Section | CITAMS

Communication, Information Technologies and
Media Sociology section of the ASA

Contents

Editors:
  Ian Sheinheit, University at Albany, SUNY

  Barry Wellman, NetLab Network and Ryerson Univ.

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

It is with great pleasure that we are able to present the Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology (CITAMS) section newsletter after a two-year hiatus. We believe that this forum is an important space for our community to engage in dialogue, showcase our work, and represent the heterogeneous intellectual history and vibrant future of our great section. As is demonstrated below, and has always been demonstrated by our work, CITAMS is a unique section with broad research implications. We hope that this newsletter, and its continued production, will highlight the diverse and broad pool of scholarship with which our members engage. These interests, as can be seen below in our *Featured Research* section, tap into the deep grooves of core sociological concerns including social inequality, power, institutions, networks, collective action, identity, and meaning. Our section, and its historical proclivity towards computing and programming, also has much to add by developing and utilizing new methodologies to understand how communication, media, and information technologies interact with the aforementioned core sociological concepts. We hope that this forum serves as a spirited space in which we can engage in discussions about the past and future of our section in playful and productive ways.

We understand that with the proliferation of digital communication technologies, there are copious venues and outlets for you to send, or post, your work. Further, many of our members might think that others will step up and contribute, (i.e. the bystander effect). The quality of our newsletter, however, is predicated on the quality of our section members' work and their willingness to share it with our community through this forum. It is with this message that we hope to receive original ideas, as well as descriptions of research projects from our fantastic members, both senior and junior, in the future. Examples include, but are not limited to, review essays, methods assessments, book reviews, teaching narratives, and of course, descriptions of your vital work. Please send any contribution ideas to the editors at isheinheit@albany.edu and wellman@chass.utoronto.ca. We will be publishing our Summer 2018 issue before the annual ASA meeting.

This issue of the CITAMS newsletter features many excellent contributions. First, we have a letter from our chair, Wenhong Chen. In her letter, Wenhong highlights a number of important endeavors with which our community is engaged and sets us up for an exciting ASA in Philadelphia, which will celebrate our section's 30th anniversary.

As many of you are aware, our section recently underwent another name change, the third in its thirty years. This process has inspired reflexivity and dialogue. To showcase this, Laura Robinson and Casey Brienza discuss their accounts of the name change. Within their articles we see a clear path forward for CITAMS as a collaborative and inclusive section with diverse scholars representing diverse subfields. Ian Sheinheit follows this discussion with a brief review of four pieces that have been recently published concerning this section, media sociology, and the name change. In the end, he argues that this name change has been productive, as it required

reflexivity, concretization, and offers a more inclusive way forward. This is accentuated by the myriad fantastic projects that we feature. Hyperlinks are provided throughout the newsletter, signified by underlined text, which link to our many excellent research projects and section events.

We think that our respective positions in the field - a junior scholar in the nascent stages of his career, and a senior scholar who has built his legacy and yet still wants to lend crucial support to our section - represent the scope, influence, durability, and robustness of our section. We hope that the newsletter can continue to foster these characteristics. Lastly, we would like to thank everyone that contributed to this newsletter; without you it does not exist.

Ian Sheinheit
Barry Wellman

Co-editors, CITAMS Newsletter

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Wenhong Chen
University of Texas, Austin

Greetings, colleagues, friends and members of CITAMS!

I am Wenhong Chen, the 2017-2018 section chair. I have been a section member since I was a graduate student who greatly benefited from the scholarship and service of many talented, generous CITAMS members. It is my tremendous honor to serve as the chair of the section. Furthermore, it is my great pleasure to see the return of our section newsletter as we celebrate CITAMS@30 - the 30th anniversary of the section. This would not be possible without the tireless work of our co-editors Ian Sheinheit and Barry Wellman.

To start, I would like to express gratitude to our section leaders and members who have served since the publication of our last newsletter in Winter 2015. Then, I will share a few exciting pieces of news on CITAMS@30.
An incomplete thank you note (as many more names should be added):

- I would like to thank the service of our two most recent past chairs Andrea Tapia (2015-2016) and Jessie Daniels (2016-2017) as well as the service of the council members who worked together with them.

- Kudos to the guest editors of our annual CITAMS special issue for Information, Communication & Society since 2016. The special issue has become an important outlet featuring members' work presented

CITAMS SECTION OFFICERS

Chair: Wenhong Chen,
University of Texas, Austin 2018

Chair-Elect: Deana Rohlinger,
Florida State University 2018

Past Chair: Jessie Daniels
Hunter College and the Graduate Center, CUNY 2018

Secretary-Treasurer: Mito Akiyoshi
Senshu University 2019

Nominations Committee:
Jeffrey Boase
University of Toronto 2018
Jenny L. Davis
The Australian National University 2019
Anabel Quan-Haase
University of Western Ontario 2020

at ASA annual meetings and the Media Sociology Preconferences. Nick LaLone and Andrea Tapia served as the guest editors of the iCS/ CITAMS special issue in 2016, Jessie Daniels, Apryl Williams and Shantel Buggs did it in 2017, and Jenny Davis, Jason Smith, and Barry Wellman delivered again in 2018. I am confident that Deana Rohlinger, our incoming chair for 2018-2019, will make sure that another high-quality special issue will be put together in time.

Congratulations to all the winners of our section awards. The excellence of scholarship in their books, articles and public sociology demonstrates the range, sophistication, and compassion of our

section. The award committee members have invested valuable time and energy to select the best work, often with several rounds of discussion and deliberation.

