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# STATES, POWER, & SOCIETIES

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Josh Pacewicz  
Brown University

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as this year's section chair. As a graduate student, I clung nervously to the periphery of ASA meetings, hoping to engage with those whose work I admired and just wanting to be a part of it all. So, it's been great to be on the inside, working on virtual panels with dedicated volunteers, planning sessions and roundtables, working through August meeting plans with section council, and figuring out other ways for us to commune together. For better and for worse, ASA and its sections are our profession's main organizational vehicles: what we use to find one another and collectively make it happen.

It is in that spirit that I'm devoting this letter to the topic of ASA governance. The year has been fraught, and it feels like we're at a fork in the road. By this, I do not merely mean controversy over the S4P petition, though this and the resulting ASA boycott is the most immediate issue before us. But the S4P controversy speaks to the general issue of ASA's associational democracy and whether it is up to challenges of the times. I think the latter is more clearly illustrated by another, lesser-known governance issue that I observed during my tenure: the changing of diversity language in some of our section award calls, in apparent anticipatory compliance with Trump's Department of Justice.

So, if you'll indulge me, I am going to dish on some watercooler talk, with an eye towards illuminating the backstage machinery that produced some of this year's controversies. But before I do, we should recognize that ASA is not the only nonprofit going through it. This spring, I was in Missouri doing interviews for the epilogue of my book, which concerns

the street level realities of federal programs and rights in the states.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *Divided States: Doing Federalism in Red and Blue America* (forthcoming with Oxford University Press, probably in winter 2027—woot!).

Many state agencies and nonprofits reported that their organizations were divided over the reality of Trump II—for example, whether to apply for suspect federal grants. “Really, is the juice worth the squeeze on this?” one foundation leader asked. “[Will] People say, ‘Oh, you’re a MAHA recipient. You played along!’”

Many of our universities have been going through it, too. Brown University, which had [hundreds of millions in funding frozen by the Trump administration](#), offers an illustration of how such deliberation can go right (I’m usually cynical about university politics, so nobody was more surprised than me). Each time that the Trump administration made demands, our senior administration and general counsel held a giant meeting with all faculty, communicated the stakes, and we discussed. There was no expectation of secrecy; we followed Chatham House rules, and the administration encouraged us to seek input from other stakeholders. For sure, it was legally chancy. But it was worth the risk.

It was worth it, because what followed illustrated George Herbert Mead’s account of democratic social order: it depends on an ability to internalize the viewpoints of those differently situated from oneself. Some of us argued that our institution had a duty and obligation to resist Trump’s extralegal extortion. Others spoke of the consequences of resistance—multi-year research studies shuttered, with tissue samples incinerated and postdocs and graduate students let go. Against some of our better judgement, Brown gave in to initial Trump demands. But crucially, those of us who disagreed understood that this was not due to our craven and short-sighted administration, but because the costs of noncompliance were too dear for some of our colleagues. Moreover, our colleagues who initially argued for compliance did listen to the rest of us, and when the Trump administration came back for round two, many of them argued most forcefully for refusal of any further demands,

which my university’s president did in a public letter. In sum, we went through it, democratically—together—adjusting our needs and expectations along the way.

In short, hard times can promote a resurgence of associational democracy, with the break in institutional inertia inviting dialogue about core needs and values. Of course, the experience is not universal. One hears also of organizations taking the opposite tact. Leadership goes all in on organizational survival and does what the lawyers say, with intractable conflict the predictable result. My hunch is that an organization’s institutional capacity and openness to two-way communication ultimately determines the path.

So that strikes me as a useful framing for thinking about the ASA: how robust is our association’s capacity for two-way communication? To be blunt, it’s lacking.

Our own brush with the politics of Trump II—the aforementioned ASA award calls—offers an illustration. To make a long story short, ASA staff began changing diversity language in some section’s award calls (not ours), and section chairs reached out for a meeting with leadership to discuss the issue. The awards themselves were perhaps not of paramount importance. I have since spoken with many people involved, from members of ASA Council to impacted section chairs, and have yet to meet anyone who was ready to make the diversity language in our award calls the hill that we collectively die on. But, as detailed in the chairs’ public letter, the response from leadership was a litany of frustration: meetings declined and delayed as the association appeared to be doing everything possible to prevent award calls from becoming a matter of public concern. Indeed, if you did not know anything about this prior to the chairs’ public letter, then this tells you everything you need to know about two-way communication within the ASA.

This is annoying, first, because diversity initiatives have become central to our professional competence and were previously celebrated by ASA with much fanfare. Rolling that back in secret robs all of us of critical information we need to make sense of our world. Moreover, a member-led organization should have seen the chairs' initiative as an understandable attempt by association officers to get insight into a policy change, not least because they needed to explain it to membership. But ASA's organs somehow translated that into a scenario that felt more like an attempt at activist disruption, with leadership buckled down and legalistic. Unfortunately, this appears to be ASA's go-to when confronted with difficult conversations. The chairs reached out again in April to discuss good governance, the S4P petition, and deescalating the boycott. The earliest meeting we could get was May 28<sup>th</sup>, three days before ASA's June 1<sup>st</sup> registration deadline, the point at which a decision to boycott the meeting becomes irreversible (better than S4P—they got June 8<sup>th</sup>). I'll leave it to the reader to divine if this evinces poor leadership, bureaucratic insularity, or a deliberate strategy of obstructionism. I go back and forth myself.

As sociologists, we know that such organizational outcomes often result from structural rather than individual failures. Virtually everyone agrees that most of our associational officers are first class, but they have no mechanisms for absorbing member input nor navigating controversy. Watercooler talk suggests instead an erosion of democratic mechanisms and norms.

For the purposes of illustration, imagine that you were moved to influence ASA policy on any number of contentious issues that have nothing to do with S4P or other current controversies. Let's say you wanted our association to provide legal aid to sociologists in Florida and Texas, who face persecution for teaching routine sociology classes. Even if the aid is just symbolic, it is important for our

colleagues to know that they are in our thoughts, with our limited collective resources at their disposal. How could you get ASA to do something?

There is no forum for ASA members to discuss issues of collective concern. Nor is there any routine channel of communication between sections and leadership. So, you'd have to reach out to an ASA Council member directly, which is too high a bar for most members. And if you did, Council members who were so inclined would recite a litany of democratic erosions. You might hear a lot of talk about the ASA's lawyers—how they increasingly set the agenda with an eye towards protecting the organization. I've seen some of that influence myself, which manifests in odd statements that occasionally defy common sense—for example, that we must hold the line on bylaws, because members could otherwise vote to eliminate ASA dues and mortally endanger the association (never mind that conflict over the bylaws is a more immediate and perhaps existential crisis). Council members might also talk about decisions made by narrower subsets of officers and staff and the norm that council disagreements be kept secret. So, if your idea prompted debate, as matters before Council often do, you might never know.

Prior to 2023, you could have initiated a member petition, but [leadership's interpretation of a bylaw amendment has foreclosed that possibility since](#) (there are many stories about why this happened, but none of them suggest it was due to a popular demand from membership, and the stakes were clearly not evident to most). Now, members can initiate petitions only on things with no implications for associational governance, which seems topsy-turvy for a member-led association. You could perhaps convince ASA to call Ron Desantis an asshole on your behalf, but you have no formal channel for communicating a desire to aid sociologists in legal trouble. You'd be left with

outsider tactics: protest letters, pickets, stuff like that.

All this may sound familiar to long time members, who were already complaining about the bureaucratization of ASA when I attended my first meeting in 2003. But the talk among insiders is that things have gotten worse, while the issues we face are more challenging and delicate.

Readers can decide for themselves how much weight to assign such structural factors with regards to the S4P controversy. For sure, the issue is not easy. It pits those who want to disentangle our association from Israeli institutions that are complicit in genocide against those who worry about maintaining associational access for colleagues therein, including many who protest this themselves at personal cost. And it touches many red-hot cleavages besides. But as anyone with experience in departmental governance knows, leadership can do much to inflame tensions or create conditions for dialogue and deescalation, and ASA leadership has certainly not done the latter. We've gone down a familiar path instead: members reach out for dialogue on a contentious issue, leadership locks down, we fracture. If you are familiar with the ASA's normal backstage operations of late, it is hard to see how things could have played out any other way.

The good news is that many officers in our association see the same problems; the more you dig, the more you discover that they too have been debating associational democracy, thinking hard about how to rewrite our bylaws, trying to mediate our conflicts—it's just that, due to our impoverished democratic structures, most of us know nothing about it.

And so, there is no shortage of sensible structural reforms for them to undertake. ASA's culture of secrecy is bizarre. If Chatham House rules are good enough for universities dealing with hundreds of millions of frozen federal funds, then surely, they are good

enough for humble ASA Committees. ASA leadership could meet regularly with section chairs or other officers to discuss the rationale for decisions and solicit feedback from a broader set of stakeholders. Council could revisit our petition bylaws, with an eye towards what they should say in general, not anticipating what S4P might do—and then put those bylaws up for a referendum with members properly informed of the stakes. There are many ways to preserve members' means of influencing governance without committing us to governance via referendum, [such as Dan Hirschman's sensible proposal](#). We need to rethink the role of attorneys in our association, who should be informing and not foreclosing our deliberations.

