Dear Colleagues,

I begin this “Letter from the Chair” with a round of thanks to our CITASA Officers and Council Members for their service this past year. Jennifer Earl has completed her year as Chair with distinction, notably breathing new life into the section newsletter. Shelia Cotten, Hiroshi Ono, and Timothy Hale have contributed to our section on a number of fronts in their roles as Past Chair and Council Members, while Dan Ryan and PJ Rey have finished their stints as our Communications Officer and Student Representative respectively.

It goes without saying that our section’s success is also due to the efforts of yet other CITASA members. Among those yet to be mentioned are continuing CITASA Officers and Council Members (Katrina Kimport, Christopher A. Bail, and Jenny L. Davis), Awards Officers (Judy Wajcman, Shelley Boulianne, Jeffrey Lane, Grant Blank, Gina Neff, Yuri Takhteyev, Keith Hampton, and Gustavo Mesch), and the Newsletter Editorial Team (W. James Sigurdu, Didem Türkoğlu, Guang Ying Mo, Jenny Ungbha Korn, Elizabeth Schwarz, Robyn Keith, and Penn Pantumsinchai). I know I speak for our entire section in expressing our gratitude to each of them for their service to CITASA.

It is also my pleasure to welcome new members of Council: Chair-Elect: Andrea Tapia, Council Members: Barry Wellman and Anabel Quan-Haase, Student Representative Erin Evans, and Communications Officer Apryl Williams. Each of them has already been hard at work for our section since August. I would like to recognize Erin Evans and Barry Wellman for their tremendous efforts leading the Membership Committee Andrea Tapia has just graciously volunteered to Chair the Nominations Committee along with Gina Neff, Christena Nippert-Eng, and Rodney Benson (you will be hearing from them soon—be ready to nominate yourself and others to run for a seat on CITASA’s Council!)

Recognition is also due to all of you who joined us at the CITASA Symposium “[New] Media Cultures” right before ASA. In the morning, we had two fabulous keynote sessions with eight riveting speakers: Barry Wellman, Pablo J. Boczkowski, Christena Nippert-Eng, Denise Anthony, Fred Turner, Shanyang Zhao, David Halle, and Saskia Sassen. In the afternoon, we had almost thirty speakers from every corner of the field and many corners of the globe. Panels focused on inequalities, knowledge management, news, politics, arts, media, production, activism, identities, relationships, and communities. As chair of the CITASA Symposium Committee, my personal appreciation goes to our committee for all of their help: Jennifer Earl, Gina Neff, Gabe Ignatow, Jeremy Schulz, Blanca Gordo, Tim Hale, Nalini Kotamraju, Jennifer L. Davis, Jen Schradie, and Joy Hightower.
Letter from the Chair (con’t)

Thanks to our generous sponsors, it was a red letter day: The Project Management Institute (www.pmi.org), Emerald Group Publishing (emeraldmediastudies.com), and the UC Berkeley Center for New Media (bcnm.berkeley.edu).

On the horizon, we are making a number of bold forays to stake CITASA’s claim in the digital sphere. While our section members have always been active on their own, it is time for us double down on our internet presence as a section. Apryl Williams is leading the charge on our new website (stay tuned). Erin Evans is developing a CITASA fan page on Facebook (yes, do give us your thumbs up), and Anabel Quan-Haase will be handling Twitter. Jenny Davis is joining the media committee as well, so more on the way with Instagram, etc. Send the media committee your thoughts and suggestions at: suggestionsforcitasa@gmail.com.

Also this fall, new section publishing opportunities are right around the corner. As you have no doubt read from the listserv, the deadline for our CITASA Special Issue of Information, Communication & Society (iCS) is coming soon: November 1st. Do submit papers you presented at the 2014 ASA for this eagerly anticipated gallery of our section’s latest research to be published next summer with iCS. In addition, another opportunity awaits in January (the 30th to be exact) in our section-sponsored series Emerald Studies in Media and Communication. We are publishing two volumes on New Media Cultures and Digital Distinctions & Inequalities respectively. Make sure to visit the announcements section of our newsletter for full details on both publication calls.