A few exciting pieces of news for CITAMS@30 before, during and after the annual meeting:

- First, we're ready for Philadelphia! ASA has published the program for the 2018 Annual Meeting Program here. As a sign of the continued growth of our networked transfield, CITAMS and its members have a strong presence at the ASA 2018. We have our 2 section sessions, 10 section roundtables, 4 sessions on Internet and Society, 2 sessions on Media Sociology, and many more sessions related to communication, information technologies, and media sociologies. Ahead of the main conference, the Media Sociology Preconference will be held on August 10.

- Second, I would like to invite you to join the section session CITAMS@30 (Sun, August 12, 2:30 to 4:10pm, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Street Level, 105AB). Celebrating the 30th anniversary of the section, this is to discuss the history, present and future of Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology as well as its place and role in sociology, the academe and the society. As the organizer, I am humbled by the quantity and quality of the submitted papers. The session includes three past chairs (Shelia Cotten, Keith Hampton, and Barry Wellman) as presenters, 1 past chair (James Witte) as discussant, one pioneering and leading sociologist of network society from China (Shaojie Liu, Renmin University), and Karin Knorr-Cetina (Chicago) who will present her latest work on the Culture of Algorithms.

- Third, thanks to the leadership of Keith Hampton, CITAMS@30 section reception will be held at Dave & Buster's, Sunday, August 12 @ 6pm, 325 N Christopher Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19106, which is just 1.5 miles away from the conference headquarters.

- Last but perhaps the most enduring fruit of our celebration, Laura Robinson, Shelia Cotten, Casey Brienza, Barry Wellman and myself are editing a volume, tentatively titled, CITAMS@30 for *Emerald Studies in Media and Communications. Contributors, including past Chairs, council members, as well as members* will revisit the section history, examine important themes relevant to the thirty-year section history, and imagine the section future. The response has been so great that it is likely that we are going to have two volumes rather than one volume.

My great thanks to everyone who submitted, reviewed, organized and volunteered. Please share with Ian and Barry your recent publications, projects, and initiatives for our Summer 2018 newsletter.

Please let me know if there is anything I can do to help you prepare for our annual meeting.

See you in Philly!
Wenhong Chen

From CITASA to CITAMS

Laura Robinson
Santa Clara University

As voted by our section members, our section's name was changed from "Communications and Information Technologies" Section to the "Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology" Section of the ASA. Thanks to efforts by Jennifer Earl (Section Chair 2013 to 2014), the name change was incorporated into our bylaws.

The inclusion of Media Sociology in our section name was an important moment in several ways. Denotatively, the change made explicit our section's implicit inclusion of media sociology and its contributors from many fields as stated in our section's mission statement, that reads: "We also have the largest number of academics appointed in communication, media, or other similar departments in our fold, including past section officers and chairs…Our section recognizes that communication research is moving toward thinking about multiple media, media systems and ecologies, media convergence, and/or the intersection of media instead of "siloing" off one kind of media and studying it in isolation. Work done by section members contributes to the growth of research in this area. A number of section members see themselves as media scholars, which fits within the communication studies of the section." To clearly mark this milestone visually, a new section logo was created to include radio, television, and books alongside social media and smartphones.

At the same time, the formalization of the inclusion of media sociology opened the door to several new ventures within the section that continue to bear fruit over time. As one of the first joint ventures between the Media Sociology Preconference and our section, preconference founders Casey Brienza and Matthias Revers invited me as that year's CITAMS section chair to organize the closing session of the 2015 Media Sociology Preconference facilitated by the excellent work of Paul Hirsch. The session participants--Eszter Hargittai (Northwestern University), Saskia Sassen (Columbia University), Judy Wajcman (LSE), and James Witte (George Mason University)—showcased the strengths of the field and provided a lively exchange with the conference participants. A few days later at the close of my year as our section's chair, I initiated our section's formal sponsorship of the Media Sociology Preconference thanks to efforts by Gina Neff (CITAMS Chair 2011-2012) who arranged for the 2016 venue to be held at the UW in Seattle. The sponsorship proved so successful that it has been continued to the present under our current section Chair, Wenhong Chen.

Also at the ASA Annual Meeting in Seattle, as Series Co-Editor of the CITAMS- sponsored *Emerald Studies in Media and Communications* (ESMC), Casey Brienza and I created a new partnership. Starting the following year at the 2017 Media Sociology Preconference in Montréal, ESMC became an official sponsor of the Media Sociology Preconference alongside the continuing sponsorship by CITAMS. I co-organized the closing panel with insightful and timely commentary from panelists Wenhong Chen (UT Austin), Jeffrey Lane (Rutgers), Anabel Quan-Haase (University of Western Ontario), and Casey Brienza (Conference Founder and Organizer). As co-organizer Apryl Williams (Susquehanna University) could not join us in 2017, the torch has

been passed to her for 2018. This summer at the ASA Meeting in Philadelphia, Apryl has organized the closing session of the Media Sociology Preconference with panelists Jenny Davis (Australian National University), Yuli Patrick Hsieh (RTI International), Betty Aldana Marquez (California State University, Monterey Bay), Jessie Sage (Peepshow Podcast), Ruth Tsuria (Seton Hall University), and Mary Chayko (Rutgers). Held at the venue State System @ Center City, the panel will close what promises to be another excellent all-day event thanks to the fine job being done by this year's organizing committee including Julie Wiest and Ian Sheinheit.

