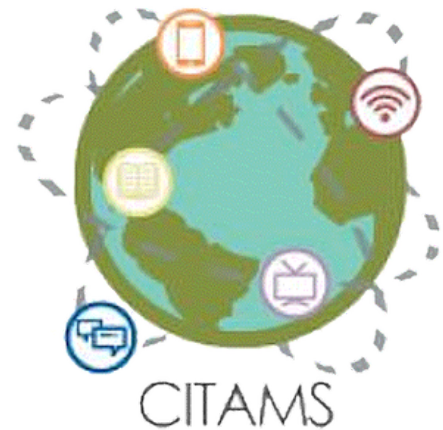


Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology section of the ASA



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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

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 2026-27 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 Irissa Cisternino at irissa.cisternino@stonybrook.edu or Iris Aleida Pinzon-Arteaga at ipinzonarteaga@albany.edu for more information.

ASA 2026 CITAMS SESSIONS

We hope to see you all in New York!!!

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th

Platformed Belonging: Identity, Visibility, and Exclusion in Digital Spaces

8:00 to 9:30am, TBA

Presider: Chao Yu, Northwestern University

- Margins to Mainstream: Evolutions in Transgender Discourse on Twitter, 2010-2019
 - Vineet Xie-Gupta, Northwestern University; Tara Marie Gonzalves, Columbia University
- Platformed Publics and Fugitive Sexualities: Queer Exhibitionism's Liminal Architectures of Privacy
 - Evan Jiancheng Zhao, Northwestern University
- Reframing Transnormativity as a Project of Exclusivity: Examining Transmedicalist Identity Formation in Online Spaces
 - Dakesian Woods, University of Illinois-Chicago; Ian Kennedy, University of Illinois-Chicago
- Stigma, Visibility and Embodied Labour: Grassroots Female Dance Livestreamers' Boundary Work Under Platform Governance in China
 - Yubai Li
- The Right Way to Feel Wrong: Affective Performance, Cultural Competence, and Belonging on Tumblr
 - Ashley Lucia Torres, University of California-Irvine

Labor and Technology: Platforms, AI, and Inequalities

Sat, August 8, 10:00 to 11:30am, TBA

Presider: Julia B Ticona, University of Pennsylvania

- A Digital Platform Workforce: Labor Supply and Performance in Remotasks Plus Venezuela
 - Julia Posada, Yale University; Paola Tubaro, Centre national de la recherche scientifique; Maicol Quijano, Universidad ICESI
- Beyond Bureaucratic Rationality: How Algorithmic Governance is Legitimized in the Platform Economy
 - Eun Ji Kim, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Premium Labels: When Experts Enter the AI Data Annotation Economy
 - Skyler Wang, McGill University; Leo Holton, McGill University

ASA 2026 CITAMS SESSIONS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9

Labor and Technology: Platforms, AI, and Inequalities (contd.)

Sat, August 8, 10:00 to 11:30am, TBA

- Should I 'Go Live'? Gendered Differences in Cultural Production Online
 - Matt Rafalow, Google
- Studying Generative AI at Work: Participatory Case Studies for Building Labor Resistance
 - Tina M Park, The Distributed AI Research Institute; Alex Hanna, The Distributed AI Research Institute, Sophie Song; Distributed AI Research Institute

Media Ecosystems and the Diffusion of Contested Ideas

Sat, August 8, 2:00 to 3:30pm, TBA

- Belief Without Belonging: The Diffusion of Manosphere Ideology Beyond Influencers
 - Jen Schradie, Sciences Po-Paris; Isabelle Langrock, Middlebury College; Lauren Clingan, Sciences Po; Alexia Vallenias Wiese; Briana Charia Edwards, UNC Chapel Hill; Shannon McGregor, UNC Chapel Hill; Jasmine Crique, Georgetown University
- How Do "Truths" Become The Truth? The Diffusion of Right-Wing Conspiracy Theory Visuals on TruthSocial
 - Duhui Lee, Rutgers University-New Brunswick; Thomas Davidson, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Racialized Schemas Within Movement Media Relations
 - Braxton Brewington, UNC Chapel Hill
- Ubiquitous Duplicity: Engagement Monetization in Bot-Run Telegram Misinformation Farms
 - Skyler Kelley Duval, University of Minnesota
- Understanding Conservative Media Ecosystems: Civic Functions of Rural Talk Radio in the US
 - Rebekah Larsen, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

