

# THOMAS R. DAVIDSON

## *Curriculum Vitae*

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Updated April 2020.

### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

September 2020- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University.

### EDUCATION

2020 (expected) Ph.D. in Sociology, Cornell University.  
Committee: Michael Macy (chair), Mabel Berezin, and Filiz Garip.

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.  
Study abroad, Reed College, 2009-2010.

### PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed journal articles Matthew Salganik *et al.* including **Thomas Davidson**. 2020. "Measuring the predictability of life outcomes with a scientific mass collaboration." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

**Thomas Davidson**. 2020. "Black Box Models and Sociological Explanations: Predicting High School GPA Using Neural Networks." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*. *In Press*.

**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**, 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 &  
miscellanea

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.

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

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.

**WORK IN  
PROGRESS**

Thomas Davidson. "Opinion Leadership on Social Media: Facebook and the Brexit Referendum." *Manuscript in preparation*.

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

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

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

Thomas Davidson. "The Organizational Ecology of the Brexit Referendum Online." *Data analysis*.

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

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

## PRESENTATIONS

2020 "Introduction to Computational Text Analysis." June 2020. *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Rutgers University, NJ*. (Invited workshop).

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*.

Siriani, 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.*

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

Social Science One CrowdTangle data award (with Michael Macy), Social Science One, 2019-2020.

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 Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2016.

Sage Doctoral Fellowship, Cornell University, 2014, 2019.

Conference Travel Grant, Cornell University Graduate School, 2014-19.

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

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for 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.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rutgers

Political Sociology, Fall 2020.

Cornell

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

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

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

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

Instructor, Social Dynamics Lab, for workshops on web scraping, API usage, and machine learning. 2015 - 2019.

LSE

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

**SERVICE**

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

Program committee member and reviewer for ICWSM 2018-20; IC2S2 2019-20, Workshop on Abusive Language Online 2018-19; SocInfo 2019; WebSci 2020; Workshop on Positive AI 2020.

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

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

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

**MENTORING  
& ADVISING**

Cornell

Debasmita Bhattacharya '21 (Research), Computer Science. Ishaan Jhaveri '17, MPS '18 (Research), Information Science. David Brotz '18 (Honors thesis), Sociology. Alex MacKenzie '18 (Research), Sociology. Jiangjie Man MPS '17, Jing Xia MPS '17, Ryan Enderby MPS '17, and Weiran Song MPS '17, (Research), Information Science. Dawit Mekonnen '15 (Research), Sociology.

**PROFESSIONAL  
AFFILIATIONS**

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

*References available upon request.*