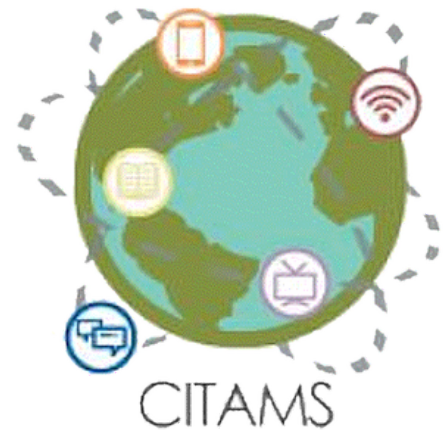


Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology section of the ASA



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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

Iris Aleida Pinzon Arteaga, University at Albany.

Letter from the Chair: Dhiraj Murthy

When I chaired the open session at this year's ASA, it quickly became clear to me that our work in CITAMS is characterized by a willingness to ask difficult questions, challenge existing paradigms, and imagine new ways of understanding technological impact. In the rapidly evolving landscape of digital communication and technology like artificial intelligence, our section stands at the forefront of critical scholarly inquiry. As we navigate the complex intersections of technology, society, polarizing politics, and human experience, research by CITAMS members is so vital and timely. This year's panel programming at ASA particularly reflects our commitment to pushing the boundaries of understanding how digital technologies (re)shape social structures, democratic processes, and humans (and how the latter are pushing back and resisting).



Our themed ASA conference sessions exemplify our commitment to critical social analysis through understandings of how, for example, artificial intelligence and digital platforms fundamentally alter employment landscapes, identity formation, and democratic participation.

Neal Caren is our chair-elect and I have already been impressed with his capable leadership as co-editor of the special issue. This year our Council consists of Bibi Reisdorf, Chao Yu, Muyang Li, and Julia Ticona. Our Nominations committee is John D. Boy, Zhifan Luo, and Benjamin Shestakofsky. Our Secretary Treasurer is Hannah Waight, and Celeste Campos-Castillo (who has done a fabulous job last year) is now our Past Chair. Laura Robinson has agreed to stay on as our website editor.

The initiatives this year include continuing to forge cross-over ties with other sections. As part of this, we will have a joint reception with Econ Soc, a larger section than us. My hope is that this collaboration will enhance interest in our section and emphasize the relevancy of our scholarship for “Disrupting the Status Quo: Putting Sociologists to Work for a More Equitable Society”. You can hear more about this year's section-sponsored sessions at ASA and our award calls in this newsletter, which is now in the capable hands of Irissa Cisternino and Iris Pinzón Arteaga.

Letter from the Chair: Dhiraj Murthy

CITAMS initiatives this year extend far beyond conference programming. Jeff Sheng is actively developing a mentorship program that will create meaningful connections between senior scholars and emerging researchers. Recognizing the changing ways scholars communicate and connect, we are also expanding our digital presence. Yifan Liu is launching new Instagram and Bluesky accounts for scholarly exchange, networking, and community building. These platforms will allow CITAMS members to share research, celebrate achievements, and stay connected.

Thank you once again for being CITAMS members and for giving me the opportunity to lead this fabulous section.

Best,

Dhiraj Murthy
CITAMS Chair

Introducing the New CITAMS Newsletter Editor

We have a new addition to the CITAMS newsletter team!

**Iris Aleida Pinzón Arteaga,
University at Albany, SUNY**



Hello everyone! My name is Iris Aleida Pinzon Arteaga, and I am a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the University at Albany, SUNY. I'm excited to contribute to the CITAMS community as an editor of the newsletter. My research examines how young people interact with generative AI chatbots, not as passive adopters, but as active users who draw boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate uses, as well as between what they perceive as human and non-human. More broadly, I am interested in AI as a force reshaping education, work, and social relationships. For my dissertation, I am conducting a comparative case study between the United States and Colombia to explore how engagement with chatbots reproduces or challenges digital inequalities. I am also a member of the AI and Society Research Center at UAlbany, where I engage with interdisciplinary research on the sociopolitical implications of emerging digital technologies.

