

SKATOLOGY

Summer 2024 Issue

Newsletter of the ASA Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology

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Inside the Palais de Congress in Montreal (by UN Biodiversity, CC BY 2.0)

Chair's Column

Dear SKAT colleagues,

The ASA Annual Meeting is nearly upon us! I am excited to connect with many of you in Montréal. Our section day is Monday, August 12. For intellectual engagement and scholarship, we've got a great line-up of panels that are detailed below in this newsletter. For socializing, networking, and celebrating our fabulous community, please attend the SKAT Business Meeting at 11:00am that day in the Palais des Congrès and the SKAT reception that evening from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Hotel Monville.

The Business Meeting doubles as the SKAT Award Ceremony where we will announce the 2024 winners of the Emancipatory Practice Award, Hacker-Mullins Student Paper Award, Ida B. Wells-Troy Duster Award, Robert K. Merton Book Award, and Star-Nelkin Paper Award. As Chair, I've gotten to preview this year's award winners, and the scholarship and anti-racism work being done in SKAT is truly impressive. I can't wait to share not only the names of the award winners but also the details of their phenomenal work.

The SKAT reception will be held on the rooftop terrace on the 20th floor of the Hotel Monville (1041 Bleury Street, Montréal), which is a 5-minute walk from the Palais des Congrès. We'll be distributing drink tickets to attendees, and there will be a great array of savory and sweet canapés. I know there are a lot of competing events during the Annual Meeting, but don't skip our reception!

The ASA Annual Meeting also marks the end and beginning of council member terms. SKAT has been well served by outgoing council members Susan Bell, Hayden Fulton, Joan Robinson, Oliver Rollins, Alyson Spurgas, and Jack Linzhou Xing. Joining continuing members Larry Au, Natalie Aviles, and Catherine Lee on SKAT council will be newly elected members Sharla Alegria, Ni'Shele Jackson, Martine Lappé, Benjamin Shestakofsky, and Mira Vale. Yu Tao will be finishing up her two-year term as SKAT secretary/treasurer with Emily Vasquez stepping into the role. My term will be coming to an end as well. I will transition to Past-Chair with Janet Vertesi taking the helm of the section as Chair for the next year, and Claire Decoteau serving as Chair-Elect. I'm so grateful to all these individuals and to current Past-Chair Kelly Joyce for their involvement in SKAT, as well as all the additional SKAT members who have served on our committees this year. Their work is what makes our section so strong.

Thanks to everyone who signed up for the newly rebooted SKAT mentoring program! We have about 100 SKAT members—or nearly 20% of our membership—involved in the program this year, and Joan Robinson and Natalie Aviles have done an exceptional job matching mentees and mentors into pairs and larger research “clusters” to expand the networking opportunities for participants. I know many mentors and mentees will be meeting up at ASA in Montréal, and I hope these relationships will continue well beyond the conference and next academic year.

For those of you who would like to contribute to SKAT in the coming year, we'll soon be looking for volunteers to serve on committees. A formal solicitation will happen during the SKAT Business Meeting with a follow-up by email after the Annual Meeting. Don't hesitate to reach out to me (jill.fisher@unc.edu) or to Janet Vertesi (jvertesi@princeton.edu) if you are eager to get involved with any of our committees from the annual awards to SKAT membership, communications, annual meeting session organizing, and Anti-Racism in SKAT. There are so many opportunities to participate in the section, and it really is a rewarding experience.

I hope to see many of you in Montréal. In the meantime, enjoy reading this wonderful edition of the SKAT newsletter, which provides more details about the Annual Meeting, profiles of SKAT graduate students, and so much more. I'll end with my thanks to the SKAT Communications Committee for their exceptional work on this newsletter.

Warm wishes,
Jill

Jill A. Fisher, Ph.D.
SKAT Chair
Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
jill.fisher@unc.edu

SKAT Officers

2023-2024

Chair

Jill Fisher,
*University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill*

Chair-Elect

Janet Vertesi,
Princeton University

Past Chair

Kelly Joyce,
Drexel University

Section

Secretary/Treasurer

Yu Tao,
*Stevens Institute of
Technology*

Council Members

Larry Au,
City College, CUNY
Natalie B. Aviles,
University of Virginia
Susan E. Bell,
Drexel University
Catherine Lee,
Rutgers University
Joan Robinson,
City College, CUNY
Oliver Rollins,
University of Washington
Alyson K. Spurgas,
Trinity College

Student Council Members

Hayden Fulton,
*University of South
Florida*
Jack Linzhou Xing,
*Georgia Institute of
Technology*

SKAT Election Results

A note from Jill Fisher



A sign that says voting pointing right (justgrimes on Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0)

Congratulations to all the incoming section officers! I would also like to thank everyone who ran in the election this year. We had a terrific slate of candidates thanks in no small part to our nominations committee (Janet Vertesi and Kelly Joyce).

Bylaws amendment:

Approved

Chair-Elect:

Claire Decoteau, University of Illinois Chicago

Secretary/Treasurer:

Emily Vasquez, University of Illinois Chicago

Council - Student Members:

Mira Vale, University of Michigan

Ni'Shele Jackson, University of Illinois Chicago

Council Members:

Benjamin Shestakofsky, University of Pennsylvania

Martine Lappé, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo

Sharla Alegria, University of Toronto

The results of the ASA-level election have also been posted to ASA's website [here](#). For those following the ASA member resolution entitled "Resolution for Justice in Palestine," the resolution has passed. I'd also like to take a moment to congratulate SKAT members who were elected to ASA-level and to Community leadership positions. Specifically, congratulations to Paige Sweet (University of Michigan) for her election to the ASA Nominating Committee, to Cassidy Puckett (Emory University) for her election to Director of the Mentorship Program for First-Generation and Working-Class Sociologists, and to Rianka Roy (Wake Forest University) for her election to the South Asian Sociologists' Advisory Committee for the Junior Scholar Position.

SKAT Committees (2023-2024)

We thank the following members for volunteering and serving on the following committees. If you are interested in serving in a SKAT Section Committee in the future, please reach out to the Section Chair.

Communications Committee

Larry Au, The City College of New York, (lau1@ccny.cuny.edu) - **CHAIR**
Zheng Fu, Columbia University
Hayden Fulton, University of South Florida
Cristian Morales, Boston University

Merton Book Prize

Oliver Rollins, University of Washington (orollins@uw.edu) - **CHAIR**
Mariana Craciun, Tulane University
Daniel Morrison, University of Alabama in Huntsville
Timothy Sacco, University of Arizona
Kelly Underman, Drexel University

Star-Nelkin Paper Prize

Joan Robinson, The City College of New York (jrobinson1@ccny.cuny.edu) - **CHAIR**
Arafaat Valiani, University of Oregon
Rosemary Taylor, Tufts University
Emily Vasquez, University of Illinois Chicago
Sarah Brothers, Pennsylvania State University

Hacker-Mullins Student Paper Prize

danah boyd, Microsoft Research and Georgetown University (danah@danah.org) - **CHAIR**
Jennifer Lai, University of Vermont
Kevin Moseby, University of Akron
Karina Rider, University of Virginia
Michelle Smirnova, University of Missouri, Kansas City

Anti-Racism in SKAT (selects winners of the Emancipatory Practice and Duster-Wells Prizes as well as continue to identify ways to advance anti-racism in and through SKAT)

Emily Vasquez, University of Illinois Chicago (eev@uic.edu) - **CHAIR**
Susan Bell, Drexel University
Melanie Jeske, University of Chicago
Hao Lin, Stony Brook University
Santiago Molina, Northwestern University
Tina Park, Partnership on AI
Fernanda Rosa, Virginia Tech
Firuzeh Shokooh Valle, Franklin & Marshall College
Vincent Yung, Northwestern University

Membership

Madeleine Pape, University of Lausanne (madeleine.pape@unil.ch) - **CHAIR**
Emma Brandt, Northwestern University
Argun Saatcioglu, University of Kansas
Torsten Voigt, RWTH Aachen University

Mentoring Program

Natalie Aviles, University of Virginia (na6nf@virginia.edu) - **CO-CHAIR**
Joan Robinson, The City College of New York (jrobinson1@ccny.cuny.edu) - **CO-CHAIR**

Nominations

Janet Vertesi, Princeton University (jvertesi@princeton.edu) - **CHAIR**
Kelly Joyce, Drexel University


ASA Annual Conference SKAT Session Organizing

Jill Fisher, University of North Carolina (jill.fisher@unc.edu) - **CHAIR**
Paolo Parra Saiani, University of Genoa
Catherine Lee, Rutgers University
Janna Huang, University of California, Berkeley
Oliver Rollins, University of Washington

ASA Public Engagement Liaison (help ASA with press asks relevant to SKAT)

Jill Fisher, University of North Carolina (jill.fisher@unc.edu)

A note from the newsletter team



Stay up-to-date with SKAT
through our **website**:
<http://asaskat.com>
We are also on **Twitter/BlueSky**.

Thank you for reading this issue of the SKAT newsletter—the sixth issue produced by the team! Please continue to send us your new ideas, publications, and achievements so that we can help publicize your work. We also accept pitches for short articles (500-800 words) to be published on the blog and the newsletter. If you have any ideas, please reach out to us (lau1@ccny.cuny.edu). Alternatively, tag us in your social media posts! We have accounts on Twitter and BlueSky.

Want to join the communications committee for the next year?

Please reach out to next year's Chair, Janet Vertesi (jvertesi@princeton.edu), about your interest in service for the SKAT section. Please also feel free to reach out to current committee members to learn more about the newsletter and workload (not a lot, and you get to decide on what to work on)!

Best wishes,
Larry Au, Zheng Fu, Hayden Fulton, and Cristian Morales

SKAT Sessions at ASA 2024

Please see the ASA Program for updates, changes to location/timing, and other information!



From the front page of the AI Bill of Rights (White House)

30408 -Politics of Artificial Intelligence (Co-Sponsored with the Section on Political Sociology)

Sun, August 11, 10:00 to 11:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 511D

In October 2022, the White House released what it described as a Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights. In its opening passage, the blueprint states "Among the great challenges posed to democracy today is the use of technology, data, and automated systems in ways that threaten the rights of the American public." Meanwhile, social scientists have started to address the role of algorithms and AI in changing power relations in the U.S. and worldwide. Much focus in these analyses is the question of government regulation or lack of regulations, and political campaigning. The goal of this panel is to initiate some conversation among sociologists about the role of AI and politics today. Some of the topics that we aim to address include Artificial intelligence (AI) governmentality, the relation and tension between the state and capital in AI, AI, democracy, and authoritarianism, the future of government and AI, AI and human political subjectivities, political ethics of AI, parties, elections and AI, domination, resistance and AI, security and violence and AI, AI and the future of political sociology and science, knowledge, and technology studies. Any theoretical and empirical works on the above themes and on analyzing AI and shaping power relations are welcomed. Submissions on global politics of AI are highly encouraged.