Finally, it is only fitting, as our section celebrates its thirtieth year, to mark our continued growth in media sociology with a joint publication. Along with CITAMS members, all Media Sociology Preconference presenters have been invited to have their research considered for potential inclusion in the "CITAMS@30" special anniversary publication of *Emerald Studies in Media and Communications.* Editors of the special volume (or volumes!) Barry Wellman, Shelia Cotten, Wenhong Chen, and Casey Brienza and I are excited about this latest opportunity for our section and the next steps that the future will bring.

Casey Brienza

In late December 2012, I saw Matthias Revers venting his frustrations on Facebook. Why, he wanted to know, does the American Sociological Association have a section on Animals and Society but not one on Media Sociology?! I commented on the post: How serious are you about this issue? Maybe it was time to stop complaining and actually *do* something about it.

I understood his frustrations quite well. For junior sociologists like Matthias who had been trained in the United States, the de facto choice seemed to be between a career in media sociology *or* a career in a sociology department in the United States; aspiring to both at the same time was unrealistic in the extreme. As for myself, although I am an American with no particular academic career aspirations outside of the United States, I'd discovered approximately four years prior to Matthias's Facebook post that if I wanted to write a PhD dissertation on a part of the American publishing industry in the discipline of sociology, I would have to leave the United States to do it. What I had not fully understood at the time was that, as things stood, there was unlikely to be a place for me in American sociology post-PhD either.

From my College room in Cambridge, England, unable to return home for the holidays because I needed that money to move to London to take up a faculty position there come the turn of the year, I knew the problem was a real one. I had, after all, already faced some consequences and suspected that any change which might be effected was probably too late for me personally. Nevertheless,

I thought, perhaps I could help make a difference for the sociologists-in-training who came after me. And besides, who was going to be the change if not the people who experience the problem most acutely?

To clarify, the "media" in media sociology I would define as encompassing all forms of mass-mediated communication and expression, including, but not limited to, film, television, radio, books, magazines, videogames, popular music recordings, and online blogs. Use of the somewhat outdated term "mass" in this context is intended to exclude mediated interpersonal communication, such as telephone calls, text messages, and Skype chats. What distinguishes media sociology from media and communication studies is that it is not satisfied with studying media in its own terms. Instead, it relates media production, communication/discourse, and consumption to other important key sociological subfields, such as social inequality, social problems, collective action, and identity. Media sociology, furthermore, is attentive to wider power structures and institutions, the problem of reconciling social structures and agencies that generate media representations, and the collective construction of mediated communication, including (but not necessarily privileging) the technologies which facilitate it.

In January 2013, Matthias and I reconvened to discuss seriously what might be done. We spoke to a number of senior academics who agreed with us that this was an important institutional gap in need of filling. Matthias also brought Andrew Lindner into the conversation, whom he had met at the ASA annual meeting in Denver the previous year, and Andrew suggested that we organize a preconference ahead of the next annual meeting, to be held in New York City, to help raise awareness and assess wider enthusiasm for the possibility of a Media Sociology section.

Our efforts were met with a groundswell of enthusiasm which, although not wholly unexpected, was nonetheless delightful. With assistance from Rodney Benson, we were able to secure venue space for the first preconference at NYU's Institute for Public Knowledge and the Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute in August 2013. We scheduled a morning keynote, a relatively junior scholar, and a special discussion plenary featuring senior scholars. The rest of the program was left open for those who wished to participate. Our core operating principle was inclusivity, not boundary-policing; any individuals who saw their work as a part of the media sociology subfield were welcome. In total, we had over eighty registered attendees.

The event at NYU generated further energy for the online petition to form a media sociology section of the ASA that we had posted earlier that year, and we were able to secure the requisite 200 current member signatures required on our first attempt. This, for me, is a not inconsiderable point of pride, as I was the one primarily responsible for the work of coalition building. Ultimately, however, political pushback from the then-named Communication and Information Technologies (CITASA) section, as well as organizational concerns within the association, prevented the formation of a separate section. Yet we remained adamant that "media sociology" as a named subfield be represented in some form in a manner that did not subsume it within the study of technology, and at the end of 2014 a deal was brokered with CITASA to change its name to "Communication, Information Technologies and Media Sociology." This became official in 2015.

This recognition of the subfield of media sociology within the ASA is an important milestone for an association which, unlike its counterparts in Germany and Britain, for example, has never previously had an explicitly-named institutional space for it. If anything, the prominence of the American association and its

centrality to the discipline worldwide makes it important even for scholars outside of North America as well. It is a positive change, and I remain optimistic about the fruits it will bear.

In the meantime, what began as a one-off event has become an annual tradition: The Media Sociology Preconference is now in its sixth consecutive year and will hosted by State System @ Center City in Philadelphia on August 10, 2018. My commitment to raising the profile of media sociology has not wavered, and I am grateful to everyone who, in their myriad ways, has helped make all of these things possible.

An inclusive way forward: A review essay

Ian Sheinheit
University at Albany, SUNY
Yale University

Brienza, Casey, and Matthias Revers. 2016. "The Field of American Media Sociology: Origins, Resurrection, and Consolidation." *Sociology Compass* 10(7): 539-52.

Chen, Wenhong. 2018. "Abandoned not: media sociology as a networked transfield." *Information, Communication & Society* 21(5): 647-60.
Earl, Jennifer. 2015. "CITASA: intellectual past and future." *Information, Communication & Society* 18(5):478-91.

Revers, Matthias, and Casey Brienza. 2017. "How Not to Establish a Subfield: Media Sociology in the United States." *The American Sociologist*: 1-17.

Wellman, Barry. 2006. "Sociologists Engaging with Computers: Introduction to a Symposium on the History of CITASA, 1988-2005: From Microcomputers to Communication and Information Technologies." *Social Science Computer Review* 24, 2 (Summer, 2006): 139-149.