Call for CITAMS Awards

Career Achievement Award

This award recognizes a sustained body of research by a section member who has provided multiple outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the areas relevant to the section. Nominations may be made for scholars at any career stage. A nomination should include a nomination letter and CV of the nominee. The letters should describe the major contributions, what kind of product the scholar has produced (e.g., books, articles, textbooks, policy briefs, teaching, public engagement), how it has advanced the areas of concern to the section, and what the impact and/or reach has been. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged, as are nominations that highlight the work of underrepresented groups—those who work internationally, work in industry, those in small teaching-oriented institutions, BIPOC scholars, scholars with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ scholars, and those at the intersections of these and other categories. If you are nominating another person, you are encouraged to notify them. All nominees will be asked to complete a survey by the section's DEI committee. Nominations should be submitted via survey link (TBA) by **March 15**:

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Best Paper Award

This award recognizes an outstanding published paper or book chapter on a topic relevant to the section, written by a member of the section. Submissions must be in English and published within the two calendar years prior to the award nomination deadline. A nomination should include a nomination letter and PDF of the paper. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged, as are nominations that highlight the work of underrepresented groups—those who work internationally, work in industry, those in small teaching-oriented institutions, BIPOC scholars, scholars with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ scholars, and those at the intersections of these and other categories. If you are nominating another person, you are encouraged to notify them. All nominees will be asked to complete a survey by the section's DEI committee. Nominations should be submitted via survey link (TBA) by **March 15**:

Call for CITAMS Awards

Best Student Paper Award

This award recognizes an outstanding published or unpublished paper/book chapter on a topic relevant to the section, or an outstanding design or use of media, communication, or information technology. Submissions must be in English. A nomination should include a nomination letter and PDF of the work. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged, as are nominations that highlight the work of underrepresented groups—those who work internationally, work in industry, those in small teaching-oriented institutions, BIPOC scholars, scholars with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ scholars, and those at the intersections of these and other categories. If you are nominating another person, you are encouraged to notify them. All nominees will be asked to complete a survey by the section's DEI committee. For this award only, the nominees do not need to be members of the section. Award winners and honorable mentions will receive a one-year section membership for either the year of being selected or the year after. Nominations should be submitted via survey link (TBA) by **March 15**:

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Best Book Award

This award recognizes an outstanding book on a topic relevant to the section, written by a member of the section. Submissions must be in English and published within the two calendar years prior to the award nomination deadline. A nomination should include a nomination letter and copy of the book, either in physical or electronic form. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged, as are nominations that highlight the work of underrepresented groups—those who work internationally, work in industry, those in small teaching-oriented institutions, BIPOC scholars, scholars with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ scholars, and those at the intersections of these and other categories. If you are nominating another person, you are encouraged to notify them. All nominees will be asked to complete a survey by the section's DEI committee. Nominations should be submitted via survey link (TBA) by **February 15**:

Call for CITAMS Awards

Public Sociology Award

This award recognizes a specific achievement in teaching, the development or the use of a communication, media, or information technology, or the dissemination of knowledge that advances public understanding or engagement on topics of concern in the section by a member of the section. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged, as are nominations that highlight the work of underrepresented groups—those who work internationally, work in industry, those in small teaching-oriented institutions, BIPOC scholars, scholars with disabilities, LGBTQI scholars, and those at the intersections of these and other categories. A nomination should include a nomination letter of 1-2 pages. The letter should describe the topic(s) of concern, what kind of product the scholar has produced (e.g., an easy to use tool for the public, a book that crosses over into trade/popular/public literature, media appearances, op-eds, social media), how it has advanced public understanding, and what the impact and/or reach has been. Please also include up to 10 examples with your letter. Examples could include, but are not limited to: course materials/assignments, Twitter threads, podcasts, op-eds, media appearances, or social media channels. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged, as are nominations that highlight the work of underrepresented groups—those who work internationally, work in industry, those in small teaching-oriented institutions, BIPOC scholars, scholars with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ scholars, and those at the intersections of these and other categories. If you are nominating another person, you are encouraged to notify them. All nominees will be asked to complete a survey by the section's DEI committee. Nominations should be submitted via survey link (TBA) by **March 15**:

Call for CITAMS Awards

Career Achievement Award

This award recognizes a sustained body of research by a section member who has provided multiple outstanding contributions to the advancement of knowledge in the areas relevant to the section. Nominations may be made for scholars at any career stage. A nomination should include a nomination letter and CV of the nominee. The letters should describe the major contributions, what kind of product the scholar has produced (e.g., books, articles, textbooks, policy briefs, teaching, public engagement), how it has advanced the areas of concern to the section, and what the impact and/or reach has been. Self-nominations are welcome and encouraged, as are nominations that highlight the work of underrepresented groups—those who work internationally, work in industry, those in small teaching-oriented institutions, BIPOC scholars, scholars with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ scholars, and those at the intersections of these and other categories. If you are nominating another person, you are encouraged to notify them. All nominees will be asked to complete a survey by the section's DEI committee. Nominations should be submitted via survey link by **March 15**:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0fiM7aD6DFkeUBM

Recent Work from CITAMS Members

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“The Right Amount of Sex: Digital Labor in the Grey Zone of Platform Governance” in *Work & Occupations*

By Ashley Mears, Elif Birced, and Thao Nguyen

On platforms, workplace rules can be ambiguous and inconsistently enforced. This article examines the labor process within the “grey zone” of platform governance, bridging theories of organizational misbehavior to research on digital labor. We compare two groups of content creators—porn creators and viral entertainers—who earn a living by sharing pictures and videos on social media. Both strategically utilize sexual imagery to boost their visibility and income. While platforms restrict explicit content, workers perceive blurred lines between what is allowed and what is not, and they look for ways to push those boundaries. Based on 94 interviews and ethnographic research, we identify a three-step process of strategic risk-taking. Creators edge against the rules, floodgate successful strategies, and recuperate after receiving sanctions. Ultimately, the “grey zone” allows workers to test and break rules, which ultimately benefits the platform by keeping both users and creators engaged. By conceptualizing platforms as grey zones, we connect the digital labor process to value production in the platform economy. Grey zones perpetuate the growth and interests of capital by keeping both users and creators engaged on the platforms.

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

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“Empowered by consumers: how content creators use relational labor to resist labor control” in *Socio-Economic Review*

By Elif Birced

Researchers often discuss consumers as a means of labor control. In contrast, I ask how workers leverage consumers to resist control over their labor process. Focusing on sponsored content creation as a case, I explain how creators prioritize audience interests to resist sponsors’ control over their creative decisions. Using semi-structured interviews with 39 content creators and observations of a conference session, I show that the managerial practices of sponsoring brands contradict audience expectations due to the relational labor that creators perform to build a sense of community, authenticity, and trustworthiness in the eyes of audiences. Second, I document the role of part-time content creation and YouTube’s paid channel memberships in enhancing creators’ capacity to be selective with sponsorship requests and resist brand interventions that may ultimately lead to a decline in audience engagement. I extend the literature by theorizing when consumers enable workers to resist labor control.

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

Recent Work from CITAMS Members

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“Unpacking Credibility Evaluation on Digital Media: A Case for Qualitative Interpretive Approaches” in *Annals of the International Communication Association*

By Pranav Malhotra, Natalie-Anne Hall, Yiping Xia, Louise Stahl, Andrew Chadwick, Cristian Vaccari, and Brendan Lawson

We argue for more serious consideration of interpretive qualitative approaches in research on information credibility evaluation in digitally mediated contexts. Through reviewing existing literature on credibility and drawing on our own experiences of conducting research projects on credibility evaluation in diverse cultural contexts, we contend that interpretive qualitative approaches help researchers develop a much-needed communicative and relationally and culturally situated understanding of credibility, complicating dominant quantitative and psychologically-oriented accounts. We detail how these approaches add important nuance to how credibility is conceptualized and operationalized and reveal the complexity of credibility evaluation as a social process. We also outline how they aid researchers studying misinformation engagement, especially in popular bounded social media places like private groups and chats. The approach we develop here provides new insights that can inform ongoing global efforts by researchers, policy makers, and citizens to more fully understand the complexity of information verification online.