Session Organizers: Atef S. Said, University of Illinois at Chicago; Paolo Parra Saiani, University of Genoa
Presider: Laurel Smith-Doerr, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

Individual Presentations:

- Algorithmic Risk Scoring and Welfare State Contact Among US Children – Martin Eiermann, Duke University
- AI Policymaking: An Agenda for Sociological Research – Tina Law, UC Davis; Leslie McCall, The Graduate Center, CUNY
- Propaganda Bias and Large Language Models – Hannah Waight, University of Oregon; Eddie Yang; Yin Yuan, UC San Diego; Solomon Messing; Margsraet Roberts; Brandon Michael Stewart, Princeton University; Joshua Tucker
- Red AI? Inconsistent Responses from GPT Models on Political Issues in the US and China – Di Zhou, New York University; Yinxian Zhang, CUNY-Queens College

40210 - Knowledge to Action in Times of Polycrisis

Mon, August 12, 8:00 to 9:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 511F

In the last two decades, the world has been facing several multifaceted and overlapping uncertainties and crises, such as global pandemics, environmental degradation, wars, social unrests, high inflation, and food insecurities. Recently, the term “polycrisis” has become increasingly popular to connote this situation that poses major intersecting challenges to both governance and everyday lived experiences in the present day. Under times of polycrisis in the 21st century, science and technology play crucial roles in both ameliorating crises and in perpetuating them. Of particular interest to this Open Panel are theoretical, analytical, and/or empirical attempts to consider how the intersection of technoscience and society are transformed in the context of polycrisis. We are interested in papers that answer, but are not limited to:

- * How do we come to conceptualize the polycrisis?
- * What kind of technoscientific worlds are emerging out of these circumstances?
- * What are the social processes underlying the translation of knowledge about our social world to meaningful action in response to it?
- * What are the consequences of polycrisis on social inequalities? How do technosciences reproduce or remediate these consequences?
- * How do / should we act in times of polycrisis?

Session Organizers: Janna Zou Huang, UC Berkeley; Paola Parra Saiani, University of Genoa

Individual Presentations:

- Climate Closure: Rethinking Barriers to Decarbonization and Adaptation – Ankit Bhardwaj, New York University ; Malcom Araos, University of Utah
- Impediments to Resource Industrialization: Knowledge Enclosure, Scientific Capacity, and Material Barriers in Bolivia’s Lithium Sector
- Siloed Interdisciplinarity?: A Multi-level Computational Text Analysis of Community Resilience Planning – Jonathan Tollefson, Brown University ; Scott Frickel, Brown University; Christina Gore, National Institute of Standards and Technology; Jenner Helgeson, National Institute of Standards and Technology
- Stockholm Syndrome in the Iron Cage: Risk, Preparedness, and Personal Responsibility – Jonathan Nathaniel Redman, UC Irvine



Climate Emergency Protest (John Englart on Flickr, CC BY-SA 2.0)

40436 - Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology Roundtables

Mon, August 12, 10:00 to 11:00am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 517C

Session Organizers: Natalie B. Aviles, University of Virginia; Jack Linzhou Xing, Georgia Institute of Technology

Table 1: The science of science

Table President: Nicki Lisa Cole, Know-Center GmbH

- The Matthew Effect revisited: Social and cultural closure in awarding the Nobel Prize in Physics - Jacob Habinek; Zheng Fu, University of Arizona
- Can Recombination Growth Lead to Scientific Breakthroughs? - Linzhou Li, University of Chicago; Yilin Lin; Lingfei Wu
- What can conceptual networks tell us about scientific progress? - Lanu Kim, KAIST; Vivek Kulkarni
- How value judgments and uncertainty shape scientific advance - Daniel Scott Smith, Stanford University; Neha Nayak Kennard, University of Massachusetts, Amherst; Tianyu Du, Stanford University; Daniel A. Macfarland, Stanford University
- Reproducibility of qualitative research - an integrative review of concepts, barriers and enablers - Nicki Lisa Cole, Kno-Center GmbH; Sven Arend Ulpts, Aarhus University; Matthew Good, University of Oslo; Agata Bochynska; Barbara Leitner, Amsterdam University Medical Center; Eva Kormann, Graz; Tony Ross-Hellauer

Table 2: Academia and interdisciplinarity

Table President: Daniel A. Menchik, University of Arizona

- Impact of Specialization Centrality, Departmental Stratification, and Sociodemographic Clustering on Popularity of Research Specializations - Quinn Bloom, UC Riverside
- The flaw of interdisciplinary research - Torsten H. Voigt, RWTH Aachen University
- Having A Hand In Nature: A Computational Approach to Scientific Conceptualization in Interdisciplinary Spaces - Andrew McCumber, Virginia Tech; Nicholas Hoover Wilson, Stony Brook University
- Social Knowledge Shops and the Construction of the Canon - Daniel A. Menchik, University of Arizona
- Priorities in Sociological Discovery: Thematic Dynamics in U.S. Sociology - Elizaveta Sheremet, Columbia University

Table 3: Global Perspectives in SKAT

Table President: Kelly Moore, Loyola University - Chicago

- Viral Hierarchies or Vaccine Olympics? The Role of Deservingness in Vaccine Gaps - Elizabeth Adetiba, Columbia University
- Climate Science Against NATO: On the Sociogenesis of Knowledge - Daniel Cunha, Pennsylvania State University
- Elementary form of technological life in East Asia: Examples of semiconductor industry in Korea and Taiwan - Tzung-wen Chen, National Chengchi University
- The Deadly Logics of Biocapital: Value, Crises, and Sovereignty - Swati Birla, SUNY-New Paltz
- Building Intersectional Knowledge in Artisanal Practice: How Collaborative Design Approaches Shape Sustainable Outcomes - Alexandria Vasquez, University of San Francisco

Table 4: Exploring digital spaces and technologies

Table President: Mark Paterson, University of Pittsburgh

- Technological Advancements and Social Research: reflections on diversity and inclusion - Raffaella Rubino, University of Bari Aldo Moro; Paolo Contini, University of Bari Aldo Moro
- Understanding Technology Acceptance Disparity in Digital Agriculture - Lisa Yeo, UC Merced; Catherine Keske, UC Merced; Alisha Nesslage, UC Irvine
- Automating Academic English: How do language-diverse scholars use AI to negotiate English scientific publishing? - Haley Lepp, Stanford University
- "He literally knows everything": Users' Gender Perceptions of ChatGPT on Twitter - Man Yao, Ohio State University; Claudia Buchmann, Ohio State University; Zhen Wang, UCSD
- Online Privacy, Algorithmic Literacy, and Fair Privacy Protection - Yu Tao, Stevens Institute of Technology
- Advancing Women's Active Travel Safety through Technological Interventions - Rachel Hayward, University of Southampton

Table 5: Work and organizations in STEM

Table President: Natalie B. Aviles, University of Virginia

- Rehabilitating ECT: How psychiatrists manage ECT's stigma in their everyday work - Mariana Craciun, Tulane University
- Butcher, Steward, Priest: Transformations of Anatomists and their Objects in Brain Mapping Initiatives - Jorie Hofstra, Princeton University; Daniel Asika, Princeton University
- Bisexuality and the Future of STEM: Specifying Bi Scientist, Engineer, and Mathematician Workplace Experiences - Tom J. Waidzunus, Temple University; Caitlyn Taylor Joyce, Temple University
- What can we learn in the master's house? The production of feminist knowledge in NSF ADVANCE - Steven Lauterwasser, Northeastern University; Laura K. Nelson, University of British Columbia; Jessica Gold, Northeastern University
- Patient Satisfaction Metrics and Performance Indicators - Natalie Fullenkamp, University of New Mexico - Albuquerque



A laptop open using a VPN (mikemacmarketing on Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

Table 6: Economy and policy

- Do Markets Foster Positive Attitudes toward Science? Evidence from 21st Century China - Yang Cao, University of North Carolina-Charlotte; Wei Gu, Zhejiang University
- Compliance and Contingency in Humanizing Responsible Innovation: The Agency of HSE in the HZM Bridge - Ziqiang Zhao, Tsinghua University; Ping Li
- Rationalizing Earthly Destruction: Public Credibility in the 2005 Mountaintop Removal Environmental Impact Statement - Travis L. Williams, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Accounting for Discovery: Financing Research Portfolios and Circuits of Commerce in Scientific Labs - Vincent Yung, Northwestern University; Jeannette Anastasia Colyvas, Northwestern University

Table 7: Biomedicine and health

Table President: Jamie Louise Budnick, Cornell University

- Institutional Disparities between Tic Disorders and ADHD in China - Yanze Yu, Columbia University
- Co-production and the Science of Racial Difference - John Anthony Maldonado, Princeton University
- The Racial Politics of Visibility and Equity in Genome-Editing Therapies - Santiago José Molina, Northwestern University; Melissa Creary, University of Michigan
- Disease risk messaging and essentialist beliefs: a survey experiment using sample genetic testing reports - Meredith Riley, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- Towards a sociology of automated diagnosis: AI and medical expertise - Anne Kavalerchik, Indiana University-Bloomington; Bernice A. Pescosolido, Indiana University-Bloomington

Table 8: Academic Institutions and Pedagogy

Table President: Timothy Sacco, University of Arizona

- Technology is the Tail that Wags the Dog of Pedagogy: Neo-Luddites at the University - Ella McPherson, University of Cambridge
- "Ideathon" as a Model for Collaborative Innovation: Using Sociology and Computational Thinking to Solve Real-World Problems - Rifat A. Salem, CUNY BMCC; Elizabeth A. Wissinger, CUNY BMCC; Mohammad Azhar, CUNY BMCC; Ada Haynes, Tennessee Technological University
- The Business of STEM Education Policy: A Comparative Organizational Approach - Timothy Sacco, University of Arizona
- International undergraduate student perceptions of racial (dis)advantage in computing - Fatima Glovena Fairfax, Duke University; Crystal Peoples, College of William and Mary; Brean Prefontaine, Duke University; Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Duke University; Elyse McFalls; Reagan Razon; Jabari Kwesi; Alicia Nicki Washington, Duke University; Shani B. Daily

40536 - Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology Business Meeting

Mon, August 12, 11:00 to 11:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 517C

Meeting Chair: Jill A. Fisher, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

40819 - Technoscience Will Not Save Us

Mon, August 12, 2:00 to 3:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 513C

Technoscientific solutions are increasingly deployed-exported, imported, and imposed upon Global South and marginalized communities as panaceas for all socioeconomic, health, and political problems. These projects often work through interacting discourses of development, innovation, and security, which reinforce (post)colonial relations of power and exacerbate deep-seated forms of social inequity across spatial boundaries in the North and South. This phenomenon is not new. But in our current era of advanced technocapitalism and its inexorable stampede towards elusive horizons of progress and inclusion, exploring multiple sites of resistance and creation is an urgent task.