Finally, looking ahead to next year in Chicago, I am delighted to announce that we are co-sponsoring our reception with the Children and Youth Section thanks to an invitation from their Section Chair Allison Pugh. Also in the Windy City, if any Chicagoans or others would like to volunteer their time and energies on a preconference, do throw your hat into the ring! Just send us a note at suggestionsforcitasa@gmail.com.

Onwards and upwards!

Laura Robinson
Assistant Professor, Santa Clara University
Affiliated Faculty, UC Berkeley ISSI
Series Editor, Emerald Studies in Media and Communication
At the ASA conference in August, I presented a draft of my meta-analysis on social media and engagement. The paper was originally going to be a far-reaching literature review about what we know about social media and politics. However, I quickly discovered that there was a very large body of research on this topic. After reading about 60 studies, I decided that I couldn’t possibly summarize all of this research into a 15 minute presentation. Instead, I decided to narrow my focus on the question of whether social media increases or decreases engagement in civic and political life (a focus that I had used in a prior meta-analysis piece). I found almost 40 studies that used some form of survey data to examine the relationship between using social media and engaging in some form of political or civic activity (voting, protesting, boycotting, volunteering, etc.).

While 40 seems like a lot of studies, I would like to include more studies in the meta-analysis! I would like to solidify some findings where the research seems thin, but extremely fascinating. For example, I did not find large differences between studies focused on well-established democracies and studies focused on other types of political system. Before making any conclusions, I would like to read and integrate more studies focused on other types of political systems. Another area where the research is thin relates to social media effects on different types of civic and political activities. The meta-data is quite thin around engagement in protest and almost non-existent related to volunteering in the community.

As such, I would like to make an appeal to CITASA members who are engaged in (or know of) international research on social media and engagement and/or who are studying social media and protest or volunteering – please send me your work! Your work can be published or unpublished as long as the manuscript includes a description of methodology (survey questions, sampling approach, etc.). In the meantime, I have posted the draft presentation to my website for anyone interested in taking a sneak peek at my findings. https://academic.macewan.ca/bouliannes/files/2010/06/Boulianne-Social-Media-Meta-analysis-Aug14circulate.pdf. I am happy to share my reference list with anyone interested in this topic.

I look forward to hearing from all of you! Thank you.
Recent Publications


Recent Publications (con’t)


Dissertation Profiles

Brittany Fiore-Silfvast, Post-Doctoral Fellow | Year of graduation: 2014
eScience Institute & Department of Human Centered Design & Engineering, University of Washington
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This dissertation examined the social and organizational implications of data-intensive transformations in healthcare through studying digital health and processes of informationalization in the U.S. and India. Focused on the problem of how to mobilize digital health data across different contexts of use and reuse and make data valuable for multiple stakeholders, this study employed a combination of discourse analysis, ethnographic methods, and a comparative case study analysis to investigate digital health innovation across rural healthcare and urban consumer health and wellness settings in the U.S. and India. Examining discourses and practices across communities, I found communication gaps around health and wellness data. To explain these gaps I propose the concept of data valence to represent the different expectations and social values that mediate the social performance of data. I present a data valence typology that accounts for the multiple social and material lives of data and can highlight tensions across stakeholder groups. In comparing digital health pilot projects, I found that the differences between reinforcing and redrawing professional boundary relations, and in the role of intermediary labor in translation of digital health data for clinical and administrative sensemaking, patient engagement, and algorithmic calibration, at one time support polyvalent data in the U.S. Telehealth case and hinder it in India mHealth. This suggests digital health’s emphasis on technological innovation overlooks essential organizational and communicative dimensions of informationalizing healthcare and needs to be expanded beyond measures of success and failure to account for how technological innovation extends into and co-evolves with a wider network of organizational practice.

