

Thomas R. Davidson

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- EDUCATION** Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology, Cornell University, 2017-present.
M.A. in Sociology, Cornell University, 2017.
M.Sc. in Political Sociology, *Distinction*, London School of Economics, 2013.
B.A. Honours in American Studies, *First Class*, University of East Anglia, 2011.
Study abroad, Reed College, 2009-2010.
- RESEARCH INTERESTS** Political sociology, social movements, culture, networks, computational social science.
- PUBLICATIONS**
- Journal articles** **Davidson, Thomas.** *Forthcoming.* “Black Box Models and Sociological Explanations: Predicting High School GPA Using Neural Networks.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World.*
- Davidson, Thomas** and Mabel Berezin. 2018. “Britain First and the UK Independence Party: Social Media and Movement-Party Dynamics.” *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 23(4): 485-510.
- Davidson, Thomas** and Paromita Sanyal. 2017. “Associational Participation and Network Expansion: Microcredit Self-Help Groups and Poor Women’s Social Ties in Rural India.” *Social Forces.* 95(4): 1695-1724.
- Conference & workshop proceedings** Waseem, Zeerak, **Thomas Davidson**, Dana Warmlesley, and Ingmar Weber. 2017. “Understanding Abuse: A Typology of Abusive Language Detection Subtasks.” *Proceedings of the First Abusive Language Workshop, Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL):* 78-84.
- Davidson, Thomas**, Dana Warmlesley, Michael Macy, and Ingmar Weber. 2017. “Automated Hate Speech Detection and the Problem of Offensive Language.” *Proceedings of the Eleventh AAAI International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM):* 512-515. **Media coverage:** *New Scientist, Tech Republic, Wired.*
- Book chapters & miscellanea** Berezin, Mabel, Emily Sandusky, and **Thomas Davidson.** *Forthcoming.* “Culture in Politics and Politics in Culture: Institutions, Practices and Boundaries” in Thomas Janoski et al. (eds) *The New Handbook of Political Sociology. 2nd edition.* Cambridge University Press: Cambridge.
- Schofield, Alexandra, and **Thomas Davidson.** 2017. “Identifying Hate Speech in Social Media.” *Association for Computing Machinery XRDS.* 24(2): 56-59.

Media

Berezin, Mabel and **Thomas Davidson**. “The big winners in Italy’s election are really big on Facebook.” *The Washington Post*. March 7th 2018.

Davidson, Thomas, and Julius Lagodny. “Germany’s far-right party AfD won the Facebook battle. By a lot.” *The Washington Post*. September 26th 2017.

Berezin, Mabel, and **Thomas Davidson**. “The Handwriting on the Facebook Wall: Brexit Was Never Only EU.” *The Huffington Post*. June 27th 2016.

Work in progress Davidson, Thomas. “The Dynamics of Support for the Far-right on Social Media”.

Davidson, Thomas. “The Organizational Ecology of the Online Brexit Referendum”.

Davidson, Thomas. “Opinion Leadership on Social Media: The Case of the Brexit Referendum”.

Sirianni, Antonio, and Thomas Davidson. “Fundamentally retrogressive? A Sociological Study of the Career Trajectories of Adult Film Performers”.

Davidson, Thomas. “Performance, Production, Attendance and the Life-cycle of a Music Genre”.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant for Professor Michael Macy, Cornell University. Fall 2017, 2018.

Core Data Science Intern, Facebook, Inc., Menlo Park, CA. Summer 2018.

Data Science Research & Development Intern, Civis Analytics, Chicago, IL. Summer 2017.

Eric and Wendy Schmidt Data Science for Social Good Fellow, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL. Summer 2016.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Teaching Assistant for Assistant Professor Cristian Danescu-Niculescu-Mizil, *Language and Information*, Department of Computer Science, Cornell University, Spring 2017, Spring 2018.

Instructor, Social Dynamics Lab, Cornell University, workshops on web scraping, Facebook and Twitter API usage, and machine learning. 2015 - 2018.

Capstone Project Partner, Master of Professional Studies in Information Science, Department of Information Science, Cornell University, Fall 2016.

Teaching Assistant for Assistant Professor Kendra Bischoff, *Introduction to Sociology*, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, Fall 2016.

Teaching Assistant for Professor Doug Heckathorn, *Drugs and Society*, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, Spring 2016.