We invite papers that engage in and advance SKAT conversations about the relationships between applications of technoscience, narratives of societal “progress,” and struggles for social justice/equity across diverse geographies of power. We are especially interested in papers that center post/de/anticolonial, Indigenous, Black, queer, feminist, environmental, and/or other critical epistemologies of thought to help illuminate, trace, and critique the discursive and material flows, dynamics, and politics of technoscience for the Global South and systemically marginalized communities of the Global North. We ask: How can pluri-geographical frameworks deepen our understanding of the normative ways that technoscientific developments and aims undermine, stall, or weaken efforts to fight global inequity and difference? Which groups, voices, and/or bodies get silenced, omitted, or bolstered through new (and old) practices of technoscience? What should we learn from the Global South’s engagements with sociotechnical landscapes that help engender new practices of resistance? Finally, if technoscience will not save us, what will (can)? How do critical methodologies of and experiments with technoscience from the perspective of marginalized populations complicate this STS axiom and help us engender new forms of resistance, community, and society that connect larger struggles?

Session Organizers/Presiders: Firzuh Shokooh-Valle, Franklin and Marshall College; Oliver E. Rollins, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- Automated Border Inspections: The Dis/Enchantment of CBP One™ Across the Extended Mexico-US Borderlands - Lupe Alberto Flores, Rice University
- Centering Deep Care: Immigrant Siblings of Color and Countering Hegemonic Frames of Doing Gender in Predominantly-White-Institutions - Megha Sanyal, University of Calgary; Pallavi Banerjee, University of Calgary; Pratim Sengupta, University of Calgary
- Crip Technoscience and Data Justice: Datafying and Governing the Disabled Body in Urban India - Kim Fernandes, University of Toronto
- Doctor’s Orders: biomedical technoscience, expert authority, and (post)colonial field politics in global health - Sutina Chou, UC San Francisco
- “I wake up. I track it.”: Weight Management Technoscience as Gendered Pleasure and Digitized Rationality - Ni’Shele Jackson, University of Illinois-Chicago

41010 - Knowledge Construction and Practices in Science, Medicine, and Public Health

Mon, August 12, 4:00 to 5:30pm, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 511F

This session includes papers that examine knowledge construction and practices in science, medicine, and public health.

Presider: Catherine Lee, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Session Organizers: Catherine Lee, Rutgers University-New Brunswick; Jill A. Fisher, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

- Convergence in the Conceptualization of a Research Problem: Traumatic Brain Injury - Monica J. Casper, San Diego State University; Daniel Ray Morrison, University of Alabama in Huntsville
- 'Our Biology is Listening': Epigenetic Biomarkers and the Production of Positive Childhood Experiences - Martine Lappe, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; Robin M. Jeffries Hein, UCLA; Fiona Fahey, California Polytechnic State University-San Luis Obispo
- Types of Genetic Determinism in Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing for Health - Asia Friedman, University of Delaware; Tammy L. Anderson, University of Delaware
- Leveraging public health expertise to reclaim biopolitical citizenship: the credibility struggles of formerly incarcerated activists - Molly Clark-Barol, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Chemical class struggles: The significance of defining PFAS for environmental regulations and public health - Jennifer Ohayon, Silent Spring Institute; Phil Brown, Northeastern University; Alissa Cordner, Whitman College; Arianna Castellanos, Whitman College; Lauren Ellis, Northeastern University



A smoke stack from an industrial facility (agusr on Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

SKAT Reception



Please join us for the SKAT Section Reception at ASA 2024!

**Hotel Monville - Rooftop terrace, 20th floor
1041 Bleury Street
Mon, August 12, 6:30 to 8:30 pm**

This is a 5-minute walk from the Palais des Congrès.

There will be drink tickets distributed to attendees, and there will be a great array of savory and sweet canapés.

Memorial Session in Honor of Adele Clarke



**Please join us on Sun, August 11, 6:30 to 7:30pm
at Palais des Congrès de Montréal, Floor: Level 5, 516A**

Our community lost an extraordinary and beloved scholar, colleague, and mentor with the death of Dr. Adele E. Clarke on January 19, 2024. Adele made substantial contributions to sociology, the history of medicine, qualitative methodologies, science and technology studies, women's health, and reproductive studies. Please join us to celebrate and remember Adele's incisive scholarship, unwavering activism, immense intellectual generosity, and commitment to making kin and building communities of care. The session will include brief comments from speakers, and then it will be open to audience members who wish to share reflections about Adele.

Panelists:

- **Susan E. Bell**, Drexel University
- **Jennifer R. Fishman**, McGill University
- **Christoph Hanssmann**, University of California-Davis
- **Laura Mamo**, San Francisco State University
- **Janet K. Shim**, University of California-San Francisco
- **Sara N. Shostak**, Brandeis University

Session Organizers:

- **Laura Mamo**, San Francisco State University
- **Oliver E. Rollins**, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- **Katherine Weatherford Darling**, University of Maine

Sociology of AI Meetup

SOCIOLOGY OF AI MEETUP **ASA 2024, Montreal, Quebec**

Date and Time: Saturday, August 10, 6-7:30pm

Location: Grand Salon at Esplanade Tranquille
1442 Clark St, Montreal, Quebec H2X 2R3

Organizers: Taylor M. Cruz and Kelly Joyce

Contact: taymarcruz@gmail.com



We warmly invite you to join our Sociology of AI meetup at ASA 2024! Come network with other scholars working in this emerging subarea. We will celebrate the recent publication of Ben's book, and there may even be free zines to pass around! All are welcome. If you have any questions about this event, reach out to Taylor M. Cruz at taymarcruz@gmail.com. We hope to see you in Montreal!

All the best,
Taylor and Kelly

ASA 2024 SOCIOLOGY OF AI MEETUP:

Date and Time: Saturday, August 10, 6-7:30pm

Location: [Grand Salon at Esplanade Tranquille](#)

1442 Clark St, Montreal, Quebec H2X 2R3

ASA 2024 CITAMS Session, "The Sociology of Artificial Intelligence." Tuesday, August 13 10-11:30am, Palais des Congrès de Montréal, 519B

Organized by Tim Recuber and Taylor M. Cruz

Features panelists Irissa Cisternino, Jun Zhou, Alka Menon, Zabba A. Abba Omar, Zhoufan Li, and Stephanie Zhang

[ASA Program Schedule Link](#)

Celebration!

Benjamin Shestakofsky. 2024. *Behind the Startup: How Venture Capital Shapes Work, Innovation, and Inequality*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.

[UC Press Link](#)

Theory and Social Inquiry Launch Party



Our new journal, **Theory and Social Inquiry**, is open for submissions!

We are looking for papers that ask big questions, theorize boldly, and draw on thorough empirical research. The journal's website is at theoryandsocialinquiry.org. Our full mission statement is at theoryandsocialinquiry.org/site/about.

We are proud to publish with the Open Library of Humanities (OLH) which is open access for both authors and readers. We are grateful to Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, the University of California-Berkeley, and the University of Michigan for funding. The journal will initially be housed at Johns Hopkins University and will then rotate to other universities.

Please join our celebration. The **Launch Party** will be held at ASA from 6-9 pm on Saturday, August 10 on the rooftop terrace of the Intercontinental Hotel in Montreal. Free drink tickets for graduate students!

Please come!

Nitsan Chorev, Brown University
Gil Eyal, Columbia University
Greta Krippner, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Mara Loveman, University of California, Berkeley
Charles Camic, Northwestern University
Chandra Mukerji, University of California, San Diego
Monica Prasad, Johns Hopkins University
David Swartz, Boston University

Meet Our Students

Learn more about their research interests below. And don't forget to say hi to them at ASA!



Jesse Callahan Bryant

Jesse Callahan Bryant is a fifth-year PhD candidate at the Yale School of the Environment. His dissertation is focused on the historical and contemporary relationship between conservative political ideologies, morality, and scientific knowledge. Specifically he is interested in the relationship between environmental, ecological, and evolutionary ideas and the construction of social categories. Currently, he is exploring these ideas through a mixture of computational methods and emerging LLM tools. His work has appeared in the *Annual Review of Sociology*, *International Sociology*, and the new *Handbook for the Sociology of Morality*. This fall while writing up his dissertation he will be a Visiting Scholar at the Institut d'Història de la Ciència at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB).

Outside of academia proper, Jesse is involved with an LLM-driven project at the Plurality Institute focused on reimagining online content moderation for deliberative discourse, runs a nonprofit advocating for ecological restoration on marginal public land, and makes educational TikTok content about far right movements and ideology. In a past life, Jesse was an educator and political campaign manager in rural Wyoming. Although he and his partner currently live in Northern Spain, they hope to return to the Western United States sometime in the near future!



Ni'Shele Jackson

I'm a soon to be fifth-year and PhD candidate in the sociology department at the University of Illinois at Chicago. My research entails interrogating discourses regarding weight and health in the United States. I specifically ask: 1) How do state and scientific actors understand the connection between weight and national health, and in the face of contested science, why is weight management a leading strategy in national health policy? 2) How are different weight loss strategies and meanings related to race, class, and gender categorization in the U.S.? and 3) Why and in what cases do people embrace or resist weight loss as a health norm, and what does this reveal about their relationship to the state, the scientific field, and their race, class, and gender as embodied identities? As a mixed methods scholar, I employ both qualitative and quantitative methods such as: interviewing, ethnography, computational text analysis, and surveys in order to answer these questions. The overarching goal of my research is to give insight into ways we can create more just, communal, and empowering visions of embodied health and health programs. A fun fact about me is that I love birds, with the black capped chickadee being one of my favorites). I have 2 bird-related tattoos and am working on getting my third!

Michelle Lee

Michelle Lee is a PhD student in Sociology at Northwestern University, and a Research Fellow at the Institute for Cooperative Digital Economy (ICDE) at the New School. She studies the impact of technology on the global economy and society. Her current project looks at how organizations train and connect marginalized communities such as refugees to digital work, in high-skill roles like web development, digital marketing, and specialized data annotation. She is also conducting research on the impact of AI on occupations, refugee platform cooperatives, and the politics of climate displacement. Her fieldwork has taken her to the UK and Ethiopia. She is the founder of two STEM initiatives: Young Tech Leaders of the Middle East (www.youngtechleaders.com) and Scientists for Migrant Learning & Education (www.smileatnorthwestern.org). She is affiliated with the Science in Human Culture (SHC) program, as well as the Management & Organizations (MORS) department, at Northwestern. She holds a BA in English Language & Literature from the University of Chicago and MA in Global Thought from Columbia University.



Shayna Morrison

I am a fifth-year doctoral student at Kent State University. My dissertation research explores how avatars in virtual reality can provide social support during periods of critical stress. The study also compares the effect of avatar race on perceptions of social support. I will begin data collection in August and am planning to graduate in May. Prior to pursuing my PhD, I was a counselor and advocate for LGBTQ+ youth and survivors of abuse. I am passionate about gender equity and enjoy teaching Sociology of Gender. Fun fact-I completed El Camino de Santiago (over the French Pyrenees into Spain) by bike last summer in the scorching heat, so I took to learning to sail this summer.