ASA 2026 CITAMS SESSIONS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9TH

Digital Inequalities 3.0: New Problems and New Approaches

8:00 to 9:30am, TBA

Presider: Bianca Christin Reisdorf, UNC-Charlotte

- A WEIRD Divide: How Low- and High-Income Technology Users Deal With Privacy Online
 - Anastassija Kostan, Johannes Kepler Universitat Linz
- Digital Gatekeeping and Racialized Access to Smart Mobility in U.S. Smart Cities
 - Dexerae Reyes, Texas A&M University-College Station
- Digital Inequality to Digital Deprivation: Prison and the Criminalization of Connectivity
 - Annika Pinch, Hamline University
- Rethinking the Digital Divides: Sociodemographic Disparities in College Students' Generative AI Use, Literacy, and Attitudes
 - Ran Liu, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Rethinking the Digital Divides: Sociodemographic Disparities in College Students' Generative AI Use, Literacy, and Attitudes
 - Ran Liu, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Social STEM for Girls, Technical STEM for Boys: Screen Time and Socio-Contextual Determinants of STEM Aspirations
 - Michael J Stern, Michigan State University; Inyoung Shin, Yale University; Keith N Hampton, Michigan State University
 -

Digital (Un)Democracy: AI, Media, and the New Political Order

10:00 to 11:30am, TBA

- Artificial Ideologies: How Human-AI Alignment Shapes Trust and Persuasion Across Ideological Boundaries
 - Ryan Gibson, University of New Hampshire
- Generative AI as a Protest Tool: Mobilization, Transnational Advocacy, and Grief
 - Danial Vahabli, Stony Brook University
- Generative Artificial Intelligence and Far-right Visual Communication on Social Media: Affordances, Actors, and Audiences
 - Thomas Davidson, Rutgers University-New Brunswick
- Power in the Loop: Algorithmic Governance and Legitimacy under Authoritarianism
 - Zheng Fu, Stony Brook University; Chuncheng Liu, Northeastern University
- Truth and Dare: Market Relations and Sentiment Distance in Digital Space during COVID-19
 - Yan Long, University of California-Berkeley; Wei Luo, Peking University; Yue Zhang, UNC Chapel Hill; Rui Chen, Harvard University

ASA 2026 CITAMS SESSIONS

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9th (CONTD.)

Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Section Roundtables

12:00-1:00PM, TBA

- 1. Governance, Censorship & Regulation
- 2. Visibility, disability, & Telegram
- 3. General AI, I
- 4. General AI, II
- 5. Boundaries & Crime
- 6. Presentation, propaganda, & politicization
- 7. Identity, moral boundaries, & nationalism
- 8. Influencers & families
- 9. Information & knowledge
- 10. YouTube & K-Pop
- 11. Jobs & markets
- 12. Health & Covid-19
- 13. Health
- 14. Digital divide & education
- 15. Media Sociology

Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Section Business Meeting

1:00 to 1:30pm, TBA

Disrupting Big Tech: Sociology's Role in Interrogating AI and Social Media

Sun, August 9, 2:00 to 3:30pm, TBA

- From Muscle to Metrics: Artificial Intelligence as the Next Plough Hypothesis
 - Barbara J Feldman, New College of Florida
- “ ‘It’s not intentional stealing all of the time’: How Influencers Perform Race on TikTok”
 - Lauren Michelle Harvey, Duke University
- Reflexivity Under Algorithmic Capitalism: Negotiating Ethics and Bias in Big Tech
 - Hannah Bacol, University of Hawaii at Manoa
- Resisting Big Tech: Algorithmic Problems and Technological Sovereignty
 - Sara Schoonmaker, University of Redlands; Jose Marichal, California Lutheran University
- Sexual-Self-Experimentation in the Age of Platform and Algorithm: The Case of Sexfluencer/Wanghuang in Hong Kong
 - Chi Fung Wong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

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.

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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.

