

THOMAS R. DAVIDSON

Curriculum Vitae

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2020 - present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Rutgers University–New Brunswick.

EDUCATION

2020 Ph.D. in Sociology, Cornell University.

2018 M.A. in Sociology, Cornell University.

2013 M.Sc. in Political Sociology, Distinction, London School of Economics
and Political Science.

2011 B.A. (Hons) in American Studies, 1st Class, University of East Anglia.

PUBLICATIONS

Edited volumes **Thomas Davidson** and Daniel Karell (eds.). 2025. “[Integrating Generative AI into Social Science Research.](#)” *Sociological Methods & Research* 54(3): 775-1242.

Peer-reviewed
journal articles Ranjit Lall, **Thomas Davidson**, and Felix Hagemeister. *Forthcoming*. “Right-Wing Populism and the COVID-19 Shock: Evidence from Early Superspreader Events.” *Comparative Political Studies*.

Matthew Shu, Daniel Karell, Keitaro Okura, and **Thomas Davidson**. 2026. “[How latent and prompting biases in AI-generated historical narratives influence opinions.](#)” *PNAS Nexus*.

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos[†]. 2026. "Structuring Articulation: Asylum Applications and Elite Political Communication on Social Media During the European Refugee Crisis." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.

Thomas Davidson. 2025. "Multimodal large language models can make context-sensitive hate speech evaluations aligned with human judgment." *Nature Human Behaviour*.

Daniel Karell, Matthew Shu, **Thomas Davidson**, and Keitaro Okura. 2025. "Generating the Past: How Artificial Intelligence Summaries of Historical Events Affect Knowledge." *Social Science Computer Review*.

Youngjin Chae[†] and **Thomas Davidson**. 2025. "Large Language Models for Text Classification: From Zero-Shot Learning to Instruction-Tuning." *Sociological Methods & Research*. 1-67.

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos[†]. 2025. "Engaging Populism? The Popularity of European Populist Political Parties on Facebook and Twitter, 2010-2020." *Political Communication* 42 (1): 171-200.

Thomas Davidson. 2024. "Start Generating: Harnessing Generative Artificial Intelligence for Sociological Research." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 10: 1-17.

Thomas Davidson. 2024. "Audience Engagement and the Dynamics of Online Activism: Far-Right Mobilization on Facebook." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 28 (4): 445-470.

- Reprinted as "Britain First and the Dynamics of Far-Right Activism on Facebook" in Hank Johnston, Rory McVeigh, Ziad Munson (eds.). 2025. *Right-Wing Movements in North America and Europe: Media, Identity, and Parties*. Routledge.

Julie Phillips, **Thomas Davidson**, and Marilyn Baffoe-Bonnie[†]. 2023. "Identifying Latent Themes in Suicide among Black and White Adolescents and Young Adults Using the National Violent Death Reporting System, 2013-2019." *Social Science & Medicine* 334: 116114.

Matthew Salganik and many authors, including **Thomas Davidson**. 2020. "Measuring the predictability of life outcomes with a scientific mass collaboration." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 117 (15): 8398-8403.

Students under my supervision are denoted by †.

Thomas Davidson. 2019. "Black Box Models and Sociological Explanations: Predicting High School GPA Using Neural Networks." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 5: 1-11.

Thomas Davidson and Mabel Berezin. 2018. "Britain First and the UK Independence Party: Social Media and Movement-Party Dynamics." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 23(4): 485-510.

Thomas Davidson and Paromita Sanyal. 2017. "Associational Participation and Network Expansion: Microcredit Self-Help Groups and Poor Women's Social Ties in Rural India." *Social Forces* 95(4): 1695-1724.

Peer-reviewed
conference &
workshop
proceedings

Xuhui Zhou, Hao Zhu, Akhila Yerukola, **Thomas Davidson**, Jena D. Hwang, Swabha Swayamdipta and Maarten Sap. 2023. "COBRA Frames: Contextual Reasoning about Effects and Harms of Offensive Statements." *Findings of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)*: 62946315.

Keyu Chen, Marzieh Babaeianjelodar, Yiwen Shi, Kamila Janmohamed, Rupak Sarkar, Ingmar Weber, **Thomas Davidson**, Munmun De Choudhury, Jonathan Huang, Shweta Yadav, Ashique Khudabukhsh, Preslav Ivanov Nakov, Chris Bauch, Orestis Papakyriakopoulos, Kaveh Khoshnood, and Navin Kumar. 2023. "Partisan US News Media Representations of Syrian Refugees." *Proceedings of the AAAI International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM)*: 103-113.