Media, communication, and information technologies are ubiquitous in the social world and they impact individuals, groups, organizations, institutions, and states across the globe. Thus, it is imperative that sociology address questions, or problems as current section chair Wenhong Chen (2018) terms them, concerning mediated communication. The five pieces cited above, despite some disagreements, understand this fully. The question for CITAMS is how to flourish as an intellectual community as well as an institutionalized presence within ASA, one of the most important associations of sociologists worldwide. This requires not only vibrant interlocution but also organizational bureaucratic work. In the end, we need an active community that buys into this mission.

Over the past three years there has been debate and reflexivity that concluded, as Casey Brienza and former section chair Laura Robinson astutely describe above, with a name change for our section. In part due to this process, four excellent pieces have been written over the past three years to discuss the past, present, and future of CITAMS in particular, and the place for studying media, communication, and information technologies in sociology more generally. This dialogue has been very useful and productive. Not only does our section have a new name, which should engender more inclusivity, it also inspires questions regarding the field of sociology.

Former section chair Barry Wellman (2006) notes that the section (under various names) has always been the home of sociologists concerned with the intersection of computers and society. Jennifer Earl (2015), also a former section chair, argues that CITASA, before the name change, was implicitly and empirically the home for media sociology. As the nexus of cross pollination, Earl notes, CITAMS grew from its initial concerns with computer programming and then computer interaction to a "section that richly embraces broad sociological concerns for communication

processes, media, and/or information and communication technologies (ICTs)." She highlights three areas of inquiry our intellectual insight can engender. First, is the proliferation of computational social science. This area of inquiry is most connected to the incipient stages of this section's formation and is vital for future research endeavors. With the explosion of big data and the massive reserves of textual data in digital form online, using computational methods to collect, organize, and code provides a treasure trove of opportunities for sociologists writ large. Second, sociologists have much to offer in understanding how computing connects to the social. Lastly, Earl briefly discusses communication and media systems as another important avenue for sociological inquiry. This is the area of study with which Brienza and Revers (2016) are most focused.

Matthias Revers and Casey Brienza (2016) map out the terrain of media sociology. Distinguishing between the study of media as inward and outward they argue that, though important and complex, focusing on the triad of mediated communication: production, text, and reception, is not enough. Media sociologists must take a step further and understand the outward impacts of these processes on social life. This is exemplified by the work on mediatization. Importantly, our interactions are becoming increasingly mediated and a media logic is permeating all aspects of social life. While concerned with media more broadly, this maps nicely onto Earl's (2015) discussion of the impact of computing on society.

Brienza and Revers (2017) followed up their 2016 article with another that elucidates the process with which media sociology did not become a sub-field in U.S. sociology. They argue that there were a few opportune moments for the institutionalization of media sociology but a variety of cultural and structural constraints thwarted its establishment. First, a consequence of the public opinion research conducted at Columbia

University was that sociology jettisoned media as it was presumed to have limited effects. Second, media sociologists have not consistently connected media to larger and more foundational sociological questions. Third, the historical context and connected structural positioning of media sociology places the field in a precarious position. Without associational representation (i.e. specified journals) or charismatic leaders (many potential leaders in the 70s were integral in forming the culture section which has one of the largest memberships in ASA), media sociology did not gain an institutional footing. Lastly, the overlap between the culture section, which is concerned with mediated public meaning systems, and the proliferation of communication and media studies programs also had a preventative impact.

While failure to create an institutionalized subfield titled Media Sociology in the form of an ASA section is apparent, this does not mean that sociology has been peripheral to the study of media. Communication and media studies scholars necessarily have to engage with sociology. Further, as Wenhong Chen (2018) demonstrates, when we think of media sociology as a globally networked transfield, it is clear that sociology is entrenched in the study of media. Moreover, Chen argues that when we focus on problems, structural holes, and wash away boundaries we can transcend material, economic, political, technological, or cultural reductionism.

After assessing these pieces three things are clear. First, there is a vested interest and intellectual curiosity in regard to media, communication and transmitting information technologies. This is pivotal, but as sociologists we need to take a step further and ask questions about how these processes impact social life. Second, this dialogue, and the resultant name change, has been very productive, as it required reflexivity and concretization. Media and communication are now inextricably linked to information technologies. The boundaries between old and new media have

become increasingly blurred. Further, our data are increasingly collected or analyzed through ICTs. This places our section's members in a unique position of expertise as we attempt to untangle these complex processes. Third, through these pieces we can clearly see an inclusive way forward that is attuned to our sections' strengths, which are vast. As our society becomes more mediated and technologically integrated, and our methodological techniques take advantage of the computational, CITAMS, with all that its new name indicates, is the proper home for a wide ranging diverse set of scholars. While we cannot predict the future, the scholarship represented in this newsletter and a quick look at the table of contents of the most recent issues of AJS and ASR bodes well.

Being trained by the same media sociologist as Revers—Ronald Jacobs at University at Albany, SUNY—I am sympathetic to Revers and Brienza's perspective. As Brienza highlights above, there are so many ASA sections that not having one designated to one of the most important institutions and purveyors of socialization—media—has seemed problematic to say the least. Yet, in part because my own research is focused on the impact of digital communication technologies on mediated political communication, I have always found an engaging and warm community within the CITAMS section even before the name change from CITASA. Now, through these pieces, we can follow the trajectory of our section as a self-reflexive, networked transfield with a big tent.

FEATURED RESEARCH

Stephen Barnard
St. Lawrence University

Barnard, Stephen R. 2017. **"Tweeting #Ferguson: Mediatized Fields and the New Activist Journalist."** *New Media & Society*. Advanced online publication.