Nataliya Nedzhvetskaya

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at the University of California, Berkeley studying the future of work. I hold a Designated Emphasis in the Management of Organizations from Haas School of Business. Currently, I am a Dissertation Scholar at the Washington Center for Equitable Growth. My research has been featured in The Guardian, NPR, NBC News, WIRED, MIT Tech Review, TIME, and the LA Times. I use big data, regression analysis, and text analysis to examine how workplaces are changing and evolving. I am particularly interested in understanding how technology is changing the balance between shareholder capitalism and stakeholder capitalism. I am a founding member and digital archivist at the non-profit Collective Action in Tech. In 2021, Fast Company named us one of “15 worker groups taking on the tech world”. My dissertation studies employee activism in U.S. workplaces from the 1990s to the present-day and answers three questions: (1) what is the historical scale and scope of workplace protest in the U.S., (2) what is the relationship between media coverage and the diffusion of workplace protests?, (3) what are the mechanisms by which workplace protests impact the value and strategies of their corporate targets? An additional line of research examines how workers respond to the integration of AI technologies in the workplace.



Mutale Nkonde

My name is Mutale Nkonde, I am an incoming first year PhD student at the University of Cambridge, where I will be studying Digital Humanities. I just graduated from Columbia with an MA in American Studies during which I focused on changes in political attitudes within Black right wing online communities. I am thinking about the beautiful time I had during my visits to the encampment.



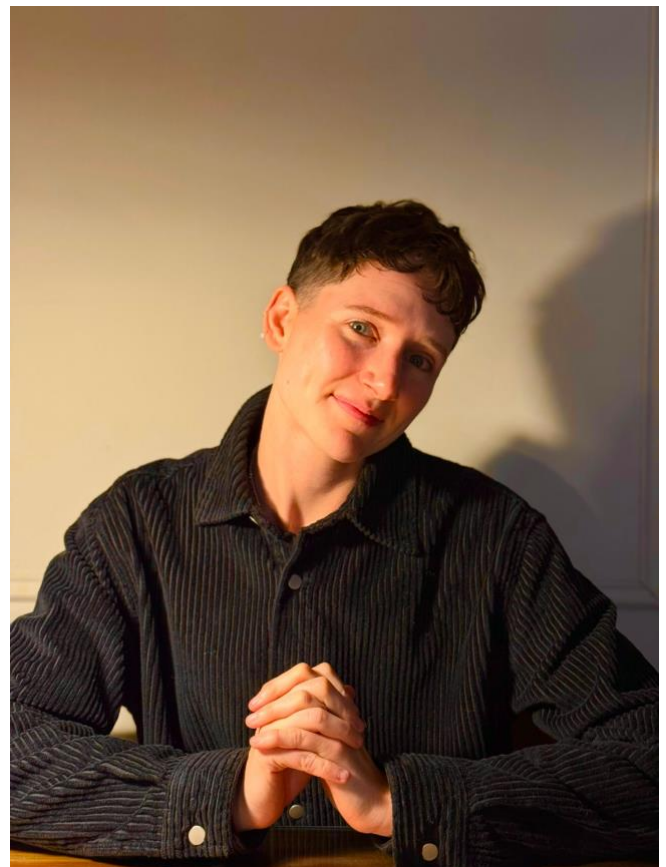


Meredith Riley

I am Meredith Riley (she/her), a third-year PhD student in the Department of Sociology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. My research interests include science and technology studies, medical sociology, and race and ethnicity. I'm currently designing a survey experiment that explores how messages about race and disease risk in the context of popular at-home genetic testing technologies affect support for policies addressing racial inequality in health, employment, and education. I attended undergrad at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. I've also lived in Michigan, Florida, Tennessee, and North Carolina. In my spare time, I enjoy reading and writing bad fiction, making art, and rollerblading.

Carlo Sariego

Hi all! My name is Carlo Sariego, and I am a doctoral candidate in the joint-degree program in Sociology and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Yale University. I use qualitative and queer/feminist methods to analyze the racialized and gendered social, cultural, and historical processes that shape the politics of reproduction and family in the United States. I have an article forthcoming in *Signs* on state reproductive violence, and an article on transgender reproduction in the edited volume *Sperm/Health/Politics* forthcoming with NYU Press. I am currently writing a dissertation on trans reproduction & gender-affirming care via the tools of speculation & desire. I will be on the job market this coming fall!



Mira Vale

I am a PhD candidate in sociology at the University of Michigan. I study how organizations and social institutions adapt in the face of technological change, combining approaches from STS, economic sociology, and medical sociology.

My dissertation and book project examines the integration of large-scale digitally sensed behavioral data into health care and research. Despite concerns about privacy, the marketization of personal data, and algorithmic bias, the use of digital behavioral data is largely unregulated. My dissertation draws on three years of ethnographic fieldwork and interviews to explore how digital health researchers tackle moral questions in the absence of clear social or legal prescriptions. Amidst calls for an “ethics of AI,” my dissertation offers an empirical investigation into how powerful social actors are already building the moral infrastructure for digital healthcare. This project contributes to scholarship on how moral ideas are adjudicated amidst uncertainty and how digital technology interfaces with systems of expertise and social inequality.

Beyond my dissertation, I have studied aspects of morality, technology, and health in diverse medical institutional settings. My work has been published in [*Social Science & Medicine*](#), [*Socius*](#), and the [*Journal of Health and Social Behavior*](#), among other venues, and it has received awards from three sections of the ASA. I am excited to serve as a graduate student representative to SKAT this year. My CV and more information can be found on my website: miradvale.com.



New Books Q&A with Benjamin Shestakofsky, author of *Behind the Startup*

Interviewed by Larry Au on May 3, 2024

Benjamin Shestakofsky is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is affiliated with AI at Wharton and the Center on Digital Culture and Society. He is the author of *Behind the Startup: How Ventural Capital Shapes Work, Innovation, and Inequality* (University of California Press, 2024).

Larry: Could you start by telling us a little bit about how you became interested in studying startups? And what ultimately brought you to the start-up AllDone and what was the process of gaining entry like?

Ben: I was living in New York City before I went to grad school, and a friend from college asked if I would work for his new startup. It turns out he had just convinced a wealthy angel investor to fund it. What almost immediately struck me was that my friend-turned-boss had no idea how to run a company. Why did a rich investor trust a 25-year-old with hundreds of thousands of dollars? My boss talked such a good game that he convinced a reporter to write a feature story about the company in the *New York Times Magazine*, which was published just as the website was launching. The website crashed immediately. It was a mess. So the gap between perception and reality, which is so important in the startup field, is something I observed firsthand as an employee.

As a grad student, I became interested in developing a sociological perspective on startups. I was fortunate to have a friend who brokered a meeting with one of AllDone's co-founders. AllDone was a company that ran a digital platform connecting buyers and sellers of local services across hundreds of occupations, like plumbers, DJs, and house cleaners. I pitched

HOW VENTURE CAPITAL
SHAPES WORK, INNOVATION,
AND INEQUALITY

BEHIND THE

STARTUP

BENJAMIN SHESTAKOFSKY

Book Cover (Courtesy of UC Press)

him on working as an unpaid intern in exchange for research access. He ran it by the team and they agreed. At the time I was taking a participant-observation methods class and assumed that this project would culminate in my MA paper. But soon my supervisor at the startup asked if I would be willing to increase my workload, and my role turned into a part-time, paid position. Not long after that, the CEO asked me if I would consider a full-time position. I ended up withdrawing from grad school for a year so I could take on a role in middle management while continuing my research.

Larry: I've seen you present part of this at ASA last year in Philly, on your methods and it was really fascinating. So I wanted to ask about that too. You mention in the book that you ultimately worked as the Director of Customer Support at AllDone, the startup that you studied. **How did that position within the organization help or hinder your fieldwork? What were some of the ethical dilemmas that you faced when managing workers that you were writing about?**

Ben: There were two main advantages to how the research evolved, which echo Josh Seim's formulation of the "observant participation" undertaken by deeply embedded fieldworkers. One was that the *depth* and *breadth* of my observations increased. Getting more involved in organizational processes allowed me to see and understand them in greater detail than I had before. And as a middle manager, the breadth of my vision also increased. I was overseeing customer support teams in the Philippines and Las Vegas while also serving as an information broker between San Francisco headquarters and those remote teams. So I got to see how each part of the firm fit together and how they all responded differently to the same organizational pressures. If I had maintained my role as an unpaid intern who was marginal to the organization, I never would have been able to develop the insights that came from my position in middle management.

The other advantage is *tacit knowledge*. I wasn't sharing the exact same experiences as the people I was working alongside. But some aspects of my

job helped me develop a better understanding of what they were facing. For example, I was the final authority when it came to customer support emails. Anything that couldn't be handled by members of the remote teams would end up on my desk. Dealing with e-mails from angry customers gave me a taste of how hard it must have been for AllDone's phone support workers in Las Vegas, who had to handle difficult users in real time. As an employee, I also had a tiny stock option grant. Even though I was a critical sociologist holding myself at an analytical remove from my participant role, I sometimes found myself wrapped up in the excitement of the company's growth. When my colleagues imagined how their lives might change if they cashed out and got rich, sometimes I couldn't help but fantasize alongside them. If I could be drawn into those imagined futures, I had no doubt about how meaningful they were for many of my colleagues.

There were also downsides to how my position in the organization evolved. Because this ended up becoming an ethnography of the managerial eye, my view of what workers in the Philippines and Las Vegas were saying or doing when managers weren't around was limited. And of course there were myriad ethical issues to grapple with as well. I tried to inhabit a position of relative power in the organization as responsibly as possible. I advocated for better pay and working conditions for the low-wage workers who were beneath me in the organizational hierarchy—though most of the time executives didn't listen to me. I was most successful at making changes that I could implement on my own, like giving workers advance notice of modifications to the platform that might affect their work. But there's no getting around the fact that as much as I might try to improve things for AllDone's remote workforce, by dint of my role in the field I was inevitably going to be participating in their domination and in the extraction of value from their efforts. I tried to follow the example of others who have found themselves in positions of power in the field by staying reflexive and continually analyzing my place in the organization and how my participation might be contributing to the reproduction of inequalities within the firm.



A notebook and a pen that says field notes
(The Marmot, CC BY 2.0)

Larry: Your analysis of start ups centers on how entrepreneurs juggle and manage multiple trajectories of growth—of valuation lags and organizational drags. **What is specific about venture capital in shaping these trajectories for startups? And more generally, how should sociologists of science and technology study the role of capital in shaping scientific and technological work?**

Ben: I come from a perspective that combines the sociology of technology with the sociology of work and economic sociology. I've been interested in the relationship between financialization and work for a long time. We have a lot of important research on how the rise of shareholder value ideologies and practices has transformed work and employment in publicly traded corporations. We need more research on other asset forms and how investors' interests are related to workers' experiences.

Venture capital is just one form of private equity financing; different asset forms have different logics. VCs pool money from other investors, throw in a bit of their own money as well, and then invest in a portfolio of startups. They expect that 9 out of every 10 startups they fund will fail. Either the companies will die, or their valuation won't increase enough to deliver meaningful returns to investors.