My hunch is that most ASA Officers and Council members agree with these views and could—under the right circumstances—successfully navigate contentious issues, including this summer's boycott. This would require more associational democracy and not less, such that ASA's decisions are tempered by our collective deliberations and good sense. Institutional inertia is always a factor, and it's easier to defer to the agenda setters than to relitigate contentious issues. But if this year has shown anything, it is that short-circuiting our democratic process won't work for our rowdy bunch. Here's hoping that our officers take back ownership instead.

Now that we've had our vegetables, I'm happy to showcase upcoming events of interest. Our second virtual panel of the year is on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and you can [register for it here](#). It focuses on Democratic Backsliding in the United States and features Ben Merriman, Zach Levenson, Michelle Phelps, and Cristina Mora in conversation with Gui Baratho and Carmen Brick (Irem Inal and Nathan Katz also helped with planning the event). A committee consisting of I-Lun Shih, Phattra Marabang, Fanmei Xia, and Aras Koksals is finalizing assignments for new mentoring clusters. And if you do make it to New York this summer,

join us at [Jake's Dilemma on August 10<sup>th</sup>](#) for our offsite reception (secured by Heba Alex's heroic efforts).

And with that, I'm happy to leave you shortly in the capable hands of incoming chair Stephanie Mudge!

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## Symposium

In this issue's Symposium, Elisabeth Clemens and Edwin Amenta provide sociological perspectives on the role of institutions in democracy and democratic decline.

### **Institutions in Unsettled Times**

Elisabeth Clemens

University of Chicago

In a telling aside, one of the classic statements of political institutionalism warned that "institutions explain everything until they explain nothing" (Steinmo, Thelen, and Longstreth 1992: 15). This observation invites a focus on crisis as the source of institutional disruption. But it also poses questions about the relative fragility or robustness of institutions. They appear as solid foundations for social order until they don't.

These questions have taken on new urgency as political arrangements that once seemed as solid as marble edifices have crumbled when challenged. Commentators on authoritarianism warn of anticipatory obedience on the part of individuals and organizations – corporations, law firms, universities – that were presumed to have a measure of independence and insulation from pressure by virtue of their recognized status, legitimacy, and ample resources. Fretful conversations circle the possibility that guardrails will not hold. But for social analysts, these worries also underscore the question of what is it that enables guardrails

to hold? How should we understand what makes "institutions" institutional?

Walking down the Mall in Washington D.C., I mused on this as I wandered by the half-built stages for upcoming celebrations, the massive edifices of one museum after another, and on to the Reflecting Pool, empty and half-painted in its new if splotchy blue. In different ways, each captured something of our standard arguments about what produces the effect of being institution: cognitive taken-for-grantedness, the evocation of traditional symbols or normative power, coercive or regulatory enforcement.

Yet at the end of that walk, up the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, the carved text of the Gettysburg Address pointed to something that we may have forgotten. His lines speak to how institutions are sustained by their temporal embedding not only toward the past but toward some aspirational future. Innovation: "a new nation conceived in liberty." Struggle and conflict: "those who gave their lives that that nation might live." Aspiration: "the unfinished work" and

dedication “to the great task remaining.” What these words underscore is the active work required not just to realize a normative political model but to maintain it. In the canonical trio – cognitive taken-for-grantedness, normative resonance, coercive enforcement – that work is always already done or done by others with more power. But in Lincoln’s formulation, the realization and perpetuation of institutions is an active practice, with high and sometimes existential stakes.

This does not discount the importance of that canonical trio of institutional effects. Rather it points to a different set of theoretical questions and, at least for some, political challenges. Beyond characterizing institutional effects, it is important to ask what sustains institutional reproduction as well as to notice that each of the canonical trio has the potential to undermine those processes. Taken-for-grantedness degrades the ability to make arguments for an institution; normative invocations may give way to rigid, performative symbolism; reliance on regulatory effects displaces responsibility to those – often unnamed – with the power to enforce or coerce. An aspirational orientation to institutions provides a ground for counteracting each. The absence of aspiration, an excessive taken-for-grantedness with respect to past achievement, feeds into fragility.

One implication is that robust institutions are often recognized as incomplete or flawed, projects still in process, aspirations not yet met. Lincoln’s Second Inaugural, inscribed on the north wall of the Memorial, is a call to “finish the work.” In a museum across the Mall, Normal Rockwell’s “Four Freedoms” comprise two to defend – freedoms of speech and religion—and two more – freedom from

want and fear – that are “OURS . . . to fight for.” Each of these texts positions the imagined audience as poised between the veneration and imperfection of existing arrangements, as both champions and critics of institutions.

Distinctive questions follow from theorizing institutions in unsettled times, to use Ann Swidler’s resonant phrase. Modern social science, particularly in the United States, is a product of what we now recognize as roughly eight decades of relative stability, notwithstanding periodic economic and political spasms, both domestic and global. That stability was enabled by the construction of the substantially durable institutional arrangements and beliefs that constituted “the postwar order.” Sociological accounts of this order, not surprisingly, focused on its very orderliness, pursuing questions of institutional diffusion and transposition from one domain of social life to others. But in these unsettled times, our questions are reoriented from the mechanisms of institutional resilience and reproduction to the possibilities for reinventing institutions and recovering aspirations now dulled – at least for some – by taken-for-grantedness and formulaic symbolism.

Steinmo, Sven, Kathleen Thelen, and Frank Longstreth. 1992. *Structuring Politics: Historical Institutionalism in Comparative Analysis*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

**Elisabeth Clemens** is a Professor of Sociology at the University of Chicago.

## The Long Institutional Road to Trumpism

Edwin Amenta

University of California, Irvine

The Donald Trump administrations have brought major victories for movements of the right while sidelining movements of the left. Anti-tax, anti-abortion, Christian right, gun rights, and far-right movements have made substantial gains, while labor, environmental, abortion rights, LGBTQ rights, immigrant rights, and anti-war movements have largely suffered defeats.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act of 2025 locked in highly regressive tax cuts first enacted during Trump's first term. Trump's Supreme Court appointees helped overturn abortion rights through the 2022 Dobbs decision, leading to bans across many states. The Court's *Louisiana v. Callias* decision weakened the Voting Rights Act by declaring majority-minority electoral districts unconstitutional. The Environmental Protection Agency has been weakened, gun ownership has expanded despite recurring mass shootings, and many states have banned gender-affirming care for minors. The administration also stacked the NLRB with anti-union members and responded aggressively to campus protests against the war in Gaza.

Yet these developments cannot be explained simply by Trump himself and recent events. Conservative movements have been advancing for decades. The anti-tax agenda dates back to Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. Labor's decline accelerated after Reagan broke the air traffic controllers' strike in 1981. Dobbs culminated decades of abortion restrictions beginning with the Hyde Act in 1975. The assault weapons ban expired in 2004. The broader question, then,

is why right-wing movements have consistently gained ground over time.

Some common scholarly explanations are insufficient. Public opinion often favors progressive positions: majorities have historically supported abortion rights, unions, and stricter gun laws while opposing regressive tax cuts. Nor can the pattern be explained by media attention, since conservative movements generally receive less favorable mainstream news coverage than progressive ones. Likewise, the existence of counter-movements has not prevented conservative victories.

Instead, the explanation lies in institutional asymmetries involving political parties, electoral structures, interest organizations, and the media system.

First, the Republican and Democratic parties have evolved in sharply different ways. Since Newt Gingrich's "Contract for America" in 1994, Republican leaders have increasingly treated Democrats as illegitimate opponents and have pursued what Theda Skocpol calls "hardball" politics. Republicans have restricted voting rights, expanded gerrymandering, transformed the filibuster into a routine obstruction tool, manipulated judicial appointments, and used government shutdown threats to secure policy goals. Wisconsin under Scott Walker exemplified this strategy, combining attacks on unions with voter ID laws and aggressive gerrymandering.

At the same time, Republican-aligned interest groups are relatively cohesive. Anti-tax groups, organized business, Christian right organizations, anti-abortion activists, and

gun rights advocates generally reinforce one another in what Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson describe as “plutocratic populism.” Their agendas rarely threaten major business interests, and some, such as gun rights, directly benefit corporate industries.

The Democratic coalition, by contrast, is far broader and more fragmented. Progressive movements compete with one another for attention while also confronting organized interests within the party that oppose higher taxes or regulation. For labor and environmental movements especially, their primary opponents are powerful business organizations rather than rival movements.

Republicans also benefit from stronger partisan identity formation. Conservative politics often fuses cultural identity with politics through symbols centered on religion, guns, and nationalism. Progressive causes, by contrast, are more diffuse and issue specific. Compare the “God, Guns, and Freedom” T-shirt with the 10-plus-point lawn signs of liberals that identify long but still incomplete lists of what their households believe in.

A second major advantage for conservative movements comes from U.S. political institutions themselves. Republicans have repeatedly won power without winning majorities of votes. The Electoral College favors smaller, rural states where Republican voters are concentrated. The Senate magnifies this imbalance even further by giving Wyoming the same representation as California. As a result, Republicans can secure Senate control while representing a minority of the national population.

These institutional biases are especially important because the Senate serves as a veto point for progressive legislation and controls judicial appointments. Major left-policy advances—such as Social Security,

the Voting Rights Act, and the Affordable Care Act—required unified Democratic control under unusually favorable conditions. Conservative movements, however, can often achieve victories through court appointments, reconciliation bills, executive actions, and state-level legislation.