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 by **March 15**:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6h4nyykDJuKiMPc

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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 by **February 15**:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_dcd8VJRxUHvOrHw

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 by **March 15**:

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e9fts8bRtgjzaPs

Recent Work from CITAMS Members

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“The pragmatic frames of spurious correlations in machine learning: Interpreting how and why they matter” in Big Data & Society

By Samuel J Bell and Skyler Wang

Learning correlations from data forms the foundation of today's machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence research. While contemporary methods enable the automatic discovery of complex patterns, they are prone to failure when unintended correlations are captured. This vulnerability has spurred a growing interest in interrogating spuriousness, which is often seen as a threat to model performance, fairness, and robustness. In this article, we trace departures from the conventional statistical definition of spuriousness—which denotes a non-causal relationship arising from coincidence or confounding—to examine how its meaning is negotiated in ML research. Rather than relying solely on formal definitions, researchers assess spuriousness through what we call pragmatic frames: Judgments based on what a correlation does in practice—how it affects model behavior, supports or impedes task performance, or aligns with broader normative goals. Drawing on a broad survey of ML literature, we identify four such frames: Relevance (Models should use correlations that are relevant to the task), generalizability (Models should use correlations that generalize to unseen data), human-likeness (Models should use correlations that a human would use to perform the same task), and harmfulness (Models should use correlations that are not socially or ethically harmful). These representations reveal that correlation desirability is not a fixed statistical property but a situated judgment informed by technical, epistemic, and ethical considerations. By examining how a foundational ML conundrum is problematized in research literature, we contribute to broader conversations on the contingent practices through which technical concepts like spuriousness are defined and operationalized.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517261447575>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“Artificial Intelligence at Work: An Integrative Review on the Impact of AI on Workplace Inequality” in *Academy of Management Annals*

By Ashley Mears and Taylor Beauvais

The nexus between technology and workplace inequality has been a long-standing topic of scholarly interest, now heightened by the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence (AI). Our review moves beyond dystopian or utopian views of AI by identifying four perspectives—normative, cognitive, structural, and relational—espoused by scholars examining the impact of AI on workplace inequality specifically, and the structure and organization of work more broadly. We discuss the respective strengths, limitations, and underlying assumptions of these perspectives and highlight how each perspective speaks to a particular facet of workplace inequality: either encoded, evaluative, wage, or relational inequality. Integrating these perspectives enables a deeper understanding of the mechanisms, processes, and trajectories through which AI influences workplace inequality, as well as the role that organizational managers, workers, and policymakers could play in the process. Toward this end, we introduce a framework on the “inequality cascades” of AI that traces how and when inequality emerges and amplifies cumulatively as AI systems progress through the phases of development, implementation, and use in organizations. In turn, we articulate a research agenda for management and organizational scholars to better understand AI and its multifaceted impact on workplace inequality, and we examine potential mechanisms to mitigate its adverse consequences.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5465/annals.2023.0230>

Open access: <https://par.nsf.gov/servlets/purl/10634009>

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“On-Demand Intimacy: The Sociotechnical Appeal of AI Companions” in *Social Media + Society*

By Skyler Wang and Marco Dehnert

As a burgeoning industry, artificial intelligence (AI) companion platforms capitalize on shifting societal attitudes toward tech-mediated relationships to introduce novel ways of connecting with nonhuman entities. But how are these platforms constituted, and how do they “sell” consumers the idea of human-AI relationships? By analyzing four prominent multimodal companions (AvatarOne, Digi, Paradot, and Replika), we argue that despite differences in architecture and style, state-of-the-art platforms converge on the following sociotechnical qualities: human-likeness, accessibility, customizability, and relationship progression. By creating technical affordances to augment these qualities, companion platforms ultimately project what we call a future of on-demand intimacy – intimacy that can be acquired in a truly frictionless manner. Beyond examining how commercial entities mobilize the grammar of human intimacy in tandem with on-demand culture to create new markets, this study offers a conceptual framework for future research into how platform dynamics shape not only the availability but also the meaning of intimacy in human-AI interactions.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051251410394>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

"Visibility Work in College": How Class and Capital Shape Student Profiles on Instagram" in Social Problems

By Michelle Cosens

How does social class shape students' social media presence in college? Scholarship has focused on the ways lower-income and historically marginalized students use social media to seek out information about college, yet less attention is paid to the ways social class informs how, where, and what students choose to post about themselves online during this period. Drawing on 40 interviews with undergraduates at a flagship university in the United States, I offer "visibility work" as a way to conceptualize how individuals strategize and manage the extent to which their lives are visible online. With a focus on Instagram, I show how students' visibility work in college is classed. While higher income students practiced proactive and consistently aesthetic visibility work on their Instagram profiles in order to scaffold in-person relationships and expedite social capital accumulation, lower-income students engaged in visibility work on their Instagram profiles that was reactive and sporadic by comparison. Having economic, social, and cultural capital produced an ease of visibility on the Instagram profile that students believed furthered their capital accumulation throughout college. This research advances scholarship in both sociology and digital studies by showing how online visibility is a mechanism of capital accumulation shaped by social class.

