idealized, female economic figure that combines technological dexterity and keen entrepreneurial instinct with gendered stereotypes of care and selflessness. Narratives about the "equalizing" potential of digital technologies spotlight these women's capacity to overcome inequality using said technologies, ignoring the barriers and circumstances that create such inequality in the first place as well as the potentially violent role of technology in their lives. *In Defense of Solidarity and Pleasure* examines how women in the Global South experience and resist the coopting and depoliticizing nature of these scripts. Drawing on fieldwork in Costa Rica and a transnational feminist digital organization, Shokooh Valle explores the ways that feminist activists, using digital technologies as well as a collective politics that prioritize solidarity and pleasure, advance a new feminist technopolitics.



BEST STUDENT PAPER AWARD WINNERS

Tyler Leeds. “The influencer-intellectual tactic and social media advertisements: How PragerU advances partisan knowledge”

Right-wing think tanks are a major source of partisan knowledge. Their influence is rooted in their strategic hybridity, namely their ability to use the resources of fields outside politics to promote their partisan messages. This strategic hybridity is especially powerful in relation to the academy, as arguments can be framed with the trappings of scholarship without first passing muster in the scholarly community. This article documents how strategic hybridity has deepened online as the organization PragerU embraces a new tactic—the influencer-intellectual—and a new genre—social media ads—to advance its right-wing cause. To illustrate this new complexity, I analyze ads PragerU ran on Meta platforms that attacked the 1619 Project and had at least 20 million impressions. Beyond reconceptualizing hybridity, I review the shortcomings of Meta’s Ad Library while making the case for its value in tracking the spilling of partisanship from formal politics into culture.

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Jun Zhou. “Unequally Human: How Socio-Emotional Skills Cannot Save Us From Automation”

The rapid rise of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) has challenged the notion that “essentially human” attributes, such as socio-emotional skills, are irreplaceable by machines. However, there is limited research on how socio-emotional workers respond to the automation of their roles. Focusing on the livestreaming labor within China’s burgeoning live-commerce industry, which has recently introduced AI streamers, this paper compares higher-end Intellectual Property (IP) streamers with lower-end brand streamers and examines how they convey humanness to negotiate their worth over machines. Based on in-depth interviews and ethnographic data, the study reveals that gendered performance is essential for conveying human authenticity but is not equally accessible to all workers. Higher-end IP streamers, supported by larger fan bases and greater autonomy, craft elaborate gendered performances, distinguishing themselves from AI counterparts. In contrast, lower-end brand streamers, constrained by scripted performances, struggle to convey human authenticity. Despite efforts to humanize their work, many brand streamers continue to face significant risk of displacement due to the rigid nature of their roles. These findings suggest that socio-emotional competence alone does not guarantee job security. Instead, gender and occupational hierarchies are pivotal in determining who can effectively convey humanness amid increasing automation. This paper highlights the limitations of the optimistic illusion of a permanent “human edge” and underscores the enduring role of power relations and occupational structures in shaping how technology unfolds in practice.

CITAMS Award Winner Announcements

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Ya-Wen Lei, Harvard University

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY AWARD

Jan G. Voelkel, Cornell University

Recent Work from CITAMS Members

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“Cultural critics as moral reputational entrepreneurs: Controversy, metaethical discourse, and authority in the documentary field” in *Poetics*

By Christine Delp

Many cultural production fields engage with questions around the ethics of representation: how should a story be told? I argue that when covering controversial cultural products, cultural critics engage in metaethical discourse about the right way to “do” ethics in the greater cultural production field they are covering. Using the documentary field as a case study, I conducted a discourse analysis of 228 publications written by cultural critics in response to nine controversial documentaries. I demonstrate how cultural critics frame representational transgressions as moral controversies, identifying four types of moral controversy and four types of metaethical discourse commonly invoked by critics. This metaethical discourse signals different sources of authority within the documentary field. I argue that through their coverage of controversy, cultural critics play a key role as moral reputational entrepreneurs, signaling what types of representational transgressions are elevated to moral controversies, as well as uplifting both established and alternative sources of authority in the field.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2024.2407488>

