Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology section of the ASA
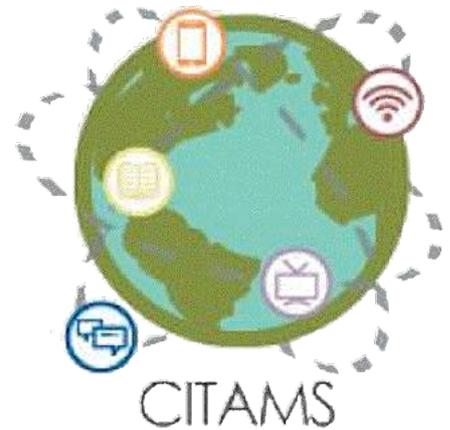
FEATURED ARTICLES

Helpful Links

CITAMS Homepage

CITAMS ASA Section Page

Slack Community: Sociologists of Digital Things

Newsletter Editors

Marcus A Brooks, University of Cincinnati

Tova Petto, Skidmore College

Letter from the Chair: Andrew Lindner

As we pass the one year anniversary of the 2020 lockdowns in many nations and states, the Covid-19 Pandemic continues to pose extraordinary challenges as so many of us manage care for family, worry about the risk of illness, and adapt to the realities of remote and socially-distanced work. The promise of remarkable vaccines, the re-opening of schools, and, eventually, a return to something approaching normal should give us all great hope. But, as sociologists, we know that the pandemic has exacerbated so many existing racial, gender, class, and global inequalities. In the midst of these weighty circumstances, the mundane work of keeping scholarship and professional organizations chugging along sometimes feels superficial and celebrations can seem inappropriate. But so many CITAMS members are doing work of real importance, in ways both visible and invisible, and we do have much to celebrate.

In October, CITAMS members Mary Gray (Microsoft Research) and Forrest Stuart (Stanford University) were named as recipients of the MacArthur Genius grants (see the interview with Forrest Stuart in this issue on pg. 4-6). In January, Alondra Nelson (School of Social Sciences at the Institute for Advanced Study), also a CITAMS member, became Deputy Director for Science and Society in the new Biden administration. In guest editing this year's CITAMS Special Issue of Information, Communication & Society (forthcoming!), Chair-Elect Jenny Davis (Australian National University) and I got to see such a diverse array of scholarship by CITAMS members. That same quality and diversity of research is also present in the submissions to this year's ASA section sessions and roundtables. (To read more about

some incredible recent work by CITAMS members, see pgs. 13-18.) In important, but less visible ways, our CITAMS members are also making a difference in virtual, hybrid, hyflex, and in-person classrooms under exceedingly difficult conditions. CITAMS members in industry are working to address challenges of misinformation, hate speech, and forms of digital inequities on social media platforms. These are all important contributions and well worth pausing to celebrate.

Meanwhile, I continue to be impressed by the thoughtful efforts of so many CITAMS members in making our section work better. Marcus Brooks (University of Cincinnati) has stepped into the role of Editor of the Newsletter with this issue. Our Nominations Committee of Jeffrey Lane (Rutgers University), Shantel Buggs (Florida State University), and Bibi Riesdorf (UNC Charlotte)

Letter from the Chair: Andrew Lindner

did a fantastic job of recruiting the slate of candidates for section office that you see in this issue (pgs. 8-12). Under Past Chair Anabel Quan-Haase's (University of Western Ontario) leadership last summer, in response to the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and in solidarity with Black Lives Matter, CITAMS made a $2,000 contribution to the ASA Minority Fellowship Program. This year, CITAMS has extended that work by forming an ad hoc Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) committee charged with studying DEI within the section and making recommendations to CITAMS Council in August. This work is essential to building a more diverse, inclusive, and, therefore, stronger CITAMS in the future.

Finally, we have been delighted to see CITAMS memberships hold steady despite the financial disruptions to both individual and household budgets. Good news notwithstanding, CITAMS Council will be making new efforts to support growing membership in the coming months. Despite the truly trying times of this year, I am inspired by the work being done by our community of scholars and the tremendous acts of service to CITAMS. Some – but far from all – of that outstanding work is visible in this issue of the newsletter. I look forward to seeing many of you at our virtual ASA meeting over the summer. Until then, may the coming months bring good health and some measure of relief to all of you.

Andrew M. Lindner
CITAMS Chair

MEET OUR UNDERGRAD EDITOR: TOVA PETTO

I am so grateful for the opportunity to do work for this newsletter, especially as an undergraduate student. I appreciate being able to get this real-world experience in such a dynamic research environment. I am currently a junior at Skidmore College, where I am studying sociology and English literature. My research interests are quite varied, ranging from sustainability to criminal justice and more. On campus, I am on a special Public Health committee for the time of the pandemic, and public health is also becoming a passion of mine. It has been great to assist in the production of this newsletter, and I look forward to continued work in the CITAMS community!

An Interview With 2020 MacArthur Fellow Forrest Stuart

By Marcus A Brooks
@thisismarcusb

Since 1981, the MacArthur Foundation has awarded fellowships to scholars to pursue their work. Of the 1,061 MacArthur Fellows, only ten of them are categorized as sociologists. Two, or 20%, of the sociology fellows are awarded for the 2020 Fellowship year, Forrest Stuart and Tressie McMillan Cottom. Two of the awardees, Forrest Stuart and Mary Gray, are members of ASA CITAMS. We spoke with Dr. Stuart about his work, upcoming projects, and what these awards can tell us about the future of the discipline.