The profession of journalism has long been undergoing change due to a combination of factors. This study examines how political, technological, and cultural forces combine to shape the practices of journalists and activists in the aftermath of a highly-publicized, racially-charged police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri. Using a mixed-methods approach combining digital ethnographic content analysis with social network analysis and link analysis, and by employing the lenses of field theory and mediatization, this study finds parity and divergence in the themes, frames, format, and discourse of journalist and activist Twitter practices. While the traditions of objective journalism and affective activism persist, notable exceptions occurred, especially following acts of police suppression. The networked communities of professional and activist Twitter users were overlapping and interactive, suggesting hybridity at the margins of the journalistic field. In addition to demonstrating how both groups converge on the streets and on Twitter, this analysis examines how the shifting practices of both groups highlight changes in the era of new media, and what implications follow.

Shellby Boulianne
MacEwan University

Shelley Boulianne is currently working on data analysis for a two-wave three-country survey (USA, France, and United Kingdom). The survey explores hot topics in digital media research including echo chambers, fake news, social media use related to the Women's March, and public opinion on climate change as well as Trump's use of Twitter. The project is a collaboration with Karolina Koc-Michalska (France), Bruce Bimber (USA) and many others.

Wenhong Chen
University of Texas at Austin

"Roots and Wings: Glocalized Networks and Mobile Media Entrepreneurship."

Funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal, and IC2 Institute at the UT Austin. This project focuses on how entrepreneurs of diverse racial and ethnic background in the mobile media industry leverage digital media technologies and glocalized networks for starting up new ventures, product development, marketization, and innovation. It uses a comparative mixed-method design to collect interview, survey, and digital trace data in the U.S., China, and Portugal.

"A Network Analysis of Mobile Ventures' Privacy Management."

Funded by the Center for Identity at UT Austin. This project aims for a network understanding of the multidimensional production process of privacy practices as an essential part of entrepreneurship. The project uses a producer's perspective and directs attention to privacy practice as a negotiated process that involves a web of social and institutional stakeholders such as governments, politicians, corporations, entrepreneurs, activists, and citizens. Data are collected through interviews, surveys, and digital trace data.

"Now I Know My ABC: A US-China Comparative Policy Research of AI, Big Data, & Cloud Computing."

Drawing on interviews, participant observation, publicly accessible documents, media coverage, and digital trace data, this project assesses ABC policy, politics, and practices and how they are shaped and shaping the US-China relation.

"Digital Inclusion Evaluation of the Unlocking the Connection Initiative."

Supported by the Ford Foundation and Austin Pathway Foundation. Using a mixed-method design involving surveys and interviews, this project develops a community-based study to evaluate the impacts of gaining access to and training of the Internet and other digital media technologies on public housing residents in Austin, Texas.

Chen, Wenhong. 2018. **"Abandoned not: media sociology as a networked transfield."** *Information, Communication & Society* 21(5):647-60.

Li, Xiaoqian, Wenhong Chen, Yoonmo Sang, and Na Yeon Lee. 2018. **"Structure and returns: toward a refined understanding of Internet use and social capital."** *Information, Communication & Society*:1-18.

Li, Xiaoqian, Wenhong Chen, and Joseph D. **Straubhaar. 2018. Privacy at the Margins| Concerns, Skills, and Activities: Multilayered Privacy Issues in Disadvantaged Urban Communities.**

Elizabeth A. Kirley
Deakin Law School, Melbourne AU
York University Toronto

Elizabeth A. Kirley and Marilyn M. McMahon. **"The Emoji Factor: Humanizing the Emerging Law of Digital Speech."** Tennessee Law Journal (Forthcoming).

Emoji are widely perceived as a whimsical, humorous or affectionate adjunct to online communications. We are discovering, however, that they are much more: they hold a complex socio-cultural history and perform a role in social media analogous to non-verbal behaviour in offline speech. This paper suggests emoji are the seminal workings of a nuanced, rebus-type language, one serving to inject emotion, creativity, ambiguity – in other words 'humanity' - into computer mediated communications. That perspective challenges doctrinal and procedural requirements of our legal systems, particularly as they relate to such requisites for establishing guilt or fault as intent, foreseeability, consensus, and liability when things go awry. This paper asks: are we prepared as a society to expand

constitutional protections to the casual, unmediated 'low value' speech of emoji? It identifies four interpretative challenges posed by emoji for the judiciary or other conflict resolution specialists, characterizing them as technical, contextual, graphic, and personal. Through a qualitative review of a sampling of cases from American and European jurisdictions, we examine emoji in criminal, tort and contract law contexts and find they are progressively recognized, not as joke or ornament, but as the first step in non-verbal digital literacy with potential evidentiary legitimacy to humanize and give contour to interpersonal communications. The paper proposes a separate space in which to shape law reform using low speech theory to identify how we envision their legal status and constitutional protection.

Lynn Schofield Clark
University of Denver

Lynn Schofield Clark and Regina Marchi. ***Young People and the Future of News: Social Media and the Rise of Connective Journalism*** (Cambridge U Press, 2017)

With social media, young people are finding out about news events from friends. When they are outraged or drawn into what is happening in current events, they are not only reading and viewing, but also sharing, immersing themselves in, and sometimes even creating news. And, it is changing the way young people define news. That's according to the authors of *Young People and the Future of News* Lynn Schofield Clark and Regina Marchi, two journalism professors who studied diverse U.S. young people and their news habits for 10 years.
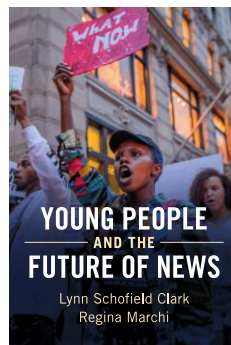
Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube have skyrocketed as locations for news among young people during the past decade, according to numerous national and international studies. Meanwhile, local newspapers and television news have been laying off staff—and struggling to survive.