Finally, the media system increasingly advantages the right. Since the early 2000s, Republicans and conservative movements have benefited from a powerful partisan media ecosystem centered on Fox News, talk radio, and online outlets such as Breitbart and Infowars. These outlets amplify conspiracy theories, defend Republican norm-breaking, and shape political agendas without adhering to traditional journalistic standards.

Social media has intensified these advantages. Republican activists and organizations have become highly effective at spreading messages through digital networks, while right-wing audiences often reject information from mainstream news sources altogether. Elon Musk’s transformation of Twitter into X further strengthened right-wing voices by loosening moderation policies and reinstating previously banned far-right accounts, while making it impossible for hashtag campaigns like #MeToo to flourish.

Meanwhile, professional journalism has declined dramatically, producing “news deserts” where state and local politics receive little scrutiny. This decline benefits conservative state-level policymaking and further nationalizes politics in ways that advantage Republicans structurally.

Can progressive movements overcome these disadvantages? Democrats retain strength in large states such as California and New York, as well as most cities, and the party has become more liberal over time. But durable

progressive gains would require repeated national electoral victories capable of overcoming institutional barriers, reshaping the judiciary, and protecting voting rights and labor organizing. That would likely also require weakening the filibuster and regulating disinformation and social media platforms.

It is a tall order that will require continuous organization on the left. One advantage is

that right regimes like Trump's have few guardrails, seem unconcerned with the day-to-day routines of governing, and therefore tend to make many unforced errors in governing. The left will have to organize everywhere and take advantage where it can.

**Edwin Amenta** is a Professor of Sociology and Political Science at University of California, Irvine.

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## Q&A with 2025 Award Winner

### **Stephanie Ternullo, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award in Political Sociology**

Committee: Daniel Laurison, Bart Bonikowski, Leslie Gates, Julian Go, Bo Yun Park, Shivani Choudhary

*How the Heartland Went Red – Why Local Forces Matter in an Age of Nationalized Politics*. Princeton University Press, 2024.

**SPS: How did you start working on the research project that led to *How the Heartland Went Red*? How did the project evolve over time?**

This project was really what drew me to a PhD in sociology: I applied to graduate school because I wanted to understand what shapes White, working-class politics in the US today, and how that current configuration has emerged over time in response to macroeconomic transformations and political realignments. In my second year, I decided to explore this question by studying contemporary politics in similar White, working-class communities that had responded differently to the Racial Realignment and the rise of the Religious Right in American politics. I wasn't interested

in studying place *per se*, but after several months of interviewing residents and community leaders across my three field sites, I learned that the source of that variation *was* voters' local contexts—how the local organizations active in civic and political life shaped residents' partisan attachments. In some ways, the project evolved exactly as I had anticipated when I proposed the research design before beginning fieldwork: multiple rounds of interviews with residents in three small, postindustrial cities during the 2020 presidential election. But in other ways, it looked very different. First, I had not planned to start fieldwork until the summer of 2020. But my Dissertation Chair, Lis Clemens, made me reconsider: she argued that I would need a first wave of interviews before campaigning ratcheted up, and a second wave during primary voting. With her encouragement, I decided to start fieldwork a full year earlier than expected. It turned out this advice was crucial to the research—not only for the reasons Lis anticipated – but also because the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered in-person research in March 2020. Because I had already recruited a sample and developed relationships with interviewees well before that point, I was able to complete the remaining interviews virtually. I also had to pivot in other ways. I had planned to observe

local political mobilization in person during the 2020 presidential campaign. During the pandemic, I was unable to conduct in-person fieldwork, so I collected social media posts by local politicians to observe their virtual campaigning. At the time, these changes felt like overwhelming challenges and, of course, disappointments. This was not how I imagined finishing my dissertation research. But in retrospect, they also offered real opportunities for me to learn how people were making sense of this historic catastrophe and drawing political conclusions about it. This produced some interesting social science, I hope, but I also view those interviews as a kind of social history – a glimpse into what it was really like for residents of these three communities to live through this crisis in such polarized times.

**SPS: What do you see as the core questions motivating your research going forward?**

My first book continues to guide my research agenda, which focuses on how local contexts shape American political behavior. In particular, I continue to be interested in the changing politics of the places most impacted by deindustrialization and the transition to the knowledge economy: not only the rural and postindustrial economies that lost residents and civic organizations as economic opportunities dwindled, which I studied in *How the Heartland Went Red*, but also the suburbs of knowledge economy cities that witnessed an influx of educated, liberal workers. My new book project, called *Suburban Blues: The Clash of Local and National Politics in America's Suburbs*, which is under contract with Princeton University Press, takes up the latter case. It explores the tensions within suburban communities that are increasingly supporting liberal policies at the national level but still working to sustain exclusionary housing and education policies at the local level. It asks: What explains why suburbanites continue to fight for the policies that sustain suburban advantage, even though an increasing number of them

are now Democrats? And what could change this suburban status quo, convincing suburban Democrats to support local politics that are more in line with their national politics, thereby reducing spatial inequalities between suburbs and cities? To answer these questions, the book pairs in-depth case studies of four liberal suburbs with survey and administrative data to argue that this “local-national divergence” in suburban Democrats’ behavior persists because they are both deeply invested in the suburban way of life and rarely exposed to national political cues on housing and education policy. I argue that local political mobilization can change this dynamic under certain conditions, ultimately convincing suburban Democrats to give up something they deeply value.

Moving forward, I hope to build on this research agenda by focusing on the politics of the group that links these two kinds of communities: rural youth entering college and deciding whether to leave behind struggling hometowns for more advantaged places.

**SPS: Where do you see the political sociology subfield heading? What do you think are some of the keyways that political sociology can contribute to current academic and public debates?**

From the perspective of someone who was trained as a sociologist and is now a faculty member in a political science department, I think political sociologists are in the perfect position to contribute to several important debates about mass political behavior, particularly in the many democracies facing crises of disengagement, radical-right populism, and democratic backsliding. One reason for this is methodological: as my fellow political sociologist Anna Berg and I have written, in an essay titled “[Toward a Qualitative Study of the American Voter](#),” political scientists – particularly those trained to study American politics – lack a rich tradition of qualitative and mixed

methods research. Sociology graduate students often have easier access to the training needed to conduct this kind of research, which, as we elaborate in the essay, allows them to develop new theories about political behavior. Another reason for this opportunity is conceptual. As I argue in a recent article based on the research for my book, "[Place-Based Partisanship](#)," much of our theoretical and empirical work on political identity focuses on either macro-level factors (political parties, social

structures) or micro-level factors (the emergence of social identities), but often misses the meso-level forces that structure meaning-making and therefore can link the micro and the macro. As sociologists, we are trained precisely to understand the "social facts" that move individual-level behaviors, which can help us shed light on these meso-level processes.

*Stephanie Ternullo is an Assistant Professor of Government at Harvard University.*

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## Q&A with New Council Member

### Stephanie Mudge

Chair Elect // Associate Professor,  
University of California, Davis

**SPS: Please tell us about your work and your plans during these unusual and uneasy times. How will you be spending your time on research and teaching this year?**

I try to stay focused on the capacities I have, rather than worrying about those I lack, in these strange times. My most important professional capacities lie in my training and research as a sociologist, and in mentoring, teaching, and contributing to professional communities at my institution and beyond. I am fortunate to be a mentor of very talented graduate students at UC-Davis, some of whom are also collaborators. My teaching remains focused on theory, political sociology, political economy, and economic sociology. As the co-editor of a book series, I am especially invested in seeking out and supporting great work by early career sociologists. And, of course, I try to find ways to offer thoughtful leadership where I can.

On research: for better or worse, I believe as strongly as ever in the unique value of sociological research and insight. I've recently re-focused my work on the political and economic history of the United States, in a history-of-the-global-present mode. My efforts are mainly focused on a two-part research initiative called Strategy and Democracy, which follows up on arguments I made about the rise of strategic experts in my 2018 book, *Leftism Reinvented*. One part looks back to the formative years between 1876 and 1928; it uses historical and computational methods to track what Bourdieu might call a symbolic revolution in American politics—that is, the formation of an essentially new political terrain that becomes a foundation of the political present. The other part is more contemporary: inquiring into the political, economic, and social conditions of the figure of the strategist, understood as a particular kind of political person. The strategist is found in many times and places—for instance, in Shakespeare's plays—but, around the 1990s, starts to become a singularly American kind of professional on a

transnational scale. These are both big projects, but they are coming along.

**SPS: What are you looking forward to doing on the council? What do you think are some of the priorities for the section going forward?**

To me, chairing for Political Sociology, or really any ASA section, is a chance to (hopefully) strengthen one of many centers of gravity in the discipline. I like the center-of-gravity metaphor because it doesn't imply maintenance of hierarchy or the imposition of boundaries, which I do not believe are chairs' jobs. The job is to facilitate the work of, communicate and build relationships among, and recognize and support political sociologists, first and foremost; secondarily, it is to contribute to the Association, which is critical for the profession. I am not naïve about the complexities and dangers of the moment,

especially those faced by the university and the profession, so that makes the job harder -- but also more important. So I will do my best.

As far as section priorities, I think it's important that its most basic functions remain front-and-center: support and promote political sociologists, recognize their amazing work, keep the conversation going. Political sociology should be a space of vibrant debate, serious research, and honest deliberation. Current controversies over ASA processes and leadership, how it should be run as a membership organization, and what its responsibilities are will surely remain central -- as they should. I think the current Chair, Josh Pacewicz, is doing a great job on that front. I will do my best to follow his example and, starting in New York this August, absorb and act on input from section membership.

