

**BENJAMIN J. SHESTAKOVSKY**  
CURRICULUM VITAE  
MARCH 2019

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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

2018-Present      Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania

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**EDUCATION**

2018      Ph.D., Sociology, University of California, Berkeley  
2014      M.A., Sociology, University of California, Berkeley  
2005      B.A., Wesleyan University, Sociology and American Studies  
            High Honors

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**RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Sociology of Work                      Organizations and Entrepreneurship  
Economic Sociology                    Sociology of Elites  
Qualitative Research Methods      Algorithmic Society  
Technology and Society                Sociological Theory

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**PUBLICATIONS**

**Refereed Journal Articles**

- B. Shestakovsky.** 2017. "Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work." *Work and Occupations* 44(4):376-423.
- (*Equal authorship*) C. Herring, M. Rosaldo, J. Seim, **B. Shestakovsky.** 2016. "Living Theory: Principles and Practices for Teaching Social Theory Ethnographically." *Teaching Sociology* 44(3): 188-199.
- C. Sarno, **B. Shestakovsky,** H. Shoemaker, R. Aponte. 2015. "Rationalizing Judgment

Day: A Content Analysis of Harold Camping's Open Forum Program." *Sociology of Religion* 76(2): 199-221.

- B. Shestakofsky.** 2015. "More Machinery, Less Labor? Jobs and Technological Change in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 59: 86-90.  
Previous version published on *Platypus*, the website of the American Anthropological Association's Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology & Computing

### **Book Manuscript in Progress**

*Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work*

### **Article Manuscripts in Progress**

"Navigating Change: How Venture Capital Structures Experiences of Startup Work."

"Making Platforms Work: Conceptualizing Platform Labor and the Management of Publics (with Shreeharsh Kelkar)

"High-Tech and High-Touch: The Labor Behind the Screens of an Online Market."

### **Book Review**

- B. Shestakofsky.** 2017. Review of *The Disrupted Workplace* by Benjamin H. Snyder (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016). *British Journal of Sociology* 68(4):793-795.

### **Policy Brief and Public Commentary**

- B. Shestakofsky.** 2018. "Automation and the Future of Work: A View From Inside a Tech Startup." [\*Work in Progress\*](#).

- B. Shestakofsky.** 2017. "How Software Automation Changes Work—And Creates New Workforce Challenges—In The Digital Age." [\*Scholars Strategy Network\*](#).

### **Other Publications**

- B. Shestakofsky.** 2018. "Ethnography and Theory." Invited Essay, [\*Perspectives: Newsletter of the ASA Theory Section\*](#) 40(1):21-24.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

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- 2016 James D. Thompson Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, American Sociological Association, Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work

- Early Career Workshop Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
- 2005 Herbert H. Hyman Prize for Outstanding Senior Thesis in Sociology, Wesleyan University
- 2005 M.G. White Prize for Outstanding Senior Thesis in American Studies, Wesleyan University
- 2004 Phi Beta Kappa (Fall Election), Wesleyan University

## **GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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- 2018 University of Chicago Ethnography Incubator
- 2017-2018 Dissertation Fellowship, UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment
- Graduate Fellow, Scholars Strategy Network
- 2017 Research Grant, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy
- Lowenthal Fellowship, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology
- Problem-solving Sociology “Ideas Incubator”: Responding to an Automated World, Buffett Institute and Northwestern University
- Summer Research Grant, UC Berkeley Graduate Division
- Conference Travel Grant, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology
- Travel Award, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly
- 2016-2017 Graduate Fellow, Scholars Strategy Network
- Doctoral Completion Fellowship, UC Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2016 June Nash Travel Award, American Anthropological Association, Section for the Anthropology of Work
- 2015-2016 Berkeley Connect Fellowship, UC Berkeley
- 2014 Travel Award, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly

- 2013 Research Grant, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology
- 2012 Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowships Program, National Science Foundation
- Research Grant, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology
- Conference Travel Grant, Work and Family Researchers' Network
- 2011-2012 Robert and Sue O'Donnell Fellowship, UC Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2010-2011 A. Richard Diebold, Jr. Fellowship, UC Berkeley Graduate Division
- 2004 Dana Foundation Summer Experience Grant

### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2019 "The Future of Work and the Future of Organizations." (Keynote Plenary Panel) ACM Collective Intelligence. Carnegie Mellon University. Pittsburgh, PA. June 13.
- "Making Markets Work: The Practical Realities of Designing and Operating a Digital Marketplace." Institute for New Economic Thinking, University of Southern California. Los Angeles, CA. February 23.
- "Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work." New York University, Stern School of Business. New York, NY. January 10.
- 2018 "Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work." (Keynote) Humanising AI. KTH Royal Institute of Technology and Stockholm University. Stockholm, Sweden. May 31.
- 2016 "Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work." American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN. November 19.
- 2014 "The Labor of Brokerage: Making Introductions in an Online Marketplace." Stanford University, Work, Technology, and Organization Colloquium. Stanford, CA. October 27.
- 2005 "'If Only President Bush Would Issue the Call': American Political Culture and Cultural Politics After 9/11." Wesleyan University. Middletown, CT. May 21.

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2019 “Navigating Change: How Venture Capital Structures Experiences of Startup Work.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. New York, NY. June 28.
- “Making Platforms Work: Conceptualizing Platform Labor and the Management of Publics.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. New York, NY. June 28.
- 2018 “Navigating Change: How Venture Capital Structures Experiences of Startup Work.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting. San Jose, CA. November 15.
- “Feeling Change: Inequality in the Permanently Beta Organization.” American Sociological Association, Annual Conference. Philadelphia, PA. August 12.
- 2017 “Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work.” American Association of Geographers, Annual Meeting. Boston, MA. April 8.
- 2016 “Working Algorithms: The Global Dynamics of Labor Displacement” (Revised Version). ASA Section on Economic Sociology Mini-conference on The New Economy. Seattle, WA. August 19.
- “Working Algorithms: The Global Dynamics of Labor Displacement.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Annual Conference. Berkeley, CA. June 25.
- 2015 “High-Tech and High-Touch: The Labor Behind the Screens of an Online Market.” Marie Jahoda Summer School of Sociology: The Global Digital Workplace. University of Vienna, Austria. July 9.
- “The Labor of Brokerage: Making Introductions in an Online Marketplace.” Stanford-Berkeley Organizational Behavior Conference. Berkeley, CA. January 23.
- 2014 “The Labor of Markets: Inventing, Reproducing, and Transforming an Online Marketplace.” (Revised Version) American Sociological Association, Annual Conference. San Francisco, CA. August 19.
- “The Labor of Markets: Inventing, Reproducing, and Transforming an Online Marketplace.” International Sociological Association, World Congress of Sociology. Yokohama, Japan. July 18.
- 2012 “Innovations in Outsourcing: Labor Markets and Culture at a Transnational Internet Startup Firm.” Social Science History Association, Annual Meeting. Vancouver, BC. November 3.

“‘You’ve Got to Find What You Love’: The Meaning of Work For America’s Young Elite in the 1950s and 2000s.” American Sociological Association, Annual Conference. Denver, CO. August 19.

“The Startup Generation: Young Professionals, Work, and Social Life in an Internet Firm.” Work and Family Researchers Network, Inaugural Conference. New York, NY. June 14.

## **CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2019 “Jobs of the Future and the Future of Jobs.” College House. University of Pennsylvania. Philadelphia, PA. January 30.
- 2015 “Digital Labor in an Online Marketplace.” Work and Politics in the Digital Era. UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix. Berkeley, CA. October 5.
- 2014 “Sociology Careers.” Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honors Society. Berkeley, CA. April 26.

## **GUEST LECTURES**

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- 2019 “Algorithms and Automation.” University of Pennsylvania, COMM 432, “Digital Inequality.” Philadelphia, PA. April 8.
- 2017 “Software Automation and the Future of Work.” UC Berkeley, ISF 100J, “The Social Life of Computing.” Berkeley, CA. October 26.
- 2013 “Conducting Participant-Observation Research.” Mills College, SOC 91, “Methods of Social Research.” Oakland, CA. April 18.
- 2006 “Public Culture, September 11th, and the War in Iraq.” Wesleyan University, SOC 272, “The War in Iraq.” Middletown, CT. December 7.

