THOMAS R. DAVIDSON
Curriculum Vitae

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5th May, 2025

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2020 - present	Assistant Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University.

EDUCATION

2020	Ph.D. in Sociology, Cornell University.
2018	M.A. in Sociology, Cornell University.
2013	M.Sc. in Political Sociology, Distinction, London School of Economics and Political Science.
2011	B.A. (Hons) in American Studies, 1st Class, University of East Anglia.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

Thomas Davidson and Daniel Karell. 2025. "Integrating Generative AI into Social Science Research: Measurement, Prompting, and Simulation." *Sociological Methods & Research* 54 (3): 1-18.

Youngjin Chae[†] and **Thomas Davidson**. 2025. "Large Language Models for Text Classification: From Zero-Shot Learning to Instruction-Tuning." *Sociological Methods & Research.* 1-67.

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos[†]. 2025. "Engaging Populism? The Popularity of European Populist Political Parties on Facebook and Twitter, 2010-2020." *Political Communication* 42 (1): 171-200.

Thomas Davidson. 2024. "Start Generating: Harnessing Generative Artificial Intelligence for Sociological Research." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 10: 1-17.

Thomas Davidson. 2024. "Audience Engagement and the Dynamics of Online Activism: Far-Right Mobilization on Facebook." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 28 (4): 445-470.

Julie Phillips, **Thomas Davidson**, and Marilyn Baffoe-Bonnie[†]. 2023. "Identifying Latent Themes in Suicide among Black and White Adolescents and Young Adults Using the National Violent Death Reporting System, 2013-2019." *Social Science & Medicine* 334: 116114.

Matthew Salganik and many authors, including **Thomas Davidson**. 2020. "Measuring the predictability of life outcomes with a scientific mass collaboration." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117 (15): 8398-8403.

Thomas Davidson. 2019. "Black Box Models and Sociological Explanations: Predicting High School GPA Using Neural Networks." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 5: 1-11.

Thomas Davidson 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.

Thomas Davidson 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

Xuhui Zhou, Hao Zhu, Akhila Yerukola, **Thomas Davidson**, Jena D. Hwang, Swabha Swayamdipta and Maarten Sap. 2023. "COBRA Frames: Contextual Reasoning about Effects and Harms of Offensive Statements." *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*: 62946315.

Keyu Chen, Marzieh Babaeianjelodar, Yiwen Shi, Kamila Janmohamed, Rupak Sarkar, Ingmar Weber, **Thomas Davidson**, Munmun De Choudhury, Jonathan Huang, Shweta Yadav, Ashique Khudabukhsh, Preslav Ivanov Nakov, Chris Bauch, Orestis Papakyriakopoulos, Kaveh Khoshnood, and Navin Kumar. 2023. "Partisan US News Media Representations of Syrian Refugees." *Proceedings of the AAAI International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*: 103-113.

Thomas Davidson and Debasmita Bhattacharya[†]. 2020. "Examining Racial Bias in an Online Abuse Corpus with Structural Topic Model-

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Students under my supervision are denoted by †.

ing." *Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), Data Challenge Workshop.*

Thomas Davidson, Debasmita Bhattacharya[†], and Ingmar Weber. 2019. "Racial Bias in Hate Speech and Abusive Language Detection Datasets." *Proceedings of the Third Abusive Language Workshop, ACL*: 25-35.

Zeerak Waseem, **Thomas Davidson**, Dana Warmsley, and Ingmar Weber. 2017. "Understanding Abuse: A Typology of Abusive Language Detection Subtasks." *Proceedings of the First Abusive Language Workshop, ACL*: 78-84.

Thomas Davidson, Dana Warmsley, 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.

Book chapters   **Thomas Davidson.** 2025. "Hate speech detection and bias in supervised text classification." in Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra and Christian Borch (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning.* Oxford University Press. 121-140.

Mabel Berezin, Emily Sandusky, and **Thomas Davidson**. 2020. "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. 102-131.

Book reviews   **Thomas Davidson**. 2025. "Brexit, Facebook, and Transnational Right-Wing Populism." *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 54(2): 142-144.

Thomas Davidson. 2021. "Review of *The Making of the Populist Movement: State, Market, and Party on the Western Frontier* by Adam Slez." *Social Forces* 100(1): e6.

Other writing   **Thomas Davidson**. 2021. "Tales from the Field: Studying Far-Right Populism on Social Media." *States, Power, and Societies.* ASA Political Sociology Section Newsletter.

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

Alexandra Schofield and **Thomas Davidson**. 2017. "Identifying Hate

Speech in Social Media." *Association for Computing Machinery XRDS*. 24(2): 56-59.

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

WORK IN PROGRESS

Thomas Davidson. "Auditing multimodal large language models for context-aware content moderation." *Revise and resubmit.*

Ranjit Lall, Thomas Davidson, and Felix Hagemeister. "Did COVID-19 Boost Populism? Evidence from Early Super Spreader Events." *Under review.*

Daniel Karell, Matthew Shu, Keitaro Okura, and Thomas Davidson. "Artificial Intelligence Summaries of Historical Events Improve Knowledge Compared to Human-Written Summaries." *Under review.*

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos[†]. "A Comparative Analysis of Immigration Discourse in Europe." *Under review.*

Thomas Davidson. "Experiments on Perceptions of Online Hate Speech."