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“Using AI to Model Future Societal Instability. ” in *Futures*

By Fanqi Zeng, Grant Blank, and Ralph Schroeder

This paper develops a model that aims to pinpoint the future structural constraints facing a number of countries and the instability that may result from these constraints. The model uses existing datasets and extrapolates major patterns several decades into the future based on past patterns. Contrary to predictions of looming crisis in certain states by Turchin and others, the argument is that a more likely scenario is an increasing inability to cope with the combination of fiscal constraints that limit state revenue in the face of rising social spending. The paper is based on a four-way comparison between the United States, Sweden, India and China. These four cases provide a wide range of possibilities for comparative-historical analysis and forecasting. In the most likely scenario, a shrinking working-age population leads to a spending crisis in China and to social tensions in other countries. The paper makes three contributions: the first is to offer an alternative to Turchin’s prediction of political crisis in the US and beyond. The second is to extend predictions for societal instability beyond rich Western countries. The third is to demonstrate how our model can be compared with Turchin’s using AI tools.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241302429>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“The Ghost of Middle Management: Automation, Control, and Heterarchy in the Platform Firm” in *Sociologica*

By Janet A. Vertesi and Diana Enriquez

In an effort to attend to the distinct organizational form of algorithmic management, we interrogate the arrangement of platform labor through the lens of the post-bureaucratic organization instead of that of the industrialized factory. Prior studies of gig workers rely heavily on sociological accounts of factory labor, but we posit that gig economy platforms represent a heterarchical organizational form, marrying the logics of industrial control induced by computational systems with the logics of post-bureaucracy inherited from flattening firms and downsizing middle management. In a technique we describe as automation by omission, we show how middle-managerial roles and responsibilities are excised entirely from the platform firm, how the vestigial traces of such roles are only imperfectly replaced by technical systems, and how “situated” managerial tasks essential to post-bureaucratic organizations are picked up by the worker, uncompensated. This heterarchical arrangement benefits the firm in multiple ways, while its competing structural conditions of labor leave workers to navigate multiple valuation systems at once. Appreciating gig work’s embedded post-bureaucracy shifts our understanding of common worker experiences such as peer-to-peer organizing and just-in-time scheduling illuminates dissonant accounts of empowerment and algorithmic despotism, and exposes new avenues for worker disenfranchisement.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09589236.2024.2407488>

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“Towards a Socioeconomics of Hype: Hype Dynamics and Symbolic Boundary Work Within the Speculative AI Bubble” in *Social Science Computer Review*

By Jason Bohner and Janet Vertesi

Drawing on interviews with 37 entrepreneurs, engineers, technologists and investors in the New York City tech scene involved in AI, we investigate the social formations that characterize “AI-hype” from the perspective of micro-level economic sociology. We observe how actors in New York draw symbolic boundaries between their own work and that of “hype-beasts” in San Francisco, despite drawing upon and profiting from the same sociotechnical imaginaries about AI’s transformative potential. We show how this symbolic boundary work serves to legitimate the local ecosystem, to provide moral valuations for the exchange of capital, to ground different temporalities that inspire urgency in their work, and to enact spatial boundaries amid competing sociotechnical imaginaries. We demonstrate how these contestations contribute to the construction of powerful relevant social groups and their respective technological systems. We thus use the case of AI to take steps toward developing a sociology of hype, drawing on literature in the sociology of technology, boundary work in the professions, and economic sociology.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241302429>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“Navigating ethical boundaries: Subtle agency and compliance among tech workers in China and the United States” in *Big Data & Society*

By Di Di and Bryce Nishikawa

Tech workers often experience ethical tensions arising from the misalignment of their values and the prevailing unethical or ethically ambiguous practices concerning data and algorithms in the workplace. Despite this, there is an insufficient understanding of how tech professionals address ethical tensions. Based on interviews with 98 tech workers in China and the United States, this study explores ethical tensions, the workers’ responses, and potential cross-national variations. It identifies three prevalent strategies by which tech workers navigate conflicts between their ethical principles and their companies’ practices: complying with market fundamentalism, compromising personal ethics, and upholding and critiquing ethical guidelines. Cross-national differences in strategy implementation highlight nuanced approaches by tech workers in diverse economic, political, and ethical contexts. The study positions these responses within a theoretical framework of ethical agency, revealing tech workers’ subtle ethical agency and the factors that constrain their decision-making processes. It also contributes data-driven insights to promote ethical practices in the global tech industry.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951725134062>

