

JULIA SONNEVEND

Associate Professor of Sociology and Communications

School of Art, Media and Technology, Parsons School of Design at The New School
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Email: jsonnevend@newschool.edu

EDUCATION

- 2013** **Columbia University**
Ph.D. in Communications
Dissertation:
Global Iconic Events: How News Stories Travel Through Time, Space and Media
- 2007** **Yale Law School**
Master of Laws (LL.M.)
- 2006** **Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary**
M.A. in German Studies and Aesthetics
- 2004** **Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary**
Juris Doctor

EMPLOYMENT

- July 2017–present** **The New School**
Associate Professor of Sociology and Communications with tenure, July 1, 2020–present
Assistant Professor of Sociology and Communications (tenure-track), July 2017–July 2020
- Aug. 2013–June 2017** **University of Michigan**
Assistant Professor of Communication Studies (tenure-track)

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Charm: How Magnetic Personalities Shape Global Politics. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, August 2024. [Paperback edition: March 2026]

Profile: "How Powerful is Political Charm?" (*The New Yorker*, September 24, 2024); "Julia Sonnevend, NSSR Faculty, Researches How Politicians Wield Charm," New School News, October 24, 2024

Selected media interviews and reviews: The Atlantic, BBC Newshour, BBC World Service, Times Literary Supplement, KERA's Think (NPR/PBS), Bloomberg News, Times Higher Education, Inside Higher Ed, Teen Vogue,

The Bunker Podcast, The Review of Democracy, Texas Public Radio (The Source), USA Today, Infinite Loops, Hold After Hours, Princeton Ideas, Public Seminar, Public Sphere, Kirkus Reviews, Choice

Academic reviews: Social Forces, International Journal of Communication, Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly

Op-eds: Tim Walz's Joyful Charm (*Time Magazine*, August 8, 2024); The VP Debate Shows How Performance Shapes Our Democracy (*Time Magazine*, October 2, 2024)

Translation: Hungarian (Open Books, October 2024), other translations in negotiation

Stories Without Borders: The Berlin Wall and the Making of a Global Iconic Event. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016.

Reviews in English: The Times Higher Education; Journal of Communication; Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism; Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly; Media, Culture & Society

Reviews in Hungarian: Élet és Irodalom, Magyar Narancs, Periszkóp Közéleti-Elméleti Szemle, Librarius

Translation: Hungarian (Corvina Publisher, June 2018) | Runner up (2nd prize) for Best Book Award, Global Media and Social Change Division, International Communication Association, 2018

Greenhow, C., Sonnevend J., & Agur, C. (Eds.) **Education and Social Media: Toward a Digital Future.** Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2016.

Peer-Reviewed Papers

Sonnevend, J., Lin, F., & Zhi, P. (2025). The power of charm: Understanding the influence of magnetic leadership – A dialogue with Julia Sonnevend. *Communication and the Public*, 10(2), 73–80.

Pooley, J., Sonnevend, J. (2025). "A forum for books." *Journal of Communication*, 75(1), 79–80.

Sumiala, J., Harju, A. A., & Sonnevend, J. (2025). "Goodnight Ma'am: The Queen's death as a media event and the contestation of legacies in live participation." *Media, Culture & Society*, 47(4), 733–752.

Sonnevend, J. (2024). "Populist Iconicity: The Contradictions of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán as a Political Celebrity." *Journal of Media and Cinema Studies*, 63(2), 169–175.

Sonnevend, J., & Kövesdi, V. (2024, first published online June 14, 2023). "More Than Just a Strongman: The Strategic Construction of Viktor Orbán's Charismatic Authority on Facebook." *The International Journal of Press/Politics*, 29(4), 891–918.

Sonnevend, J. & Steiert, O. (2024, first published online December 8, 2022). "The Power of Predictability: How Angela Merkel Constructed Her Authenticity on Instagram." *New Media & Society*, 26(10), 5719–5741.

Sonnevend, J. (2020). "A virus as an icon: The 2020 pandemic in images." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, 12, 451–461.

Sonnevend, J. & Katz, Y. (2020). "Capturing hearts: Charm, personal magnetism and the Iranian nuclear deal in the American and Israeli press." *Journalism Studies*, 21(11), 1551–1570.

Sonnevend, J. & Kim, Y. (2020). "An unlikely seducer: Kim Jong-un's charm offensive from the PyeongChang Winter Olympics until the Trump-Kim summit." *International Journal of Communication*, 14, 1398–1420.