What does the representation of sociology scholars of media say about the direction of the field?

I think a question that we are thinking about which is a fundamental question of like how has the proliferation and introduction of digital social media and digital communication tools reshaped society. I know it's cliché to talk about it like that, but I think we're trying to ask how has this new empirical development, which is very much centered around technology, actually created an epistemological shift. Like, how can we actually go back and re-examine all these kinds of classic theories, classic propositions, about the way the world works, now that the reality looks quite different. There are some pretty classic and taken for granted theories about the way we think urban poverty operates. We tend to think about gangs in terms of why gangs behave in the ways that they do. So for me it was the onset of social media and the ways in which social media is so central to particularly Black teens and young folks lives, which actually gives us this really cool counter factual or negative case for us to test all those theories that we we've been sitting around kind of taking for granted for so long. I'm guessing this has struck a chord with not just the McArthur folks, but for folks more generally in sociology and in anthropology. Thinking through the kinds of projects that I supervise, I think we'll get to a point where if somebody proposes a dissertation project, say about urban violence, somebody on that committee right off the bat is going to be like, "What are they doing online? How are they communicating online? What's going on in digital spaces? This project is incomplete unless you also are doing some kind of data collection or some kind of observation of how they're living life online." Which is wild. Which is totally cool. And I'm totally proud to hopefully be on the front wave of that kind of stuff.

An Interview With 2020 MacArthur Fellow Forrest Stuart

How has your work evolved to incorporate internet communication technologies?

Until 2012 to 2016 I wasn't even thinking about technology. I wasn't even thinking about social media, I wasn't even thinking about what we think about in terms of like digital ethnography kind of stuff, until I'm in my field site hanging out with teens and I can't get them to stop thinking about being on, and interacting with, social media. I realized if I'm going to be a rigorous, honest social scientist, and particularly be a good ethnographer, and if I really care about what's important in the lives of the people who I'm trying to understand, I really need to know about the way technology operates and social media operate in their worlds. It seemed like I was breaking some rules of some of those sub disciplines. So, you can think of violence scholarship and we're talking about gangs. It's people shoot each other over drugs, they shoot each other over turf. This is man stuff. Hyper masculinity on the street. I challenge you and you challenge me. And it was suddenly talking about music and Facebook and Twitter and things like that.

What brought you to CITAMS and why is it important to scholars who do work like yours?

It wasn't until two years ago that I even had much interaction with this section. I think a lot of other folks are having a similar kind of *ah-ha!* moment, and I think like me they've been fighting it for a couple years, but I think now we're seeing like this massive switch where everyone's asking, "how do I deal with the roles of these communication technologies in the lives of the folks that I care about?" And so, I think that that bodes well for this section. I think it means that this section becomes on the vanguard of what all of ASA is doing at this point in time. We have our fingers on the pulse of how society is changing most rapidly and most significantly. I think for me when this kind of like *ah-ha!* moment happened where I really realized I need to be thinking about communication technologies and social media, what I found was that the conversation that I wanted to have was not yet happening in the intellectual communities that had been my home and my favorite and most generative intellectual communities. I felt as though there wasn't quite yet the uptick in terms of thinking about, you know, life in the digital age.

What do traditional researchers miss when they don't consider online life and what do internet and media researchers miss out when the don't consider offline life?

As a sociologist, as an ethnographer, I like Clifford Geertz's articulation that when we're doing ethnographic research, our job is to figure out the webs of significance, the webs of meaning that people are situated in. We want to take that lens into whether we're studying gentrifiers or gangs or Wall Street traders or moms or nightlife. One of the main things we need to do is figure out how those folks make sense of their lives, and so for those folks who are not yet thinking about online dynamics what you've essentially done is you're looking at those lives through a lens that's only half open. Even if they have only a minimal presence online, even if they have only minimal communication technology, how they're making sense of offline things is necessarily going to be mediated by all of those other connections and interactions and affordances. There's a kind of inverse thing that goes on

An Interview With 2020 MacArthur Fellow Forrest Stuart

with folks only doing work online. I also want to know how people offline are bringing those offline interactions into that online interaction. I can't understand someone's post on Nextdoor without also seeing how they're interacting with that neighbor. There's all kinds of assumptions and values and scars that they are bringing from that offline interaction into that online interaction that is just invisible to us unless we also really try hard to be next to those folks as they move through their lives in interactions that seem like they're unrelated to their online interactions.

What are you working on next?

I've been playing around with a lot of computer science folks and big data folks. We just published a paper about this and we were thinking about whether it would be possible to use social media, we used Twitter, to see if we could gauge rising and decreasing levels of trauma, hyper-vigilance, and distress in urban communities. So I've been working a lot with violence interrupter organizations. Essentially, it's like this epidemiological model where if we think about violence spreading like a contagion they deploy outreach workers to interrupt the transmission of violence and doing so through trauma-informed services. One of the things that we've been able to do, and we're going to keep pushing on this research, is we had a sample of about 58 gangs in Chicago and we found that we could using this particular classification algorithm to scrape Twitter in real time and see when there was elevated trauma, elevated emotions, negative emotions, in a particular neighborhood. And so the goal with this is to continue refining this algorithm and continue refining this program to then