Cassidy Cody Puckett, Ph.D. Candidate | Year of graduation: 2015
Department of Sociology, Northwestern University
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The Geek Instinct: Technological Change, Digital Adaptability, and Social Inequality

In my dissertation, I investigate what it means to be a successful technology learner in the digital age. Youth are often assumed to be “digital natives” who master technology through simple immersion, yet research indicates this is not the case. Key to technological competence is the ability to learn and adapt to technological change—what I call “digital adaptability” (DA). But little is known about why some have more technology learning strategies than others, that is, have higher DA. To understand these differences, I conducted a mixed-method study involving over 1,000 adolescents to describe and measure DA, as well as investigate the resources and practices that influence DA. Overall, I find that school resources and practices are inconsequential after taking into account home practice, highlighting the importance of out-of-school factors. I also find a small but persistent gender effect, where girls have lower DA than boys. Looking at how DA may influence short-term and potential long-term outcomes, I find that DA correlates with current level of technological skill and projections for future educational and occupational trajectories. This suggests that more adaptable students may be better prepared for pathways to higher education and employment, as well as other areas where technological change is highly consequential, such as advancements in healthcare. My future research will involve a longitudinal study in Chicago, as well as research in comparative contexts, such as Silicon Valley and New York where the technology industry is more developed and therefore differences may be smaller or more highly stratified.
Dissertation Profiles (con’t)

Misha Teplitskiy, Ph.D. Candidate | Year of graduation: 2015
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Three Studies of Peer Review in the Sciences

Each year expert scientists volunteer countless hours to decide if the claims of others are credible and warrant publication. When making these evaluations, scientists generally do not replicate research, and the time necessary for careful scrutiny is often lacking. How, then, do scientists decide which data and conclusions are trustworthy? What heuristics do they use? And given the time constraints, what can we realistically expect peer review to accomplish? I take up these questions in my dissertation, which consists of three studies. The first study asks “How do sociological manuscripts change as they undergo peer review?” By linking a sample of manuscripts presented at annual meetings of the American Sociological Association with the published articles that emerged from those projects, I computationally tracked all changes between manuscript versions. Classifying those changes as related to either data analysis or theoretical framing revealed that while data analyses tended to remain constant, authors made substantial changes to theoretical framing, a finding that suggests peer review incentivizes researcher investment into data collection at the cost of investments into theory. The second study asks “Does an article’s peer review predict its subsequent impact?” Using peer review data from *American Sociological Review* I examine the extent to which reviewer characteristics and the amount of consensus between them predict short- and long-term citation trajectories. The third study asks “How does the choice of reviewers influence the outcome of review?” Using peer review data of thousands of neuroscience manuscripts submitted to the journal *PLoS One* and a relatively complete genealogy of the field, I examine how reviewers’ decisions depend on their genealogical and cognitive distances to the manuscripts’ authors.

Tamara Peyton, Ph.D. Candidate | Year of graduation: 2015/2016
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Designing pregnancy mHealth for individuality, domesticity and sociality: A platform for scaffolding healthy transitional life events

Health is deeply enmeshed in sociotechnical systems of knowledge, ability, action and technicity. Health is a collective state of possibilities and dimensions, rather than a set of individual beliefs and choices made for personal well-being. My goal for my PhD dissertation is to innovate a new sociotechnical approach to female health and wellness management via mobile health systems and applications (‘mHealth’), developed through value-sensitive design principles. Rather than using a risk management approach that confronts women with the dangers associated with health behaviours, I am devising new methods and new design paradigms that are guided by ideas of resiliency and thriving, rather than decay or illness. I want to encourage healthy living and strong personal resilience skills for women, through the use of mobile apps that promote and reinforce contextually-positive health behaviours, and that respect women’s life demands and socioeconomic positioning. I am focusing on pregnancy as a major life event within which collaborative and individual information seeking, and familial family support are featured as prominent activities and influences, alongside medical practice and economic position. With the near ubiquity of mobile technology in North America across many socioeconomic statuses, I am interested in the potential positive impacts of mobile health information guidance and wellness awareness raising applications on pregnancy management, particularly in the crucial first trimester for first time lower-income mothers. Positively impacting health outcomes requires an understanding of what I call the health ecologies of individuals; or their informational, physical, emotional, technical and social needs, as well as challenges. This ethical sociotechnical framework requires a mixed methods project design in which I look not only at the problem under consideration, but also at the ecological factors that shape how health issues manifests in individual lives grounded in the sociotechnical context of North America, and how women use mobile technology to manage their personal health ecologies.
Announcements