Sonnevend, J. (2019). "Charm offensive: mediatized country image transformations in international relations." *Information, Communication, & Society*, 22(5), 695–701.

Sonnevend, J. (2018). "Interruptions of time: the coverage of the missing Malaysian plane MH370 and the concept of 'events' in media research." *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*, 19(1), 75–92.

Sonnevend, J. (2018). "The lasting charm of Media Events." *Media, Culture & Society*, 40(1), 122–126.

Sonnevend, J. (2015). "'Symbol of hope for a world without walls': The fall of the Berlin Wall as a global iconic event." *Divinatio*, 39–40, 223–232 (also translated into Bulgarian).

- Sonnevend, J. (2013). "Counterrevolutionary icons: The representation of the 1956 'counterrevolution' in the Hungarian communist press." *Journalism Studies*, 14(3), 336–354.
- Sonnevend, J. (2010). "Remembering through sharing." *The New Everyday*, 1(3) [online journal publication].

Peer-Reviewed Bibliography

- Sonnevend, J. (2017). "Media Events." In Moy, P. (Ed.) *Oxford Bibliographies in Communication*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Selected Essays, Reviews and Other Publications

- Sonnevend, J. (March 3, 2026). Why Do We Still Love Goffman? Peter Lunt Offers Some Answers. *Communications: The European Journal of Communication Research*.
- Sonnevend, J. (April 13, 2026). Viktor Orban's Loss Shows How a Strongman Can be Defeated. *MS NOW*.
- Sonnevend, J. (May 8, 2025). The Administrative State, Its Democratic Deficits, and How to Fix Them in Comparative Historical Perspective (in conversation with Kim Lane Scheppele, Jim Miller, and Mark W. Frazier). *Public Seminar*.
- Sonnevend, J. (October 2, 2024). "The VP Debate Shows How Performance Shapes Our Democracy." *Time Magazine*.
- Sonnevend, J. (August 8, 2024). "Tim Walz's Joyful Charm." *Time Magazine*.
- Sonnevend, J. (May 2022). "Should We Remember the Berlin Wall? If yes, how?" Review of Hope. M. Harrison: *After the Berlin Wall: Memory and the Making of the New Germany, 1989 to the Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2019). H-German, H-Net Reviews.
- Sonnevend, J. (September 17, 2020). "The Big Clean Up: The 2020 Pandemic as a Representational Crisis." *Items: Insights from the Social Sciences*, published by the Social Science Research Council.
- Sonnevend, J. (March 6, 2018). "Why We Need More Essays About Media." *Public Seminar*.
- Sonnevend, J. (May 25, 2017). "Our New Walls: The Rise of Separation Barriers in the Age of Globalization." *E-International Relations* (also published on Public Seminar).
- Sonnevend, J. (2004–2024). Seventeen essays on European politics and culture in Hungarian journals and weeklies (Beszélő, Café Babel, Élet és Irodalom, Jelenkor, Korunk).
- Sonnevend, J., & Bartmansk, D. (Trans.). (2012). Boehm, G. Representation, presentation, presence: Tracing the Homo Pictor; Belting, H. Body and image. In J. C. Alexander, D. Bartmansk & B. Giesen (Eds.), *Iconic power: Materiality and meaning in social life* (pp. 15–25; 187–203). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Schudson, M., & Sonnevend, J. (2011). The climate for science reporting. *Columbia Journalism Review* (July/August): 63.
- (2011). How to Dow. *CJR* (May/June): 63.
- (2011). The public screen. *CJR* (March/April): 63.
- (2011). Any questions? Sociolinguists study the changes in presidential press conferences over decades. *CJR* (January/February): 63.
- (2010). In ACORN's shadow. *CJR* (November/December): 63.
- (2010). Snapshots of war: Wikileaks isn't the first site to publish controversial material from a war zone. *CJR* (September/October): 63.
- (2010). A Philadelphia story: A study in the city of brotherly love suggests what's been lost and what can be gained. *CJR* (July/August): 63.
- (2010). French connections: What do different press styles have to do with distinct political cultures? *CJR* (May/June): 63.
- (2010). True to form: Online journalism, like print journalism, can be a variety of things. *CJR* (March/April): 63.

- (2010). Beyond transparency. *CJR* (January/February): 63.
- (2009). Mourning becomes electric. *CJR* (November/December): 71.
- (2009). Opening minds: Can the media persuade audiences to embrace a fresh outlook? *CJR* (September/October): 63.