Thomas Davidson and Debasmita Bhattacharya[†]. 2020. "Examining Racial Bias in an Online Abuse Corpus with Structural Topic Modeling." *Proceedings of the Fourteenth International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM), Data Challenge Workshop*.

Thomas Davidson, Debasmita Bhattacharya[†], and Ingmar Weber. 2019. "Racial Bias in Hate Speech and Abusive Language Detection Datasets." *Proceedings of the Third Abusive Language Workshop, ACL*: 25-35.

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

Thomas Davidson, Dana Warmesley, Michael Macy, and Ingmar Weber. 2017. "Automated Hate Speech Detection and the Problem of Offensive Language." *Proceedings of the Eleventh AAAI International*

Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM): 512-515.

Book chapters

Thomas Davidson. 2025. "Hate speech detection and bias in supervised text classification." in Juan Pablo Pardo-Guerra and Christian Borch (eds). *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning*. Oxford University Press. 121-140.

Mabel Berezin, Emily Sandusky, and **Thomas Davidson**. 2020. "Culture in Politics and Politics in Culture: Institutions, Practices and Boundaries" in Thomas Janoski et al. (eds) *The New Handbook of Political Sociology*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press. 102-131.

Commentary,
essays & notes

Thomas Davidson. 2025. "Measuring context sensitivity in AI content moderation." *Nature Human Behaviour*.

Thomas Davidson and Daniel Karell. 2025. "Integrating Generative AI into Social Science Research: Measurement, Prompting, and Simulation." *Sociological Methods & Research* 54 (3): 775-793.

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

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

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

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

Book reviews

Thomas Davidson. 2025. "Brexit, Facebook, and Transnational Right-Wing Populism." *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 54(2): 142-144.

Thomas Davidson. 2021. "Review of *The Making of the Populist Movement: State, Market, and Party on the Western Frontier* by Adam Slez." *Social Forces* 100(1): e6.

WORK IN
PROGRESS

Thomas Davidson. "Parallels between human and AI reasoning." *Un-*

der review.

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

Thomas Davidson. "Generative AI and Far-Right Visual Propaganda."

Duhui Lee and Thomas Davidson. "The Diffusion of Conspiracy Theories."

Thomas Davidson. "Online Activism and Algorithmic Opportunity Structures."

GRANTS

2025 - 2027

Co-PI, Harnessing Large Language Models for Causal Inference in the Social Sciences (\$65,000), Rutgers University, School of Arts & Sciences.

2024

Researcher Access Program (\$10,000 in compute credits), OpenAI.

2023

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

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2020

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

2019

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

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Princeton University.

2018

Young Scholar in Social Movements, University of Notre Dame.

2016

Eric and Wendy Schmidt Data Science for Social Good Fellowship, University of Chicago.

RECENT RESEARCH TALKS

Thomas Davidson. "Hate Speech in Context: A Sociological Approach to Online Content Moderation."

- *Department of Sociology, University of Toronto–Mississauga*. Invited. 2026.

- *Department of Methodology, London School of Economics and Political Science.* 2026.
- *Department of Sociology, University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill.* 2025.
- *Computational Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame.* Invited. 2025.
- *Blackmar Lecture, Department of Sociology, The University of Kansas.* Invited. 2025.
- *School of Sociology Colloquium, University of Arizona.* Invited. 2025.
- *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), University of Pennsylvania.* Invited. 2025.
- *ASA Methodology Section Midyear Conference, University of Pennsylvania.* 2025.
- *ASA Annual Meeting, Chicago.* 2025.
- *International Conference for Computational Social Science (IC2S2), University of Pennsylvania.* 2024.
- *Trust and Safety Research Conference, Stanford University.* 2024.

Youngjin Chae[†] and Thomas Davidson. “Large Language Models for Text Classification: From Zero-Shot Learning to Instruction-Tuning.”

- *Institut Polytechnique de Paris, AI and Social Sciences Seminar.* Invited. 2024.
- *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.* 2023.

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

- *Mobilization Conference, San Diego State University.* 2024.
- *Future of Activism Workshop, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University.* 2023.
- *ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movement Section Pre-Conference, University of Pennsylvania.* 2023.