Teaching Assistant for Professor Richard Swedberg, *Classical Theory*, Department of Sociology, Cornell University, Fall 2015.

Teaching Assistant in Sociology, LSE Choice Widening Participation Scheme, London School of Economics and Political Science, Summer 2013.

Learning Support Assistant, Park High School, Stanmore, U.K., September 2011-October 2012.

TALKS

Davidson, Thomas. “Opinion Leadership on Social Media: The Case of the Brexit

Referendum.” January 2019. *Social Media and Political Participation Lab, New York University, NY*. (Invited).

2018 Davidson, Thomas, and Mabel Berezin. “The UKIP at the ballot box, Britain First on Facebook: Party-Movement Interactions on Social Media.” April 2018. *Young Scholars Conference, Center for the Study of Social Movements, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN*. (Invited).

Siriani, Antonio, and Thomas Davidson. “Fundamentally retrogressive? A Sociological Study of the Career Trajectories of Adult Film Performers.” February 2018. *Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD*.

2017 Berezin, Mabel, and Thomas Davidson. “Political Conversations on Social Media: Bridging Between Parties and Movements in the United Kingdom.” August 2017. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec*.

Waseem, Zeerak, Thomas Davidson, Dana Warmesley, and Ingmar Weber. 2017. “Understanding Abuse: A Typology of Abusive Language Detection Subtasks.” August 2017. *First Workshop on Abusive Language Online, Association for Computational Linguistics, Vancouver, British Columbia*.

Davidson, Thomas, Dana Warmesley, Michael Macy, and Ingmar Weber. 2017. “Automated Hate Speech Detection and the Problem of Offensive Language.” May 2017. *Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, Eleventh International Conference on Web and Social Media, Montreal, Quebec*.

2016 Davidson, Thomas, and Paromita Sanyal. “Microcredit Self-Help Groups and Social Networks in Rural India: Expanding Poor Women’s Personal Contacts”. August 2016. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA*.

Berezin, Mabel, Thomas Davidson, and Elizabeth Becker. “Foreign Conversations: How Northern Europe Differs from Southern Europe” (Invited panel session). August 2016. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA*.

Berezin, Mabel, and Thomas Davidson. “Populists Talking to Each Other: Right Wing Party and Movement Supporters on Social Media in the UK”. April 2016. *Council for European Studies Conference, Philadelphia, PA*.

2015 Davidson, Thomas. “Blockmodeling Caste and Religious Divisions in Interaction Networks in Rural India.” June 2015. *International Network for Social Network Analysis Sunbelt Conference, Brighton, United Kingdom*.

2014 Davidson, Thomas. “The Paradox of (Anti)Social Media: A Content Analysis of Conflictual Framing in a Far-Right Social Movement.” September 2014. *Social Media and Social Movements, Laboratory for Internet Studies, Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg, Russia*.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Russell Sage Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Princeton University, 2019.

Young Scholar in Social Movements, University of Notre Dame, 2018.

Eric and Wendy Schmidt Data Science for Social Good Summer Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2016.

Sage Doctoral Fellowship, Cornell University, Department of Sociology, 2014, 2019.

Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University Graduate School, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019.

Commendation for Academic Excellence from the Faculty, Reed College, 2010.

SERVICE

Applicant reviewer and interviewer, Data Science for Social Good, 2018, 2019.

Co-President, Sociology Graduate Student Association, Cornell University, 2016-17.

Program Committee member and reviewer for ICWSM 2018, 2019, 2020; IC2S2 2019, Workshop on Abusive Language Online 2018, 2019; SocInfo 2019.

Ad-hoc reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Sociological Forum*, *Socius*, *ACM Transactions on Social Computing*, *EPJ Data Science*, *Big Data*, *Social Media + Society*, *Journal of Management Studies*.

MENTORING

Debasmita Bhattacharya '21 (research), Information Science, Cornell University.

David Brotz '18 (honors thesis), Sociology, Cornell University.

Alex MacKenzie '18 (research), Sociology, Cornell University.

Jiangjie Man '17, Jing Xia '17, Ryan Enderby '17, and Weiran Song '17 (research). Masters of Professional Studies in Information Science, Cornell University.

Dawit Mekonnen '15 (research and honors thesis), Sociology, Cornell University.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS American Sociological Association, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, International Network for Social Network Analysis.