The VC investment model has a corresponding managerial paradigm—which I call *venture capitalism*—that's aimed at generating rapid growth. Each startup in a VC fund's portfolio is trying to become that one in ten that's a big hit. In platform startups like AllDone, software engineers are constantly experimenting with product features to find new ways to get key metrics up, like revenue and unique users. Investors look for startups that seem to be capable of growing fast enough that they'll ideally be able to sell their stake to someone else down the road for more than they originally paid. One big success can more than make up for a portfolio littered with losses. For example, Sequoia Capital's first investment in Airbnb was \$585,000. That initial outlay turned into over \$4 billion after Airbnb's IPO—a 7,000-fold increase. Treating

companies like assets is of course par for the course for institutional investors. But I argue that the VC model represents a uniquely speculative, supercharged version of financialized capitalism.

So what does this mean for sociologists of science and technology? I think it's not enough for us to look at a company and say, "the design of this technology is influenced by the profit motive." Of course, in one sense that will be true of any capitalist firm. But in the book I argue that we need to ask *how* is profit generated, and *for whom*? Is this a publicly traded company that's beholden to Wall Street investors? Is this company owned by a private equity firm that acquired it through a leveraged buyout? Is the firm venture-backed? Looking at the structures of capital that animate a firm can help us explain what investors want, how they go about meeting their particular needs, and what pressures this places on an organization as it engages in technology development.



*Venture capitalists from August Capital, Google Ventures and Felicis Ventures
(Financial Times, CC BY 2.0)*

Larry: A part of the book that really fascinated me was the role of trust in getting workers to choose to provide their labor and services to the platform. You describe the different types of relational work (p. 139) that customer service contractors used to get workers to accept experimental changes on the platform. **Could you describe some of the strategies and tactics of trust and relational work that is used?**

Ben: I just talked to a reporter today who asked me whether I thought customer support agents were going to be automated out of existence! I don't share that perspective. Tech companies often propagate the fantasy that a fully automated experience is just around the corner. What I saw at AllDone suggests why this isn't the case. AllDone catered to independent contractors who provided local services to customers. Their livelihoods were at stake each time they used the platform. They needed to understand how to use it successfully. But the platform wasn't designed to explain all the nuances and complexities of using the software—it was designed to bring in as many users as possible so AllDone would look good to VC investors. So *education* is one of the important functions of the relational work that helped to build trust with platform users. The service providers who used the platform to find work weren't people weren't always tech savvy. A lot of them were older. They might be a good electrician or house painter, but they weren't so great at setting up a profile that would look attractive to customers.

There's also *repair work*. Venture-backed platforms are constantly changing as developers experiment with new features to get the numbers up. Users can get upset when suddenly the platform isn't working how it used to work. So how can a startup preserve relationships with those valuable customers? Running them through an automated system isn't going to help. It takes real interpersonal interaction to help them feel heard, seen, and understood. Having a person-to-person conversation that lasts 30 to 45 minutes can go a long way in helping to establish trust in a technological system. This is an example of the behind-the-scenes labor that supports smooth user experiences with technology—what science and technology scholars sometimes call



*A plumber working underneath a sink
(eliduke, CC BY-SA 2.0)*

articulation work. Customer support workers at AllDone helped to keep the socio-technical system bound together when users' trust was undermined or betrayed.

Larry: This reminds me of how during the pandemic, a lot of restaurants were automatically enrolled onto these like delivery platforms like DoorDash and UberEats. But they never knew that they were listed on these platforms and they got very pissed off at drivers coming in to pick up orders without warning. Other companies, in contrast, would go door to door and talk to the restaurant managers and try to convince them that their platform is good. That seems like a similar type of relational work that's done to gain trust on these platforms.

Ben: Yes! I just saw [a new paper by Anne Jonas](#) that picked up on this idea. She studied virtual schooling in K-12 education. She also found that teachers performed a lot of relational work to try to keep online learners engaged. Platforms and screens don't automatically educate students. As [Allison Pugh reminds us in her new book](#), human connection is just as important as ever.

Larry: Your book also tells us quite a bit about how inequality is shaped by technology and platform work. One of the common refrains in the book is that: "Middle Aged women are what



*Berlin Startup Office
(CC BY 2.0, from Heisenberg Media)*

makes AllDone work". But a lot of the pains and brunt of the changes that are made to these platforms are borne by them, while the riches and profits are given to other folks in different offices.

What does this tell us about who stands to benefit from technological innovation, and who bares the brunt of the pains?

Ben: At AllDone, the pressure to move fast and break things was experienced differently depending on a worker's structural position in the firm. For the workers in the San Francisco office who were orchestrating change, it was fun, exciting, and engrossing to be constantly testing out new ideas and discovering which ones would get the numbers up—think of Burawoy's work games, which combine skill and chance with uncertain outcomes and intermittent rewards. For employees who held stock options, every step they took to bring in more users and revenue meant a higher valuation for the company and a higher possibility of cashing out.

Phone support workers in Las Vegas had a totally different experience of the same phenomenon. Software engineers saw users as abstract numbers on a spreadsheet. But frontline workers had to confront users as real people who had real emotional responses to being treated like a data point that could be experimented on and manipulated. Customer support agents struggled to keep up with the ins and outs of an ever-changing platform. At the same time, the users

who were being directly affected by these changes were often quite upset, and they took their anger out on AllDone's frontline workers. So standing between software developers and their users exposed phone support agents to a lot of stress, anxiety, and fear.

The team in the Philippines is interesting because it runs contrary to some common ideas about what we'd find in an offshored data-processing team. AllDone wasn't exactly the "digital sweatshop" that some people imagine. Again, the software engineers were constantly looking for ways to change the platform to increase key metrics. So they delegated a lot of long-term organizational functions to information-processing workers in the Philippines. Instead of coding everything up, they could essentially task data workers with acting like algorithms themselves. The work was monotonous, but compared to other common options for college-educated Filipino workers ([see Jeff Sallaz's fantastic book on call center work](#)), it wasn't necessarily stressful. AllDone's managers prioritized rapid growth above all else. They didn't have much time to worry about efficiency, so it didn't make sense for them to focus on trying to squeeze a little extra productivity out of workers who were being paid two dollars an hour.

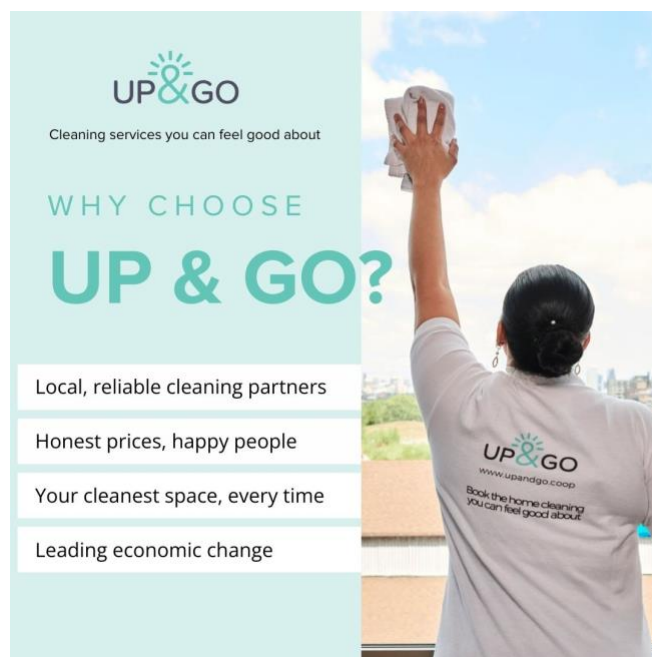
If workers' experiences on the job varied dramatically depending on their structural position inside the firm, so did their compensation. *Ninety-two percent* the company's workforce were remote, work-from-home contractors. The majority of them were women. The managers in San Francisco often said that AllDone never would have achieved its incredible growth trajectory across multiple funding rounds without the remote teams. But the workers in the Philippines and Las Vegas weren't technically AllDone employees, even though some had worked for the company for years. And because they didn't hold stock options, they weren't able to share in the incredible wealth they were generating. This is one of the ways that startups reproduce inequalities. In an economy where wealth is increasingly generated from the ownership of

assets rather than from employment income, excluding such a large percentage of a startup's workforce from asset ownership also means excluding them from the gains a tech company creates.

Larry: This probably like goes back to the alternate models of growth that you mentioned previously, on how there are alternative models of financing technological change. That's something that is mentioned it in the conclusion of the book too. It's certainly very interesting. Public options or state financed options of certain types of platforms potentially could make sense. **What are your thoughts on alternative models?**

Ben: When it comes to alternative financing models, we need to think about ownership structures that are designed to benefit a broad array of stakeholders, rather than just funneling wealth up to the folks at the top of the pyramid. One example is private ownership—it's not a radical idea, but it does prevent outside investors from exercising control over how technologies are developed and how the gains will be distributed. Jessa Lingel, a colleague of mine at Penn, wrote a [wonderful book about Craigslist](#), which was founded before most of today's tech behemoths existed. Because it's privately owned, it's been able to follow an ethos that balances the profit motive with the public interest. Craigslist doesn't harvest user data to sell it to data brokers. They only charge employers for posting job ads and landlords for posting apartment listings. The founder, Craig Newmark, has preserved the Web 1.0 ethos of an open internet where information is available to all. Craigslist is a profitable enterprise, but it's never been a profit-maximizing enterprise. Avoiding external funders who demand rapid growth as a condition of their investment makes that possible.

There are also successful tech non-profits that, again, don't face the expectation that they'll maximize returns for investors. The example I give in the book, which [Mary Gray and Siddharth Suri discuss in Ghost Work](#), is Amara. [Amara is a digital labor platform that can be used for transcription projects](#). Wages are higher than on most labor platforms because the company isn't trying to



*An ad from Up & Go, a worker owned cooperative
(from Up & Go's Facebook Page)*

expand the bottom line. There's also a lot of new research on platform cooperatives. These are digital platforms that are owned and operated by the workers who rely on them to find work. The example I give in the book is a platform called [Up & Go, which is a house-cleaning platform for workers in New York City](#). Up & Go returns 95% of the income generated from house-cleaning jobs to the workers themselves. Instead of investing in scale and trying to dominate the market for housecleaners around the world so investors can cash out for billions, they're just focused on helping local immigrant women increase their income and feel a sense of ownership over their work.

We should be thinking about what kinds of policies we can put in place to promote these kinds of alternative models for building tech companies. The VC model didn't start booming until the 1980s, after policy changes loosened regulations that had kept pension fund managers from investing in VC funds. Cuts in the capital gains tax rate have also incentivized investments in venture-backed startups because they let investors hold onto more of their profits. If we want to loosen VC's grip on innovation, we should reconsider these kinds of policies. We can also eliminate the carried interest loophole, which lets

investors treat their investment gains as capital gains rather than as income. There's also a qualified small business stock exemption that allows stock acquired in the early stages of a startup's growth to escape taxation. Reducing the influence of VC investors could help to promote an environment where alternative ownership structures have more of an opportunity to flourish.

Larry: What are you working on next? Anything that you would like to preview to the SKAT newsletter audience?