The shift from trusted journalistic sources to social media as young people's main source of news isn't good news for the organizations of traditional journalism, the book acknowledges. But members of immigrant communities and communities of color have long felt unheard by and underrepresented within those organizations, according to those interviewed in the book. The book also traces ways that young people in these communities are sharing the news that matters to them outside of formal news channels and away from public scrutiny.

Jen Schradie
Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse

Schradie, Jen. 2018. **"The Digital Activism Gap: How Class and Costs Shape Online Collective Action,"** *Social Problems* 65(1):51-74.

What is the relationship between social class and online participation in social movements? Scholars suggest that low costs to digital activism broaden participation and challenge conventional collective action theories, but given the digital divide, little is known about cost variation across social movement organizations from different social classes. A focus on high levels of digital engagement and extraordinary events leaves scant information about the effect of social class on digital mobilization patterns and everyday practices within and across organizations. This study takes a field-level approach to incorporate all groups involved in one statewide political issue, thereby including organizations with different social class compositions, from Tea Parties to labor unions. Data collection spans online and off-line digital activism practices. With an index to measure digital engagement from an original data set of over 90,000 online posts, findings show deep digital activism inequalities between working-class and middle/upper-class groups. In-depth interviews and ethnographic observations reveal that the mechanisms of this digital activism gap are organizational resources, along with individual disparities in access, skills, empowerment and time. These factors create high costs of online participation for working-class groups. Rather than reduced costs equalizing online participation, substantial costs contribute to digital activism inequality.

Schradie, Jen. 2018. **"Moral Monday is More than a Hashtag: The Strong Ties of Social Movement Emergence in the Digital Era,"** *Social Media + Society*, January-March: 1-13.

This article explains the origin puzzle of the 2013 Moral Monday protests in North Carolina. Social media were marginal to the emergence of this civil disobedience movement, yet a common view is that digital technology's weak ties are an integral part of large-scale collective action in the digital era. Instead, strong offline ties with structured organizations were critical to its emergence. Qualitative data show that a network of structured organizations, grassroots organizing, traditional media, and an ideological response to an economic and political crisis worked together to propel this large-scale movement. In effect, both structural and cultural factors shaped the activism in this case, not individual or digital explanations. Consequently, this article also traces the historic phases of social movement theory, situating a *digital* emphasis as part of an evolving focus on social movement origin mechanisms. Emergence scholarship on digital activism would benefit from expanding the entry point of protest earlier and broader than a hashtag's debut, as digital explanations may not be as distinct of a theoretical construct as previous research suggests.

Laura Sheble
Wayne State University
Duke University

Southwell, B.G., Thorson, E.A., & Sheble, L. (Eds.). (2018). *Misinformation and mass audiences*. In A.P. Dillon (Series Ed.), *Information*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

Lies and inaccurate information are as old as humanity, but never before have they been so easily spread. The Internet and broadcast media purvey misinformation, deliberately and accidentally, to mass audiences on politics, consumer goods, science and medicine, and many other subjects. Because misinformation now has the potential to affect mass behavior, it is urgently important to understand how it works and what can be done to mitigate its harmful effects.

Misinformation and Mass Audiences brings together evidence and ideas from communications, public health, psychology, political science, environmental studies, and information science to investigate what constitutes misinformation, how it spreads, and how to counter it. Expert contributors cover topics such as audience awareness of misinformation, audience deception, ethics of satire in journalism and public affairs programming, the diffusion of rumors, roles of Internet search behavior, and evolving efforts to counteract misinformation, such as fact-checking programs. The first comprehensive social science volume exploring the prevalence and consequences of, and remedies for misinformation, *Misinformation and Mass Audiences* will be a crucial resource for students and faculty researching misinformation, policymakers grappling with questions of regulation and prevention, and anyone concerned about this troubling, yet perhaps unavoidable, dimension of current media systems.

Benjamin Shestakofsky
University of California, Berkeley

Shestakofsky, Benjamin. 2017. **"Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work."** *Work and Occupations* 44(4):376-423.

While some argue that the rise of software automation threatens workers with obsolescence, others assert that new complementarities between humans and software systems are likely to emerge. This study draws on 19 months of participant-observation research at a software firm to investigate how relations between workers and technology evolved over three phases of the company's development. The author finds two forms of human–software complementarity: computational labor that supports or stands in for software algorithms and emotional labor aimed at helping users adapt to software systems. Instead of perfecting software algorithms that would

progressively push people out of the production process, managers continually reconfigured assemblages of software and human helpers, developing new forms of organization with a dynamic relation to technology. The findings suggest how the dynamism of the organizations in which software algorithms are produced and implemented will contribute to labor's enduring relevance in the digital age.

Jason A. Smith
George Mason University

Jason A. Smith and Randy Abreu. 2018. **"MOU or an IOU? Latina/os and the Racialization of Media Policy."** *Ethnic & Racial Studies*.