Book Chapters

- Sonnevend, J. & Steiert, O. (2022). "Seeing a Crisis Through Media: Narrating the Coronavirus Pandemic." In J. Witte, S. Pickard, & M. Welker (Eds.), *The Impact of the Media on Character Formation, Ethical Education, and the Communication of Values in Late Modern Pluralistic Societies* (pp. 137–150). Evangelische Verlagsanstalt: University of Heidelberg.
- Sonnevend, J. (2020). "The East in You Never Leaves." In Laczó, F. & Gabrijelčič, L.L. (Eds.) *The Legacy of Division: East and West After 1989*. Budapest: CEU Press. [also published on Eurozine and Public Seminar, and translated into Slovene]
- Sonnevend, J. (2018). "Facts (Almost) Never Win Over Myths." In Boczkowski, P. & Papacharissi, Z. (Eds.) *Trump and the Media* (pp. 87–93). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Sonnevend, J. (2016). "Event." In Peters, B. (Ed.), *Digital Keywords: A Vocabulary of Information Society and Culture* (pp. 109–118). Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.
- Sonnevend, J. (2016). "More hope! Ceremonial media events are still important in the 21st century." In Fox, A. (Ed.), *Global Perspectives on Media Events in Contemporary Society* (pp. 132–141). Hershey, PA: IGI Global.
- Balkin, J. M., & Sonnevend, J. (2016). "The digital transformation of education." In Greenhow, C., Sonnevend J., & Agur, C. (Eds.), *Education and Social Media: Toward a Digital Future* (pp. 9–25). Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Sonnevend, J. (2013). "Iconoclasm, or how to become 'friends of interpretable objects?' Read Bruno Latour!" In J. Elkins, K. McGuire, M. Burns, A. Chester, & J. Kuennen (Eds.), *Theorizing Visual Studies: Writing Through the Discipline* (pp. 131–133). New York, London: Routledge.
- Sonnevend, J. (2012). "Iconic rituals: Towards a social theory of encountering images." In J. C. Alexander, D. Bartmanski & B. Giesen (Eds.), *Iconic power: Materiality and meaning in social life* (pp. 219–233). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Special Issues in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Sonnevend, J. (2018). "Media Events Today." *Media, Culture & Society*, 40(1), 110–113.
- Bodker, H., & Sonnevend, J. (2018). "The Shifting Temporalities of Journalism." *Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism*, 19(1), 3–6.

KEYNOTES AND INVITED TALKS

2026

- "Orban's Defeat and the Future of the Global Far Right." The Rifkind Center for the Humanities and Arts at City College of New York, September 28, 2026.
- "Charm, Politics and Media in Contemporary Hungary." The Joseph and Violet Magyar Lecture in Hungarian Studies, Baker-Nord Institute for the Humanities, Case Western Reserve University, September 23, 2026.
- "Courage: How Not to Be a Coward?" Sociology of Culture Workshop (workshop discussion), NYU, April 23, 2026.

"Can Orbán Be Defeated? The 2026 Hungarian Elections and What's at Stake." Center for European and Mediterranean Studies, NYU, March 12, 2026.

2025

"Comparative authoritarianism." Institute for Public Knowledge, NYU, April 3, 2025.

"Charm: How Magnetic Personalities Shape Global Politics." Keynote, International Communication Association Pre-Conference, Denver, June 10; New York University, March 6, 2025; Amsterdam Leadership Lab, February 24, 2025.

2024

"Charm: How Magnetic Personalities Shape Global Politics." University of Pennsylvania, December 6; University of Loughborough, November 20; University of Helsinki, November 18; City University of Hong Kong, Department of Media and Communication, November 7; Rutgers University, November 6; The New School, in conversation with Natalia Mehlman Petrzela, October 28; Yale Law School, Information Society Project, October 17; Ideas of Power Festival, New York, October 6; NYU Institute for Public Knowledge, September 23; Interintellect [online], September 10, 2024.

2023

"Political Leadership in the 21st Century: Populism, Authoritarianism, Dictatorship." Budapest Forum, September 19, 2023.

2022

"Charm: The Power of Personality in Global Politics." Information Society Project, Yale Law School, New Haven, October 1, 2022.

"Charm: The Power of Personality in Global Politics." McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies, University of Massachusetts, Boston, April 22, 2022.

2021

"How Can Knowledge Production Contribute to Re-Democratization?" Democracy Institute, Central European University, October 7, 2021.

2020

"Charm: How Magnetic Personalities Capture Our Hearts, Minds, and Politics." University of Leeds, November 11, 2020.

2019

"Charm: How Magnetic Personalities Capture Our Hearts, Minds, and Politics." Colloquium of the Department of Communication, University of Haifa, December 31, 2019.