build a front-end interface for violence interruption organizations so that they can have an additional tool to figure out, "oh this neighborhood that we're concerned with seems to be doing okay, it's pretty stable. But over the last week this neighborhood over here, it seems like we need to deploy more of our resources there. People are hurting there." It's a really cool way that we can use social media to intervene and it's my way of trying to create a counterbalance of the ways that the criminal justice system is using social media to make arrests and to put people into gang databases and to lock people up. I also have a few other projects where we've been trying to see if we can use social media in a similar kind of fashion to trace the ways that popular culture spreads. Having spent so much time in Chicago I actually am able to pinpoint the exact time and location that particular slang words were first uttered. And we've taken like eight years of social media data and see how that word goes from this corner on the south side of Chicago to a global phenomenon. So we're trying to figure out like how does this cultural diffusion, essentially Black culture, happen. We've been able to do demographics for every user that then utters this word in the future. We've got similarity indexes so we can figure out how culturally or demographically similar they are to the folks who first uttered these words. So yeah, just trying to try to think more about novel ways that we as sociologists, and also as folks concerned with improving poor communities of color, how we can use social media to kind of advance our thinking on this stuff.

New Online Community: Sociologists of Digital Things

By Matt Rafalow
@mrafalow

Slack: https://sociologists.digital/

In 1996, I discovered the world of text-based multi-user dungeons (MUDs). At the time, I was only a kid – 12 years old – and didn't have the best local support networks, particularly at school. I remember downloading the client I needed and connecting to the game for the first time. Monochromatic letters and symbols poured across the screen in a way that assembled an image of a howling wolf. Under the wolf was a question with an open text box: What be thy name, adventurer?

I soon learned the power found in informal learning environments, like some associated with game communities. In this game, I met hundreds of other people – our identities and behaviors represented only by text – and made friends. We adventured together. But we also joined affinity groups centered on reading, poetry, and discussing politics.

This community helped me in many ways, among them sustaining me through tough times as a student; informing my academic interests in youth culture and human-computer interaction; and teaching me the power of informal online communities. I haven't found a comparably enriching environment since – until I created TechnoSoc: Sociologists of Digital Things (SDT). I've been a member of CITAMS for a while now – we are a fabulous academic section that has pushed the needle on important scholarship for decades. But formal organizations have limits, among them the

capacity to casually experiment with grassroots initiatives like reading groups and syllabus shares and enable them to flourish.

SDT has evolved into a community of over 400 sociologists who study digital phenomena in any capacity and/or study social life using digital methods. We are a diverse grassroots collective aiming to help one another with questions we have about research, readings, teaching, jobs, and more. We also organize community activities for those who are interested. We host all of this primarily on Slack.

Our activities center on four needs we know that members share: feeling part of a community; getting help with research and teaching; celebrating milestones; and getting a job – academic or otherwise, including industry internships and jobs in the tech sector. People volunteer to lead committees for assorted activities that support these needs in different ways, like reading groups, paper feedback workshops, or even community Ask Me Anything (AMA) events.

Consider joining as a complement to the work we do in CITAMS. We'd love to have you!

Election News: Meet the 2021-2022 Council Nominees

BEN CARRINGTON, NOMINEE FOR CHAIR-ELECT

Title/Position: Associate Professor of Sociology and Journalism in the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism at the University of Southern California

Research Areas: Cultural Sociology, Cultural Studies, Diaspora Studies, Gender Studies, Media Studies, Politics, Popular Culture, Post/colonial Theory, Qualitative Methodologies, Race and Ethnicity, Social Theory, and Sports.

Professional Bio: Professor Carrington studies a broad range of topics generally concerned with mapping the circulation and reproduction of power within contemporary post/colonial societies. More specifically, he is interested in how ideologies of race, gender, class and nationalism shape — and are themselves shaped by — cultural forms and practices, and how popular culture is often a key site of both cultural resistance and domination. His work examines the mass media and sport as way to understand key sociological dimensions of everyday life as well as focusing on how racialized, gendered and classed social structures constrain and enable social life.

DUSTIN KIDD, NOMINEE FOR CHAIR-ELECT

Title/Position: Associate Professor of Sociology and Director of Intellectual Heritage at Temple University. As of Fall 2021, I will be the chair of Sociology at Temple University.

Research Areas: My research is on storytelling broadly, and more specifically on inequalities within the storytelling process in film, television, fiction, and social media. I'm interested in how stories get mediated by both technology and organizations. I'm currently focusing on the topic of disability and how stories about disability are told through public policy, popular culture, and social activism.

Personal Statement: I'm currently finishing a term as Secretary/Treasurer for CITAMS, a position that has allowed me to understand the work and history of the section very well. I came to CITAMS through the activities of the Media Sociology group and have found it to be an excellent home for my work, particularly in thinking about mediated communication. Given the events of the past year, I think there's an opportunity to build more digital networking opportunities throughout the year and for us all to get more familiar with the innovative research of the members. I think the diversity of the section is of utmost importance. This includes race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, disability, career path, and research area. I believe the key to fostering that diversity is through the culture of the section itself.

CELESTE CAMPOS-CASTILLO, NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER

Title/Position: Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Research Areas: Digital inequality and privacy, particularly with respect to adoption and use of health information technologies by vulnerable populations.