DOI: [10.1093/anncom/wlaf008](https://doi.org/10.1093/anncom/wlaf008)

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“Use-by-Proxy in Later Life: A Qualitative Study with Internet Users and Nonusers” in *International Journal of Human-Computer Interaction*

By Jerneja Laznik, Bianca C Reisdorf, Andraž Petrovčič, Simona Hvalič-Touzery

Increasing digitalization presents challenges for many people, especially older adults, who often have limited internet skills and engage in fewer online activities or are simply nonusers. Many therefore rely on use-by-proxy – indirect internet use through others. Drawing on the Model of Internet Engagement and on Resources and Appropriation Theory, this qualitative study examines factors that shape use-by-proxy among older internet users and nonusers. We identified six groups of factors that affect engagement in use-by-proxy: personal categories, positional categories, social resources, perceptions and motivations, internet proficiency, and social and cultural environment. Societal and personal expectations related to internet use create feelings of pressure and exclusion, which are compounded by media portrayals and stereotypes that reinforce perceptions of older adults lacking digital skills. Older adults did not constitute a homogeneous group disinterested in the internet but instead exhibited varying levels of awareness and engagement and need support tailored to their specific circumstances.

DOI: [10.1093/anncom/wlaf008](https://doi.org/10.1093/anncom/wlaf008)

Recent Work from CITAMS Members

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“The limits of platforms: Why disintermediation has failed in the art market” in *New Media & Society*

By Rachel Ricucci & Grant Blank

Platforms have disintermediated the markets for books, film, television, and music, but the online art market has reproduced offline structures, leaving intermediaries intact. This study explores the limits of platforms by describing why disintermediation failed in the art market. Along with museums and other intermediaries, the most important function of galleries is to co-create artistic value. They not only sell art but also form a central part of the status system of art. We examine #artistsupportpledge (ASP) on Instagram. ASP uncovered a market for art that had no place in the existing system. ASP facilitated direct sales to consumers while allowing artists to maintain links to galleries for reputation, career development, exhibitions, and sales of large, expensive work. The art market experienced unique partial disintermediation under narrow conditions with continued allegiance to existing intermediaries and status structures. We conclude by discussing four implications for the theory of platforms.

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

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““Cash is King!”: Sugar Work in the Age of Digital Surveillance and Censorship” in *The Journal of Sex Research*

By Srushti Upadhyay

The growth of the online sex industry is in part due to the persistent stigma and criminalization of sex work, which has also resulted in increased legal and political pushback. In recent years, various sex work research has examined the impact of changing U.S. laws on the digital platform provision of legal spaces of work and facilitation of safety strategies for sex workers, as well as new financial and digital discrimination faced by sex workers. To expand this research on the surveillance of online sexual labor, this study focused on workers’ use of technology in assisting and restricting the facilitation of sugar relationships, which can be classified as sex work or sex-adjacent work, depending on the exact terms of arrangements. I conducted in-depth interviews with sugar workers to examine their platform use. This study found that though not all participants situate sugar work as sex work, their use of technology and subsequent resistance within the social, political, and legal constraints is on par with the broader sex industry. Furthermore, workers strategically used “algo-speak” to mitigate harms stemming from sexual censorship, digital discrimination, and the stigmatization of sex work by, for example, avoiding using select phrases during conversations, blurring identifying facial features in pictures, and creating exclusive sugar worker communities. By examining various technological conundrums, this study deepens our understanding of the contemporary role of technology in work and the ways marginalized (and often criminalized) workers circumvent a continuous state of surveillance and censorship, regardless of the legality of their work or their class status.