"The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Making (and Unmaking?) of a Global Iconic Event." Keynote at the Communicating conference, University of Haifa, December 29, 2019.

"Charm: How Magnetic Personalities Capture Our Hearts, Minds, and Politics." Sociology Department (SWAMP Workshop), University of Virginia, Charlottesville, April 19, 2019.

"Charm: How Magnetic Personalities Capture Our Hearts, Minds, and Politics." Sociology of Culture Workshop, New York University, April 11, 2019.

2018

"The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Making (and Unmaking?) of a Global Iconic Event." City University of Hong Kong, November 23, 2018.

"The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Making (and Unmaking?) of a Global Iconic Event." NYU Media, Culture & Communication Program Departmental Colloquium, New York, April 25, 2018.

"Facts (Almost) Never Win Over Myths." NYU Institute for Public Knowledge (Trump & the Media book event), New York, April 18, 2018.

"The Contested Memorials of the Berlin Wall." The New School for Social Research ("Memory Rebound" conference), New York, April 14, 2018.

"Charm: The Power of Personal Magnetism." Yale Center for Cultural Sociology, New Haven, April 13, 2018.

2016

"The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Making of a Global Iconic Event." Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, November 30, 2016.

"Stories Without Borders: The Making of a Global Iconic Event." Central European University, Budapest, November 16, 2016.

"Stories Without Borders: The Making of a Global Iconic Event." Loughborough University (United Kingdom), September 16, 2016.

"Stories Without Borders: The Making of a Global Iconic Event." Fudan University, Shanghai, June 6, 2016.

"Monroe E. Price & The Center for Global Communication Studies: Celebrating the Founding Decade and Director." Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, April 26, 2016.

"Internationalizing Communication Studies: The Case of Hungary." Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design, Budapest, Hungary, April 23, 2016.

"Stories Without Borders: The Berlin Wall and the Making of a Global Iconic Event." Stanford University, Palo Alto, January 14, 2016.

2015

"The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Making of a Global Iconic Event." Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam, Germany, July 16, 2015.

2014

"Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Making of a Global Iconic Event." Sofia Dialogues Forum, Bulgaria, December 6, 2014.

"Berlin Wall: The Making of a Global Icon." Getty Museum, Los Angeles, November 15, 2014.

"Stories Without Borders: The Fall of a Wall." Tel Aviv University, May 13, 2014.

"Symbol of Hope: How the Fall of the Berlin Wall Became a Global Myth." Harriman Institute, Columbia University, May 2, 2014.

"Stories Without Borders: Did the Wall Really Fall?" Hebrew University of Jerusalem, April 29, 2014.

"Stories Without Borders: Did the Wall Really Fall?" Emek Israel College, April 1, 2014.

"Stories Without Borders: Global Iconic Events and Transnational Media." University of Haifa, March 4, 2014.

2012

"Icons of Revolution." Media Sociology Forum, Columbia University, New York, March 2, 2012.

2011

"Images We Do Not Remember." Communication & Culture: Transitive Explorations, Yale Center for Cultural Sociology, New Haven, April 30, 2011.

2010

"Communications as a Discipline: Multiple Intellectual and Institutional Histories of an Anxious and Lonely Field." History and Theory of Media Workshop, Yale University, New Haven, October 27, 2010.

"The Contested Images of the Hungarian Political Transition in Networked Public Spheres." The Etiology and Ecology of Post-Soviet Communication Conference, Harriman Institute, New York, May 8, 2010.

"Images We Do Not Remember." Limits of Memory Conference, New School for Social Research, New York, March 4, 2010.

2009

"The Peculiar Lives of Newspaper Photographs." Cultural Sociology at the Crossroads Conference, Yale Center for Cultural Sociology, New Haven, May 8, 2009.

2008

"Pictorial Revolution: Towards an Iconology for Digital Photos." Information Society Project Speaker Series, Yale Law School, New Haven, February 12, 2008.

2007

"MyLegalVisualMemory: The Visual Memory of Law in the Convergence Era." Harvard–MIT–Yale Cyberscholar Workshop, Berkman Center for Internet and Society at Harvard, April 18, 2007.

2005

"Comparative Transformations in Media Regulations: UK–Hungary." Oxford Media Summer Symposium, Oxford, July 17, 2005.

