

BENJAMIN J. SHESTAKOFSKY
CURRICULUM VITAE
AUGUST 2018

Department of Sociology
University of Pennsylvania
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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

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

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Sociology of Work	Sociology of Elites
Economic Sociology	Organizations and Entrepreneurship
Qualitative Research Methods	Algorithmic Society
Science, Technology, and Society	Governing the Digital Economy
Sociological Theory	

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles

- B. Shestakofsky.** 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. Shestakofsky.** 2016. "Living Theory: Principles and Practices for Teaching Social Theory Ethnographically." *Teaching Sociology* 44(3): 188-199.
- C. Sarno, **B. Shestakofsky,** 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 19th and 21st Centuries." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 59: 86-90.
Previous version published on *Platypus*, the blog of the American Anthropological Association's Committee for the Anthropology of Science, Technology & Computing

Manuscripts in Submission and Preparation

- "High-Tech and High-Touch: The Labor Behind the Screens of an Online Market."
"Navigating Change: Inequality in the Permanently Beta Organization."
"Generification and Participation: Governing Digital Platforms" (with Shreeharsh Kelkar)

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

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

- 2018 University of Chicago Ethnography Incubator Fellowship
- 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

- 2018 “Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work.” (Keynote) Humanising AI. KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Stockholm, Sweden. May 31.
- 2016 “Working Algorithms: Software Automation and the Future of Work.” American Anthropological Association, Annual Meeting. Minneapolis, MN. November 19.
- 2015 “High-Tech and High-Touch: The Labor Behind the Screens of an Online Market.” Dynamics of Virtual Work: 6th Meeting of Working Groups. Pärnu College, University of Tartu, Estonia. September 17.
- 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

- 2018 “Navigating 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

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

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

Instructor, University of Pennsylvania

Work, Technology, and Society (Fall 2018)

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

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

SERVICE TO PROFESSION

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 Manuscript

Abramson, Corey and Neil Gong, eds. (Under Contract). *Beyond the Case: The Logic and Practice of Comparative Ethnography*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Book Proposal

Bristol University Press

Departmental Service (Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania)

Executive Committee, 2018-19

Computing Committee, 2018-19

MEDIA COVERAGE

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

- 2018 “Benjamin Shestakofsky on Human Work in an Automated Future.” [The Annex](#).
- 2017 “[Meet Your Council](#).” ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work.

CAMPUS AFFILIATIONS

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

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Sociological Association
American Anthropological Association
American Association of Geographers
Scholars Strategy Network