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## 2026 Annual Meeting Section Activities

The entire conference program can be viewed here:  
<https://convention2.allacademic.com/one/asa/asa26/>

**Democratic Institutions and the Law  
 (Co-sponsored by Sociology of Law  
 Section)**

Sun, August 9, 8:00 to 9:30am

Presider: Sarah Brayne, Stanford University

Legitimizing Coercion: The moral politics of emergency rule in Peru. *Andrea Roman Alfaro, University of New Mexico*

Private justice, public accountability: Institutional failure and the politics of

scandal at work. *Zoe Virginia Chanin, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*

The Urban Shadow Bureaucracy: How Private Intermediaries Shape Public Discretion. *AJ Golio, Tulane University; Katherine L. Smock, University of California-Los Angeles*

Uniquely captured regulators? Investor-owned utilities and business power over American electricity policy. *Joshua A. Basseches, Case Western Reserve University; Anthony S. Chen, Northwestern University.*

## **Religion and Populism (Co-sponsored by Sociology of Religion Section)**

Sun, August 9, 10:00 to 11:30am

Presider: Rhys H. Williams, Loyola University Chicago

Does Religious Attendance Inoculate Against Right-Wing Populism? *Joseph Charles Roso, Ambrose University*

The Relationship between Populism and Antisemitism: New Evidence from Wisconsin. *Chad Alan Goldberg, University of Wisconsin-Medison/Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Anna Milewski, University of Wisconsin-Medison.*

Exit for a Homeland: Orthodox Populism, Podcasting Politics, and American Secessionism. *Sarah Riccardi-Swartz, Northeastern University; Kamryn Rae Trapane, Northeastern University*

The Revolution Will Be Financialized: Right-Populism and the Evolution of the U.S. Parallel Economy Movement, 2021-2025. *Mahesh Somashekhar, University of Illinois-Chicago; Ryan Matsuura Calder, Johns Hopkins University; Ian Kennedy, University of Illinois-Chicago*

Transnational Christianity and Right-Populist Mobilization in South Korea: Before and After Martial Law Crisis. *Joseph E. Yi, Hanyang University*

## **Macro Determinants of Inequality: The Role of Politics, Policies, and Institutions (Co-sponsored by Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section)**

Sun, August 9, 10:00 to 11:30am

Presider: Masoud Movahed, University of California-Santa Barbara

Beyond Social Provision: Integrating Regulation into the Study of Welfare States. *Elisabeth Anderson, NYU Abu Dhabi; Sabino Kornrich, NYU Abu Dhabi*

Governance Undone: Bureaucratic Churning in the Case of Child Welfare. *Loren M Beard, Harvard University*

Subverting the law: Traffic courts, driver's license suspension reforms, and racial inequality. *Peter M. Rich, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Maureen Waller, Cornell University; Kayla Jones, Cornell University; Staphane Daniel Andrade, Vassar College*

When Does Politics Pay? The Spoils System and Wealth Accumulation Among U.S. Office Holders. *Martin Ruef, Duke University*

## **Transformations of Right Wing Politics**

Sun, August 9, 12:00 to 1:30pm

Presider: Mathieu H. Desan, University of Colorado-Boulder

Can Conservatism Internationalize? The Case of the Alliance for Responsible Citizenship. *Louisa Roberts, University of South Dakota*

How Religious Broadcasting Explains the Christian Right's Staying Power in the Republican Coalition. *Matthew Brooke, Harvard University*

Navigating Faith, Negotiating Politics: Evangelical Political Subjectivity in São Paulo's Urban Periphery. *Guilherme Miranda Baratho, University of Chicago*

Who Let the RINOs Out? The Transformation of the Republican National Committee,

2004-2026. *Catharina O'Donnell, Harvard University*

Redefining Republican: Symbolic Boundary Transformation of Republicanism across Alt-Right Media, 2010-2025. *Kylie Fuller, New York University*

### **The Sociology of Corruption**

Sun, August 9, 2:00 to 3:30pm

Presenter: Adam Slez, University of Virginia

For A Comparative and Historical Sociology of Corruption. *Marco Z. Garrido, University of Chicago; Marina Zaloznaya, University of Iowa; Nicholas Hoover Wilson, Stony Brook University*

Governing Difference: Corruption, Empire, and the Founding of East India College. *Anurag Sinha, University of Minnesota-Twin Cities*

Mobilization from Above and Below: Corruption Narratives of Latin American Free-Market Think Tanks and Colombian Farmers. *Alex Diamond, Stony Brook University; Tomas Gold, University of Southern California*

"Sometimes Good People Do Bad Things": Personal Ties, Role Conflict, and the Defense of Corrupt Politicians. *Philip George Lewin, Florida Atlantic University*

The Structure of the Anti-corruption Field. *Byron Villacis, University of Oregon*

### **Section Council Meeting**

Mon, August 10, 7:00 to 7:45 am

### **Authoritarian Politics**

Mon, August 10, 8:00 to 9:30am

Presenter: Lingxiao Chen, Emory University

From Collectively Empowered to Individually Powerless: Everyday Frustrations with Living under an Autocratizing Government. *Jacob Richard Thomas, Corvinus University of Budapest; Priscilla Kam, Independent Scholar*

Religious Nationalism and Confidence in Authoritarian Leaders: A Cross-National Study. *Ibrahim Enes Atac, Pennsylvania State University; Samuel L. Perry, University of Oklahoma*

Seeing the State: Media Manipulation (In)visibility in Chinese News. *Hannah Waight, University of Oregon*

The Instability of Domination: Economic Sanctions, Mass Labor Protest, and Authoritarian Resilience in Iran. *Zep Kalb, Princeton University*

Nationalism and Power in the Evangelical Fold: Exploring the Moderating Effects of Religion on Right-wing Authoritarianism. *David Sikkink, University of Notre Dame; Saehwan Lee, Sogang University*

### **Bureaucratic Politics and the Organizational State**

Mon, August 10, 10:00 to 11:30am

Presenter: Fangsheng Zhu, Duke Kunshan University

Beyond Tenant and Landlord: How State and Legal Mediation of Residential Exploitation

Shapes Tenant Politics. *Ahmed Mori, Johns Hopkins University*

Constructing Supplicants: Normative Control in State-Citizen Encounters. *Fengrui Tian, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*

Super-delegation: Anti-bureaucratic Governance and the Hollowing-out of the United States Agency for International Development. *Lisa Eitinger, Boston College; Sarah Louise Babb, Boston College*

The Political Evolution of the Child Care and Development Block Grant: From Childcare to Preschool. *Valerie Taing, University of California-Davis*

Reworking Blackness: Elite Fragmentation and Cultural Contestation in Jamaican Tourism Advertising, 1970-1990. *Johanna Hernandez Perez, University of California-Los Angeles*

### **Neoliberalism, Austerity, and State Retrenchment**

Mon, August 10, 2:00 to 3:30pm

Presider: *Diana Graizbord, University of Georgia*

Confronting the Steel Crisis Proceduralism, Decisionism, and the Neoliberalization of the American State (1959-1982). *Bradley Castiglia, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*

Containing the Commodification of Citizens, 1960-2000: Policy Design and the Pre-History of Neoliberalism. *Elisabeth S. Clemens, University of Chicago*

Neoliberal Globalization and Beyond: The Politics of Privatization at Greek Ports. *Eylem Taylan, University of California-Berkeley*

The Moral Logic of Sacrifice: Program Implementation During Mexico's Fourth Transformation. *Diana Graizbord, University of Georgia*

The Promise and Perils of Decentralized Governance: Case Studies of Welfare State Restructuring. *Carmen Marie Brick, University of California-Berkeley*

### **Environmental Politics**

Mon, August 10, 4:00 to 5:30pm

Presider: *Chris M. Rea, Brown University*

Beyond Financing as a Tool: Conflicting Rationalities in Taiwan's Renewable Energy. *Hui-Tzu Huang, Department of Cooperative Economics and Social Entrepreneurship, Feng Chia University; Yun-Chung Ting, Academia Sinica*

Eroding Confidence in Knowledge-Based U.S. Institutions: Findings from the General Social Survey 1973-2024. *James C. Witte, George Mason University; Laurie A Schintler, George Mason University; Connie L. McNeely, George Mason University; Thomas Hinz, University of Konstanz; Emma Vetter, George Mason University; Chad Smith, George Mason University*

State Capacity and Its Discontents: Growth and Decay in the U.S. Environmental State, 1973-2021. *Chris M. Rea, Brown University; Scott Frickel, Brown University*

The Political Dimensions of Antimicrobial Resistance: Intercorporate Mobilization on

AMR 2016-2024. *David B. Capelle, University of Oregon*

The solar industry and a vision for "green growth" in China. *Guolin Gu, Boston College*

### Section Reception

Mon, August 10, 6:30 to 8:30pm, Jake's Dilemma at 430 Amsterdam Avenue, New York, NY 10024

### The Racial State

Tue, August 11, 8:00 to 9:30am

Presider: Christina Nicole Cano, Yale University

Diffusion without Isomorphism: Transnational Interstitial Spaces and the Official Categorization of Blackness in Mexico, 1994-2015. *Juan D. Delgado, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*

Racial Equality and Deservingness in Municipal Redistricting. *Christina Nicole Cano, Yale University*