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025

"Illiberal Charm: The Power of Personality in Hybrid Regimes." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Denver, June 12, 2025. [presenter]

2023

"The Legacy of Media Events." The Legacies of Elihu Katz pre-conference. International Communication Association Annual Conference, Toronto, Canada, May 24, 2023. [presenter]

"Searching for Authenticity in Journalism Studies: How Power, Privilege, Place, and Survival Can Inform Research." International Communication Association Annual Conference, May 26, 2023. [panel participant]

2022

"Illiberal Charm: The Construction of Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's Charismatic Authority on Facebook." Global Fusion Conference, Philadelphia, October 16, 2022. [presenter]

"The Politics of Caring: Jacinda Ardern's Performances of Authenticity on Facebook." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Paris, May 27, 2022. [presenter]

"Authenticity Without Charm: Angela Merkel's Self-Representation on Instagram." International Communication Association Annual Conference, May 27, 2022. [presenter with PhD student Olivia Steiert]

"Beyond Disinformation Studies: Let's embrace non-rationality!" International Communication Association Annual Conference, May 25, 2022. [pre-conference presentation]

2021

"Visualizing the 2020 Coronavirus Pandemic." International Communication Association Annual Conference, virtual, May 2021. [panel co-organizer with Youngrim Kim]

"The 2020 Pandemic as a Representational Crisis." International Communication Association Annual Conference, virtual, May 2021. [presenter]

"Charm: How Personal Magnetism Can Bring Down Walls and Lead to Peace." International Communication Association Annual Conference, virtual, May 2021. [presenter]

2020

"Charm Offensive: Performance and Power in International Politics." Social Science History Association, November 19–22, 2020. [presenter] (conference canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic)

2019

"An Unlikely Seducer: Kim Jong-un's Charm Offensive from the PyeongChang Winter Olympics until the Trump-Kim Summit." American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Media Sociology Pre-Conference, New York, August 9, 2019. [presenter]

"Our New Walls: The Discourse of Separation Barriers in a Globalizing World." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., May 28, 2019. [presenter]

"Rethinking East and West Thirty Years after the Fall of the Berlin Wall." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., May 26, 2019. [roundtable organizer and presenter]

"An Unlikely Seducer: Kim Jong-un's Charm Offensive from the PyeongChang Winter Olympics until the Trump-Kim Summit." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Washington, D.C., May 25, 2019. [panel organizer and presenter]

2018

"Capturing Hearts: Charm, Personal Magnetism and the Iranian Nuclear Deal in the American and Israeli Press." American Sociological Association, Media Sociology Pre-Conference, Philadelphia, August 10, 2018. [presenter]

"Charm Offensive: The Power of Personal Magnetism in Foreign Affairs." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Prague, May 27, 2018. [panel organizer and presenter]

"Capturing Hearts: Charm, Personal Magnetism and the Iranian Nuclear Deal in the American and Israeli Press." (with PhD advisee Yuval Katz.) International Communication Association Annual Conference, Prague, May 25, 2018. [presenter]

2017

"The Future of History and Memory Research in Communication Studies." International Communication Association Annual Conference, San Diego, May 29, 2017. [roundtable participant]

2016

"The Fall of the Berlin Wall: The Making of a Cold War Icon." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Fukuoka (Japan), June 12, 2016. [presenter]

"'Colossal Misunderstanding': The Transnational Media Narration of the Fall of the Berlin Wall." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Fukuoka, June 9, 2016. [presenter]

"The Berlin Twitter Wall: The Promotional Culture of Global Iconic Events." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Fukuoka, June 8, 2016. [presenter in pre-conference]

2015

"Interruptions of Time: On the Concept of 'Event' in Media Research." International Communication Association Annual Conference, San Juan, May 25, 2015. [presenter]

"Falling Walls: How the Iconic Imagery of the Berlin Wall Travels in Contemporary Global Contexts." International Communication Association Annual Conference, San Juan, May 22, 2015. [presenter]

2014

"The Making of a Global Iconic Event: History, Memory and Transnational Storytelling." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Seattle, May 22, 2014. [presenter in pre-conference]

2013

"The Hybrid Schoolhouse: When Digital and Traditional Education Meet." (with Jack M. Balkin.) International Communication Association Annual Conference, London, May 20, 2013. [presenter]

2012

"Counterrevolutionary Icons. The Representation of the 1956 'Counterrevolution' in the Hungarian Communist Press." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, May 27, 2012. [presenter]

2011

"The Power of Iconic Photographs: Do They Really Have That Much?" Social Science History Association, Boston, November 18, 2011. [presenter]

"Iconic Rituals: Toward a Social Theory of Encountering Images." International Communication Association Annual Conference, Boston, May 29, 2011. [presenter]

