

THOMAS R. DAVIDSON
Curriculum Vitae

109 Davison Hall
Rutgers University
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
thomas.davidson@rutgers.edu
thomasrdavidson.com

9th August, 2023

**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.

**FELLOWSHIPS
& AWARDS**

2023 Foundational Integrity Research Award, 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.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed
journal articles

Thomas Davidson. Forthcoming. "Audience Engagement and the Dynamics of Online Activism: Far-Right Mobilization on Facebook." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*.

Julie Phillips, **Thomas Davidson**, and Marilyn Baffoe-Bonnie[†]. Forthcoming. "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*.

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)*.

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, ACL*: 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, ACL*: 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

Thomas Davidson. Forthcoming. "Machine learning and the sociology of automated hate speech detection." in Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra and Christian Borch (eds). *Oxford Sociology of Machine Learning Handbook*. Oxford University Press.

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* 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

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

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 and Jenny Enos[†]. "Are Populist Political Parties More Popular on Social Media? Evidence from Europe, 2010-2020." *Revise and resubmit*.

Youngjin Chae[†] and Thomas Davidson. "Large Language Models for Text Classification: From Zero-Shot Learning to Fine-Tuning." *Under review*.

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

Jenny Enos[†] 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. "Harnessing Generative Artificial Intelligence for Sociological Research: Opportunities and Challenges."

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

PRESENTATIONS

2023

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

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

Youngjin Chae[†] and Thomas Davidson. "Detecting Political Stances in Social Media Posts Using Large Language Models." *American Sociological Association 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." *American Sociological Association 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.*

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."

- September. *Workshop on Algorithmic Governance, European Commission. Invited.*
- June. *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science-Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Invited.*

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

- February. *Stanford Political Science Workshop.*
- June. *Fifth Annual Politics and Computational Social Science Conference, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University*
- October. *International Political Economy Society Conference, University of Pittsburgh*

2021

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

- August. *Fourth Annual Politics and Computational Social Science Conference, Northeastern University.*
- November. *Cornell-Indiana-Stanford sociology working group, Invited.*

Thomas Davidson. "Using images and video data for social science: challenges and opportunities." June 2021. *Princeton University, Sum-*

mer 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."

- November. *Stony Brook University* Invited guest lecture.
- June. *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Rutgers University*. *Invited*.
- February. *University of Toronto*. Invited guest lecture.

Thomas Davidson. "Introduction to Hate Speech Detection." October 2020. *Hack Hate, organized by Police Rewired*. *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*

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*

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*

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*

Thomas Davidson. "The Organizational Ecology of the Brexit Referendum on Social Media." May 2019. *12th Annual APSA Political Net-*

works Conference, Duke University

Thomas Davidson. "Opinion Leadership on Social Media: The Case of the Brexit Referendum." January 2019. *Social Media and Political Participation Lab, New York University. 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. 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*

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*

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, B.C.*

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*

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*

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*

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*

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, U.K.*

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

Graduate *Computational Sociology*: Spring 2021.

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

Undergraduate *Computational Social Science (formerly Social Data Science)*: Fall 2021, Spring 2022.

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

Rutgers

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.

Discipline

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.

Member, ASA Culture Section, Membership Committee, 2022-2023.

Co-organizer, 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.

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

Journals and conferences

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

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 the American Medical Informatics Association*, *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.

STUDENTS

Rutgers

Graduate

Hannah Troxel, dissertation committee member.

Fred Traylor, first qualifying paper reader.

Jenny Enos, second qualifying paper reader, independent study supervisor, dissertation committee member.

Youngjin Chae, independent study supervisor.

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.