As media consolidation has led to debates over whether it has been good for communities of colour in the United States, political activism by civic groups regarding media policy has played a role in how regulation has taken shape. Through advocacy efforts over media policy, Latina/os seek inclusion within the media landscape. This article engages in an interpretive policy analysis of the 2011 Comcast/NBCU merger at the FCC and the racialization of media policy. Our article highlights the need to critically engage with the role of racialization regarding media policy, and the ways that representation should be thought of beyond notions of narrowcasting or numerical diversity in the media landscape. Despite efforts by Latina/o groups to participate and gain access to the broader media landscape, their efforts fell short in ensuring increased representation and decision-making power post-merger.

Jason A. Smith and Bhoomi K. Thakore. *Race and Contention in Twenty-first Century U.S. Media.* Routledge, Paperback forthcoming May 2018.

This volume explores and clarifies the complex intersection of race and media in the contemporary United States. Due to the changing dynamics of how racial politics are played out in the contemporary US (as seen with debates of the "post-racial" society), as well as the changing dynamics of the media itself ("new vs. old" media debates), an interrogation of the role of the media and its various institutions within this area of social inquiry is necessary. Contributors contend that race in the United States is dynamic, connected to social, economic, and political structures which are continually altering themselves. The book seeks to highlight the contested space that the media provides for changing dimensions of race, examining the ways that various representations can both hinder or promote positive racial views, considering media in relation to other institutions, and moving beyond thinking of media as a passive and singular institution.

Marc Smith
Social Media Research Foundation

NodeXL Project

The Social Media Research Foundation's NodeXL project makes analysis of social media networks accessible to most users of the Excel spreadsheet application. The NodeXL project (https://nodexlgraphgallery.org/Pages/Registration.aspx), is a spreadsheet add-in that supports "**n**etwork **o**verview **d**iscovery and **e**xploration". The tool fits inside your existing copy of Excel in Office and makes creating a social network map similar to the process of making a pie chart. Recent research created by applying the tool to a range of social media networks has already revealed the variations in network structures present in online social spaces. Using NodeXL, users can easily make a map of public social media conversations around topics that matter to them. Maps of the connections among the people who recently said the name of a product, brand or event can reveal key positions and clusters in the crowd. NodeXL makes it a simple task to sort people in a population by their network location to find key people in core or bridge positions. A book Analyzing Social Media Networks with NodeXL: *Insights from a connected world* is available from Morgan-Kaufmann. A recent report co-authored with the Pew Research Center's Internet Project documents the discovery of the six basic forms of social media network structures present in social media platforms like Twitter. The report, "Mapping Twitter Topic Networks: From Polarized Crowds to

Community Clusters" provides a step by step guide to analyzing social media networks.

Rong Wang
Northwestern University

"Building Social Legoland Through Collaborative Crowdsourcing: Marginality and Team Assembly from A Network Perspective"

Existing studies on crowdsourcing have focused on analyzing isolated contributions by individual participants and thus the collaboration dynamics among them are under-investigated. The value of implementing crowdsourcing in problem solving lies in the aggregation of wisdom from a crowd. The goal of this project is to examine what network attachment logics are underlying the collaboration in crowdsourcing. In particular, it tests how marginality may drive collaboration dynamics through the lens of team assembly. Data are collected from Openideo.com, a global crowdsourcing community for people to work together to design solutions for wicked social problems. This study finds that the significant effects of marginality are attributed to collaboration skills, number of projects won, community tenure, and geolocation. Despite the projected utopian picture of open innovation, there are still some structural features embedded in the collaboration network where team leaders, and people with winning experience are more connected than others. Discussion is provided on how to leverage diverse technical skills for team building, and how to facilitate fluid collaboration across subcommunities.

Barry Wellman
NetLab Network and Ryerson University

Networked Individuals: The Fourth East York Study

Our team is studying the interrelationships of social networks and ICTs among adults living in East York, a locality of Toronto, Canada. This is the fourth-wave study of social networks in East York since 1968. Unlike the survey-based approaches of the first and second waves, we were looking for in-depth understanding of how ICTs and in-person encounters function in social networks. Unlike the third wave, we built in an explicit focus on ICTs.

Through April 2018, our research has focused on older adults, aged 65+. We have found that the "grey divide" was shrinking as far back as the 2013-2014 date of our interviewing: Most of the older-age East Yorkers used the internet, especially for email and information search. A sizeable minority used Skype and Facebook, particularly to keep a virtual eye on their grandchildren and adult children. Mobile phones had less use, because of their small screens and keyboards. The younger older adults, aged 80 or less, tended to be more involved with the internet than were older adults. Moreover, those continuing to do paid work often were more internet adept—they were doing "bit work" facilitated by computer use.

While almost all the older adults were socially connected to family and some friends, only a minority were networked individuals maneuvering among partial commitments to multiple social networks. Those on the internet valued its ability to build supportive companionship—mitigating loneliness—provide emotional support, and arrange for small services.

We found a policy need to increase older adults' confidence and to strengthen digital skills. Most felt their digital skills to be similar to their peers but inadequate when compared to younger adults. Our user typology includes Basic, mid-range Reluctant and Apprehensive users, intermediate Go-Getters, and cultivated Tech-Savvy users.

Having completed 3 journal papers, 3 book chapters, and an ASA video, we are now transitioning to studying adults of East Yorkers of all ages. Current team members include Isioma Elueze, Maria Kicevski, Anabel Quan-Haase, Amritorupa Sen, Hua Helen Wang, and Renwen Alice Zhang.

The completed papers are:

Hua Wang, Renwen Zhang, and Barry Wellman. 2018. **"How Are Older Adults Networked? Insights from East Yorkers' Network Structure, Relational Autonomy, and Digital Media Use."** *Information, Communication and Society*, 21 5 (May): 681-696. [Special CITAMS issue]

Anabel Quan-Haase, Carly Williams, Maria Kicevski, Isioma Elueze, & Barry   Wellman. 2018 "**Dividing the Grey Divide: Deconstructing Myths about Older Adults' Online Activities, Skills, and Attitudes."** *American Behavioral Scientist,* special issue on the digital divide: forthcoming.