2009

"The Social Responsibility Paradigm: Hungarian Television Criticism Twenty Years after the Political Changes." Beyond East and West Conference, Central European University, Budapest, June 26, 2009. [presenter]

2007

(with Katherine McDaniel) "Distance Education and Intellectual Property: Legal Obstacles to Capacity Building." Digital Learning Asia, Putrajaya (Malaysia), February 2007. [presenter]

2006

"The Hungarian Media in a Globalizing Media Sphere." Inclusion/Exclusion: 7th International Postgraduate Conference, London, February 2006. [presenter]

2005

"Strafprozesse in elektronischen und digitalen Medien oder wie Recht und Ästhetik zueinander finden." Symposium Berlin (Humboldt Universität)–Budapest (Law School, ELTE University), Budapest, August 2005. [presenter]

HONORS, AWARDS & VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

2025–2026 Visiting Professorship, The Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania (Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication)

2024–2025 "Charm" named to The New Yorker's "Best Books We've Read in 2024" list
Nominated for Carnegie Fellowship by New School President
Nominated by students for University-wide Distinguished Teaching Award (2023–2024)
Nominated for the Spark Award at The New School (2025)

2021–2022 Democracy Institute Fellow, Central European University, Budapest

2020 Nominated for University-wide Distinguished Teaching Award due to excellence in online teaching

2015 Leibniz Fellowship, Centre for Contemporary History, Potsdam

2013–2014 Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellowship, Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Associate Postdoctoral Fellowship, Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Jerusalem
Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Leonard Davis Institute for International Relations (declined)

2011–2013 PepsiCo Junior Fellowship, Harriman Institute, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University, 2011–2012; 2012–2013

2011 Milton Wolf Essay Competition Winner (awarded by the Center for Global Communication Studies at the Annenberg School for Communication at the University of Pennsylvania and the Diplomatic Academy Vienna)

2010 Harriman Institute Research Grant, Columbia University

2009–2011 Ernő Kállai Research Grant, Hungarian Ministry of Culture and Education

2007– Resident Microsoft Fellow, Information Society Project, Yale Law School
2008
2001 Erasmus Fellowship, Humboldt University, Berlin

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate

Seminars

"Propaganda," Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, Spring 2025.

"Visual Media & Society," Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, Spring 2024, 2023, 2019 & 2018.

"Charisma and Authenticity in Global Politics," Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2022.

"Iconic Events in International Media" (First-Year Seminar, Lang core course), Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, Fall 2024, 2023 & 2018.

"Contemporary Social Theory" (Lang core course), Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts, Spring 2021 & 2020.

"Global Iconic Events," University of Michigan, Fall 2016, 2015 & 2014 (two sections).

"Global Visual Cultures," University of Michigan, Fall 2016, Winter 2016 & 2015 (two sections), Fall 2013.

"Media Events in a Globalizing World," University of Michigan, Fall 2013 (two sections).

"Icons and Contemporary Societies," Freie Universität Berlin, Spring 2012.

Lectures

"Media and Globalization," University of Michigan, Winter 2016.

Graduate

Seminars

"Propaganda," The New School for Social Research, Spring 2025, Fall 2026

"Current Trends in Media Research," The New School for Social Research, Fall 2024, 2023, 2020 & 2019.

"Social Trauma," The New School for Social Research, Spring 2024 & 2023.

"Charisma and Authenticity in Global Politics," The New School for Social Research, Fall 2022.

"Cultural Sociology," The New School for Social Research, Spring 2021.

"Contemporary Sociological Theory" (core course), The New School for Social Research, Spring 2020.

"Charm, Charisma and Personal Magnetism," The New School for Social Research, Spring 2019.

"Independent Study on Media Sociology," The New School for Social Research, Spring 2019.

"Great Books in Media Research," The New School for Social Research, Fall 2018; University of Michigan, Fall 2015.

"Media and Micro-Politics," The New School for Social Research, co-taught with Jeffrey C. Goldfarb, Spring 2018.

"First-Year Project Seminar," University of Michigan, Fall 2016.

Teaching Assistant, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, to Nicholas Lemann, "Art of the Interview," Winter 2011.

Teaching Assistant, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, to Nicholas Lemann, "Evidence and Inference," Fall 2010.

Teaching Assistant, Columbia Graduate School of Journalism, to Stuart Karle, "Media Law," Fall 2009.