1) Misiek Piskorski has a new book out: Social Strategy: How we profit from Social Media. The book develops a framework to understand how and why we socialize with friends and strangers online, drawing from large-scale empirical analyses on unique datasets from Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, eHarmony, OkCupid, foursquare, Friendster and MySpace. The book seeks to help students understand social media from a quantitative perspective, and can form the basis for any undergraduate or graduate social science course. Learn more at: http://press.princeton.edu/titles/10190.html

2) Call for papers: International Conference on Location-based Social Media Data
Athens, Georgia, USA. March 5-7, 2015
http://research.franklin.uga.edu/iclsm

In the era of big data, increasingly sizeable datasets come from social media, particularly location-based social media, in the form that is widely known as user-generated contents. Many social media datasets are made available at the finest spatial and temporal scales. The availability of such data creates unprecedented opportunities for researchers to uncover what were previously hidden in the era of small data. What kind of new research questions may be addressed with the available social media data? What are the social, ethical, and political implications of the wide use of social media platforms and the availability of such data? Particularly, what can geographers, GIScientists, and social scientists in general, contribute in response to the unique research opportunities and challenges with social media data?

This conference is designed to bring together researchers from various fields and perspectives to share ideas and findings of their research related to social media data. The aim is to provide a forum for participants to reflect upon what has been accomplished and to discuss what can be pursued in the future. You are invited to submit full papers (5000 words) by December 20, 2014 or extended abstracts (1200-1500 words) by January 15, 2015 at https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=iclsm2015. Example topics include, but are not limited to, the following:

Theories and Data Models for Social Media Data
* GIS representation and data structure for social media data
* Theoretical models of social media data in geographic, temporal, and social dimensions

Analysis and Applications
* Applications of social media data and analysis in any field of study
* Big data analytics and place sentiments

Geovisualization for Social Media Data
* Visual analytics tools for social media data
* Agent-based simulations of human mobility and interaction patterns

All submissions will be peer-reviewed. Highest quality research papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of Computers, Environment and Urban Systems and possibly an edited book.

If you would like to organize a special session, please submit a brief proposal with a suggested theme and possible participants (if available). Proposals or questions about special sessions can be sent to iclsm2015@gmail.com. The deadline for special session proposals is Nov. 15, 2014.

Student paper competition sessions will be organized. Awards will be made to master’s level papers and doctoral-level papers separately. Award decisions will be made at the discretion of a Student Paper Competition Committee.
Announcements (con’t)

3) Call for papers: 2014 ASA for CITASA Special Issue of Information, Communication & Society (iCS): deadline November 1, 2014

You are invited to submit a paper that was presented at the ASA 2014 Annual Meeting for consideration in this special issue. The special issue welcomes papers that focus on any facet of new media, technology, communication, information, or other related topics.

For the eighth year, the journal Information, Communication & Society (iCS, published by Routledge) will publish a special issue in cooperation with the ASA section on Communication and Information Technologies (CITASA). The special issue will be comprised of papers presented at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco, California.

Please submit manuscripts for consideration through ScholarOne, available at: http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/rics. If you do not have an account, you will need to create one. Also, be sure to check the box for “Special Issue” and indicate “CITASA” in it, so that it will be routed appropriately.

While no formatting or word limits are in place for initial review, all accepted manuscripts must respect a word limit of 6,000-8,000 words (depending on the number of submissions accepted) and conform to the journal’s submission guidelines. For guidelines, see http://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=rics20&page=instructions#.UgzeQW20SK0.

