

# THOMAS R. DAVIDSON

*Curriculum Vitae*

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9<sup>th</sup> February, 2024

## 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

**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<sup>†</sup>. 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.

Peer-reviewed  
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<sup>†</sup>. 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<sup>†</sup>, 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 Warmesley, 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 Warmesley, Michael Macy, and Ingmar Weber. 2017. "Automated Hate Speech Detection and the Problem of Of-

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*Student co-authors under my supervision are denoted by †.*

fensive Language." *Proceedings of the Eleventh AAAI International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*: 512-515.

Book chapters

**Thomas Davidson**. 2023. "Hate speech detection and bias in supervised text classification." in Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra and Christian Borch (eds). *Oxford Sociology of Machine Learning Handbook*. Oxford University Press (online edition).

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*. 2<sup>nd</sup> 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* 100(1): e6.

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.

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2023

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

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.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos<sup>†</sup>. “Are Populist Political Parties More Popular on Social Media? Evidence from Europe, 2010-2020.” *2nd R&R*.

Thomas Davidson. “Start Generating: Harnessing Generative Artificial Intelligence for Sociological Research.” *2nd R&R*.

Youngjin Chae<sup>†</sup> and Thomas Davidson. “Large Language Models for Text Classification: From Zero-Shot Learning to Fine-Tuning.” *R&R*.

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

Jenny Enos<sup>†</sup> and Thomas Davidson. “A Comparative Analysis of Immigration Discourse in Europe.”

Thomas Davidson. “Opinion Leadership in Large Political Discussions on Social Media”

Thomas Davidson. “Online Activism and Algorithmic Opportunity Structures.”

Thomas Davidson. “Experiments on Perceptions of Online Hate Speech.”

## RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Scheduled

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

- *Toronto Data Science Workshop, University of Toronto*. Invited.
- *Consortium on Analytics for Data-Driven Decision-Making (CAnD3), McGill University*. Invited.
- *Data Science Program, Bryn Mawr College*

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<sup>†</sup> and Thomas Davidson. “Crisis Talk: Social Media Rhetoric and the Refugee Crisis in Europe.” *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia*.

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos<sup>†</sup>. “Are Populist Political Parties More Popular on Social Media? Evidence from Europe, 2010-2020.” *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia*.

Youngjin Chae<sup>†</sup> 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<sup>†</sup>. “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, 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.

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<sup>†</sup>. “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<sup>†</sup>. “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.

*Undergraduate*    *Computational Social Science*: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2024.  
*Sociology of Culture*: Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023 (two sections).  
*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

Discipline            Co-organizer (with Daniel Karell), Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop, Yale University, 2024.

Advisory board, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, 2023-2024.

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.

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

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

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

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.

Member, Undergraduate Program Committee, 2020-22.

Journals and conferences

Occasional 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*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Social Problems*, *Political Analysis*, *Nations and Nationalism*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Research in Social Movements, Conflict, and Change*, *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 Natural Language Engineering*, *Journal of Online Trust and Safety*, *Journal of Quantitative Description*, and *Journal of Politics*.

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.

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

## STUDENTS

Rutgers



*Graduate*

Hannah Troxel, dissertation committee member.

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).

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

*Undergraduate*

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.*