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“There’s No Place Like a Home Department: Experiences of URM Faculty Climbing the Academic Ladder in the Sociology and Economics Professions ” in *Sociological Focus*

By Jason A. Smith, Amber C. Kalb, Jermaine Toney, Kyle K. Moore, Ismail Cid-Martinez, and Roberta Spalter-Roth

The experiences of underrepresented minority faculty (URMs) are a growing research area within the social sciences. The purpose of this paper is to determine the effect of academic home departments on URM faculty members’ climbing the academic ladder toward tenure in the sociology and economics professions. Through a mixed-method analysis, we draw from survey (N = 198) and interview data (N = 10). Our findings support previous studies that highlight delegitimizing experiences, a lack of material support, and various forms of exclusion that URM faculty face, yet we demonstrate these are organizational processes that classify home departments as racialized organizations. In response, URMs tended to find external departmental spaces, which helped them navigate the tenure-track process and bring legitimacy back into the department for tenure. Studying the experiences and perceptions of URM faculty sheds light on positive forms of racial activation that put pressure on departments to meet their organizational needs.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241302429>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“Learning to Like the Likes and the Hate: The Labor of Internet Fame in the New Attention Economy ” in *Social Problems*

By Ashley Mears and Taylor Beauvais

How do people experience internet fame? Whereas public visibility and reputation were once tightly coupled, these can be decoupled in the new media attention economy. We illustrate this with an ethnography of virality. Going viral on social media can be a destabilizing experience, given the problems of hyper-visibility, context collapse, and hateful commentary from unknown audiences. Yet many people pursue online virality, reporting the experience to be pleasurable, even addictive. Bridging classic theories of deviance and emotions with science and technology studies, we examine how content creators learn to experience virality as affectively rewarding, akin to getting high on drugs. Through immersive ethnography and interviews with high-performing content creators, we develop a phenomenology of virality. We trace how platforms afford affective experiences with the strategic delivery of metrics, which creators learn to interpret as pleasurable as they interact with each other and with their screens. By documenting the embodied and affective experience of work on social media, we show a novel mode of labor control in the age of platforms.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2053951725134062>

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“Organizing against mining companies during the COVID-19 pandemic: frames, tactics and the digital divide in southern Mexico” in *Globalizations*

By Allesandro Morosin and James Everett Hein

How did movements defending the commons cope with a rise in direct State support for extractive capital during the COVID-19 pandemic? This article utilizes a mixed methods approach to explore how anti-mining organizations in southern Mexico shifted their frames and tactics at the onset of the pandemic. Content analysis of e-newsletters from two civil society organizations were combined with interviews with anti-mine activists. Electronic newsletters and other forms of communication engaged in frame extension by linking the pandemic to environmental injustice and to the State’s neglect of public health. In an effort to transcend a digital divide in rural areas impacted by neoliberal extractivism, some solidarity organizations increased their reliance on the internet, yet such digital tactics were not evenly embraced. Our findings clarify some limitations of the internet for mobilizing rural populations in mining zones, while reiterating the importance of traditional, face-to-face organizing tactics that directly challenge extractive industries.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241302429>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“‘You’re Not Dealing with What We’re Dealing with’: COVID-19 Hesitancies and Motivations Among Late Vaccinating Black Americans in the Deep South ” in *Sociological Focus*

By Anthony J Stone Jr., Madeline Arriaza, Claire Brindley, Elliot Meador, Wesley L James, and Karen Matthews

Introduction and Background

The COVID-19 vaccines have been public for several years and have been shown to mitigate symptoms in recipients. Yet many Americans are still hesitant or late to receive the vaccines for several reasons, especially Black Americans. To better understand how Black Americans who reside in the rural Mississippi Delta understand the COVID-19 virus and vaccines, we conducted a qualitative study focusing on their hesitance toward the vaccine, and how they make decisions or change(d) their minds regarding receiving it at intersecting layers of social disadvantage—race and place-based inequalities.