Please feel free to send any questions to Laura Robinson at laura@laurarobinson.org

Deadlines:
Full papers due: November 1, 2014
Refereeing completed: December 1, 2014
Final version of accepted papers due: January 1, 2015
Special issue publication (anticipated): June 2014
4) Call for papers for CITASA Sponsored Series: Emerald Studies in Media and Communications: deadline January 30, 2015

Emerald Studies in Media and Communication, is delighted to announce the call for 2015. Submission of original, unpublished papers are invited for consideration in two volumes to be published on digital inequalities and new media cultures respectively. Thanks to a short publication cycle, authors will see their work in print within 12 months of submission by the deadline: January 30, 2015.

Submissions will be considered for inclusion in either volume to achieve the best thematic fit. While they must speak to one of the of the designated themes, we welcome contributions from diverse methodological, theoretical, and/or disciplinary perspectives. For more information, please see the series' aims and scope.

Digital Distinctions & Inequalities
Volume 10: Communication and Information Technologies Annual
We welcome submissions on any facet of digital inclusion, digital inequality, digital differentiation, and/or digital divides writ large. We are interested in these topics as they relate to any communication platform, populations, and kinds of production/consumption of digital media, information technologies, social inequalities, etc.

New Media Cultures
Volume 11: Communication and Information Technologies Annual
We welcome submissions on any facet of culture and [new] media. Submissions may explore any aspect of culture, communication, and [new] media broadly defined. Themes that come to mind are the interplay between [new] media and any of the following: culture, communication, technology, convergence, the arts, cultural production, cultural change in the digital age—and of course anything else [new] media or communication or culture scholars find intriguing. Although it is not necessary for authors to attend or present at the CITASA Symposium, the event will provide a lively venue for discussion about these topics.

Submission Overview
Submissions should be 6,000-12,000 words in length inclusive of abstract, references, and notes. British or American spelling may be used. While no special formatting is requested at the outset, upon acceptance authors must format their manuscripts in accordance with the series' guidelines. Contributions will be peer-reviewed through editorial screening and anonymous refereeing by external reviewers.

Please see www.emeraldmediastudies.com or email editorial@emeraldmediastudies.com for more information. Thank you!
5) Call for papers: Sociological Studies of Children and Youth, an annual series which focuses upon research on children and adolescents, is seeking manuscript submissions for its 2015 volume. The volume will focus on the theme of ‘Technology and Youth: Growing up in a Digital World.’ Advancements in communication and leisure technologies over the past decade have radically transformed the role of technology in the lives of youth. Around the globe, children and adolescents are often seen as being the first to embrace new technologies, such as new forms of social media. Having a cell phone, once regarded as an adult technology, has become a necessity within youth culture in many societies. Even video games, once limited to stand-alone computers, have become a venue for social gatherings of youth. The rapid pace of technological advancement has brought about profound changes in the very nature of childhood and adolescence. The 2015 volume of SSCY will examine the role of technology in the lives of children and adolescents. The volume will address topics such as: cyberbullying, video games and aggressive behavior, online gaming and the development of social skills, sexting and sexuality, child pornography, virtual communities for children, social networking and peer relations, and other related issues.

The 2015 volume will be coedited by Sampson Lee Blair, of The State University of New York (Buffalo) and Patricia Neff Claster and Samuel M. Claster, of Edinboro University. Manuscripts should be submitted directly to the editors (slblair@buffalo.edu, pnclaster@edinboro.edu, sclaster@edinboro.edu), preferably in MS WORD format. Manuscripts should not exceed 40 double-spaced pages (not including tables, figures, and references). Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in SSCY. Manuscripts should adhere to the APA format. Manuscripts should represent previously unpublished work. An abstract of 150-200 words should be included at the beginning of each manuscript. All manuscripts will undergo peer review.

The deadline for initial submissions is December 31, 2014. Any questions may be directed to the editors at slblair@buffalo.edu, pnclaster@edinboro.edu, and sclaster@edinboro.edu.

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