Personal Statement: My research examines how new information and communication technologies may widen or narrow existing inequalities, depending on how well implementation addresses digital divides and privacy concerns. This research appears in academic journals such as Annual Review of Sociology, Health Affairs, Journal of the American Medical Informatics, and Sociological Theory, and has received funding from the National Science Foundation and the Technology and Adolescent Mental Wellness program. I am currently on the editorial boards for the academic journals, Social Psychology Quarterly and New Media & Society. I received a PhD in sociology from the University of Iowa and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Institute for Security, Technology, and Society at Dartmouth College. As a researcher who engages with literatures and colleagues from different disciplines, I have always loved the interdisciplinary community at CITAMS. I look forward to supporting efforts to sustain bridges with other sections and disciplines.

DANIEL SHANK, NOMINEE FOR SECRETARY-TREASURER

Title/Position: Assistant Professor of Psychology, Missouri University of Science and Technology

Research Areas: Social interaction through Pokémon Go, fasting from media and technology, use and benefits of smart home products, and interactions with and moral perceptions of artificial intelligence.

Personal Statement: Technology influences our social lives and I believe that this section, more than any other section, is doing the best to understand technological changes now and in the future. I have benefitted greatly from this section's research on media technology, ICTs, mediated interaction, social networking, and Internet use. My own research includes topics such as Pokémon Go, fasting from media and technology, use of smart home products, and interactions with artificial intelligence. If elected to the secretary/treasurer I would continue to support this section's diversity of perspectives as well as our unity around common issues of technology's relationship to society.

MARCUS BROOKS, NOMINEE FOR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Title/Position: PhD Graduate Student, University of Cincinnati

Research Areas: Digital Sociology, Online Culture, Race/Racism

Personal Statement: As a junior scholar trying to find a space within the discipline for the kind of work I was interested in doing, I was edified by finding CITAMS. Thanks to the resources and CITAMS-affiliated contacts, I have made my own research agenda is clearer and stronger. Because I think CITAMS is an invaluable resource and community, I want to be more involved in its operations and to be able to build my career on a strong foundation of scholarship and community which understands that social life cannot be fully understood without considering the relationship between our online and offline lives. I think that as an early career help scholar, I can bring an insight and perspective that can continue to CITAMS be an integral institution within the discipline for years to come.

CHARLIE GOMEZ, NOMINEE FOR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Title/Position: Assistant Professor of Sociology at Queens College, The City University of New York

Personal Statement: As part of the CITAMS nominations committee, my goal is to make sure that qualified and representative candidates are identified to fill our most important governing roles. I believe governing members who reflect the diversity in personal backgrounds, intellectual pursuits, and career paths of our section are best positioned to address the growing challenges of our professional and academic needs. My main focus will be to highlight members from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds in academia—including, but not limited to, BIPoC, women, first-generation sociologists, and members from minority-serving and rural universities and colleges. In addition, I want to also highlight sociologists who are in non-academic roles in non-profits and industry. Read more about me at www.charliegomez.com.

WILL MARLER, NOMINEE FOR NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Title/Position: Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Communication and Media Studies (IKMZ) University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland

Research Areas: Digital inequality

Personal Statement: I have a strong commitment to digital sociology and am excited at the chance to contribute my service to the Nominations Committee. My research is driven by questions of social marginalization in the digital age. I have conducted ethnographic and survey studies on homelessness, digital communication during Covid-19, and aging and isolation. I think I'm a good choice for the Nominations Committee. I served on conference committees and working groups during my PhD and really enjoyed working with my colleagues in that capacity. I enjoy keeping up on developments in digital scholarship, such as new books and trending articles. And I see a lot of importance in recognizing outstanding contributions in the field. I see my service to the committee as a way to boost the profile of the section within ASA and inspire us within the section to push ourselves to further excel. Thanks for your consideration.

JOHN BOY, NOMINEE FOR COUNCIL

Title/Position: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Leiden University (since 2019)

Research Areas: social media, Instagram, urban communication, digital inequality, digital ethnography

Personal Statement: The CITAMS mission of relating media technologies and their use to broader sociological concerns is incredibly important today. I see my own research and teaching as closely aligned with this mission. In my research, I investigate how social media like Instagram relate to inequalities within the city, using a mix of computational and qualitative methods. When I teach methods, I encourage my anthropology and urban studies students to follow the phenomena they study around between online and offline settings, taking a relational perspective and paying attention to emergent power differentials. With rising interest in remote and digital ethnography since the start of the pandemic, it has been encouraging to see these questions moving to the center of academic concern. In that respect, joining up with Sociologists of Digital Things organized by CITAMS Council member Matt Rafalow has been inspiring and has fostered a desire in me to put my time and talents to work to build community among scholars, especially during this isolating time. I would welcome the opportunity to serve on the section council to help CITAMS continue to be a vibrant hub for important discussions.

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MELISSA BROWN, NOMINEE FOR COUNCIL

Title/Position: Postdoctoral research fellow at Clayman Institute for Gender Research at Stanford University

Research Areas: Digital media - social networking sites; social implications of mobile internet usage on race, gender, and sexuality.

Personal Statement: I aim to join this council to support undergraduate students, graduate students, and junior scholars that aim to pursue careers related to information and communication technologies. My upcoming appointment as an Assistant Professor of Communication in Social Media at Santa Clara University positions me in Silicon Valley, a key site of technological innovation in the twenty-first century. As a member of this council, I hope to collaborate with sociologists to cultivate, develop, and support stronger standards for curriculum and research that addresses critical social media literacy, ethics of social media research, as well as theory and methods for digital data analysis. Through this collaboration, I hope to prepare students to work in the new media technology industry and the sociologists that will educate these students to bring a sociological imagination to technological innovation.