Ben: I have a new project that's still in its early stages, so I'll tell you about three articles related to the book that are coming out soon. The first uses the relational work framework to understand the ties between AllDone's software engineers in San Francisco and data workers in the Philippines. Managers in San Francisco sometimes felt guilty about the massive gulf in compensation and authority that separated them from Filipino workers. I show how workers in San Francisco alleviated some of their shame by framing the employment relationship to emphasize fun, friendship, and conviviality. Workers in the Philippines, for their part, really valued these jobs—they were flawed in some ways, but compared to other options, they could be quite attractive. I show the relational work they performed to make software engineers feel better

about themselves, framing them as heroic job creators helping people in need. I argue that this relational work helped to maintain the stability of AllDone's labor arrangements in a way that benefited both workers and the firm in the short term, while also reproducing the global inequalities that pervade the tech industry.

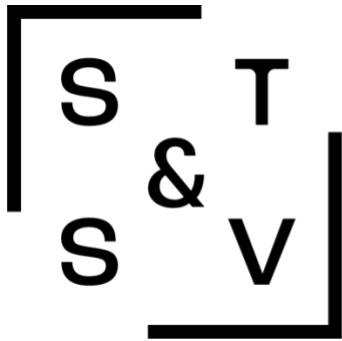
Another forthcoming article contributes to the nascent interdisciplinary literature on asset manager capitalism. We have some great research on how VCs exercise their structural power over firms, but less on how labor is organized in startups to achieve investors' goals. I use the case of AllDone to illuminate the different forms of labor the company mobilized to inflate the firm's value.

The third article, which I'm currently revising, is about my methodology. I consider what other ethnographers can learn from the dilemmas that I faced after unintentionally stumbling into the role of a middle manager while conducting fieldwork. The paper considers whether and how researchers can inhabit positions of power in the field in a way that is both ethical and generative of useful insights.



*A call center
(Comcast Washington State, CC BY 2.0)*

Introducing the ST&SV Lab



**SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
AND SOCIAL VALUES LAB**
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

"Science and technology are fundamental matters of practice and concern for contemporary society—for every field of study, in every domestic and foreign policy issue, for our conceptions of ourselves and our communities. Yet, too little attention is paid to the intersections of science and technology with the social order, including how they are marshaled in how we make claims in and to society through rules, laws, values, and norms. Grounded in social science perspectives, the Science, Technology, and Social Values (ST&SV) Lab examines these developments with clear normative commitments: science and its applications have exacerbated social inequality and crisis, and should be governed to contribute to the public good. Research and analysis are critical tools to achieve this end.

The ST&SV Lab explores the relationship of emerging science and technology to the frustration and fulfillment of civil, political, and social citizenship. Lab research initiatives examine scientific and technological developments and practices, and their implications for rights, justice, and democracy. Working in an anticipatory mode, the ST&SV Lab produces timely research, gathers extraordinary thinkers, convenes collaborations, proposes policy innovation, and encourages public deliberation.

The ST&SV Lab is led by Dr. Alondra Nelson, Harold F. Linder Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study (IAS). This year, the Lab hosted Dr. Lisa Nakamura and Dr. Christian Sandvig as visiting professors. The team also includes Dr. Marc Aidinoff, a postdoctoral researcher and historian, who studies the intersection of public policy, technology, and liberalism in the United States; and Dr. Christine Custis, a computer scientist and Civic Science Fellow, who helps lead the AI Policy and Governance Working Group, and new work exploring responsible quantum science.

You can learn more about the ST&SV Lab team [here](#)."

From the Editors of *Theory and Social Inquiry*

May 9, 2024

Dear Colleagues,

As former members of the editorial board of *Theory and Society*, we wish to announce that we are launching a new journal, *Theory and Social Inquiry*, to continue the mission of Alvin Gouldner's *Theory and Society*.

The immediate catalyst for the constitution of this new journal is an attack on the principle of intellectual autonomy. In 2023 Springer Nature, the publisher of *Theory and Society*, unilaterally decided to change the intellectual direction of the journal. Beyond simply changing editorial personnel for operational reasons, Springer decided that the journal needed to be "less political" and "more scientific," and found two executive editors willing to fulfill that mandate.¹

Springer asked us, the members of the existing editorial board, to resign. This demand for our resignation came after we had asked to provide input into the process of selecting a new executive editor, only to have Springer refuse our request.

For us, the issue is simple. Because academic careers depend on scholarly publications, allowing for-profit publishers to determine the intellectual trajectory of a journal means allowing them to dictate the intellectual trajectory of the discipline. Springer decided the direction of the journal *without any consultation with the community that produces the journal*, neither the senior editors nor the corresponding editors.

In behaving in this way, Springer has set a precedent that for-profit publishers can unilaterally determine the intellectual direction of scholarly journals.

We propose a different model. Our new journal, *Theory and Social Inquiry*, will be published by the Open Library of Humanities (OLH). OLH is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist journals in breaking free of commercial publishers if their intellectual autonomy comes under attack. Our experience at *Theory and Society* is far from unique, and other editorial teams have also been effectively "fired" when they refused to cede to publishers' demands. Often these demands involve pressure to publish more (typically shorter) articles so that the press can make higher profits from open access fees ("article processing charges"). Publishers may also interfere in the content of a journal, as in Springer's decision to "change the direction" of *Theory and Society* by opting for a more "scientific" and less "political" type of scholarship. In the broader context of growing attacks on sociology and encroaching censorship, we feel it is critically important to take a strong stand by moving our journal to a not-for-profit publisher.

In addition to re-constituting as a non-profit, our new journal will also be open-access. OLH's model of open access ("Diamond Open Access") relies on collective funding from an international network of university and public libraries and does not charge article processing fees to authors. This is particularly important for researchers situated in universities with fewer resources, including in low-income countries. Open access also allows readers without university affiliations to access scholarly work, expanding the reach of the scholarship published in our pages to the broader public.

Most importantly for us: we will own the journal. An association of sociologists will be the owners of *Theory and Social Inquiry*, which means that what happened with Springer can never happen again. We hope other journals will follow our lead in exploring models that similarly protect their intellectual autonomy.

Our Vision

Alvin Gouldner founded *Theory and Society* explicitly to advance scholarship devoted to the “critique and renewal” of established traditions of social theory and empirical research, with the aim of attaining a better comparative-historical understanding of the social world and coming to practical terms with its hardened structures and future possibilities. “Critique” and “renewal” also encapsulate the mission of the new journal, although we have given these concepts new meanings, alongside their original connotations.

What “critique” means to us, first and foremost, is a refusal of efforts to draw a bright line between scientific practice and engagement in the world. Alvin Gouldner’s *Theory and Society* was dedicated to the view that a critical analysis of existing social structures and social processes is not opposed to, but in fact an important source of, scientific discovery. The modal article asked “big” questions, theorized boldly, and drew on rigorous empirical research to arrive at knowledge that often challenged conventional wisdom. Our new journal will follow these principles, publishing articles that engage the world from the best traditions in social scientific and humanistic research, including ethnography, comparative and historical sociology, and quantitative analyses. Whatever the method, *Theory and Social Inquiry* will publish articles that offer a high level of theoretical argumentation, drawing from an eclectic and interdisciplinary range of sources, as was also the signature of the original *Theory and Society*.

“Critique” is inseparably tied to “renewal,” and here again we draw on our own history while seeking to recast it for a new generation. Alvin Gouldner’s *Theory and Society* was reflexive from the very start. We believe that some of the most exciting conversations in the discipline today involve serious reflection about the scholar’s role in the world, under names such as public sociology, problem-solving sociology, engaged research, and the like. These conversations offer an opportunity for renewal of our practices as of the world we study. We welcome theoretical meditations on these issues as well as practical empirical applications that result from such thinking.

“Critique” and “renewal” also apply to ourselves. We are very aware that aspects of the operational procedures of the former *Theory and Society* were the source of justified criticisms, particularly concerning long turn-around times for initial reviews. Renewal on this issue means a new model that places the review process directly in the hands of the editors, who will now handle all operational aspects of shepherding manuscripts through. Our pledge to the discipline is a new journal that is not simply a continuation of the old journal, but a better one.

The journal will be open for submissions by July. We plan to celebrate the launch of the journal at the ASA annual meeting and produce its first issue this year.

2024 would have been the 50th anniversary of Alvin Gouldner’s *Theory and Society*. We look forward to reconstituting this exciting intellectual community, now entering its sixth decade, and we invite you to join us at ASA to celebrate the official launch of *Theory and Social Inquiry*.

Sincerely,
Nitsan Chorev, Brown University
Gil Eyal, Columbia University
Neil Gross, Colby College
Greta Krippner, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Charles Camic, Northwestern University
Mara Loveman, University of California, Berkeley
Chandra Mukerji, University of California, San Diego
Monica Prasad, Johns Hopkins University
David Swartz, Boston University
Iván Szelenyi, Yale University (emeritus)

Recent Publications from Section Members



Solar panels in front of mountains in Utah (Jason St. Sauver/USFWS on Flickr, CC BY 2.0)

New Articles

Daniel Breslau. 2024. "Are subsidies market manipulation? The politics of electricity market hybridization in the United States". *Energy Research & Social Science* 115: 103623. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2024.103623>

Jesse Callahan Bryant and Justin Farrell. 2024. "Conservatism, the Far Right, and the Environment". *Annual Review of Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-083023-035225>

Nicki Lisa Cole, Eva Kormann, Thomas Klebel, Simon Apartis, and Tony Ross-Hellauer. 2024. The societal impact of Open Science: a scoping review. *Royal Society Open Science*. 11: 240286. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsos.240286>

Gil Eyal, Larry Au, Cristian Capotescu, Amanda Curi, Renan Gonçalves Leonel da Silva, Yijie (Coco) Fang, Jingyu Lang, Shuhan Li, Chang Liu, Jessica Liu, and Jian Su. 2024. "¿Qué hay en un nombre? La política de los síntomas post-covid en tres países". *Ciencia, Público y Sociedad* 1(1): 3-22. <https://revistas.unc.edu.ar/index.php/cps/article/view/45247>
["What's in a Name? Contrasting the Politics of Post-Covid Symptoms Across Three Countries" in *Science, Public and Society*, English version: <https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/juxag>]

Hyun Ju Kim, Erica Jablonski, Debra L. Brucker, Ada Chen, John O'Neill, and Andrew J. Houtenville. *Forthcoming*. "What Structural and Cultural Organizational Characteristics Affect Flexible Work Environments? Evidence from the 2017 and 2022 Kessler Foundation National Employment & Disability Survey: Supervisor Perspectives *Journal of Vocational Rehabilitation*".