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

- *Toronto Data Science Workshop, University of Toronto.* Invited. 2024.
- *Data Science Program, Bryn Mawr College.* Invited. 2024.
- *Consortium on Analytics for Data-Driven Decision-Making (CANd3), McGill University.* Invited. 2024.
- *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Rutgers University.* Invited. 2024.

- *Workshop on Advanced Research Methods (WARM), StarFlame*. Invited. 2024.

Jenny Enos[†] and Thomas Davidson. “Structuring Articulation: Asylum Applications and Elite Political Communication on Social Media During the European Refugee Crisis.”

- *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia*. 2023.

Thomas Davidson and Jenny Enos[†]. “Engaging Populism? The Popularity of European Populist Political Parties on Facebook and Twitter, 2010-2020.”

- *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia*. 2023.
- *Politics and Computational Social Science Conference, Northeastern University*. 2021.
- *Cornell & Indiana Sociology Working Group*. Invited. 2021.

Julie Phillips, Thomas Davidson, and Marilyn Baffoe-Bonnie[†]. “Identifying Latent Themes in Suicide among Black and White Adolescents and Young Adults Using the National Violent Death Reporting System, 2013-2019.”

- *ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia*. 2023.

Thomas Davidson. “Hate Speech Detection and Bias in Supervised Text Classification.”

- *Workshop on Algorithmic Governance, European Commission*. Invited. 2022.
- *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science-Hong Kong, Chinese University of Hong Kong*. Invited. 2022.
- *Stony Brook University*. Invited guest lecture. 2020.
- *Summer Institute in Computational Social Science, Rutgers University*. Invited. 2020.
- *University of Toronto*. Invited guest lecture. 2020.

Ranjit Lall, Thomas Davidson, and Felix Hagemeyer. “Right-Wing Populism and the COVID-19 Shock: Evidence from Early Superspreader Events.”

- *Stanford Political Science Workshop*. 2022.
- *Politics and Computational Social Science Conference, Harvard University*. 2022.
- *International Political Economy Society, University of Pittsburgh*. 2022.

PANELS & OTHER TALKS

Thomas Davidson. Panelist. *AI and the Future of Extremism ASA Pre-conference, New York City*. Invited. 2026.

Thomas Davidson. "Generative Artificial Intelligence Across the Social Sciences." Panel organizer and moderator. *Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop, Yale University*. 2024.

Thomas Davidson. Panelist on "The Data Pulse of Social Change: Social Movements Research in the Computational Era." *ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Symposium (Online)*. 2024.

Thomas Davidson and Kiran Garimella. "Mitigating Polarizing Language in Political Texts." *Rutgers University, Research Ideation Forum on Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence*. 2022.

Panelist, "Interdisciplinary Perspectives on ChatGPT." *Rutgers University, School of Arts and Sciences Office of Undergraduate Education*. Invited. 2023.

Thomas Davidson. "Using Images and Video Data for Social Science: Challenges and Opportunities." *Princeton University, Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Festival*. Panel organizer and moderator. [\[Recording\]](#). 2021.

Thomas Davidson. "Hate Speech Detection and Content Moderation." *Organization of American States, Americas Dialogue Project*. [\[Recording\]](#). Invited. 2021.

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

TEACHING

Rutgers

Graduate

Computational Sociology: Spring 2021, Spring 2024.

Statistical Methods in Sociology II: Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2025, Spring 2026.

Undergraduate

Computational Social Science: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025.

Sociology of Culture: Spring 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2023 (two sections), Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026.

Political Sociology: Fall 2020.

Cornell

Teaching assistant Language and Information, Department of Computer Science: Spring 2017 and 2018.

Introduction to Sociology, Department of Sociology: Fall 2016.

Drugs and Society, Department of Sociology: Spring 2016.

Classical Theory, Department of Sociology: Fall 2015.

LSE

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

SERVICE

Discipline

Organizing committee, Workshop on Online Harms (WOAH) at Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP), Budapest, Hungary, 2026.

Co-organizer (with Daniel Karell), Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociology Workshop, Institution for Social and Policy Studies, Yale University, 2024.

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

Member, ASA Mathematical Sociology Section, Outstanding Article Award Committee, 2023-2024.

Member, ASA Political Sociology Section, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship for a Paper by a Graduate Student Award Committee, 2023-2024.

Member, ASA Culture Section, Membership Committee, 2022-2024.

Organizer, ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, Small Group on Computational Methods, 2023-.

