

THOMAS R. DAVIDSON

Curriculum Vitae

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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 with Distinction, London School of Economics and Political Science.

2011 B.A. Honours in American Studies, First Class, University of East Anglia.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed
journal articles

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.

Peer-reviewed
conference &
workshop
proceedings

Thomas Davidson and Debasmita Bhattacharya. 2020. "Examining Racial Bias in an Online Abuse Corpus with Structural Topic Modeling." *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, Association for Computational Linguistics*: 25-35.

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

Thomas Davidson, Dana Warmusley, 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

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. 2021. "Review of *The Making of the Populist Movement: State, Market, and Party on the Western Frontier* by Adam Slez." *Social Forces*.

Media & op-eds

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

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

Newsletters

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

Alexandra Schofield and **Thomas Davidson**. 2017. "Identifying Hate Speech in Social Media." *Association for Computing Machinery XRDS*. 24(2): 56-59.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Thomas Davidson. "The Dynamics of Far-Right Activity, Support, and Recruitment on Social Media." *Manuscript in preparation*.

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos. "Are Populist Political Parties More Popular on Social Media? Evidence from Europe, 2010-2020." *Manuscript in preparation*.

Thomas Davidson. "Social Media and the Electoral Performance of the Radical Right in Europe." *Data analysis*.

Felix Hagemester, Ranjit Lall, and Thomas Davidson. "The COVID-19 Pandemic and Support for Right-Wing Populists on Social Media"

Thomas Davidson. "Opinion Leadership on Social Media: Facebook and the Brexit Referendum." *Data analysis*.

Thomas Davidson. "Revisiting Political Opinion Leadership: An Agent-Based Model." *Data analysis*.

Thomas Davidson. "The Organizational Ecology of the Brexit Referendum on Social Media." *Data analysis*.

Antonio Sirianni and Thomas Davidson. "Fundamentally retrogressive? A Sociological Study of the Career Trajectories of Adult Film Performers." *Undergoing revisions*.

Thomas Davidson "Musical Careers and Genre Evolution: Production, Performance, and Reception." *Data collection*.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

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

Josephson Family Scholarship in Computational Social Science, College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University, 2019-2020.

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 Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2016.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos. "Are Populist Political Parties More Popular on Social Media? Evidence from Europe, 2010-2020." August 2021. *Fourth Annual Politics and Computational Social Science Conference, Northeastern University.*
- Thomas Davidson. "Using images and video data for social science: challenges and opportunities." June 2021. *Princeton University, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Festival.* Panel organizer and moderator. [Recording]
- Thomas Davidson. "Classification and Bias: The Case of Hate Speech Detection Algorithms." February 2021. *University of Toronto.* Invited guest lecture.
- 2020 Thomas Davidson. "Classification and Bias: The Case of Hate Speech Detection Algorithms." November 2020. *Stony Brook University, NY.* Invited guest lecture.
- Thomas Davidson. "Introduction to Hate Speech Detection." October 2020. *Hack Hate, organized by Police Rewired.* Invited.
- Thomas Davidson. "Classification and Bias: The Case of Hate Speech Detection Algorithms." June 2020. *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Rutgers University, NJ.* Invited.
- Thomas Davidson and Debasmita Bhattacharya. "Examining Racial Bias in an Online Abuse Corpus with Structural Topic Modeling." August 2019. *International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), Data Challenge Workshop, Washington, D.C.*
- 2019 Thomas Davidson. "The Dynamics of Far-Right Activity, Support, and Recruitment on Social Media." August 2019. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.*
- Sirianni, Antonio, and Thomas Davidson. "Fundamentally retrogressive? A Sociological Study of the Career Trajectories of Adult Film Performers." August 2019. *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.*
- Thomas Davidson and Mabel Berezin. "Insecurity Talk: What We Can

Learn About Populist Politics Through Social Media." May 2019. *ASA Political Sociology Section Mini-Conference, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY.*

Thomas Davidson, Debasmita Bhattacharya, and Ingmar Weber. August 2019. "Racial Bias in Hate Speech and Abusive Language Detection Datasets." *Third Workshop on Abusive Language Online, ACL, Florence, Italy.*

Thomas Davidson. "The Organizational Ecology of the Brexit Referendum on Social Media." May 2019. *12th Annual APSA Political Networks Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC.*

Thomas Davidson. "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

Thomas Davidson 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.*

Thomas Davidson, 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 Thomas Davidson 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 Thomas Davidson. "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 Thomas Davidson. "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.*

TEACHING

- Rutgers *Statistical Methods in Sociology II*, graduate, Spring 2022.
- Computational Social Science*, undergraduate, Fall 2021, Spring 2022.
- Sociology of Culture*, undergraduate, Spring 2021.
- Computational Sociology*, graduate, Spring 2021.
- Political Sociology*, undergraduate, Fall 2020.
- Cornell Teaching Assistant, *Language and Information*, Department of Computer Science, Spring 2017 and 2018.
- Teaching Assistant, *Introduction to Sociology*, Department of Sociology, Fall 2016.

Teaching Assistant, *Drugs and Society*, Department of Sociology, Spring 2016.

Teaching Assistant, *Classical Theory*, Department of Sociology, Fall 2015.

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

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

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

SERVICE

Organizing Co-organizer, Winter Institute in Computational Social Science, University of Arizona, 2021.

Committees Member, Graduate Program Committee, Rutgers University, 2021-22.

Member, Undergraduate Program Committee, Rutgers University, 2020-22.

Reviewing Ad hoc reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Sociological Forum*, *Socius*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Social Currents*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Political Analysis*, *Nations and Nationalism*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *PLOS One*, *Information, Communication, and Society*, *ACM Transactions on Social Computing*, *EPJ Data Science*, *Big Data*, *Social Media + Society*, *Journal of Management Studies*, *Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association*, *Journal of Natural Language Engineering*.

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

Ad hoc reviewer, National Science Foundation CAREER award, 2021.

Reviewer, Social Science Research Council SICSS Research Grants, 2021.

Applicant reviewer and interviewer, Data Science for Social Good, 2018-20.

**MENTORING
& ADVISING**

Rutgers

Graduate

Hannah Troxel, dissertation committee member.

Fred Traylor, first qualifying paper committee.

Jenny Enos, second qualifying paper co-chair & independent study in political sociology supervisor.

Undergraduate

Archi Parekh '23, Lloyd C. Gardner Fellow, advisor.

Joshua Gole '22, Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis, advisor.

External

Yisi Sang, Syracuse iSchool, outside committee member.

References available upon request.