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

Recent Work from CITAMS Members

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“Making a Scene via Counter-Data Mapping: The Digital Cartography of Hong Kong’s Resistant Economy” in *Media and Communication*

By Tin-Yuet Ting

Studies of contemporary social movements have explored the role of digital maps and mapmaking in the organisation and visualisation of protest events, yet little is known about the contentious political potential of maps when the political opportunities for street politics fade. This article examines the digital cartography of Hong Kong’s yellow economic circle, a networked system of retailers and consumers linked by political values that support pro-movement stores and boycott pro-establishment businesses, for which citizen activists amassed crowdsourced data to create and update counter-maps that galvanised political consumerism to uphold dissent. Drawing on a renewed conception of the networked movement scene, I contend that counter-data mapping demonstrates a connective structure of self-mobilisation that affords the (trans)formation of (a) dissent spatiality, (b) sociality, and (c) solidarity during the declining stages of movements. Based on digital ethnography and archival research, I show how this nascent cartographic data-as-repertoire not only helped establish and sustain a resistant economy but also allowed people to maintain and refashion their contentious political participation via everyday engagement with data. While the state authorities attempted to expand their territorial control amidst the crisis, counter-data mapping, as a digitally enabled, joint practice of scene-making, (re)invented dissent territory, enabling dispersed citizen activists to continue to connect and mobilise amidst intense urban policing and social distancing protocols. This article casts new light on the utility and capacity of digital cartography during movement latency while illuminating the understudied contours and consequences of counter-data mapping in a non-Western context.

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

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Noteworthy CFPs At A Glance

Workshop CFPs

Title	Organization/ Editors	Deadline
3 rd Work-In-Progress Workshop	Digital Sociology Working Group	Abstract: January 1st, 2026; Workshop: March 18th & 19th, 2026



Job Postings

Title	University/Organiza tion	Deadline
Assistant Professor of AI Policy and Media	Northeastern University	Rolling Basis, starting from December 15, 2025
Assistant Professor in Digital Storytelling and Digital Media Production	University of North Carolina at Charlotte	Rolling Basis, starting from December 5, 2025

Details of Noteworthy CFPs

WORKSHOP CFPS

3rd Work-In-Progress Workshop in Digital Sociology March 18 & 19, 2026, online

The Digital Sociology Working Group (WG10) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) is organizing its third online workshop on March 18 and 19, 2026, for work-in-progress papers. It is targeted at early-stage researchers (PhD students, postdocs, or individuals who received their PhD within the last five years) who want feedback on their papers and suggestions on how to improve them. Topics may include (but are not limited to) sociological analysis and empirical studies of big data, algorithms, artificial intelligence (AI), datafication, disinformation, digital transformations, digital inequalities, digital divides, socio-material perspectives on ICT, network activism, digitalization of well-being, platforms and platform economies, and theoretical perspectives and interpretations of digitalization.

Submission deadline: 500 to 700 words abstract by January 1st, 2026

Link to more details: <https://forms.gle/niZ3Ex2KKgtLGG5cA>

JOB POSTINGS

Assistant Professor of AI Policy and Media at Northeastern University

The College of Arts, Media and Design (CAMD) at Northeastern University invites applications for a tenure-track Assistant Professor in AI Policy and Media, to be located at the Boston campus. We seek an assistant professor to be appointed in Communication Studies or Journalism in CAMD, and jointly appointed at the Policy School within the College of Social Sciences and Humanities. Northeastern's new Institute for Information, the Internet, and Democracy (IIID) will also be a possible research locus for joint activity and collaboration. The ideal candidate will conduct original research at the intersection of AI policy, democracy, and creative and/or media industries; investigate the social, political, and ethical implications of AI systems and digital platforms; examine the impact of emerging technologies on democratic institutions and public discourse; and/or assess the implications of generative AI for creative and media industries, such as for intellectual property. In this capacity, the successful candidate will develop and teach undergraduate and graduate courses in digital policy, AI governance, technology and democracy, platform regulation, AI and media, or related topics. This is an excellent opportunity for scholars interested in shaping the discourse on responsible AI development, democratic governance, and creative industries in the digital age. We are seeking a candidate with a record of high-quality research on AI policy and internet governance initiatives.