Methods

In 2021, we conducted 10 in-person, in-depth, semi-structured interviews with Black residents of the Mississippi Delta who were vaccinated months after the vaccines’ release. We used an iterative, grounded approach to study design and data analysis, as well as the constant comparative method, until data saturation was achieved.

Results

Participants reported they were initially hesitant toward the vaccines for the following reasons: an overabundance of misinformation, fear of illness, mistrust of decision-making institutions, and uncertainty of unknown side effects. Participants cited several reasons that motivated them to change their minds and receive the vaccine, including positive results when people in their networks vaccinated, increased feelings of safety, work requirements, and faith in God.

Conclusions

Our findings unpack the complications around vaccine hesitance and motivations for vaccine uptake for late vaccinators at the intersections of social and racial inequality. Findings underscore the importance of recognizing the pervasive influence of generalized institutional mistrust and spirituality when providing health advice to Black Mississippians about the COVID-19 vaccines.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448241302429>

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BOOK PUBLICATIONS

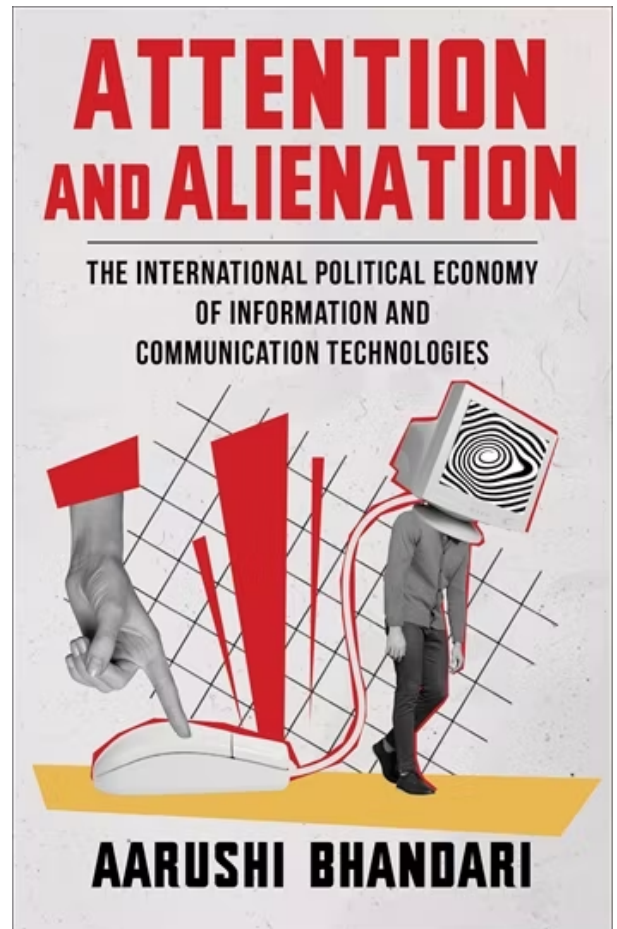
Attention and Alienation: The International Political Economy of Information and Communication Technologies

By Aarushi Bhandari

The worldwide spread of the internet has revolutionized communication at a harrowing cost: the relentless commodification of attention. Algorithm-driven capitalism extracts profit from not only physical bodies but also the emotional and creative labor of internet users. This economic system alienates us from our inmost selves and gives us only a gnawing longing that cannot be satiated—a spiraling collective mental health crisis. The exchange is deeply unequal: we pay attention and receive alienation.

Aarushi Bhandari offers a new way to understand the political economy of attention, combining quantitative analysis and personal narrative to critique the role of information and communications technologies in global society. Ranging across levels, from international development policy to online social movements through individual internet users, she examines how these technologies have fostered a host of unequal exchanges. Pervasive inequalities—between richer and poorer countries, between progressive social movements and the reactions against them, and between technological elites and the online population—now reinforce one another, with far-reaching consequences. Along the way, Bhandari shares her own journey as a chronically online millennial woman growing up among the Kathmandu elite in a dominant-caste Hindu family during the Nepali Civil War. A bold and incisive critical analysis, *Attention and Alienation* also considers how to reclaim the potential of the internet and design new systems that prioritize collective well-being.

