

CURRICULUM VITAE
TIMOTHY RECUBER

Smith College
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Department of Sociology, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, 2011
- M.A. Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park, 2003
- B.A. Department of Sociology, University of Maryland, College Park, (with Honors) 2001

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2023- Smith College, Department of Sociology. Associate Professor.
- 2018-2023 Smith College, Department of Sociology. Assistant Professor.
- 2016-2018 Hamilton College, Department of Communication. Visiting Assistant Professor.
- 2011-2016 Princeton University, Princeton Writing Program. Postdoctoral Lecturer.

BOOKS

- 2023 *The Digital Departed: How We Face Death, Commemorate Life, and Chase Virtual Immortality*. New York, NY: New York University Press.
- Reviewed in *Contemporary Sociology*, *Continuum: Journal of Media and Cultural Studies*, *Internet Histories*, *Nature*, *Social Forces*, *The Social Science Journal*
- 2016 *Consuming Catastrophe: Mass Culture in America's Decade of Disaster*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press.
- Outstanding Recent Contribution Award, Sociology of Emotions Section, American Sociological Association, 2018
 - Reviewed in *Contemporary Sociology*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Journal of Communication*, *Journalism*, *Journalism and Mass Communication Educator*

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Forthcoming Emotions: COVID-19, Fear, and Emotional-Agenda Setting. In J.E. Stets, K.A. Hegvedt & L. Doan (Eds.), *Handbook of Social Psychology: Micro, Meso, and Macro Perspectives*. Springer.

- 2017 Digital Discourse Analysis: A Small Data Approach to Online Spaces. In J. Daniels, K. Gregory & T. McMillan Cottom (Eds.), *Digital Sociologies* (pp. 47-60). Bristol, UK: Policy Press.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 **Timothy Recuber** & Celeste Campos-Castillo. Making Sense of Digitally Mediated Disruptions: A Mission for the Sociology of Media and Communication Technologies. *Information, Communication & Society*, 27 (14): 2457-2462.
- 2023 Dustin Kidd, **Timothy Recuber**, Matt Atwell (and 14 others). Beyond Myopia in Communications and the Sociology of Media. *Information, Communication & Society*, 26 (5): 877-880.
- 2021 Race, Racism and Mnemonic Freedom in the Digital Afterlife. *Information, Communication & Society*, 24 (5): 684-699.
- 2016 Maria Medvedeva & **Timothy Recuber**. Developing an Original Argument: A Strategy for College Writing. *College Teaching*, 64 (3), 139-144.
- 2016 From Obedience to Contagion: Discourses of Power in Milgram, Zimbardo, and the Facebook Experiment. *Research Ethics*, 12 (1), 44-54.
- 2015 Occupy Empathy? Online Politics and Micro-narratives of Suffering. *New Media and Society*, 17 (1), 62-77.
- 2013 Disaster Porn! *Contexts*, 12 (2), 28-33.
- 2012 The Prosumption of Commemoration: Disasters, Digital Memory Banks, and Online Collective Memory. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 56 (4), 531-549.
- 2009 The Terrorist as Folk Devil and Mass Commodity: Moral Panics, Risk, and Consumer Culture. *The Journal of the Institute of Justice and International Studies*, 9, 158-170.
- 2009 Zukin, Sharon, Valerie Trujilo, Peter Frase, Danielle Jackson, **Tim Recuber**, and Abraham Walker. New Retail Capital and Neighborhood Change: Boutiques and Gentrification in New York City. *City and Community*, 8 (1), 47-64.
- 2007 Immersion Cinema: The Rationalization and Reenchantment of Cinema Space. *Space and Culture*, 10 (3), 315-330.

BOOK REVIEWS

- 2024 [Review of *To Know Is To Compare: Studying Social Media across Nations, Media, and Platforms* by M. Matassi and P. J. Boczkowski]. *Contemporary Sociology*, 53(3), 273-275.