"The Keynote of the Black Belt:" Debt and Social Control after Reconstruction. *Sofia Butnaru, University of Chicago*

Who Counts as Indigenous? Categorical Elasticity and The Politics of Ethnoracial Classification Technologies in Mexico, 2000-2024. *Braulio Guemez, Duke University*

The Impact of Post-2020 Political Contexts on Representations of Marginalized Identities in State Social Studies Standards. *Kimberly Hess, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor*

### Section Roundtables

Mon, August 11, 10:00 to 11:00am

### Section Business Meeting

Tue, August 11, 11:00 to 11:30am

### Measuring Politics

Tue, August 11, 12:00 to 1:30pm

Presider: Wendy Y. Li, Johns Hopkins University

Collective Identification, Linked Fate, and Trump Support Among Descendants of Latino, Black, and Asian Immigrants. *Junliang Xu, New York University; Bart Bonikowski, New York University; Yuval Feinstein, University of Haifa*

Origins and Paradigm Shifts in China's Go-Out Policy and the Belt and Road Initiative. *Dawei Chen, University of Toronto; Ding Wang, York University; Lynette H. Ong, University of Toronto; Tong Wang, University of Toronto; Hao Zheng, Renmin University of China; Zhihang Yuan, Zhejiang University*

Political Campaign Career Trajectories. *Wendy Y. Li, Johns Hopkins University; Alexander Torpey, Johns Hopkins University*

Religious, Anti-Immigrant, Ideological, and Conflicted Conservatives: Understanding Variation Within the Multi-Racial Right. *Adam Burston, The Ohio State University; Arvind Krishnamurthy, Ohio State University*

A Political Demography of Fertility Decline: Future Confidence, Risk Perception, and Reproductive Intentions in China. *Edmund W Cheng, City University of Hong Kong; Yuying Tong, The Chinese University of Hong Kong*

Howard H. Wang, City University of Hong Kong

**States and Sovereignty**

Tue, August 11, 2:00 to 3:30pm

Presider: Mathieu H. Desan, University of Colorado-Boulder

International and Civil Implications of an Unrecognized Country: The Case of Somaliland. Clare E Bath, University of Notre Dame

Property and Jurisdiction: The Settler-Colonial Origins of Territorial Sovereignty. Jonah Stuart Brundage, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor; Corinne Lea Rushing, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

The Twilight of Sovereignty? Walter Wriston, High Finance, and Peripheral Neoliberalism in Latin America. Conrad Jacober, Johns Hopkins University

American Dread: Prepping as Prefigurative Politics. Kirstin Krusell, University of California-Berkeley

Civic Gifts and Nation-Building: Power, Meaning, and National Belonging in Mexico's 1938 Oil Expropriation. Christian Javier Castro-Martinez, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

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## 2026 Award Winners

Congratulations to the ASA Political Sociology Section Award Winners.  
Thank you to those who served on the Awards Committees.

**The Distinguished Career Award in Political Sociology**

WINNER: Elisabeth Clemens

The Distinguished Career Award Committee:  
Dana R. Fisher (chair), American University  
Craig Calhoun, Arizona State University  
Josh Pacewicz, Brown University

**The Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award in Political Sociology Co-Winners**

Edmund W. Cheng and Samson Yuen's "The Making of Leaderful Mobilization"

Michael A. McCarthy's "The Master's Tools"

Cheng, Edmund W. and Yuen, Samson. 2025. *The Making of Leaderful Mobilization: Power and Contention in Hong Kong*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

McCarthy, Michael A. 2025. *The Master's Tools: How Finance Wrecked Democracy (and a Racial Plan to Rebuild it)*. London: Verso Books.

The Committee has asked that the short list of books considered for the award be included.

Jackson, Jason. 2025. *Traders, Speculators, and Captains of Industry: How Capitalist Legitimacy Shaped Foreign Investment Policy in India*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

quisumbing king, katrina. 2025. *Enduring Empire: U.S. Statecraft and Race-Making in the Philippines*. Redwood City: Stanford University Press.

Kucinkas, Jamie. 2025. *The Loyalty Trap*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Koenig, Biko. 2025. *Worker Centered: Allyship & Action in the Contemporary Labor Movement*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Committee:

Haj Yazdiha (chair), University of Southern California  
 Masoud Movahed, University of California - Santa Barbara  
 Kate Brown, Georgia Institute of Technology  
 Andrew Le, Arizona State University

**The Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship for an Article or Chapter Award for Political Sociology**

Laura Acosta for “Fabricating Communists: The Imagined Third That Reinvented the National Fault Line in Mid-Twentieth-Century Columbia’s Civil War”

Laura Acosta. “Fabricating Communists: The Imagined Third That Reinvented the National Fault Line in Mid-Twentieth-Century Columbia’s Civil War.” *American Sociological Review*, 90(6): 947-984.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224251371066>

Committee:

Mathieu Desan (chair), University of Colorado Boulder  
 Maria Arieviditch, Brown University  
 Melanie Hughes, University of Pittsburgh  
 Wisam Alshaibi, NYU Abu Dhabi

**Best Graduate Student Paper Award**

Joseph Weinger (UCLA) — "Role Collapse: The Israeli Settler-State Compact and Pathways to Hybrid Domination in the Occupied West Bank"

Committee:

Luciana de Souza Leão (Chair), University of Michigan  
 Emily Ruppel, University of California - Berkeley  
 Nathan Katz, Louisiana Tech University  
 Maria X Davila Contreras, University of Texas at Austin



## Political Sociology Bookshelf

***The State of Lebanon: Popular Politics and Institution Building in the Wake of Independence* by Ziad Abu-Rish (Stanford University Press, March 2026)**

Mona Khneisser

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

In a recent book, *The State of Lebanon: Popular Politics and Institution Building in the Wake of Independence* (Stanford University Press, March 2026), Ziad Abu-Rish revisits the first decade of Lebanese independence to challenge one of the most persistent assumptions in writing on Lebanon: that the Lebanese state was always weak, absent, or merely a façade for sectarian power. Rather than treating early post-independence Lebanon as a prelude to civil war or as an exception to “normal” state formation, Abu-Rish reconstructs it as a deeply contested moment of institutional experimentation, popular mobilization, and political possibility.

The book’s central argument is that the Lebanese state was not simply missing. It was being built, fought over, and shaped by a wide range of actors. Politicians, bureaucrats, workers, students, women’s organizations, business elites, and urban consumers all participated in struggles over what independence should mean in practice. Should the state regulate markets? Expand education? Protect labor? Nationalize public

utilities? Recognize women as full political subjects? Build a national army? These were not abstract policy debates. They were conflicts over power, resources, citizenship, and the fraught boundaries of public responsibility.

For researchers in political sociology, the book’s contribution is especially important because it moves beyond the familiar story of Lebanon as an inherently sectarian or institutionally weak polity. Instead, Abu-Rish shows how class conflict, gender politics, labor mobilization, bureaucratic expansion, public infrastructure, and struggles over economic development were central to the making of the early Lebanese republic.

One of the book’s significant interventions, to name just one, is its treatment of Lebanon’s so-called ‘laissez-faire’ economy. Abu-Rish shows that market liberalism was not the outcome of the absence of state formation, but part of the institutional design outcome. Lebanon’s open, service-oriented political economy had to be actively produced through laws, concessions, bureaucratic arrangements, infrastructure, and political struggle. In this sense, the book reframes the question from “Why was the Lebanese state weak?” to “What kind of state was built, by whom, and in whose interests?”

By restoring contingency to the early independence period, *The State of Lebanon* offers a powerful corrective to narratives that read the history of Lebanon backward from the Lebanese civil war or the present-day crisis. The book offers a powerful corrective

to both romantic and fatalistic accounts of Lebanon, revealing how Lebanon’s state was made—unevenly, conflictually, and politically through historical struggles.

**Mona Khneisser** is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

***Black Reconstruction in America: 1860-1880* by W.E.B. DuBois (Free Press 1998)**

Asha Sawhney

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

I am a sociologist of migration. For my dissertation work, I revisit W.E.B. DuBois’ classical work *Black Reconstruction in America: 1860-1880*, reading it for insights about the racial politics of migration in antebellum South. My reading is inspired by the Autonomy of Migration (AoM) tradition in critical migration studies that centers the constitutive role of human mobility in various social and political processes.

For instance, *Black Reconstruction* presents an expansive yet incisive argument of the political power of human mobility through DuBois’ articulation of the “general strike of the slaves.” One of his key arguments on emancipation is that the Union’s embrace of it was the result of slave defections to the

North. Despite no formal organization or call to strike, the cumulative effect of such everyday acts of resistance and agency by the enslaved people became too great to ignore, ultimately acting as a general strike. DuBois firmly states that abolitionists alone could not have freed the slaves, for they never had a meaningful majority of support in the United States. Instead, abolition came from the South’s poor decision to wage war in the midst of the enslavement of 4 million people, while ignoring their material interests. The enslaved people proved the immense collective power, when by stopping work and defecting, they threatened the Confederacy with starvation, and introduced to Northerners their potential as workers, leading the North to victory and ushering in the Reconstruction Era (p. 120-121).

This analysis is relevant theoretically and politically to today’s discourse on migration, particularly undocumented migration. What if an opposition party, instead of agreeing that migration is a problem that must be “managed,” conceding to xenophobic populism, were to embrace the reality of human mobility and its full political-economic potential? That might make possible a new anti-xenophobic political horizon not yet fully articulated in existing forms of party politics.