## **TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

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**Instructor**, University of Pennsylvania

Work, Technology, and Society (Fall 2018, Spring 2019)

**Instructor**, University of California, Berkeley

Work, Technology, and Society (Spring 2018)

Qualitative Research Methods (Summer 2016)

**Graduate Student Instructor**, University of California, Berkeley

Economy and Society (Spring 2015, Neil Fligstein)

Sociological Theory II (Spring 2014, Michael Burawoy)

Sociological Theory I (Fall 2013, Michael Burawoy)

Experiential Learning: Organizational Context, Self-Reflection, and Professional Development  
(Summer 2011, Joel Clark)

**Graduate Mentoring Fellow**, University of California, Berkeley

2015-16                      Berkeley Connect Fellow in Sociology

**Honors Thesis Mentor**, University of California, Berkeley

2017-18                      Eric Li, Sociology, UC Berkeley. "Struggles Within: An Observation of  
Chinese Nationalism in the Film Industry."

2014-15                      Christina Knoll, Sociology, UC Berkeley. "The Self-Constitution of  
Maker Culture."

**Reader**, University of California, Berkeley

Fall 2014                      Organizations and Institutions

**Teaching Apprentice**, Wesleyan University

Spring 2005                      Sociology of Religious Movements (Jonathan Cutler)

Fall 2004                      Postcolonialism and Globalization (Jonathan Cutler)

**Writing Tutor**, Wesleyan University Writing Workshop (Spring 2002)

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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Fall 2014                      **Graduate Student Researcher**, University of California, Berkeley

## **SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

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Editorial Board

*Work and Occupations*, 2018-2021  
*Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, 2010-12

ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations and Work  
Student Representative (2017-18)  
Publications Committee, Editorial Team  
Editor, OOW Blog (2015)  
Student Affairs Committee (2014-15)

Ad-hoc Reviewer

Journals

*American Sociological Review*  
*Socio-Economic Review*  
*Work and Occupations*  
*New Media and Society*  
*Anthropology of Work Review*  
*Sociology Compass*  
*Jefferson Journal of Science and Culture*

Book Manuscripts, Chapters, and Proposals  
Oxford University Press  
Bristol University Press  
Polity Books

Departmental Service (Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania)  
Executive Committee, 2018-19  
Computing Committee, 2018-19

Dissertation Committee  
Chelsea Wahl

Comprehensive Examination Committee  
Doron Shiffer-Sebba, Economic Sociology (Chair)

## **MEDIA COVERAGE**

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- 2019      LeVine, Steve. "AI Unready." March 15. [Axios](#).
- Beane, Matt. "How Do We Learn to Work With Intelligent Machines?" [TED](#).
- 2017      Miscovich, Peter. "The Future is Automated. Here's How We Can Prepare for It." January 12. [World Economic Forum](#).
- 2016      Tett, Gillian. "How Robots Are Making Humans Indispensable." December 22. [Financial Times](#).



## INTERVIEWS AND APPEARANCES

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- 2018            “Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Humans.” [Pew Research Center](#).  
                  “Benjamin Shestakofsky on Human Work in an Automated Future.” [The Annex](#).
- 2017            “Meet Your Council.” [ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work](#).

## CAMPUS AFFILIATIONS

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- Culture, Ethnography, and Interaction Workshop, University of Pennsylvania (2018-present)
- Algorithmic Opacity and Fairness Working Group, UC Berkeley / Google (2017-18)
- Center for Culture, Organizations, and Politics, UC Berkeley (2014-18)
- Graduate Affiliate, Center for Ethnographic Research, UC Berkeley (2013-18)  
    Coordinator, Graduate Student Writing Group
- Work and Politics in the Digital Era, UC Berkeley Social Science Matrix (2015-16)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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- American Sociological Association  
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics  
American Anthropological Association  
Scholars Strategy Network  
Young Scholars Initiative, Institute for New Economic Thinking

## REFERENCES

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