<https://cup.columbia.edu/book/attention-and-alienation/9780231208215/>



BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Wired Wisdom: How to Age Better Online

By Eszter Hargittai and John Palfrey

A surprising window into the online lives of people sixty and over—offering essential insights, no matter your age.

Many popular accounts say the older you are, the greater your tech struggles. And it's worrying to think of loved ones emailing cringe-worthy misinformation, falling for phishing attacks, or becoming lonelier with increasing time spent online.

But in their eye-opening book on the internet's fastest-growing demographic, researchers Eszter Hargittai and John Palfrey offer a more nuanced picture—debunking common myths about older adults' internet use to offer hope and a necessary call to action. Incorporating original interviews and survey results from thousands of people sixty and over, *Wired Wisdom* shows that many, in fact, use technology in ways that put younger peers to shame. Over-sixties are often nimble online and quicker to abandon social media platforms that don't meet their needs. Despite being targeted more often, they also may be less likely to fall for scams than younger peers. And fake news actually fools fewer people over sixty, who have far more experience evaluating sources and detecting propaganda. Still, there are unseen risks and missed opportunities for this group. Hargittai and Palfrey offer practical advice and show that our stereotypes can be hurdles that keep us from building intergenerational support communities, helping loved ones adopt new technology that may improve their lives, and thriving together online.

<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/W/bo248650003.html>



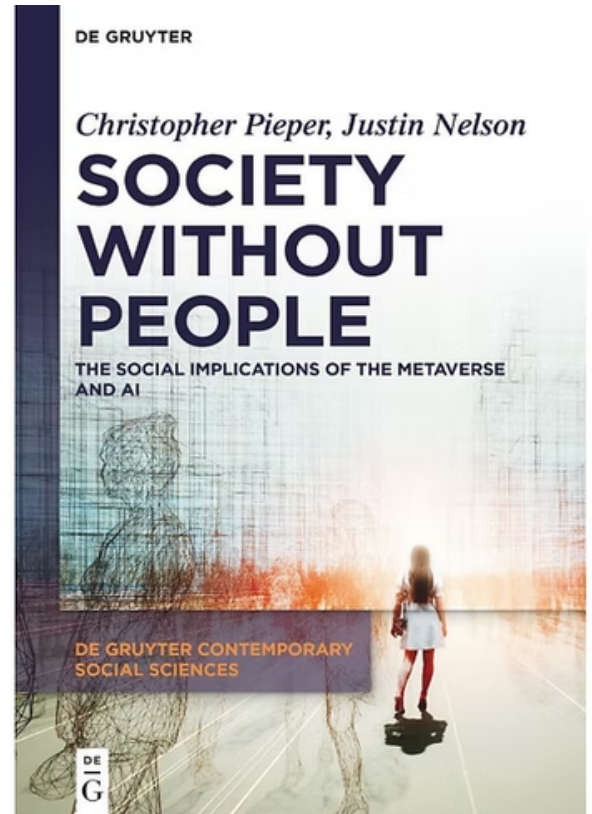
BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Society Without People: The Social Implications of the Metaverse and AI

By Christopher Pieper and Justin Nelson

Society Without People is the first major scholarly analysis of the profound social and cultural effects of emerging technologies such as generative AI and the Metaverse. Using an approachable style and compelling scenarios, Pieper and Nelson examine the potential ways these technologies will shape identity, institutions, relationships, communities, power, and personhood itself in the near future. Introducing the theory of Gamism, the authors suggest that the logic of games could serve as the new ideology governing this strange, exciting world. One question underlies each chapter: how can humans flourish in the midst of such rapid and deep changes? It is a must-read for anyone concerned about the future of society and technology.