ADVISING

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor

Bizaa Ali, New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "Coke Studio in Pakistan: A case study in the vernacularization of the global commodity." [dissertation defense: June 11, 2026]

Adam Koehler Brown, New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "Theorizing Insurrection: American Political Culture on January 6th, 2021." [field statement defense: March 3, 2026; dissertation proposal defense: May 4, 2026]

Narges Zahedipoor, The New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "Toward Secular Experience: Women in Iran and the Critique of the Post-Revolutionary Form of Life." [field statement defense: May 29, 2026]

Xavier Moysen Alvarez, New School for Social Research (Sociology). [dissertation topic in development]

Youngrim Kim, University of Michigan (Communication and Media). Dissertation: "For the health of a nation: Disease technology, data publics, and coded injustice in postcolonial South Korea." [until 2017 lead advisor], dissertation defense: July 8, 2022. Placement: Rutgers University, tenure-track professor.

Yuval Katz, University of Michigan (Communication and Media). Dissertation: "(Re)imagining peace: Conceptualizing an everyday meaning of peace through media in Israel/Palestine." [until 2017 lead advisor], dissertation defense: June 30, 2022. Placement: Loughborough University (UK), tenure-track professor.

Dissertation Committee Member

Taebum Yoo, New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "From retaliatory to reconciliatory commemorative landscapes: Rearticulating deservingness, redistributing victimhood, and recognizing contrivance." Dissertation defense: January 30, 2026.

Olivia Steiert, New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "What does 1.5°C mean? Imagining futures in climate change." [dissertation proposal defended; planned defense Summer 2026]

Syed Ahad Ali, New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "Sunshine in the black box of artificial intelligence: Mapping expertise in the construction of a large language model." [dissertation proposal defended]

Feng Chen, New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "Performing race, remaking identity on social media: Chinese visual artists in New York." [dissertation proposal defended; planned defense Fall 2026]

Ronna Brier, The New School for Social Research (Psychology). Dissertation: "Memory and Reception of the Sandy Hook Tragedy." (planned defense Fall 2026)

Kelsey Hanson, Temple University (Communications). Dissertation: "Memoryscaping: Remembering conflict and constructing memory on guided walks through Belfast." Dissertation defense: March 10, 2026.

Adelina Yankova, Columbia University (Communications). Dissertation: "The Unofficial Journalism Department: Examining the student newsroom as a training ground for future journalists." Dissertation defense: May 1, 2026.

Jessie Dong, Yale University (Sociology). Dissertation: "Toward a cultural sociology of cinema: Bridging the 'cinematic gap' between social reality and cinema." [planned defense Summer 2026]

Malkhaz Toria, New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "The collapse of empire, memory politics and decisive events: The genealogy of the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict." [member of dissertation proposal committee; proposal defended]

Vanessa Bittner, Yale University (Sociology). Dissertation: "Catalysts of polarization: Controversial icons as proxy battlegrounds of opposing audiences." Defense: October 2023.

Xenia Farkas, Corvinus University of Budapest (Communication). Dissertation: "Visual politics: Visual political communication on social media." Defense: October 24, 2022.

Alissa Boguslaw, New School for Social Research (Sociology). Dissertation: "Almost sovereign: Independence and indeterminacy in the new Republic of Kosovo." Defense: May 17, 2019.

Benjamin Pearson, University of Michigan (Communication Studies). Dissertation: "Developing global media policy: E.U. aid to audiovisual industries in the Global South and the case of ACPCultures+." Defense: January 6, 2019.

Charles Berret, Columbia University (Communications). Dissertation: "The cryptographic sublime: Culture, computation and the shifting politics of codes and ciphers." Defense: August 24, 2018.

MA Advisor

Regularly advising MA students in Sociology at the New School for Social Research, January 2018–April 2026.

AFFILIATIONS

2013–present Faculty Fellow, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University
Faculty Fellow, Information Society Project, Yale Law School

2008–present Non-resident Fellow, Center for Media, Data & Society, CEU

2018–2020 Senior Editor, Public Seminar

2016–2017 Faculty Associate, Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, University of Michigan
Affiliated Faculty, Minor in Digital Studies, University of Michigan

2013–2017 Faculty Associate, University of Michigan, Center for European Studies

2009–2013 Student Fellow, Center on Organizational Innovation, Columbia University

2008– Junior Fellow, Harriman Institute, Columbia University

2013 Visiting Fellow, Information Society Project, Yale Law School

SELECTED ORGANIZATIONAL SERVICE

Professional Associations and Journals

Co-Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Communication*, September 2026 [full editorial responsibility: January 2027]–2031.