Member, ASA Mathematical Sociology Section, Outstanding Student

	Paper Award Committee, 2022-2023.
	Co-organizer (with Yotam Shmargad), Winter Institute in Computational Social Science, University of Arizona, 2021.
	Reviewer and interviewer, Data Science for Social Good, 2018-20.
Editorial	Editorial board, <i>Social Science Computer Review</i> , 2026-.
	Editorial board, <i>Sociological Methodology</i> , 2026-2028.
	Guest editor, <i>Sociological Methods & Research</i> , 2024-2025.
	International Advisory Board, <i>Critical AI</i> , 2023-.
Grant proposals	Reviewer, National Science Foundation, Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program, 2024.
	Reviewer, National Science Foundation CAREER award, 2021.
	Reviewer, Social Science Research Council SICSS Research Grants, 2021.
Journals and conferences	Reviewer for <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> (6), <i>American Sociological Review</i> (3), <i>Social Forces</i> , <i>Sociological Methodology</i> (2), <i>Sociological Methods & Research</i> (3), <i>Sociological Science</i> , <i>Sociological Theory</i> , <i>Journal of Mathematical Sociology</i> , <i>Political Analysis</i> (3), <i>Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences</i> , <i>Journal of Politics</i> (2), <i>Social Psychology Quarterly</i> , <i>Social Problems</i> , <i>Sociological Forum</i> (2), <i>Socius</i> , <i>The Sociological Quarterly</i> , <i>Social Currents</i> , <i>Social Movement Studies</i> , <i>Nations and Nationalism</i> , <i>Political Communication</i> , <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> , <i>Research in Social Movements, Conflict, and Change</i> , <i>PLOS One</i> , <i>Information, Communication, and Society</i> , <i>New Media and Society</i> , <i>Social Science Computer Review</i> (3), <i>Transactions on Social Computing</i> (4), <i>EPJ Data Science</i> , <i>Big Data</i> , <i>Social Media + Society</i> , <i>Journal of Online Trust and Safety</i> , <i>Journal of Quantitative Description</i> (2), <i>Journal of Management Studies</i> , <i>Journal of the American Medical Informatics Association</i> , <i>Journal of Natural Language Engineering</i> , <i>Journal of Health and Social Behavior</i> .
	Program committee member and reviewer for ICWSM 2018-21, 2023; IC2S2 2019-20, 2025; <i>Workshop on Online Abuse and Harms</i> (formerly <i>Abusive Language Workshop</i>) 2018-21; <i>SocInfo</i> 2019; <i>WebSci</i> 2020; <i>NeurIPS</i> 2021.
Rutgers	Member (elected), Executive Committee, 2025-2026

Member, Search Committee, fall 2025.

Member, Colloquium Committee, spring 2024.

Computational Social Science Cluster Champion, Cluster on Data Science and Artificial Intelligence, 2023.

Member, Cyberinfrastructure and AI for Science and Society (CASS) Committee, Chancellor-Provost Challenge, 2023-.

Co-organizer, Quantitative Applications in Sociology (QAS) Workshop, 2022-2023.

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2022-2023.

Member, Graduate Program Committee, 2021-22, 2024-2025.

Member, Undergraduate Program Committee, 2020-22.

STUDENTS

Rutgers

Graduate

Hannah Troxel (PhD 2024), dissertation committee member.

Marilyn Baffoe-Bonnie (PhD 2024), second qualifying paper reader.

Yunhee Shim (School of Communication and Information (SCI), MA 2024), qualifying exam committee.

Anderson de Andrade, first qualifying paper reader.

Fred Traylor, first qualifying paper reader.

Marina Rivera Ramos, first qualifying paper chair.

Xu Guo, second qualifying paper reader.

Sudhamshu Hosamane (SCI, MA 2025), qualifying exam committee.

Jenny Enos, second qualifying paper reader, independent study, dissertation committee member (ongoing).

Youngjin Chae, independent study, second qualifying paper chair, dissertation committee chair (ongoing).

Olivia Hakala, first qualifying paper reader (ongoing).

Duhui Lee, first qualifying paper reader (ongoing).

Undergraduate Jay Rana '26, Design Justice Labs fellowship advisor.

Archi Parekh '23, Lloyd C. Gardner Fellowship & Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis advisor.

Manya Sherman '23, Senior Honors Thesis minor advisor. *Henry Rutgers Scholar Award* winner.

Joshua Gole '22, Interdisciplinary Honors Thesis advisor.