<https://www.societywithoutpeople.org/>



Noteworthy CFPs At A Glance

Edited Volume CFPs

Title	Organization/ Editors	Deadline
Innovative Traching and Learning	Emerald Studies in Media and Communications	Abstract: October 15 th , 2025; Full Chapter January 15 th 2026
Communication, Health Care and Work	Emerald Studies in Media and Communications	Abstract: October 15 th , 2025; Full Chapter January 15 th 2026
Media Sociology Symposium	Emerald Studies in Media and Communications	Abstract: October 15 th , 2025; Full Chapter January 15 th 2026
Guest Editors: Edit Your Own Volume	Emerald Studies in Media and Communications	Rolling

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Details of Noteworthy CFPs

EDITED VOLUME CFPS

EMERALD STUDIES IN MEDIA& COMMUNICATIONS

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to announce three new calls for volumes with *Emerald Studies in Media and Communications* on three themes: Innovative Teaching and Learning, Communication and Care Work, and Media Sociology. Or consider submitting a proposal to edit your own volume as a guest editor.

Innovative Teaching and Learning

Lead Editor Dr. Katia Moles

Contact Email: digital.sociology.editorial@gmail.com

This volume welcomes submissions that contribute to any facet of teaching innovation engaging media, digital tech, etc. If you are interested in publishing please send an abstract of no more than 300 words to Dr. Moles by October 15th, 2025. If selected, authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts by January 15th, 2026.

Communication, Health, and Care Work

Editor Dr. Cara Chiaraluce

Contact Email: cchiaraluce@scu.edu

This volume welcomes submissions that contribute to any facet of healthcare or care work that engages with communication, digital technology, or media. If you are interested in publishing please send an abstract of no more than 300 words to Dr. Caraluce by October 15th, 2025. If selected, authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts by January 15th, 2026.

Media Sociology Symposium

Corresponding Editor Dr. Jeremy Schulz

Contact Email: [Media Sociology mediasociologysymposium@gmail.com](mailto:Mediasociologysymposium@gmail.com)

Have you presented at the Media Sociology Symposium or the ICA Media Sociology Postconference? Or do you plan to present in 2025 or 2026? This volume will highlight submissions from researchers at one of these events and welcomes submissions that contribute to any facet media sociology writ large. If you are interested in publishing please send an abstract of no more than 300 words to Dr. Schulz by October 15th, 2025. If selected, authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts by January 15th, 2026.

EDITED VOLUME CFPS

Guest Editors: Edit Your Own Volume

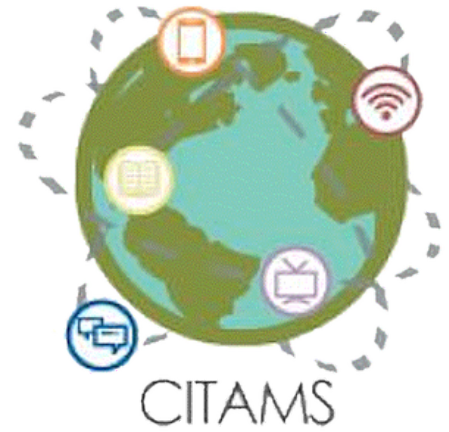
Corresponding Editor Dr. Laura Robinson

Contact Email: laurarobinsonscu@gmail.com

If you are interested in guest editing please contact Dr. Robinson at any time to receive proposal instructions. For Guest Editors, given the breadth of the fields contributing to the study of media and communication, the parameters are set as broadly as possible. As long as the research speaks to the theme(s) identified in each call for submissions, the series aims to encompass research on emergent phenomena, as well as studies with a historical or longitudinal dimension. Although the submissions must be written in English, we particularly welcome submissions with an international, comparative, and/or global angle of vision. Submissions may be empirical, theoretical, or methodological--using any method or approach. Within the themes set by each volume's editors, contributions on a wide variety of topics on [digital] media, ICTs, and communication are welcome from a variety of disciplinary perspectives.

Questions? Please contact laurarobinsonscu@gmail.com

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



Do you want something included in the Fall newsletter?

We are accepting the following submissions through the linked google forms:

- Recent work
- Conferences and CPFs information:
- Job posts

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) or
Irissa Cisternino (irissa.cisternino@stonybrook.edu).

Hope to see you all at ASA!!