Link: <https://academic.oup.com/socpro/advance-article-abstract/doi/10.1093/socpro/spag006/8443111?redirectedFrom=PDF>

Michelle Cosens is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Michigan examining the intersection of culture, inequality and social media.

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"From Amway to Uber: A genealogy of sponsored entrepreneurship" in Platforms & Society

By Moira Weigel , Lindsey D. Cameron

This article develops a new history of gig work by turning to the margins of standard histories of capitalism. In contrast to prior research, which has used historical analogies to describe the contemporary gig economy, we develop a genealogy of three organizational forms that have sponsored entrepreneurship in the United States since the early twentieth century: multi-level marketing organizations, franchises, and platforms. We analyze how all three organizational forms have restructured work by appealing to individuals, communities, and states, promising solutions to forms of marginalization and exclusion that existing employment laws and norms created. However, we find that sponsored entrepreneurship tends to perpetuate and even exacerbate the inequalities that it purports to remedy.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/29768624251411649>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“Selling the self: Neo-normative control and the platform paradox” in Social Problems

By Lindsey D. Cameron, Vanessa M. Conzon , Laura Lam

The platform economy is an increasingly large segment of the contemporary economy that continues to attract workers, drawing on narratives of self-empowerment and entrepreneurship that are idolized within American culture. Yet, the realized lived experiences of workers are often anything but that of a flourishing entrepreneur, with many describing economic precarity, invasive and unpredictable algorithmic control, and demanding hours. What keeps people invested in returning to platform work? We label this observed contradiction the platform paradox, and we theorize how this paradox is continuously regenerated through neo-normative control, a modern form of workplace control that encourages workers to express their ‘authentic’ selves, individuality, and emotions in ways that align with organizational goals. Drawing on extant scholarship, we identify three neo-normative control mechanisms—framing self-as-product, whole self-integration, and hyper-gamification—that support platform workers in experiencing themselves as independent entrepreneurs while also increasing their control by the platform and its algorithmic management system. We illustrate how these controls collectively contribute to adverse consequences on two core work experiences: worker skill and worker time. We propose future research directions to further unpack this paradox and for the field of platform scholarship at-large, discussing implications for inequality.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.riob.2025.100230>

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“Backlash, Borders, and Bunkers: Critical Approaches for Research on Antidemocratic Politics and Climate Change Communication” in Environmental Communication

By Hanna E. Morris

In this introductory essay, guest editor Hanna E. Morris outlines the theoretical and methodological contributions of the Special Issue (SI) Backlash, Borders, and Bunkers: Antidemocratic Politics and Climate Change Communication. The essay begins with a reflection on the recent trend of climate policy rollbacks across borders since the start of “Trump 2.0,” despite most people wanting their governments to do more to address climate change. Predominant social science theories of polarization, populism, and disinformation are failing to adequately explain these rollbacks. This is because these theories, this essay argues, often deflect blame onto “the people” at the expense of reckoning with the deeply inequitable structures of power that effectively criminalize and delegitimize historically marginalized groups and activists. This deflection, in turn, sidelines justice-oriented responses to climate change that fundamentally question technocratic, market, and engineering “fixes” that keep asymmetrical structures of power in place. This SI showcases the kind of critical climate change communication scholarship that is needed to interrogate these “fixes” and move past limited theories to open paths for more nuanced scholarship and robustly democratic responses to climate change that see “the people” as they really are – as complex subjects with diverse knowledges, lived experiences, and expertise.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/17524032.2025.2607041>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“‘It Will Comfort You’: Analyzing Undergraduates’ Interactions with AI Chatbots Through a Postdigital Feminist Lens” in *Postdigital Science and Education*