MUYANG LI, NOMINEE FOR COUNCIL

Title/Position: Assistant Professor of Sociology, York University

Research Areas: Digital Technology, Media Studies, Culture, Authoritarianism, Gender, Computer-Assisted Text Analysis

Personal Statement: Specialized in media sociology, my research investigates the interactions between media, political power, and civil society. I was connected to the CITAMS since I was a PhD student. I joined the petition for the formation of the Media Sociology section and was thrilled to witness the birth of the CITAMS. In my career, the CITAMS has always been an essential source of inspiration and a sense of of belonging to the academic community.
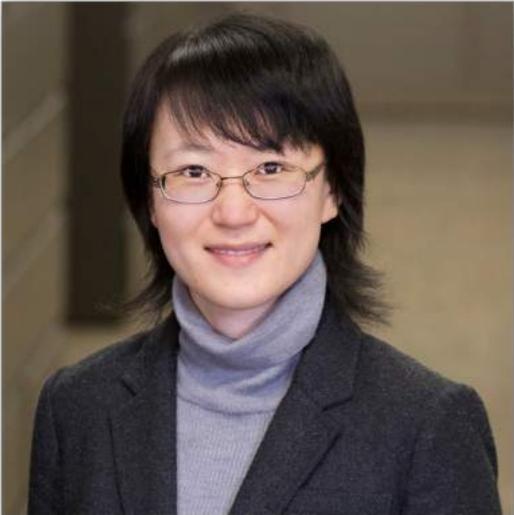
I presented a paper at the first Media Sociology Preconference in 2013. Based on the helpful feedback received, I developed it into my dissertation, which has been funded by the National Science Foundation. As a junior faculty, I understand the importance for emerging scholars to be supported by this community, and I am willing to listen to the needs of our graduate students and faculty. That's what motivates me to run for the Council Member position. With backgrounds from both Sociology and Communication, with academic experiences in the US, Canada, and China, I believe my interdisciplinary and transnational knowledge could help promote the dialogue between academic groups and further expand our community.

CASSIDY PUCKETT, NOMINEE FOR COUNCIL

Title/Position: Assistant Professor of Sociology, Emory University

Research Areas: I do research on the relationship between technological change and inequality in the contexts of education, occupations, and healthcare

Personal Statement: I am seeking office because I am excited to contribute to the vibrant CITAMS community and add to the steps others have taken to make ASA more inclusive. My personal background as a first-generation/low income student shaped my longstanding commitment to understanding and addressing inequality. This experience has provided a unique perspective on academia that informs my research, teaching, and service. As a result, in my university and professional service I have focused on supporting first-gen/low income and historically disadvantaged undergraduate and graduate students, and in my work on the CITAMS Council I aim to continue efforts to support a more inclusive section and disciplinary field as a whole.

Recent Work from CITAMS Members

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

Benjamin Shestakofsky and Shreeharsh Kelkar

<u>"Making Platforms Work: Relationship Labor and the Management of Publics"</u> <u>in *Theory and Society*</u>

How do digital platforms govern their users? Existing studies, with their focus on impersonal and procedural modes of governance, have largely neglected to examine the human labor through which platform companies attempt to elicit the consent of their users. This study describes the relationship labor that is systematically excised from many platforms' accounts of what they do and missing from much of the scholarship on platform governance. Relationship labor is carried out by agents of platform companies who engage in interpersonal communications with a platform's users in an effort to align diverse users' activities and preferences with the company's interests. The authors draw on ethnographic research conducted at AllDone (a for-profit startup that built an online market for local services) and edX (a non-profit startup that partnered with institutions to offer Massive Open Online Courses). The findings leverage variation in organizational contexts to elaborate the common practices and divergent strategies of relationship labor deployed by each platform. Both platforms relied on relationship workers to engage in account management practices aimed at addressing the particular concerns of individual users through interpersonal communications. Relationship workers in each setting also engaged in community management practices that facilitated contact and collaboration among users in pursuit of shared goals. However, our findings show that the relative frequency of relationship workers' use of account management and community management practices varies with organizational conditions. This difference in strategies also corresponded to different ways of valuing relationship workers and incorporating them into organizational processes. The article demonstrates how variation in organizational context accounts for divergent strategies for governing user participation in digital platforms and for the particular processes through which governance is accomplished and contested.

ARTICLE PUBLICATIONS

Christine Tomlinson

"Priority Pixels: The Social and Cultural Implications of Romance in Video Games" in *Information, Communication & Society*.

Video games are not immediately synonymous with romance, but role-playing games can present players with opportunities to flirt, establish digital relationships, and even experience intimacy with pre-programmed in-game characters. This project explores understudied elements of video game players' emotional investment in games through romantic narratives using interviews and content analysis of online forum discussions. Although romance is not the primary motivation for many players, it can become an important element that builds on and interacts with broader narrative considerations. Romance adds emotional grounding for video game stories and its inclusion can become thoroughly engaging for players. It makes the narrative feel realistic, makes players feel closer to and invested in the game world, and gives players new opportunities to bond with one another outside of the game. Romantic narratives play an important role in emotional consumption of video games, but also present opportunities to explore gaming culture more deeply.