Joseph C. Hermanowicz. 2024. "The Therapeutic University." *Minerva*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11024-024-09539-x>

Joseph C. Hermanowicz. 2024. "Interrogating the Meaning of 'Quality' in Utterances and Activities Protected by Academic Freedom." *Journal of Academic Ethics*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10805-024-09512-z>

David J. Hess. 2024. "Scientists, Censorship, and Suppression: A Comparative Analysis of U.S. Cases Involving Chemical and Climate Expertise". *Sociology Compass* 17(7): e13241. <http://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.13241>

Ya-Wen Lei and Rachel Kim. 2024. Automation and Augmentation: Artificial Intelligence, Robots, and Work. *Annual Review of Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-090523-050708>

Nataliya Nedzhvetskaya and JS Tan. 2024. "No Simple Fix: How AI Harms Reflect Power and Jurisdiction in the Workplace". In Proceedings of the 2024 ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '24). Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 422–432. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3630106.3658915>

Georg Rilinger. 2024. Algorithmic Management and the Social Order of Digital Markets. *Theory and Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-024-09555-6>



Robotic arms on an assembly line
(<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=83806185>, CC BY-SA 4.0)

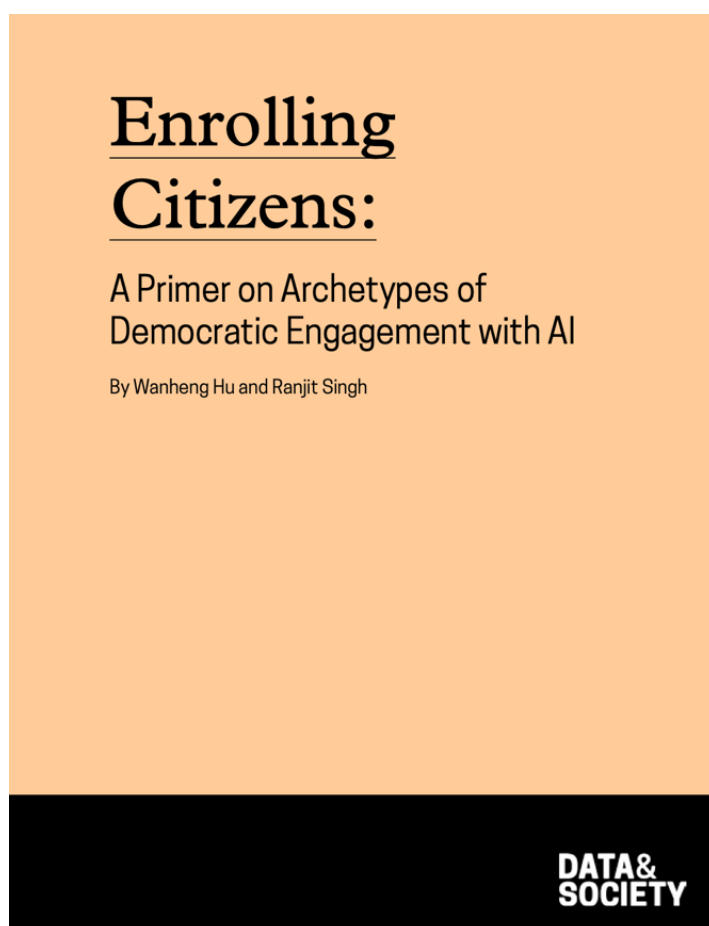
New Report

Wanheng Hu and Ranjit Singh. 2024. *Enrolling Citizens: A Primer on Archetypes of Democratic Engagement with AI.* Data & Society.

https://datasociety.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/DS_Enrolling-Citizens-Primer_FINAL.pdf

"In response to rapid advances in artificial intelligence, lawmakers, regulators, academics, and technologists alike are sifting through technical jargon and marketing hype as they take on the challenge of safeguarding citizens from the technology's potential harms while maximizing their access to its benefits. A common feature of these efforts is, as D&S Affiliate Michele Gilman has argued, including citizens throughout the stages of AI development and governance. Yet doing so is impossible without a clear vision of what citizens ideally should do. This brief takes up this imperative and asks: What approaches can ensure that citizens have meaningful involvement in the development of AI, and how do these approaches envision the role of a "good citizen"?

The primer highlights three major approaches to involving citizens in AI – AI literacy, AI governance, and participatory AI – each of them premised on the importance of enrolling citizens but envisioning different roles for citizens to play. While recognizing that it is largely impossible to come up with a universal standard for building AI in the public interest, and that all approaches will remain local and situated, this primer invites a critical reflection on the underlying assumptions about technology, democracy, and citizenship that ground how we think about the ethics and role of public(s) in large-scale sociotechnical change."



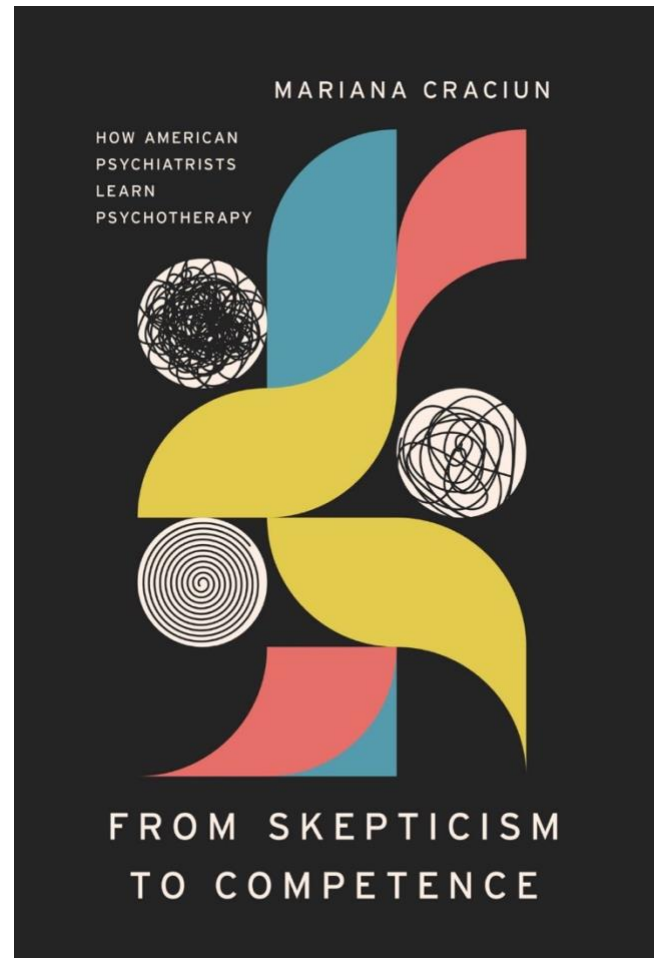
New Books

Mariana Craciun. 2024. *From Skepticism to Competence: How American Psychiatrists Learn Psychotherapy*. University of Chicago Press.

<https://press.uchicago.edu/ucp/books/book/chicago/F/bo215859800.html>

"While many medical professionals can physically examine the body to identify and understand its troubles—a cardiologist can take a scan of the heart, an endocrinologist can measure hormone levels, an oncologist can locate a tumor—psychiatrists have a much harder time unlocking the inner workings of the brain or its metaphysical counterpart, the mind.

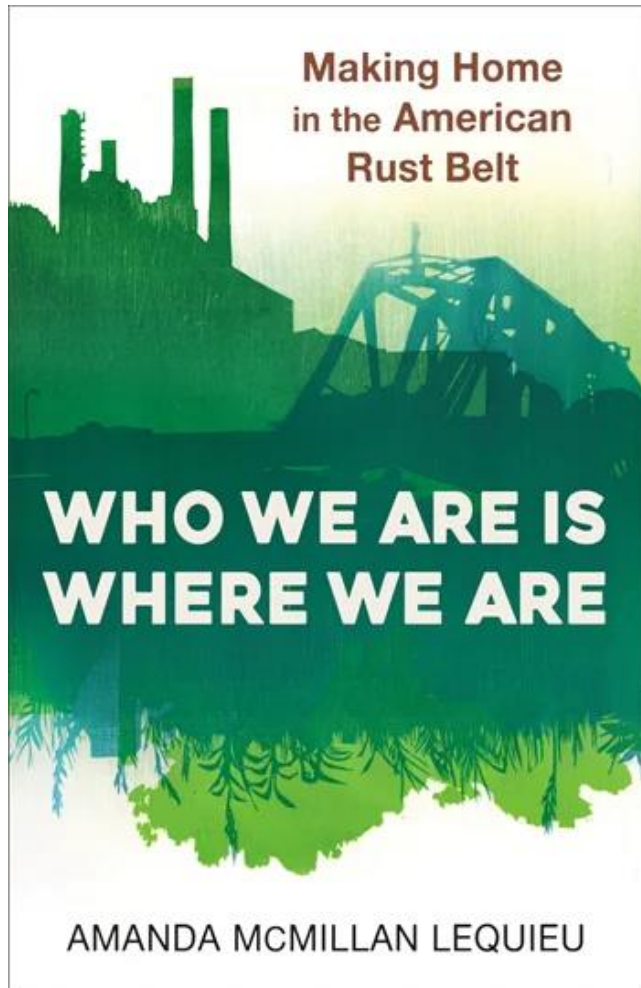
In *From Skepticism to Competence*, sociologist Mariana Craciun delves into the radical uncertainty of psychiatric work by following medical residents in the field as they learn about psychotherapeutic methods. Most are skeptical at the start. While they are well equipped to treat brain diseases through prescription drugs, they must set their expectations aside and learn how to navigate their patients' minds. Their instructors, experienced psychotherapists, help the budding psychiatrists navigate this new professional terrain by revealing the inner workings of talk and behavioral interventions and stressing their utility in a world dominated by pharmaceutical treatments. In the process, the residents examine their own doctoring assumptions and develop new competencies in psychotherapy. Exploring the world of contemporary psychiatric training, Craciun illuminates novice physicians' struggles to understand the nature and meaning of mental illness and, with it, their own growing medical expertise."



Mariana Craciun is assistant professor of sociology at Tulane University.

Amanda McMillan Lequieu. 2024. *Who We Are Is Where We Are: Making Home in the American Rust Belt*. Columbia University Press.

<https://cup.columbia.edu/book/who-we-are-is-where-we-are/9780231198752>



“Half a century ago, deindustrialization gutted blue-collar jobs in the American Midwest. But today, these places are not ghost towns. People still call these communities home, even as they struggle with unemployment, poverty, and other social and economic crises. Why do people remain in declining areas through difficult circumstances? What do their choices tell us about rootedness in a time of flux?”

Through the cases of the former steel manufacturing hub of southeast Chicago and a shuttered mining community in Iron County, Wisconsin, Amanda McMillan Lequieu traces the power and shifting meanings of the notion of home for people who live in troubled places. Building from on-the-ground observations of community life, archival research, and interviews with long-term residents, she shows how inhabitants of deindustrialized communities balance material constraints with deeply felt identities. McMillan Lequieu maps how the concept of home has been constructed and the ways it has been reshaped as these communities have changed. She considers how long-term residents navigate the tensions around belonging and making ends meet long after the departure of their community’s founding industry.

Who We Are Is Where We Are links the past and the present, rural and urban, to shed new light on life in postindustrial communities. Beyond a story of

Midwestern deindustrialization, this timely book provides broader insight into the capacious idea of home—how and where it is made, threatened, and renegotiated in a world fraught with change.”

Amanda McMillan Lequieu is an assistant professor of sociology at Drexel University.