By Iris Aleida Pinzon-Arteaga

This study explores undergraduate students’ interactions with AI chatbots through in-depth interviews with 28 participants aged 19 to 21 at a public university in the Northeast of the United States. Deploying a postdigital feminist framework, it challenges instrumentalist framings of generative AI by centering users’ embodied experiences, affective dynamics, and relational entanglements with the technology. The analysis addresses three core questions: (1) What embodied orientations emerge through students’ interactions with AI chatbots? (2) How do everyday encounters with chatbots shape socially trained, technologically mediated bodies? (3) What affective dynamics and relational connections take shape in these interactions? Findings reveal that chatbots are shaping students’ experiences of knowledge and writing at the micro, everyday level, cultivating embodied dispositions that privilege neoliberal imperatives of immediacy, efficiency, and certainty. Yet, their appeal goes beyond functionality; students value them as emotional companions that offer comfort, reassurance, and guidance, even as they express ambivalence toward them. These dynamics are shaped by gendered expectations around academic worth, confidence, and emotional labor. The paper argues for critical postdigital literacies that center embodiment, encouraging educators to reflect on what is gained and lost when pedagogical models overlook the body in contemporary AI-mediated learning environments.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42438-025-00618-0>

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“Environments of Disbelief: Serbian Youth, Conspiracy Theory, and Practices of Digital Distrust” in *Qualitative Sociology*

By Emma E. Brandt

Conspiracy theories are often understood as resulting from a lack of proper skepticism or an inability to approach narratives critically. This paper argues that we should instead see conspiracy theories as resulting from an excess of skepticism. Interviews with Serbian youth show how conspiracism coincides with other skeptical media practices, including fact-checking with Google, averaging for objectivity, and a preference for unmediated information. Living in an environment of disbelief, where institutions and official narratives cannot be trusted, young Serbians deploy conspiracy theories and related skeptical media practices as methods of political and social critique. More generally, this case study demonstrates the need for scholars to focus on conspiracy theories as part of a broader repertoire of media consumption practices characteristic of environments, rather than as pathologies of individuals.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/29768624251411649>

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

“Let them eat kale!: Appeals to class-based resentment in American conservative opposition to climate change solutions” in *Social Problems*

By Loredana Loy and Rachel Wetts

How do conservative media commentators provoke public opposition to climate change solutions in the US? We provide evidence that appeals to class-based resentment against cultural elites are one prominent strategy to urge publics to reject climate mitigation strategies, particularly individual-level changes in diet and consumption. Analyzing media coverage of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change from 1988–2021 across liberal, centrist, and conservative American outlets (N = 1788), we examine how commentators discuss the consumption of meat and animal products as contributors to climate change and dietary transition as a climate mitigation initiative. We find conservative rhetoric around this topic features class-based populism and ridicule of plant-based diets and vegetarianism as displays of cultural capital. Rather than relying on spreading misinformation or promoting scientific counter-claims, conservative commentators discredited these proposals by associating them with a rejected out-group, using moral and emotional language to stoke anger, resentment, but also humor. These findings suggest conservative rhetoric about dietary change as a climate solution appeals to class-based resentment, a strategy that may be becoming more prevalent as the Democratic Party becomes the party of highly educated Americans. Our findings shed light on the important but often overlooked role of identity appeals in contemporary strategies of climate obstruction.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spag003>

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CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS ARTICLE

““The State's Politics of "Fake Data"” in ACM CHI

By Chuncheng Liu, danah boyd

Data have power. As such, most discussions of data presume that records should mirror some idealized ground truth. Deviations are viewed as failure. Drawing on two ethnographic studies of state data-making in a Chinese street-level bureaucrat agency and at the US Census Bureau we show how seemingly "fake" state data perform institutional work. We map four moments in which actors negotiate between representational accuracy and organizational imperatives: creation, correction, collusion, and augmentation. Bureaucrats routinely privilege what data do over what they represent, creating fictions that serve civil servants' self-interest and enable constrained administrations. We argue that "fakeness" of state data is relational (context dependent), processual (emerging through workflows), and performative (brought into being through labeling and practice). We urge practitioners to center fitness-for-purpose in assessments of data and contextual governance. Rather than chasing impossible representational accuracy, sociotechnical systems should render the politics of useful fictions visible, contestable, and accountable.