Thomas Davidson. "Online Activism and Algorithmic Opportunity Structures."

GRANTS

2025 - 2027   Co-PI, Harnessing Large Language Models for Causal Inference in the Social Sciences ($65,000), Rutgers University, School of Arts & Sciences.

2024   Researcher Access Program ($10,000 in compute credits), OpenAI.

2023   PI, Foundational Integrity Research Award ($50,000), Meta.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2020   Robin M. Williams Jr. Best Graduate Student Research Paper Award, Department of Sociology, Cornell University.

2019   Josephson Family Scholarship in Computational Social Science, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University.

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Princeton University.

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

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

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

2025   Thomas Davidson. "Auditing Multimodal Large Language Models for Contextualized Hate Speech Detection Using Conjoint Experiments." *ASA Annual Meeting, Chicago.*

Thomas Davidson. "Experimentally Evaluating Perceptions of Online Hate Speech in Social Contexts."
  - *Blackmar Lecture, Department of Sociology, The University of Kansas.* Invited.
  - *School of Sociology Colloquium, University of Arizona.* Invited.
  - *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, University of Pennsylvania.* Invited.
  - *ASA Methodology Section Midyear Conference, University of Pennsylvania.*

2024   Youngjin Chae and Thomas Davidson. "Detecting Political Stances in Social Media Posts Using Large Language Models." *Institut Polytechnique de Paris, AI and Social Sciences Seminar.* Invited.

Thomas Davidson. "Experimentally Evaluating Perceptions of Online Hate Speech in Social Contexts."
  - *International Conference for Computational Social Science (IC2S2), University of Pennsylvania.*
  - *Trust and Safety Research Conference, Stanford University.*

Thomas Davidson. "Online Activism and Algorithmic Opportunity Structures." *Mobilization Conference, San Diego State University.*

Thomas Davidson. "Generative Artificial Intelligence Across the Social Sciences." Panel organizer and moderator. *Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop, Yale University.*

Thomas Davidson. "Start Generating: Harnessing Generative Artificial Intelligence for Sociological Research."

- *Toronto Data Science Workshop, University of Toronto.* Invited.
- *Data Science Program, Bryn Mawr College.* Invited.
- *Consortium on Analytics for Data-Driven Decision-Making (CAnD3), McGill University.* Invited.
- *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Rutgers University.* Invited.
- *Workshop on Advanced Research Methods (WARM), StarFlame.* Invited.

Thomas Davidson. Panelist on "The Data Pulse of Social Change: Social Movements Research in the Computational Era," *ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Symposium (Online).*

2023   Jenny Enos[†] and Thomas Davidson. "Crisis Talk: Social Media Rhetoric and the Refugee Crisis in Europe." *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.*

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos[†]. "Are Populist Political Parties More Popular on Social Media? Evidence from Europe, 2010-2020." *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.*

Youngjin Chae[†] and Thomas Davidson. "Detecting Political Stances in Social Media Posts Using Large Language Models." *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.*

Julie Phillips, Thomas Davidson, and Marilyn Baffoe-Bonnie[†]. "Identifying Latent Themes in Suicide among Blacks and Whites aged 10-29 using the National Violent Death Reporting System, 2013-2019." *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.*

Thomas Davidson. "Online Activism and Algorithmic Opportunity Structures."

- *Future of Activism Workshop, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University.*
- *ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movement Section Pre-Conference, University of Pennsylvania.*

Panelist, "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on ChatGPT", *Rutgers University, School of Arts and Sciences Office of Undergraduate Education.* Invited.

6

2022   Thomas Davidson and Kiran Garimella. "Mitigating Polarizing Language in Political Texts." *Rutgers University, Research Ideation Forum on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence.*

Thomas Davidson. "Classification and Bias: The Case of Hate Speech Detection Algorithms."
- *Workshop on Algorithmic Governance, European Commission.* Invited.
- *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science-Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong.* Invited.

Ranjit Lall, Thomas Davidson, and Felix Hagemeister. "Did COVID-19 Boost Populism? Evidence from Early Super Spreader Events."
- *Stanford Political Science Workshop.*
- *Politics and Computational Social Science Conference, Harvard University.*
- *International Political Economy Society, University of Pittsburgh.*

2021   Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos[†]. "Are Populist Political Parties More Popular on Social Media? Evidence from Europe, 2010-2020."
- *Politics and Computational Social Science Conference, Northeastern University.*
- *Cornell & Indiana sociology working group. Invited.*

Thomas Davidson. "Using images and video data for social science: challenges and opportunities." *Princeton University, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Festival.* Panel organizer and moderator. [Recording].

Thomas Davidson. "Hate Speech Detection and Content Moderation". *Organization of American States, Americas Dialogue Project.* [Recording]. Invited.