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Didem Turkoglu and Meltem Odabaş

"'Mischievous Uncles' as Rule Breakers: Intersectional Stereotypes and Risk Perceptions During the Coronavirus Pandemic in Turkey" in *Social Media + Society*

Responses to crises can highlight and exacerbate class inequalities. Seemingly neutral policy measures taken during the COVID-19 pandemic that aim to protect high-risk groups can lead to a shift in the public discourse that deprives citizens of their agency based not only on their age but also their class. In this article, we focus on the case of Turkey, one of the countries with the fastest growth of novel coronavirus cases in late March 2020, where the government introduced a curfew for people over the age of 65, while actively encouraging the rest of the working-age population to stay at home. An intersectional analysis of the Twitter campaign #StayatHome (#EvdeKal) and the media outlets' news coverage of the policy implementation show that both platforms circulated human-interest stories of working-class men who defy the curfew predominantly. Both the stories and Twitter user comments often defined the subjects of those stories as rule-breakers and, therefore, as "mischievous uncles." They became the scapegoats, while upper and middle classes avoided the label. These findings have implications for the framing of policy outcomes and welfare provisions as well as oppositional politics that push for the expansion of labor protections during the pandemic.

BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Sarah Brayne

**Predict and Surveil: Data, Discretion and the Future of Policing**.

Computational procedures increasingly inform how we work, communicate, and make decisions. In Predict and Surveil, Sarah Brayne draws on interviews and ethnographic observations conducted within the Los Angeles Police Department to analyze the organizational and institutional forces shaping the use of information for social control. She reveals how the police leverage big data and new surveillance technologies to allocate resources, classify risk, and conduct investigations, and how the police themselves respond to new data-intensive practices. Brayne argues that big data does not eliminate discretion, but rather displaces discretionary power to earlier, less visible parts of the policing process, which has implications for organizational practice and social inequality.
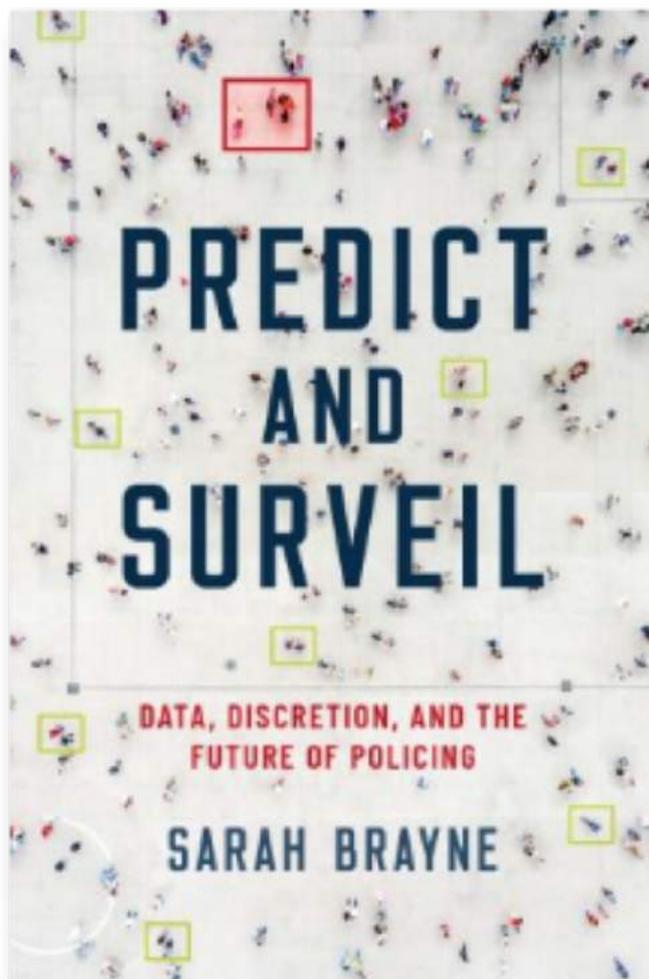
Glenn W. Muschert, Kristen M. Budd, Michelle Christian, David C. Lane and Jason A. Smith

**Social Problems in the Age of COVID-19 Vol 1 Volume 1: US Perspectives**
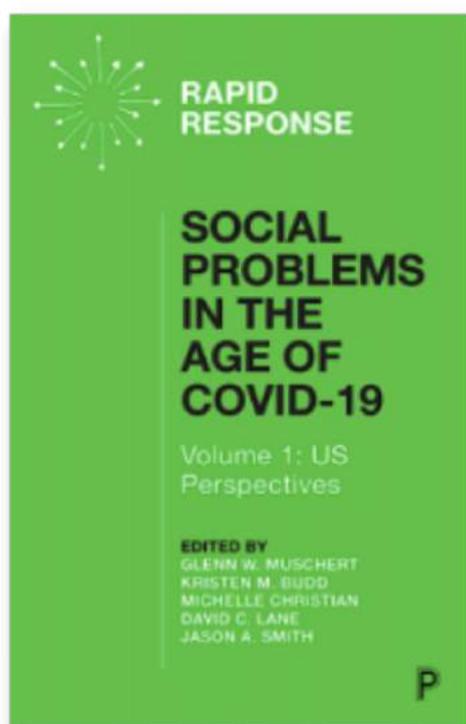
Written by a highly respected team of authors brought together by the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), this book provides accessible insights into pressing social problems in the United States in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and proposes public policy responses for victims and justice, precarious populations, employment dilemmas and health and well-being.