Book forum editor (with Jefferson Pooley), *Journal of Communication*, November 2024 – September 2026.

Organizer of the American Sociological Association's (ASA) regular sessions on "Popular Culture and Media," August 2025 (Chicago).

Organizer of the "Legacies of Elihu Katz" pre-conference, International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Meeting, 2023.

Member of the Book Award Committee, Global Media and Social Change Division, ICA, 2022.

Member of the Mary Douglas Book Award Committee, Sociology of Culture section, ASA, 2021.

Organizer, "Global Perspectives on Populism and the Media," ICA pre-conference at Central European University in Budapest, May 22–23, 2018 [120 participants from 35 countries].

Secretary and International Liaison, Philosophy, Theory and Critique Division of the ICA, 2014–2018.

University Service

Co-Director, Center for the American Experience at The New School, February 2026–.

Member of President Joel Towers' (The New School) summer working group on reimagining the university's future (communication subgroup), Summer 2025.

Acting Director of Graduate Studies, Sociology, Spring 2025.

NSSR Representative of the University Faculty Senate, 2024–2025.

Chair of the Full-time Faculty Affairs Committee of the University Faculty Senate, 2024-2025.

University Faculty Senate Representative in the Equity, Inclusion and Social Justice (EISJ) Committee, Spring 2025.

University Faculty Senate Representative in the Financial Transparency Council, 2024–2025.

University Faculty Senate Representative in the Faculty Affairs Committee and Co-Chair of the Working Group on Faculty Leave in the Provost's Office, Spring 2025.

Lang Executive Committee (advising council of undergraduate Lang College Dean Cox), 2024–2025.

Member of University-wide Faculty Committee tasked with planning a "Center for Pluralism" at The New School, 2024–2025.

Co-organizer of Mellon Foundation's Sawyer Seminar Proposal "Bridging Campus Communities Through Activism and The Public Humanities" (with Renee T. White, Gabrielle Williams, Wilson Valentin Escobar, Ben Barry); principal investigator: Pantea Farvid; total amount requested \$300,000; submitted November 2024.

Chair of graduate (MA and PhD) admissions in Sociology, New School for Social Research, 2024–2025.

Co-Chair of graduate (MA and PhD) admissions in Sociology, New School for Social Research, 2023–2024.

First-year seminar faculty (core Lang sociology course), Fall 2024, 2023 & 2018.

Member of the Dean's Committee dedicated to developing new MA programs and minors at the New School for Social Research, Fall 2023.

Committee Member for Dean Search, The New School for Social Research, 2023.

Director of Undergraduate Studies: advisor of all sociology majors and BA/MA students 2019–2021 (including planning sociology departmental curriculum when department was in academic receivership).

Committee Member for the Vice Provost for Student Success and Engagement Search, The New School, 2021 (this appointment involved anti-bias training).

Lang Executive Committee (advising council of Dean Cox), 2020–2021.

Lang Academic Excellence Committee, 2020–2021.

Graduate Admissions Committee Member in Sociology NSSR, 2019–2020.

Member of the Organizing Committee for "Media Sociology Forum," Columbia University, March 2, 2012.

Co-organizer, Yale Lead, of "Harvard (Berkman Center for Internet and Society)–MIT (Comparative Media Studies Program)–Yale (Information Society Project) CyberScholar Workshop," 2007–2008.

Lead Conference Organizer, "The Digital Education and Information Policy Initiative: Towards the Development of Exceptions to and Limitations on Copyright in the Realm of Digital Education," Internet Governance Forum, Rio de Janeiro, November 13, 2007.

Conference Co-organizer, "Access to Knowledge II. Conference," Yale Law School, April 28, 2007.

PEER REVIEW SERVICE

Publishers	University of Chicago Press, Cambridge University Press, Palgrave Macmillan, Rowman & Littlefield, Polity Press, Sage, MIT Press
Journals	Journal of Communication; Communication Theory; Political Communication; New Media & Society; International Journal of Press/Politics; Time & Society; Media, Culture & Society; Poetics; Cultural Sociology; Sociological Theory; International Journal of Communication; Communication, Culture & Critique; Journalism: Theory, Practice and Criticism; Journalism Studies; Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly; Memory Studies; European Journal of Cultural Studies; Digital Journalism; Ethnic and Racial Studies; Intersections: East European Journal of Society and Politics; Television & New Media; Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media; British Journal of Sociology; Journal of Sociology; Nordic Journal of Media Studies; Emotions & Society; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; Sociologica; Social Media & Society; Leadership

LANGUAGES

Hungarian, English, German