DOI: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2602.10944>

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BOOK CHAPTER

““The Relational Work of Turkish YouTubers: Negotiating Money and Affective Bonding with the Audience”” in *Global South Creator Cultures* -edited by Tugce Bidav and Smith Mehta

By Elif Birced

This chapter unpacks how creators can strengthen their affective bonds – the affective responsiveness and attachment of audiences to the personae of creators – with the audience through monetisation. Using Turkish YouTubers’ use of channel memberships (YouTube Join) as a case, the chapter discusses how creators maintain affective bonds with their audience and keep them engaged while making money through YouTube Join in a country going through an inflation crisis. Drawing on interviews with 41 Turkish creators, it documents 3 main findings. Creators with a low variety of brands to work with utilise YouTube Join more than creators with a wide variety of sponsor options. Second, creators perform relational work to maintain economic gain and affective bonds with their audience. Finally, Turkey’s macroeconomic context shapes the relational work. These findings extend the literature by documenting that the sustainability of affective bonding on social media is closely tied to how content creators make monetisation meaningful in the eyes of their audience. The chapter further shows how broader political-economic structures shape the sustainability of channel memberships as a decent income stream, extending our understanding of how localised precarity is reproduced in the creator economy.

Link: <https://www.taylorfrancis.com/chapters/edit/10.4324/9781003600688-3/relational-work-turkish-youtubers-elif-birced>

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BOOK PUBLICATIONS

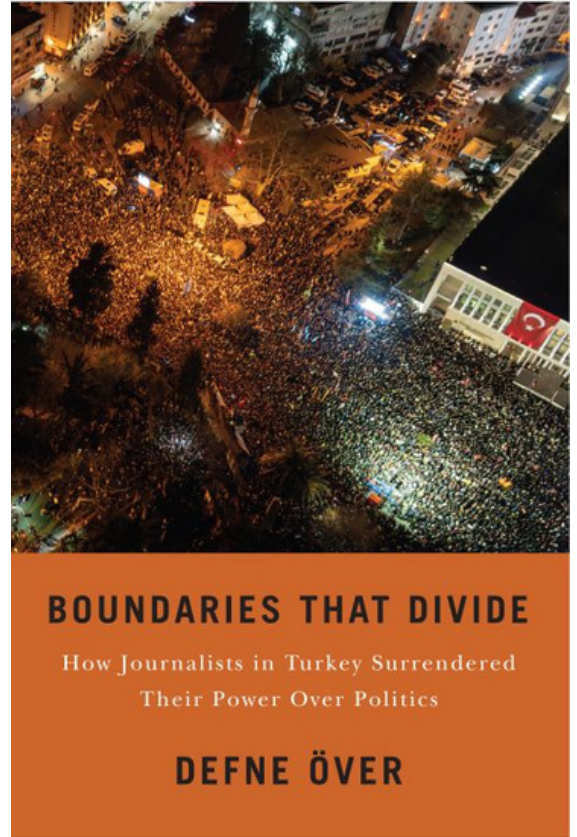
Boundaries That Divide: How Journalists in Turkey Surrendered Their Power over Politics

By Defne Över

Turkey presents a striking example of the most recent wave of global authoritarian turns. The two-decade-long transition in the country's political system also transformed its media environment. As mainstream journalists gradually yielded their places to sycophants, much more willing to praise the government in their news, the mainstream media that once oversaw—however imperfectly—political decisions started devoting its full service to cheerleading the government. Simultaneously, a new sphere of critical journalism began to emerge, with mainstream media journalists joining their fellows in the peripheries of the media.

Considering the transformation of Turkey's news media as the decay of a democratic institution, this book asks, How does the media break down under the rule of an elected government? Drawing on fieldwork and in-depth interviews, the book traces the ruling AKP's populist manipulation of social divides to consolidate power and journalists' navigation of the resulting climate of fear, hope, doubt, and anger. The book shows how Turkey's news media surrendered its power over politics as some journalists embraced disinformation as a path to heightened status, others turned to self-censorship for individual protection, and still others resisted capture collectively through continuous but fragmented efforts. The book portrays journalists as central actors in media decay, while also revealing that resilience to decay emerges where rising demand for "news" meets the contentious mobilization of journalists. Although focused on Turkey, the book's insights extend far beyond, offering urgent lessons about the future of journalism in an age of populism, polarization, and institutional erosion.