**Asha Sawhney** is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

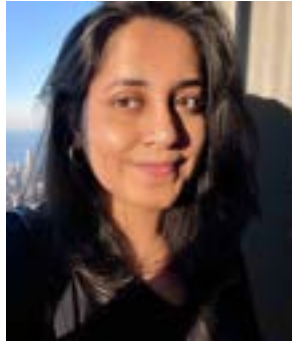


## Job Market Candidates

### Hera Shakil

University of Chicago

My research examines how political inequality persists and transforms in postcolonial democracies, with particular attention to the moral frameworks that enable middle-class participation in exclusionary politics. Through long-term ethnographic fieldwork and historical analysis, I investigate how seemingly ideologically neutral political projects like anti-corruption campaigns, development initiatives and technocratic governance, become vehicles for reproducing caste, class, and religious hierarchies. My first project analyzes the decade-long trajectory of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) in New Delhi, India, from its emergence as an anti-corruption movement in 2011 to its electoral defeat in 2025. This ethnography traces how a party that promised to transcend identity politics through technocratic governance ultimately embraced Hindu nationalism, revealing the unstable foundations of liberal centrism in postcolonial contexts. My work contributes to theories of democracy, postcolonial politics, and the cultural production of inequality while offering new methodological approaches to studying political articulation.



### Joseph Kaplan Weinger

Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies

Joseph Kaplan Weinger is an incoming Academy Scholar (Postdoctoral Fellow) at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, Harvard University. A political and comparative-historical sociologist, he will complete his doctorate in Sociology at the University of California, Los Angeles in June. His research spans the history of colonial state-making, examining the causes and consequences of coercive territorial redistribution and the wavering relations between settlers and colonial states. He is completing a book manuscript, *The Sorcerer's Apprentice: Colonial Settlement, Splintered Sovereignty, and the Making of an Injurious Alliance*, based on years of ethnographic and archival research in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Joseph's work is published in the *New York Review of Books*, *Social Science History*, *Sociology Compass*, and *Sociological Forum*.



### Vilecia Barghouti

Michigan State University

Thousands of West Bank workers whose entry to work was halted by Israel after October 7 are living in extreme anxiety and anticipation, fearing that



Israel will not allow them to enter to work in Israel again and, more dramatically, will replace them with other workers from East Asia or other foreign countries.

Using a Marxist sociological lens, my work examines how coloniality, indigeneity, race, labor, and capitalism intersect within the system of settler colonialism in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. I focus on how these dynamics shape experiences of alienation, estrangement, and belonging among Palestinians from the West Bank who work in historic Palestine, which became Israel following the 1948 Nakba.

### **Soul Han**

Cornell University

I study the organizational and institutional foundations of state capacity for



technological innovation, focusing on how these capacities vary across domestic contexts. My research examines how institutional configurations shape the organization of innovation under conditions of uncertainty at the technological frontier. My dissertation analyzes South Korea's adoption of ARPA-emulating R&D programs, drawing on archival materials and 67 interviews with bureaucrats, scientists, and policy experts. It explains how institutional arrangements that enabled rapid technological catch-up become constraints at the frontier. Across state bureaucracy, professional structures, and the defense innovation system, I show how domestic institutions reshape key mechanisms—such as delegated discretion and intermediary brokerage—limiting the capacity for exploratory, high-risk innovation.

### **Jack G. R. Wippell**

The Ohio State University

I am a PhD Candidate and Presidential Fellow in the Department of Sociology at The Ohio State University. My research examines contentious politics and political culture, broadly construed, in the United States and internationally. Substantively, most of this work has focused on different manifestations of social division: that is, extremism, exclusion, and targeted violence. Methodologically, I develop and apply computational and mixed-methods approaches to link macro-level patterns with the meso- and micro-level processes that generate them. My work has appeared or is forthcoming in journals across the social sciences, including *Social Problems*, *Criminology*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Journal of Legislative Studies*, and *Politics, Groups, & Identities*. More information about my research can be found on my website: [jgrwippell.com](http://jgrwippell.com).

### **Md. Maidul Islam**

University of Pittsburgh



My work begins from a puzzle I encountered in Bangladesh: how did a regime hold power not only through force and coercion but by fixing the meaning of 1971, the war of independence, so tightly that political alternatives became difficult to imagine? I develop the idea of “temporal governance” to think through this problem. Focusing on the period from 2009 to 2024, I examine how the state worked across institutions—education, law, media—to organize how the past could be told. But I am equally interested in when

this order stops holding. In 2024, students began circulating their own accounts of violence and history in real time. I describe these moments as “mnemonic jamming,” when control over memory becomes unstable and new political possibilities begin to appear.

### Jessica Stallone

University of Toronto

Jessica Stallone is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at the University of Toronto. She studies the everyday politics of race and immigration, with a focus on identity, belonging, and intersectional inequalities. Her dissertation, *Growing Old with the Nation: Aging, Belonging, and the Politics of Exclusion*, is an ethnographic study of how white seniors—and their families—respond to immigrant-related change in a diversifying suburb. By situating seniors as lived archives of nationhood, she historicizes how these dominant groups come to support nationalist politics in later life. Her interdisciplinary work spans the areas of immigration, race, and ethnicity, political sociology, gender, aging and the life course, and qualitative methods. She has published in *The British Journal of Sociology*, *Gender & Society*, and *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. Website: <https://jessicastallone.com/>



### Victoria S.

Asbury-Kimmel

New York University

I study how definitions of national belonging shape democratic



inclusion, civic participation, and policy attitudes. Using surveys, experiments, and computational methods, I show that “Americanness” operates as a contested, hierarchical construct shaped by political discourse rather than a fixed boundary. My research links these symbolic meanings to measurable outcomes, including racialized policy preferences, information processing, and cross-group evaluations. Current work examines how immigration narratives reshape perceptions of membership and, in turn, influence material behavior, including redistribution across racial lines. By combining attitudinal and behavioral data, I identify how discourse reconfigures boundaries of belonging and translates into patterns of solidarity, inequality, and democratic decision-making.

### Yao Lu

University of California, Davis

I examine the making of race and ethnicity in post-colonial Africa, focusing on Zambia and Zimbabwe. Drawing on archival research, census data, interviews, and oral histories, I analyze both state classification practices and how race and ethnicity are lived, understood, and made on the ground. I develop a model in which African states move along a pendulum between legibility and concealment, balancing the need to make populations visible with national unity. I show how this dynamic shapes variation in classification governance. Drawing on oral histories, I trace how racial boundaries are reproduced through socio-economic interactions and everyday survival within a neoliberal, racial capitalist order in the global periphery. I will



continue this research as a postdoctoral researcher at Princeton University.

### **David Warner**

University of Pittsburgh

David Warner is a PhD candidate in Sociology at the University of Pittsburgh, where his research draws on cultural geography, continental philosophy, and digital sociology to examine blockchain technology and decentralized autonomous organizations (DAOs) as vehicles for restoring community-based affective bonds within modern digital society. His work addresses digital personhood, embodiment, governance, and the legal and philosophical dimensions of harm in virtual environments. His article "Digital Dispossession: Abandoned in the Camp of the Metaverse" is forthcoming in *Digital Society*. A licensed attorney since 2005, David has fifteen years of experience teaching undergraduate courses in business law, and ten years teaching improvisational theater, primarily in Chinese. His pedagogical style, combining debate, sociological analysis, and performance, has won awards for student satisfaction.

### **Shumaila Fatima**

University of South Florida

My research interests broadly encompass global political sociology, migration, institutions, power and inequalities, and culture and societies. I inquire into (1) the influence of various social, economic, and political institutions on individuals and societies and (2) the drivers and impacts of migration on different groups in the immigrant and emigrant countries. I also inquire into the causes and implications of global and social inequalities from a policy

perspective. I conduct research using quantitative and qualitative methodologies. My active research includes a book project on South Asian migrants in the Gulf countries, a series of cross-national quantitative analyses on the relationship between different democratic elements and trust in governance, and a study on the evolving definition and nature of citizenship.

### **Ian A. Wallace**

University of North  
Carolina at Chapel  
Hill



My research examines how welfare systems develop and expand in the global south with a particular focus on Morocco and the broader MENA region. I approach the topic from three levels: first from a global longitudinal analysis of welfare policy coverage over three decades, identifying how factors associated with this coverage differ in the Global North and the Global South; then an inductive country-level case comparison of Morocco, Tunisia, and Egypt; finally, the view from beneficiaries, based on interviews with ordinary citizens and pension fund app reviews in Morocco. My research speaks to political sociology of the welfare state, international and Middle Eastern studies, and sociology of development.

### **Jonathon Acosta**

Brown University



I study panethnic postindustrial cities in the American northeast that have undergone political

and demographic transformations over the last fifty years. In one strand of work, I study how black and Latino residents of these communities build political power. I show that contemporary migrants follow a different political incorporation pathway than their Ellis Island era predecessors and that panethnicity plays a key mobilizing role. In another strand of work, I look at the educational trajectories of youth in these communities. This year, I initiated a partnership with a school district to study the effects of immigration enforcement activities on student attendance and academic performance. The first paper from that work is available on edworking papers and under peer-review for publication.