2020   Thomas Davidson. "Classification and Bias: The Case of Hate Speech Detection Algorithms."
- *Stony Brook University.* Invited guest lecture.
- *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Rutgers University.* Invited.
- *University of Toronto.* Invited guest lecture.

Thomas Davidson. "Introduction to Hate Speech Detection." *Hack Hate, organized by Police Rewired.* Invited.

Thomas Davidson and Debasmita Bhattacharya[†]. "Examining Racial Bias in an Online Abuse Corpus with Structural Topic Modeling." *International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), Data Challenge Workshop, Washington, D.C.*

TEACHING

Rutgers

Graduate *Computational Sociology*: Spring 2021, Spring 2024.

Statistical Methods in Sociology II: Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2025.

Undergraduate *Computational Social Science*: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Fall 2024.

Sociology of Culture: Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023 (two sections), Fall 2024, Spring 2025.

Political Sociology: Fall 2020.

Cornell

Teaching assistant *Language and Information*, Department of Computer Science: Spring 2017 and 2018.

Introduction to Sociology, Department of Sociology: Fall 2016.

Drugs and Society, Department of Sociology: Spring 2016.

Classical Theory, Department of Sociology: Fall 2015.

LSE   Teaching Assistant in Sociology, LSE Choice Widening Participation Scheme, Summer 2013.

SERVICE

Rutgers Member, Colloquium Committee, spring 2024.

Computational Social Science Cluster Champion, Cluster on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, 2023-.

Member, Cyberinfrastructure and AI for Science and Society (CASS) Committee, Chancellor-Provost Challenge, 2023-.

	Co-organizer, Quantitative Applications in Sociology (QAS) Workshop, 2022-2023.
	Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2022-2023.
	Member, Graduate Program Committee, 2021-22, 2024-2025.
	Member, Undergraduate Program Committee, 2020-22.
Discipline	Co-organizer (with Daniel Karell), Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University, 2024.
	Advisory board, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, 2023-.
	Member, ASA Mathematical Sociology Section, Outstanding Article Award Committee, 2023-2024.
	Member, ASA Political Sociology Section, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship for a Paper by a Graduate Student Award Committee, 2023-2024.
	Member, ASA Culture Section, Membership Committee, 2022-2024.
	Organizer, ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, Small Group on Computational Methods, 2023-.
	Member, ASA Mathematical Sociology Section, Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee, 2022-2023.
	Co-organizer (with Yotam Shmargad), Winter Institute in Computational Social Science, University of Arizona, 2021.
	Reviewer and interviewer, Data Science for Social Good, 2018-20.
Grant proposals	Reviewer, National Science Foundation, Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program, 2024.
	Reviewer, National Science Foundation CAREER award, 2021.
	Reviewer, Social Science Research Council SICSS Research Grants, 2021.
Editorial	Guest editor (with Daniel Karell), special issue of *Sociological Methods*

& Research on Generative AI and Sociology, 2024-2025.

Critical AI (Duke University Press), International Advisory Board, 2023-

Journals and conferences	Occasional reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Journal of Politics*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Sociological Forum*, *Socius*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Social Currents*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Social Problems*, *Political Analysis*, *Nations and Nationalism*, *Political Communication*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Research in Social Movements, Conflict, and Change*, *PLOS One*, *Information, Communication, and Society*, *New Media and Society*, *ACM Transactions on Social Computing*, *EPJ Data Science*, *Big Data*, *Social Media + Society*, *Journal of Management Studies*, *Journal of Natural Language Engineering*, *Journal of Online Trust and Safety*, *Journal of Quantitative Description*, *Social Science Computer Review*, and *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*.

Program committee member and reviewer for *ICWSM* 2018-21, 2023; *IC2S2* 2019-20, *Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms* (formerly *Abusive Language Workshop*) 2018-21; *SocInfo* 2019; *WebSci* 2020; *NeurIPS* 2021.

STUDENTS

Rutgers

Graduate	Hannah Troxel (PhD 2024), dissertation committee member.

Marilyn Baffoe-Bonnie (PhD 2024), second qualifying paper reader.

Yunhee Shim (School of Communication and Information, MA 2024), qualifying exam committee.

Fred Traylor, first qualifying paper reader.

Jenny Enos, second qualifying paper reader, independent study, dissertation committee member (ongoing).

Youngjin Chae, independent study, second qualifying paper chair (ongoing).

Marina Rivera Ramos, first qualifying paper chair (ongoing).

Anderson de Andrade, first qualifying paper committee member (ongoing).

Olivia Hakala, first qualifying paper committee member (ongoing).

Duhui Lee, first qualifying paper committee member (ongoing).

Undergraduate   Jay Rana '26, Design Justice Labs fellowship advisor.

Archi Parekh '23, Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship & Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis advisor.

Manya Sherman '23, Senior Honors Thesis minor advisor. *Henry Rutgers Scholar Award* winner.

Joshua Gole '22, Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis advisor.

References available upon request.