<https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/templeton-press/boundaries-that-divide/9781978844179>



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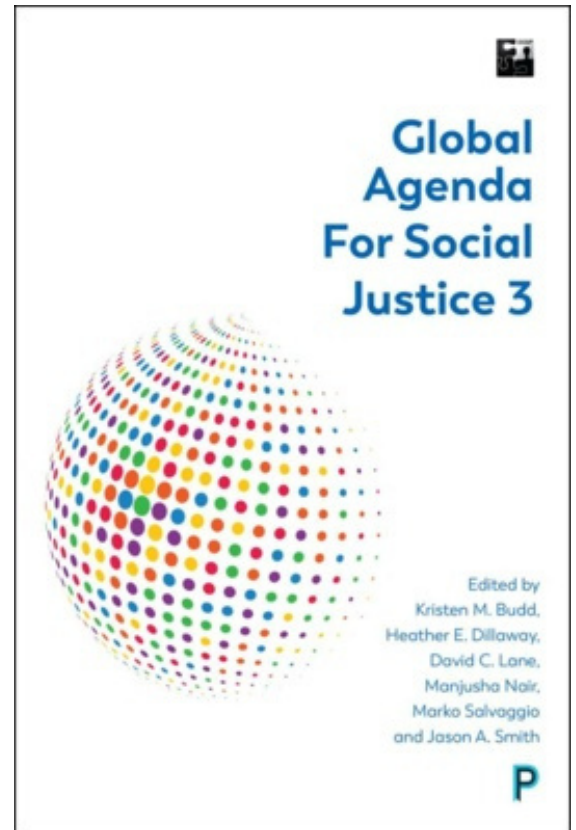
BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Global Agenda for Social Justice 3

By Kristen M. Budd, Heather E. Dillaway, David C. Lane, Manjusha Nair, Marko Salvaggio and Jason A. Smith

The Global Agenda for Social Justice 3 provides accessible insights into some of the most pressing social problems and proposes public policy responses to those problems. Written by a highly respected team of authors brought together by the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), the book offers recommendations for action by elected officials, policy makers, and the public regarding key issues for social justice. Chapters include discussion of social problems related to period poverty, climate justice, algorithmic bias, labor rights, and global inequality. 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/global-agenda-for-social-justice-3>



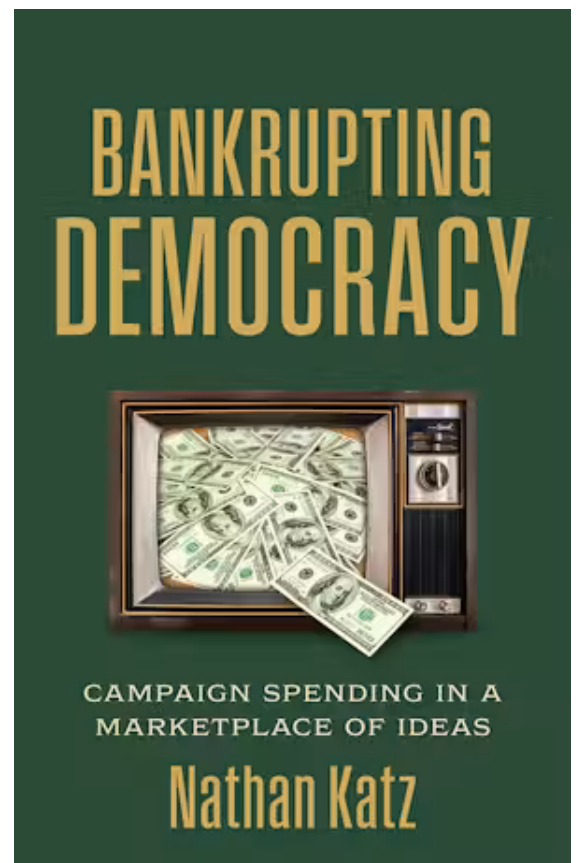
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Bankrupting Democracy: Campaign Spending in a Marketplace of Ideas

By Nathan Katz

Bankrupting Democracy proposes a new way of looking at campaign finance reform that shows the power of creative sociological thinking to actively protect society from the growing power of political elites. Katz brings a sociological edge to an interdisciplinary topic dominated by political scientists, communication scholars, lawyers, and economists. Many of these works imagine campaign money as analogous to hydraulics, wherein limiting the flow of money will create new channels for the money to go. Katz reimagines these ideas, suggesting that the consolidation of power makes campaign money more like icebergs. In order to keep the power of elites in check he suggests taking ideas from antitrust laws to regulate money in politics to provide further protections to a very much threatened democracy. A great deal of coordination within elections comes through political consultants working with multiple organizations at once. By limiting the number of organizations, candidates, and parties that political consultants can work with it is possible to promote more diverse speech by placing additional barriers on coordinative practices rather than the spending itself.