### **Kat Smith**

Columbia University

My research examines how the rapid integration of AI into daily life is reshaping religious practice and, consequently, political behavior. Drawing on sociology of religion, science and technology studies, and political sociology, I hypothesize that communities rejecting AI will experience political alienation, that embodied and tactile rituals will intensify as AI mediates surrounding cultural life, and that AI-integrating communities will fracture along generational and authority lines. To test these hypotheses, I am designing a mixed-methods study combining mass surveys and longitudinal semi-structured interviews across religiously diverse communities. I hold a master's degree from Columbia University and a bachelor's from UC Berkeley, and am currently developing this as an independent research project.



### **Mustafa Yavaş**

Johns Hopkins University

My scholarship focuses on economic and political sociology from a global perspective.

My recent research has revolved around professional work, job quality, and high-skilled migration. In *White-Collar Blues: The Making of the Transnational Turkish Middle Class* (Columbia University Press 2025), I explore the formation of a new Turkish upper-middle class and its discontents with work. In a related article (published in 2024 in *American Sociological Review*), I explain how high-pay positions at transnational corporations can leave their professional-managerial employees with a discouraging quality of working-life. Currently, I am studying the patterns of university-to-workforce transitions in US elite higher education, and the rise of Dubai as a global city and its unique appeal to high-skilled workers from the Global South.



### **Rohan Advani**

University of California, Los Angeles

I am a political sociologist studying states, markets, and finance in comparative and historical perspective. I am interested in explaining and making sense of new iterations of state-led development and the new protagonists of state capitalism. My dissertation project examines the evolution of sovereign wealth funds (SWFs) in Abu Dhabi and Singapore and



explores how these states use the tools of global finance for various state objectives—from economic development to geopolitical competition. It also theorizes a new elite formation that operates in the interstices between the world of global finance and domestic political elites, whom I term "sovereign brokers." I argue that they not only help execute the developmental ambitions of political elites, but shape what gets imagined as desirable in the first place.

### **Peter Ramand**

University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

My research investigates the relationship between class structure and political mobilization in Europe and the United States. My dissertation reconstructs Erik Olin Wright's neo-Marxist class schema from Britain's NS-SEC occupational categories, yielding a reproducible crosswalk that makes his framework usable with standard European survey data. Using the British Election Study, I validate the schema against neo-Weberian alternatives and apply it to study the class basis of populist mobilization in the 2014 Scottish independence and 2016 Brexit referendums. As Lead Researcher on Cluster III of the ENDURE project, a six-country survey experiment, I examine how economic inequality, immigration, "culture war" language, and perceptions of the institutional capture of democracy differentially generate populist, ethnonationalist, and authoritarian responses.



### **Anna Milewski**

University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

I am a political sociologist using novel sources of data and both quantitative and qualitative methods to address questions in social movements, religion, and race. In my dissertation, I examine the interaction between marginalized movements and religion given the increasingly secular and partisan environment of the United States. My past research, published in *Mobilization*, investigates the role diffuse social movement organizations play in claim innovation under authoritarianism. An additional line of coauthored research, published in *Cambridge Elements* and forthcoming in the edited volume *Processes of Collective Action*, examines how sources of protest event data affects theory building about racial and ethnic movements. More about my research and teaching is available at my website: [www.annamilewski.com](http://www.annamilewski.com).



### **Morgan L. Henson**

University of  
Wisconsin-Madison

My research investigates how far-right movements construct legitimacy across national contexts. Through comparative analysis of organizations in Germany and the United States, my work reveals that legitimacy-seeking is not a universal imperative but a strategic adaptation to specific political, legal, and cultural environments. Using multilingual digital ethnography and systematic qualitative methods, I analyze how groups



target different audiences—mainstream publics versus internal cadres—and deploy distinct strategies of legitimation. My research introduces concepts like referent-shifting and parasitic legitimation to explain how extremist organizations navigate legitimacy deficits, contributing to political sociology, social movement theory, and the study of digital extremism while informing evidence-based counter-extremism efforts.

### **Steven Z. Bao**

The Ohio State  
University

Steven Z. Bao is a Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at The Ohio State University, whose research spans social movements, political sociology, social theory, and research methodology. His work centers on social action—how collective action generates social change and how it is shaped and constrained by structural conditions. His dissertation draws on an original dataset of 40,000 social movement organizations to examine patterns of collaboration, funding, and legislative lobbying, and how these network structures shape movement persistence and long-term outcomes. Beyond the dissertation, he pursues a broader research agenda on contentious politics, including work on atrocity event forecasting, student protest in Serbia, and the conceptualization of workers' positional power. Website: <https://stvbao.github.io>



### **Tara K.**

#### **Prendergast**

University of Arizona

I am a cultural and political sociologist studying how social policy is experienced



and made meaningful in everyday life. My current research focuses on low-wage workers' interpretations of minimum wage increases, showing how policy gains are mediated by culture, social relations, and institutional context. Drawing on in-depth interviews with fast food and healthcare workers in California after sectoral minimum wage increases, I argue that raises operate simultaneously as economic resources and signals of social worth. I develop the concept of political legibility to explain how policy effects are often misrecognized or attributed to employers, limiting the formation of entitlement, collective identity, and political engagement.

### **Carmen Brick**

University of California, Berkeley

I received my PhD in Sociology in 2025 from the University of California, Berkeley, where I am now a Hitchcock Postdoctoral Fellow. Broadly, I am a political sociologist and scholar of work who studies economic transformation and the Democratic Party's contribution to inequality. Using historical methods, my current book project investigates liberal Democrats' policy entrepreneurship in Wisconsin and in California as they grappled with the post-industrial crisis, treating both states as potential progenitors of a new welfare capitalism during a crucial period of change (1970-2000). My research finds liberal Democrats played a surprising role in the

emergence of tax-based social policy and that both their subnational policy entrepreneurship and their management of decentralized governance redirected social assistance in unintended ways.

**Cathy Hu**

University of California, Berkeley



I am a sociologist of punishment, social movements, race, and politics. Specifically, I use qualitative methods to examine struggles over the meanings and practices of criminal and racial justice. My dissertation is a comparative political ethnography of anti-carceral and law-and-order activists in the Bay Area following the George Floyd and Stop Asian Hate protests. Drawing on fieldwork, interviews, and primary materials, I explore: 1) how activists link criminal justice and racial justice into coherent political projects; 2) how they carry out these projects through criminal court interventions; and 3) how these processes vary across groups with divergent orientations and aims. Through this study, I illuminate how the everyday work of local activists contributes to broader dynamics of reform and retrenchment.

**Andrew J. Shapiro**

City University of New York



My scholarship broadly examines the structural, psychic, and ideological mechanisms that reproduce and counteract inequalities. My dissertation and primary book project, "Hurt People Hurt People," examines why and how movements against oppression become complicit in oppression and how they might do otherwise. Through a comparative-historical case study of twentieth-century Jewish and LGBTQ movements in the US, Europe, and Palestine, I trace the complicity processes through which relatively advantaged movement actors prioritize narrow advancement over collective change. My work has been published in Men and Masculinities. Having previously taught courses across CUNY, I currently serve as a research fellow at the Center for Jewish History and an archival assistant for the CLAGS Center for LGBTQ Studies.



## New Publications

### Academic Articles or Chapters

- Advani, Rohan. 2026. "Neoliberalism and the Evolution of Singapore's Developmental State: Partial Privatization as Problem-Solving." *Global Perspectives* 7(1). doi: 10.1525/gp.2026.160059.
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- Atac, Ibrahim Enes, Charles Seguin and Brandon Gorman. 2025. "The Wages of Ethnic Power: Socioeconomic Status, Group Threat, and Anti-Immigrant Attitudes in Western Europe." *International Journal of Comparative Sociology* 0(0):00207152251387940. doi: 10.1177/00207152251387940.
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<https://www.igi-global.com/book/impacts-anti-dei-initiatives-educational/373054>.
- Eidlin, Barry and Emanuel Guay. 2025. "Two Steps Forward, One Step Back: Political Mobilization and Policy Reform in Québec." *Labour / Le Travail* 96:67–92. doi: <https://doi.org/10.52975/lt.2025v96.006>.

- Eiermann, Martin, Maria Fitzpatrick, Katharine Sadowski and Christopher Wildeman. 2026. "How Do (Human) Child Welfare Workers Respond to Machine-Generated Risk Scores?" *Sociological Science* 13:1-21.
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- Zhang, Han. 2025. "Two-Layer Panopticon: How the Chinese Government Uses Digital Surveillance to Prevent Collective Action." *Social Forces*. doi: 10.1093/sf/soaf194.

## Books

Almeida, Paul. 2026. *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Action*: Oxford University Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780197762097.001.0001>

Climate action encompasses all kinds of efforts to mitigate climate change. *The Oxford Handbook of Climate Action* examines diverse efforts globally, with chapters discussing activism or policy on every continent. The volume presents major theoretical perspectives and concrete strategies for addressing climate change in the twenty-first century. The Handbook considers both noninstitutional and institutional forms of climate action. Contributors discuss the origins of

climate activism as well as important achievements in raising public awareness, increasing participation, incorporating environmental justice, and implementing climate-friendly policies.

Almeida, Paul. 2026b. *Climate Change and Civic Engagement: The Origins and Future of the Climate Justice Movement*. University of California Press.

The most recent scientific reporting suggests that the outlook for continued global warming is dire. Collective action and civic engagement by ordinary people around the world will prove decisive in slowing down global warming and supporting planetary survival. *Climate Change and Civic Engagement* demonstrates the origins, gains, and future trajectory of the climate movement.