Allison J. Pugh. 2024. *The Last Human Job: The Work of Connecting in a Disconnected World*. Princeton University Press. <https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691240817/the-last-human-job>.

THE LAST HUMAN JOB

*The Work of Connecting
in a Disconnected World*

ALLISON
PUGH

"With the rapid development of artificial intelligence and labor-saving technologies like self-checkouts and automated factories, the future of work has never been more uncertain, and even jobs requiring high levels of human interaction are no longer safe. *The Last Human Job* explores the human connections that underlie our work, arguing that what people do for each other in these settings is valuable and worth preserving.

Drawing on in-depth interviews and observations with people in a broad range of professions—from physicians, teachers, and coaches to chaplains, therapists, caregivers, and hairdressers—Allison Pugh develops the concept of "connective labor," a kind of work that relies on empathy, the spontaneity of human contact, and a mutual recognition of each other's humanity. The threats to connective labor are not only those posed by advances in AI or apps; Pugh demonstrates how profit-driven campaigns imposing industrial logic shrink the time for workers to connect, enforce new priorities of data and metrics, and introduce standardized practices that hinder our ability to truly see each other. She concludes with profiles of organizations where connective labor thrives, offering practical steps for building a social architecture that works.

Vividly illustrating how connective labor enriches the lives of individuals and binds our communities together, *The Last Human Job* is a compelling argument for us to recognize, value, and protect humane work in an increasingly automated and disconnected world."

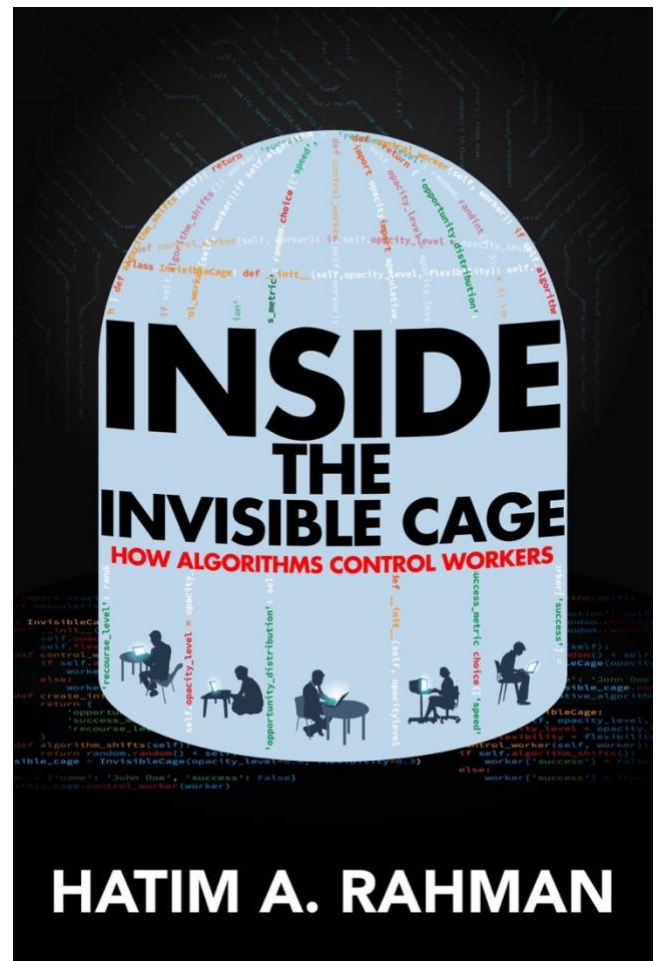
Allison Pugh is professor of sociology and chair of the Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality at the University of Virginia. She is the author of *The Tumbleweed Society: Working and Caring in an Age of Insecurity* and *Longing and Belonging: Parents, Children, and Consumer Culture*. Her writing has appeared in leading publications such as *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, and the *New Republic*.

Hatim Rahman. 2024. *Inside the Invisible Cage: How Algorithms Control Workers*. University of California Press. <https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520395541/inside-the-invisible-cage>

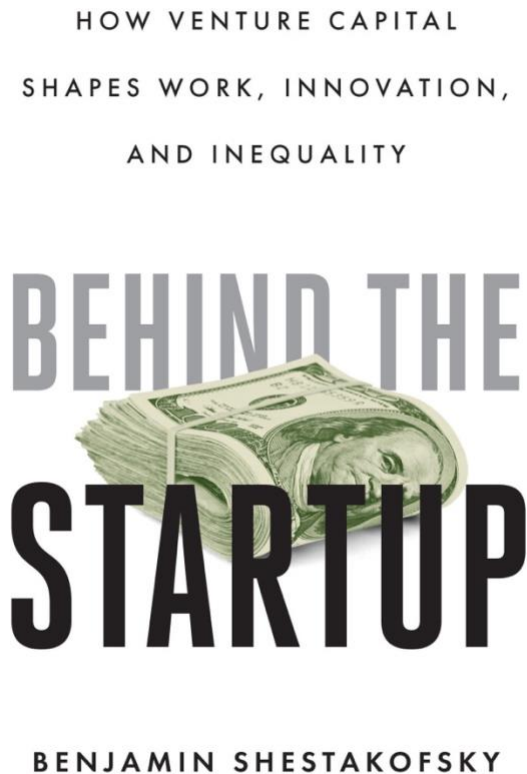
"Inside the Invisible Cage uses unique longitudinal data to investigate how digital labor platforms use algorithms to dictate the actions of high-skilled workers by determining accepted behaviors, work opportunities, and even success. As Hatim Rahman explains, employers can use algorithms to shift rules and guidelines without notice, explanation, or recourse for workers. The invisible cage signals a profound shift in the way markets and organizations categorize and ultimately control people.

Unlike previous forms of labor control, the invisible cage is ubiquitous, yet it is also opaque and shifting, which makes breaking free from it difficult for workers. This book traces how the invisible cage was developed over time and the implications it has for the spread of new technology, such as generative artificial intelligence. *Inside the Invisible Cage* also provides organizations, workers, and policymakers with insights on how to ensure the future of work has truly equitable, mutually beneficial outcomes."

Hatim A. Rahman is an award-winning assistant professor at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.



Benjamin Shestakofsky. 2024. *Behind the Startup: How Venture Capital Shapes Work, Innovation, and Inequality*. University of California Press. <https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520395039/behind-the-startup>



"In recent years, dreams about our technological future have soured as digital platforms have undermined privacy, eroded labor rights, and weakened democratic discourse. In light of the negative consequences of innovation, some blame harmful algorithms or greedy CEOs. *Behind the Startup* focuses instead on the role of capital and the influence of financiers. Drawing on nineteen months of participant-observation research inside a successful Silicon Valley startup, this book examines how the company was organized to meet the needs of the venture capital investors who funded it.

Investors push startups to scale as quickly as possible to inflate the value of their asset. Benjamin Shestakofsky shows how these demands create organizational problems that managers solve by combining high-tech systems with low-wage human labor. With its focus on the financialization of innovation, *Behind the Startup* explains how the gains generated by these companies are funneled into the pockets of a small cadre of elite investors and entrepreneurs. To promote innovation that benefits the many rather than the few, Shestakofsky compellingly argues that we must focus less on fixing the technology and more on changing the financial infrastructure that supports it."

Benjamin Shestakofsky is Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is affiliated with AI at Wharton and the Center on Digital Culture and Society.

Congratulations!



Amanda Cheong

Congratulations to Amanda Cheong, University of British Columbia, for receiving the Craig A. Lockard Prize from the Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei Studies Group for her article "Theorizing Omission: State Strategies for Withholding Official Recognition of Personhood" in *Sociological Theory*.

Learn more about this accomplishment here:

<https://sociology.ubc.ca/news/malaysia-singapore-and-brunei-studies-group-awards-prize-for-best-journal-article-to-prof-amanda-cheong/>

Job Posting

Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in Sociology

Colgate University: Office of the Provost of the Dean of the Faculty (PDOF): Division of Social Sciences: Sociology and Anthropology Department

Link: <https://apply.interfolio.com/149900>

Location: Hamilton, NY

Open Date: Jul 18, 2024

Salary Range or Pay Grade: \$92,300 to \$96,300

Description: The Sociology and Anthropology Department at Colgate University welcomes applications for a tenure-stream assistant professor position in sociology to begin the fall semester of 2025. We seek a sociologist of race and ethnicity with an active and innovative research agenda who will expand the existing strengths of the department. We are particularly interested in scholars whose research and teaching incorporates the sociology of politics, media, or criminology/deviance, as well as those with the ability to teach quantitative methods.

We welcome candidates who will contribute to one or more of the required courses in our [sociology curriculum](#), and develop elective courses in their area of specialization. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to participate in the university's many interdisciplinary programs. They also will be expected to join the Colgate faculty in contributing to the [Liberal Arts Core Curriculum](#).

We invite applicants to submit a cover letter (1-2 pages), a C.V., and the names and email addresses of three references willing to write letters on your behalf (ideally, at least one letter addressing your teaching promise). The cover letter should specify how your teaching and research interests intersect with the position. Colgate strives to be a [community supportive of diverse perspectives and identities](#); the cover letter should also describe your ability to work effectively with students across a wide range of identities, backgrounds, and perspectives. Applications must be submitted through [Interfolio](#). Our review of applications will begin September 27, 2024. Completion of Ph.D. in Sociology is required prior to, or shortly after, the date of hire.

Colgate is a highly selective liberal arts university of 3,200 students situated in central New York state. Colgate faculty are committed to excellence in both teaching and scholarship. Further information about the Department of Sociology and Anthropology is available [here](#). The salary range for the position is \$92,300 to \$96,300. Applicants with dual-career considerations can find postings of other employment opportunities at Colgate and at other institutions of higher education in upstate New York at: <https://upstate-ny.hercjobs.org/>.

Positions in AI, Inequality, and Society at UC Berkeley

The University of California, Berkeley seeks applicants for four tenure-track (Assistant Professor) positions and one tenured (Associate or Full Professor) position in the area of **"AI, Inequality, and Society" (AIIIS)**. The field of AI and the fields studying the political, legal, economic, and social dimensions of AI are undergoing rapid development, and AI technologies, such as generative AI and large language models (LLMs), are being applied in an ever-increasing range of settings across all sectors of society, from basic research to everyday life. The AIIIS Cluster initiative brings together the Computer Science (CS) division of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (EECS) department, the departments of Sociology and Statistics, and the schools of Information and Law to address questions related to the myriad ways in which AI may reshape society and individual lives, possibly exacerbating existing inequalities and creating new ones while changing opportunity structures and participation by individuals and groups in society. Advances in AI and its applications have implications for (among other topics) education, democratic processes, trust, social relations, work, governance, and the structures and practices that embed and resist inequality across them.

Areas of interest for the AIIIS Cluster cut across disciplinary boundaries and include, but are not limited to: (i) employment, (ii) algorithmic discrimination, (iii) generalized surveillance, and (iv) data, information, and markets.

Deadline for applications is September 16. For more information, see:

<https://aprecruit.berkeley.edu/JPF04498>