Applications will be reviewed on rolling basis, starting from December 15, 2025

For more information: https://northeastern.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/careers/job/Boston-MA-Main-Campus/Assistant-Professor-in-AI-Policy-and-Media_R137149

JOB POSTINGS

Assistant Professor in Digital Storytelling and Digital Media Production

The Department of Communication Studies at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte invites applications for a tenure-track position with a focus in digital storytelling and digital media production at the rank of Assistant Professor beginning August 15, 2026. Required qualifications include a Ph.D. in Communication Studies, Media Studies, Journalism and Mass Communication or a related area, along with the demonstration of:

- An active research agenda that can lead to significant publications and external grants
- The ability to teach courses in the theory, research, and practice of digital storytelling, media production, emerging media, social media, and specialized electives aligned with expertise
- Expertise and drive to take a pivotal role in program development in the areas of digital storytelling and digital or emergent media production
- A commitment and ability to provide education that has profound social and economic value and lifelong impact for students from all backgrounds.

The department seeks a versatile scholar who excels in an interdisciplinary environment, both within the department and on campus more broadly. We welcome applications from candidates with research interests in digital storytelling, emergent media, the intersections of AI and digital media production, social media and journalism, or related areas. Ideally, the successful candidate should have familiarity with quantitative, mixed, critical, or emerging methodologies; demonstrate potential for community-engaged scholarship; and align their research with one or more of the university's Research Areas of Focus and Distinction, including but not limited to Artificial Intelligence and Online Misinformation and Deception. They should be able to participate in multidisciplinary teams in the college and at the university and demonstrate potential for collaborations with faculty in the department that support the University's "top tier" research mission.

The department also seeks a committed teacher who can situate themselves within the university's Strategic Plan, which has a particular focus on providing education that has profound social and economic value and lifelong impact for students from all backgrounds. Finalists will be asked to discuss how their teaching practices provide an exemplary academic experience for all students, regardless of their entry pathway into the university. Finalists will also be asked to articulate the experiences that they believe will enhance their ability to teach courses that emphasize applied digital media production and which will allow them to support student projects with digital storytelling and production elements. Finalists may also be asked to discuss how they would instruct with consideration to the ethical integration of relevant AI tools in digital production and storytelling processes.

JOB POSTINGS

Assistant Professor in Digital Storytelling and Digital Media Production

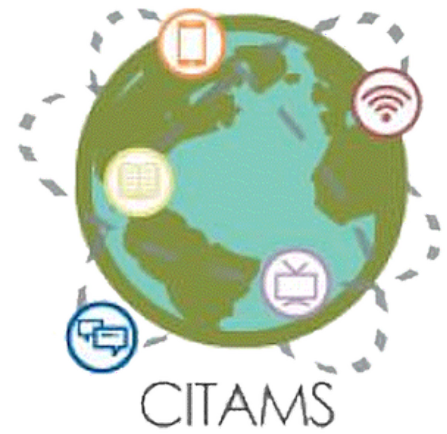
Successful candidates will teach undergraduate and master’s students in the Department of Communication Studies. The standard teaching load is two classes each semester during the probationary period. Depending on scholarly interest, candidates may affiliate with doctoral programs (e.g., Data Science, Organizational Science, Public Policy) or undergraduate programs (e.g., Data Science, Film Studies, Capitalism Studies).

Applications will be reviewed on rolling basis, starting from December 5, 2025

For more information: <https://jobs.charlotte.edu/postings/64909>



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



Do you want something included in the Spring 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 Irissa Cisternino (irissa.cisternino@stonybrook.edu) or Iris Aleida Pinzon Arteaga (ipinzonarteaga@albany.edu)

Hope to see you all at ASA!!