Anabel Quan-Haase, Guang Ying Mo, and Barry Wellman. 2017. **"Connected Seniors: How Older Adults in East York Exchange Social Support Online and Offline."** *Information, Communication and Society*, 20, 7: 967-983.

Anabel Quan-Haase, Hua Wang, Barry Wellman, and Renwen Zhang. 2018. **"Weaving family connections on and offline: The turn to networked individualism."** Pp. 57-77 in *Families and Information and Communication Technologies*. Edited by Bárbara Neves and Cláudia Casimiro. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

Barry Wellman. 2018. **"The Family Has Become a Network."** Forthcoming *in Families and Information and Communication Technologies.* Edited by Bárbara Barbosa Neves and Cláudia Casimiro. Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

Anabel Quan-Haase, Renwen Zhang, Barry Wellman, and Hua Wang, 2018. **"How Older Adults Network via Digital Media: Opportunities and Barriers."** In Mark Graham & William H. Dutton (Eds.), Society and the Internet (2nd ed.) Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Anabel Quan-Haase and Barry Wellman, **"Connected Seniors"**, American Sociological Association video, 2017. https://vimeo.com/240706282

Elizabeth Wissinger
Graduate School and University Center, CUNY
BMCC, CUNY

"From Geek to Chic: Embodied Technologies and Wearable Biotech"

Geek to Chic draws on gender, fashion, and data as key tools for assessing the social impact of wearable technology, and wields this knowledge to provide cautionary but informative insights to guide new developments joining wearable tech with biotech. Drawing on multi-sited research via participant observation at meet ups in tech accelerators and fashion tech summits, and one-on-one interviews with fashion and tech professionals, synthetic biologists, community science lab biohackers, and DIY fashion practitioners, *Geek to Chic* argues that, left unchecked, hidden conflicts within wearables' deployment regarding the ownership of women's bodies, their place in science and technology, fashion's role in contemporary power struggles, and battles over individual versus corporate data ownership will similarly shape biotech's integration as an embodied technology. Addressing these concerns is urgently needed as wearable and biotech begin to merge in what some are calling the fourth industrial revolution's unprecedented fusing of the biological and digital. Chronicling and evaluating these innovations' socio-technical impact, *Geek to Chic* takes seriously the claim that technologies frame bodies, shaping their meaning, use, and value. This critical analysis of cutting-edge technology will equip the public, and innovators in wearable technology, bio-tech, and fashion, to push embodied technologies' future trajectory toward more equitable and inclusive ends.

Wissinger, Elizabeth, **"Blood, Sweat, and Tears: Navigating Creepy versus Cool in Wearable Biotech."** *Information, Communication & Society*, Vol. 21, Issue 5: 779-785, 2018

Wissinger Elizabeth, **"Wearable tech, bodies, and gender."** *Sociology Compass* *Journal*, Vol. 11 (11) November 2017, e12514

Wissinger, Elizabeth, **"From "Geek" to "Chic": Wearable technology and the woman question,"** pp. 369-38in *Digital Sociologies,* Jessie Daniels, Karen Gregory, Tressie McMillan Cottom, eds., London: Policy Press, 2017

SUMMER NEWSLETTER: CALL FOR DESCRIPTIONS!

Please send us brief descriptions of your research for our summer newsletter. This includes recently published books or articles, as well as ongoing projects and dissertations for our members that are near completion.

If you are interested in having your research featured in our spring newsletter, please send your name, title, and institutional affiliation along with the title of your project and a brief description or abstract (no more than 200 words) to isheinheit@albany.edu by June 15.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact the aforementioned email address.

Announcements

THE MEDIA SOCIOLOGY PRECONFERENCE:

Registration for the sixth annual Media Sociology Preconference, to be held at State System @ Center City in Philadelphia on August 10, 2018 is now open! Please click here to register.

Registration is free for current CITAMS section members.

All CITAMS members should register on the Eventbrite site AND send casey.brienza@gmail.com proof of purchase of section membership (i.e. a copy of your email receipt from ASA) for 2018.

To guarantee your place on the program, you must register via the above URL NO LATER THAN MAY 31, 2018.

A preliminary program schedule will be available in June.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS!

Please send us your ideas for original contributions for future newsletters. These include but are not limited to review essays, methods assessments, book reviews, and teaching narratives. Please send any contribution ideas to the editors at isheinheit@albany.edu and wellman@chass.utoronto.ca.

Looking forward to receiving your ideas!

ASA ANNUAL MEETING SESSIONS:

Internet and Society: Feeling Digital: Sat, August 11, 8:30-10:10am

Media Sociology II: Media Supported Action: Sat, August 11, 10:30-12:10pm

Internet and Society: Across the Life Course: Sat, August 11, 2:30-4:10pm

CITAMS Roundtable Session: Sun, August 12, 10:30-11:30am

CITAMS Business Meeting: Sun, August 12, 11:30-12:10pm

CITAMS@30: Perspectives, Purposes and Promises: Sun, August 12, 2:30-4:10pm

CITAMS Reception: Sunday, August 12 @ 6pm, Dave & Buster's, 325 N Christopher Columbus Blvd, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Media Sociology I: Politics and the News: Mon, August 13, 10:30-12:10pm

Internet and Society: Civic, Political and Organizational: Mon, August 13, 10:30-12:10pm

Mark your calendars early!