<https://kansaspress.ku.edu/9780700641253/>



Noteworthy CFPs At A Glance

Conference CFPs

Title	Organization/ Editors	Deadline
Researching the Right in 2026: Translation Across Methods, Borders, and Disciplines	Institute for Public Knowledge (NYU)	Abstract: June 1, 2026

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Details of Noteworthy CFPs

Conference CFPS

Researching the Right in 2026: Translation Across Methods, Borders, and Disciplines
August 7, 2026 | Institute for Public Knowledge (NYU)

The Right is increasingly globally networked, sharing campaign and political messaging strategies, and borrowing technologies of repression. Whether researching transnational networks of evangelical political actors, shifts in diasporic communities, or the influences of global media flows, scholars today continue to grapple with conducting research with the Right. This conference will build on the discussions and community developed during a 2024 American Sociological Association (ASA) preconference which was focused on the US. Our connected goals with this next conference are thus to strengthen and expand a growing community of researchers, as well as de-center the US by foregrounding research on movements and actors across geographical contexts.

This one-day conference will also expand its methodological focus. Understanding, and then countering, how individuals and communities interpret and share problematic right-wing narratives requires humanistic and qualitative methods that capture nuanced meaning-making.

Academia has often failed in training and supporting scholars who conduct actionable research in right-leaning or far-right spaces. Thus, this conference aims to create a solidaristic space for participants to build community and collaborations. The groups under study might differ but researchers face shared challenges, especially those identifying as women, scholars of color and those of diverse gender and sexual identities. Increased political repression, including in higher education, further illustrates the need for coordination and solidarity. Outcomes of the last conference included an international research retreat (2025) and a special issue in Contemporary Sociology (2026). The insight generated at this conference will be used to produce a best practice note for scholars and adjacent scholars, and possibly another special journal issue.

The themes we're hoping to explore during the conference include:

- State of the Field: "Rightwing Studies" is a growing and diverse field, with significant differences across regional, political, and of course, disciplinary contexts. Rather than holding boundary-work debates about which terminology should be adopted as default, we aim to consider what gets lost in translation, both linguistically and conceptually. For example, how are terms such as "anti-gender" and "illiberalism" mobilized differently across contexts? Moreover, how can we keep lines of translation open across these settings to produce robust accountings?

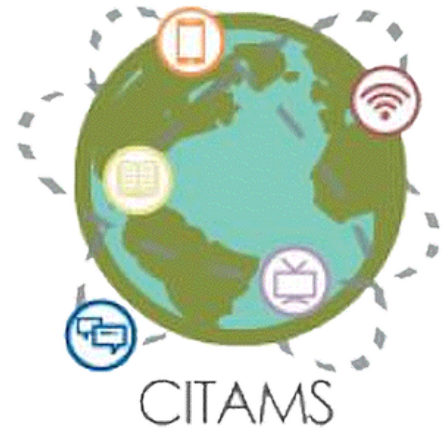
Details of Noteworthy CFPs

Conference CFPS

- Translating Across Methods: Religion, Gender, and Movements: How can distinct qualitative methods illuminate different aspects of how right-wing projects govern bodies, sexuality, and “family values” across borders? What does each method treat as evidence? What forms of power or resistance come into focus—or fade—when we follow people, texts, images, movements, or institutions?
- Beyond Comparison: What are the benefits and drawbacks of comparing right-wing movements, actors, countries, versus a study of transnational networks? What is the best way to study the Right transnationally, especially when it comes to the media and global information flows? In this context, we will also ask panelists to consider how to de-center the US in studies of the Right, methodologically and analytically, and drawing from their own work.
- Safety, Self, and Sanity: How can we take care of ourselves, stay safe, and carry out our own political obligations while doing research with rightwing groups? Moreover, how can this work be conducted in the context of rising political violence and increasing state-sanctioned curtailing of academic freedom in many contexts (e.g., US, Hungary, Peru)? This discussion will also include such topics as navigating researcher safety, reputation, career progression, and even institutional support (or lack thereof).

To apply to present, please submit an abstract [here](#) by June 1, 2026. Please also indicate which theme your work corresponds to, or introduce a theme not mentioned. Any questions can be directed to Katie Gaddini (k.gaddini@ucl.ac.uk) and AJ Bauer (ajbauer2@ua.edu)

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



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

Hope to see you all at ASA!!