BOOK PUBLICATIONS
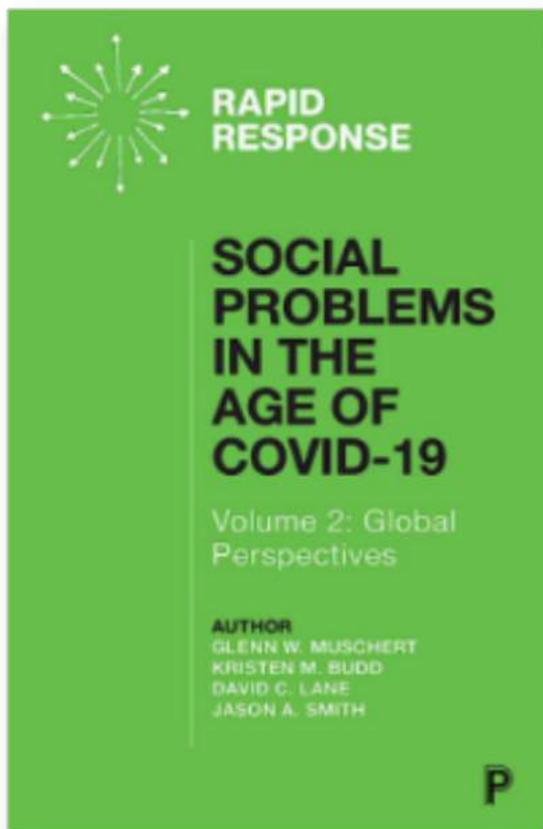
Glenn W. Muschert, Kristen M. Budd, Michelle Christian, David C. Lane and Jason A. Smith

Social Problems in the Age of COVID-19 Vol 2
*Volume 2: Global Perspectives*

The COVID-19 pandemic is having far-reaching political and social consequences across the globe. Published in collaboration with the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), this book addresses the greatest social challenges facing the world as a result of the pandemic. The authors propose public policy solutions to help refugees, migrant workers, victims of human trafficking, indigenous populations and the invisible poor of the Global South.

Alicia Simmons

Race in America 101: The Essential Audio Course on Race, Ethnicity, Discrimination, and Inequality

1 in 5 Americans name race relations the most important problem facing the country. In this revelatory 15-lecture audio course, you'll learn how social science can help you understand the attitudes, actions, and outcomes associated with race in America. Your guide, acclaimed Colgate University sociology professor Alicia Simmons, shows you how social scientists interpret various problems associated with race in the contemporary US.
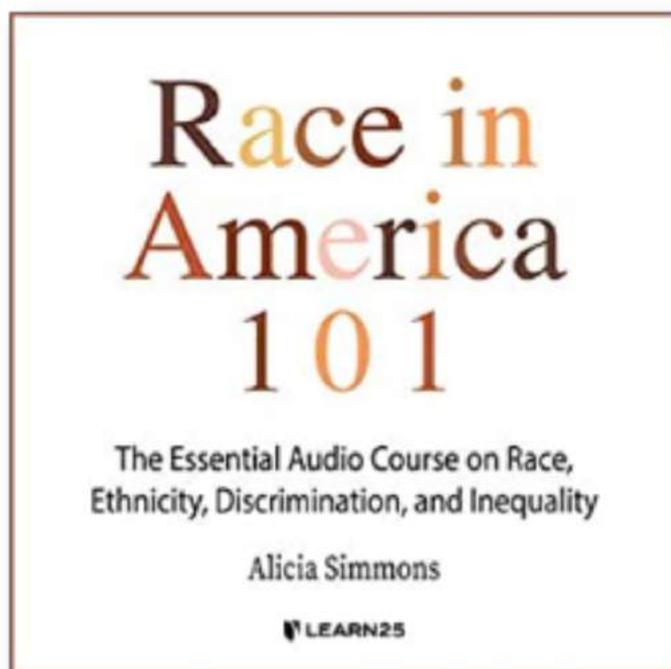
BOOK PUBLICATIONS

Alicia Simmons

Sociology 101: How Social Forces Shape Our Lives

Across the nation, Americans are undergoing an intense period of self-examination. How are our identities and behaviors shaped by the groups to which we belong? How can we reach past our own biases to better understand others? The study of sociology can help us answer these questions, making us better citizens in the process.

In 21 engrossing lectures, sociology professor Alicia Simmons (Ph.D., Stanford), shows you how to use scientific theories and methods to understand the social world. Later, you'll learn how culture, socialization, social structures, patterns of interaction, and consequences of social deviance inform our decisions and actions.