Basseches, Joshua A. 2026. *Owning the Green Grid: The Political Economy of Renewable Energy Policy Design*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Historically (and for the foreseeable future), most public policy action in the United States to combat the global climate crisis has taken place at the state level. Former President Joe Biden's administration marked a significant departure from that trend, as his policies pursued a strategy of "electrify everything" (transportation, buildings, and industry). But who owns the electricity system that is the linchpin of such a strategy, and how does this ownership affect the policy preferences of interest groups at the state level? *Owning the Green Grid* addresses these questions and more through an in-depth study of a quarter century of renewable electricity policymaking in seven states.

Bereni, Laure. 2025. *Managing Corporate Virtue: The Politics of Workplace Diversity in New York and Paris*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

A major tenet of contemporary capitalism holds that what is good for business can align with what is good for society. Efforts toward more diverse, equitable, and inclusive workplaces epitomize this rising ideology, termed *responsible capitalism*. An increasingly common managerial mantra is "diversity means business." But how does it play out in the daily life of organizations? Drawing on interviews with diversity managers, a historical review of practitioner literature, and observations from organizations in New York City and Paris, *Managing Corporate Virtue* goes beyond the rhetoric of diversity initiatives to uncover the concrete challenges faced by those tasked with implementing them.

Fee, Molly. 2026. *Believing in Light after Darkness: Displacement and Refugee Resettlement*. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

War, persecution, and climate change too often force people from their homes and across borders. Most remain in difficult conditions in neighboring countries. The less than one percent of refugees offered resettlement to a different country gain an alternative path forward, with access to specialized supports and services that are traditionally understood as a solution to displacement and a program of integration. Examining the complexities of refugees' lived experiences, Molly Fee's deeply humanistic ethnography reframes resettlement as a period of disruption and disorientation, when newly arrived refugees must navigate the rules and expectations of a new country. For those who have already rebuilt their lives numerous times,

resettlement becomes yet another uprooting. *Believing in Light after Darkness* reveals how humanitarian solutions, though well intentioned, do not immediately resolve the conditions of displacement.

Grosescu, Raluca and John G Dale. 2026. *Corporate Accountability for Human Rights Violations: Civil Society and Transnational Activism across the World*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature.

This edited volume is the first collection to critically explore the role, limitations, and internal fragmentation of social activism for corporate accountability across Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe. It analyses a variety of NGOs, trade unions, and grassroots movements and their transnational mobilizations for holding accountable business actors involved in human rights violations and environmental degradation. The book emphasizes the diverse visions and strategies extolled by these civic actors: from civil and criminal litigations, efforts to prohibit and punish business misconduct through national and international legislation, to boycotts, and memorialization projects.

Janoski, Thomas. 2026. *The New Political Sociology: A Synthetic Theory of Political Economy and Culture*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Providing a fresh approach to thinking about the big questions around political economy, culture, and power, this book offers a synthetic view of political economic and cultural explanations of how institutions, organizations, and groups operate, cohere, and influence each other, as well as how power works within and across these networks.

Katz, Nathan 2026. *Bankrupting Democracy: Campaign Spending in a Marketplace of Ideas*: University Press of Kansas.

A deeply researched investigation that shows how the long-held ideas protecting unlimited campaign spending as free speech that once served the needs of political candidates and voters are now shaped to serve the desires of interest groups, threatening the future of American democracy. In the 2010 *Citizens United* decision, Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy stated that the precedent they were overturning “interferes with the ‘open marketplace’ of ideas protected by the First Amendment.” For the majority who ruled in this case, money was in some sense the equivalent of speech, meaning that spending should be allowed under the guise of a marketplace of ideas. But what does this actually mean? And what are the consequences?

Kay, Tamara. 2025. *Sesame Street around the World: Culture, Politics, and Transnational Organizational Partnerships*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Given the sometimes extraordinary politicization of culture, it is surprising that *Sesame Street* has gained acceptance and legitimacy in more than fifty countries. *Sesame Street*'s global success raises two questions. First, how does a US icon like *Sesame Street* spread around the world, gaining acceptance as a local cultural product? Second, how does the nonprofit that created it, Sesame Workshop, and its partners around the world navigate cultural differences, manage conflicts, and construct shared collective representations to create *Sesame Street* programs that resonate with local audiences?

Oliver, Pamela, Chaeyoon Lim, Anna Milewski and Erin Gaede. 2026. *The Jena 6: Of Nooses, Fights, Narratives, and Movement Building*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Tens of thousands of mostly younger Black people went to rural Louisiana in 2007 to support the Jena 6, Black students who were overcharged after a school fight. We examine the construction of two narratives. The powerful Jena 6 narrative told how the conflict began when nooses were hung on the school grounds, linking historic racial violence to modern injustice. This narrative emphasized student agency and downplayed documented adult actions. A second narrative about organizing the campaign incorrectly said that existing organizations had ignored the case. We use published sources to trace the ordinary processes as activists, journalists, and organizations became involved in the campaign through three phases – regional organizing, nationalization, scale shift to cascade. In the last phase, many saw this as a historic reinvigoration of the Black movement. Circulating narratives inspired participation by stressing youthful agency and spontaneity. More accurate accounts are better for theory and action.

Över, Defne. 2026. *Boundaries That Divide: How Journalists in Turkey Surrendered Their Power over Politics*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Turkey presents a striking example of the most recent wave of global authoritarian turns. The two-decade-long transition in the country's political system also transformed its media environment. As mainstream journalists gradually yielded their places to sycophants, much more willing to praise the government in their news, the mainstream media that once oversaw—however imperfectly—political decisions started devoting its full service to cheerleading the government. Simultaneously, a new sphere of critical journalism began to emerge, with mainstream media journalists joining their fellows in the peripheries of the media. Considering the transformation of Turkey's news media as the decay of a democratic institution, this book asks, How does the media break down under the rule of an elected government?

Ozgen, Zeynep. 2025. *Pious Politics: Cultural Foundations of the Islamist Movement in Turkey*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

What explains the rise and resilience of the Islamist movement in Turkey? Since its founding in 1923, the Turkish republic has periodically reined in Islamist actors. Secular laws denied legitimacy to religious ideas, publications, and civic organizations, while military coups jailed or banned Islamist party leaders from politics. Despite such adversity, Islamists won an unprecedented victory at the 2002 national elections and have continued to rule since. *Pious Politics* explains how Islamists succeeded by developing a popular, well-organized movement over decades that rallied the masses, built vigorous political parties, and pressed for legislative reform. But an equally formative – if not more significant – factor was the cultural groundwork Islamists laid through a remarkably robust model of mobilization. Drawing on two years of ethnographic and archival research in Turkey, Zeynep Ozgen explores how Turkey's Islamists conquered the state and, more broadly, how social movements leverage cultural production to create sociopolitical change.

Quinsaat, Sharon M. 2024. *Insurgent Communities: How Protests Create a Filipino Diaspora*. Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press.

When people migrate and settle in other countries, do they automatically form a diaspora? In *Insurgent Communities*, Sharon M. Quinsaat explains the dynamic process through which a diaspora is strategically constructed. Quinsaat looks to Filipinos in the United States and the Netherlands—examining their resistance against the dictatorship of Ferdinand Marcos, their mobilization for migrants' rights, and the construction of a collective memory of the Marcos regime—to argue that diasporas emerge through political activism. Social movements provide an essential space for addressing migrants' diverse experiences and relationships with their homeland and its history. A significant contribution to the interdisciplinary field of migration and social movements studies, *Insurgent Communities* illuminates how people develop collective identities in times of social upheaval.

Vasi, Ion Bogdan and Edward T Walker. 2026. *Organizations and Climate Change*. Cambridge, MA: Emerald.

While the domains of organizational theory, grand challenges, and environmental sociology have developed via relatively distinct fields in sociology and management, they speak to a common set of social change phenomena at the intersection of the state, non-profits, and businesses. *Organizations and Climate Change* brings together new empirical papers that bridge these domains and sets an agenda for a more holistic theory of organizations and climate change, a theory that examines how various kinds of organizations respond to what is considered as one of the most important challenges for humanity during the 21st century.

Yang, Myungji. 2025. *Reactionary Politics in South Korea: Historical Legacies, Far-Right Intellectuals, and Political Mobilization*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

In December 2024, South Korean president Yoon Seok-yeol stunned the world by declaring martial law. More puzzling was that Yoon's insurrection unexpectedly gained substantial support from the ruling right-wing party and many citizens. Why do ordinary citizens support authoritarian leaders and martial law in a democratic country? What draws them to extreme actions and ideas? With the rise of illiberal, far-right politics across the globe, *Reactionary Politics in South Korea* provides an in-depth account of the ideas and practices of far-right groups and organizations threatening democratic systems. Drawing on eighteen months of field research and rich qualitative data, Myungji Yang helps explain the roots of current democratic regression. Yang provides vivid details of on-the-ground internal dynamics of far-right actors and their communities and worldviews, uncovering the organizational and popular foundations of far-right politics and movements.

### **Public Sociology and Other Venues**

Elcioglu, Emine Fidan. 2026. "Who Teaches Politics Now? Universities, YouTube, and the Making of Common Sense." Marxist Sociology Blog.

<https://marxistsociology.org/2026/05/who-teaches-politics-now-universities-youtube-and-the-making-of-common-sense/>

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