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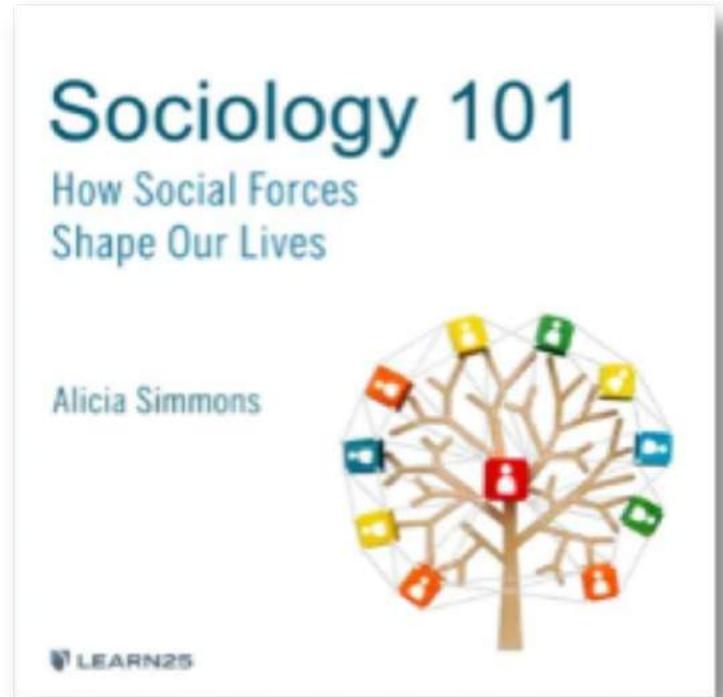
Rachael Woldoff

Digital Nomads: In search of Freedom, Community, and Meaningful Work in the New Economy

A small but growing group of today's knowledge workers actively seek a lifestyle of freedom, using technology to perform their jobs, traveling far and wide, and moving as often as they like. These digital nomads have left their local coffee shops behind and now proudly post their "office of the day" photos from exotic locales, but what do their lives really look like?
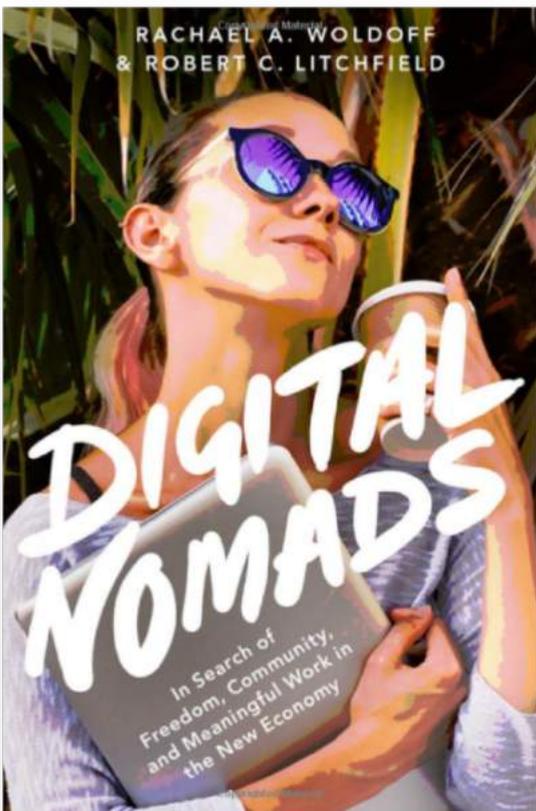
OTHER MEDIA WORK

ESSAY

A. Aneesh
Citizenship Is A Myth
Published in Noema Magazine January 07, 2021

"It is dysfunctional to think of citizenship as a form of blanket membership in a national club; instead, citizenship has grown to be a measure of modulated access to a cluster of rights."

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VIDEO ESSAY

A. Aneesh
The Y2K Story: A Global Solution
Published by CNN Business

"Fixing the Y2K problem required billions of lines of code to be rewritten. A shortage of programmers in the US led companies to rely on India's growing tech industry to solve the Y2K computer problem. The vast programming needs led to the birth of a tech offshoring industry during the early years of globalization."

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ESSAY

Jenny Davis
Techno-Activism and the Vestiges of Hope
Published in TypeHuman November 12, 2020

"In 2008, Hope won an American presidency. In 2020, elections ring with coups."

Looking Forward

2021 Virtual Media Sociology Symposium
## Thursday, August 5th 2021

FREE FOR CITAMS MEMBERS SO RENEW YOUR SECTION MEMBERSHIP!

More information about the media soc sumposium is available on the CITAMS website, <u>here</u>.

Questions? Please email: mediasociologysymposium@gmail.com

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The editors hope that our readers found the content in this issue to be useful, insightful, or at least entertaining. As we look toward the near future, ASA'a 116th Virtual Annual Meeting, August 6-10, will be here before we know it. That means the summer edition of the CITAMS newsletter is just around the corner too.

In the summer edition we will highlight conference sessions from

and of interest to CITAMS members. The annual awards deadline passed on March 15th and we will preview winners for CITAMS' five annual awards: William F. Ogburn Career Achievement Award, Paper Award, Student Paper Award, Book Award, and Public Sociology Award.

We will continue to spotlight the work of CITAMS members and hope to do so by providing more interviews and guest submissions, like the ones in this issue with Forrest Stuart and Matt Rafalow. If you have received any awards, have a research project, media appearance, or something else you are working on that you want to promote and will be of interest to CITAMS members, please let us know! We are also looking to expand our permanent editorial staff for the newsletter, so contact us if you are interested in volunteering to be part of the the newsletter team.

Article, Book, and other publication or media appearance announcements can be sent to Tova Petto at tpetto@skidmore.edu.

If you would like a more in depth spotlight, like an interview, guest submission, or job market spotlight, or if you would like to volunteer to be part of the newsletter staff contact Marcus Brooks at brooksmu@mail.uc.edu.