- 2019 [Review of *Writing the 9/11 Decade: Reportage and the Evolution of the Novel* by C.L. Potter & *American Autobiography after 9/11* by M. Brown]. *American Literature* 91 (1), 221-223.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2023. COVID-19 and the Denial of Death, pts I & II. *DeathScholars*. December 7.
2022. The Political Purgatory of the COVID Dead. *Salon*. October 10.
- 2020 Market Patriotism Returns—and Asks Workers for a Blood Sacrifice. *Salon*. April 1.
- 2017 Digital Afterlives: Learning from Blogs of the Terminally Ill. *Discover Society*. January 5.
- 2016 What Becomes of Empathy? *Cyborgology*. July 20.
- 2015 Digital Memories of Katrina. *Cyborgology*. August 27.
- 2015 Infoguilt. *Cyborgology*. June 16.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 Panel: 9/11 and America at Home. *9/11: 20 Years Later. Ambassador William C. Battle Symposium on American Diplomacy. University of Virginia Miller Center. Charlottesville, VA. September 10.*
- 2019 Death and the Digital Self. *Annual Meetings of the American Anthropological Association and Canadian Anthropology Society. Vancouver, CA, November 20.*
- 2011 The Future of Higher Education. Invited panelist at *Queens College Presidential Symposium. Queens College, Flushing, NY, February 14.*
- 2009 Disciplinary Writing and Teaching. Invited panelist at *WAC Professional Development Day: Writing in the Disciplines. City College of New York, New York, NY, November 20.*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **Timothy Recuber**, Elena Roby, Regina Hu and Zoe Neil. COVID-19, News Media, and Compassion Fatigue. *Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society. Boston, MA, March 6.*
- 2023 The Reenchantment of the Digital Self and the Rationalization of the Digital Soul in News Coverage of Digital Death. *Death Futures #6. Northumbria University, Newcastle, UK. June 2.*
- 2020 Hashtag Activism and the Struggle for Mnemonic Freedom. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA, August 11*[cancelled due to COVID-19].

- 2019 How Real People Ought to Die Online. *Theorizing the Web*. New York, NY, April 12.
- 2018 “You Cannot See Me, But I Was Still There”: Terminally Ill Bloggers’ Constructions of Self. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, PA, August 11.
- 2017 The Future of Dying: Online Suicide Notes and the Posthumous Presentation of Self. *Annual Convention of the National Communication Association*. Dallas, TX. November 17.
- Top Paper Award, National Communication Association-- Communication and the Future Section
- 2017 Death, Digital Selfhood, and the Social Construction of Wisdom in Blogs of the Terminally Ill. *2017 ASA Media Sociology Preconference*. Montreal, QC, August 11.
- 2017 Blogging the End: A Discourse Analysis of Blogs of the Terminally Ill. *Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, Digital Sociology Mini-Conference*. Philadelphia, PA, February 23.
- 2015 Self-destruction as Self-preservation: Digital Suicide Notes and the Commemoration of the Self. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*. Chicago, IL, August 24.
- 2015 Maria Medvedva and **Timothy Recuber**. Teaching the Concept of Motive in Sociological Writing. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*. Chicago, IL, August 23.
- 2015 Memory Machine: The Internet and the Rise of Micro-Commemoration. *2015 ASA Media Sociology Preconference*. Chicago, IL, August 21.
- 2015 The Postman Keeps Ringing: Reconsidering the Problem of Information and Action in the Digital Age. *Theorizing the Web 2015*. New York, NY, April 18.
- 2015 Combing the Wreckage: Discourse Analysis in Forgotten Digital Spaces. *Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, Digital Sociology Mini-Conference*. New York, NY, February 27.
- 2014 Fear, Empathy, and Government Intervention: Television News Coverage of September 11th and the 2008 Financial Crisis. *2014 ASA Media Sociology Preconference*. Oakland, CA, August 15.
- 2014 Commemorating the Self: Online Suicide Notes as Cultural Artifacts. *Theorizing the Web 2014*. Brooklyn, NY, April 25.
- 2013 Occupy Empathy? Online Politics and Micro-narratives of Suffering. *Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society*. Boston, MA, March 23.

- 2009 The Consumption of Disaster: Historical Roots and Contemporary Implications. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*. San Francisco, CA, August 8.
- 2008 The Terrorist as Folk Devil and Mass Commodity. *Crime and Popular Culture*. University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO, October 29.
- 2007 The MySpaces of Tragedy: Personal Websites, Panopticism, and the Public Sphere. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*. New York, August 13.
- 2007 Sharon Zukin, Valerie Trujilo, Peter Frase, Danielle Jackson, **Tim Recuber** and Abraham Walker. Entrepreneurial Capital and the Rhetoric of Growth: Boutiques and Gentrification in New York City.. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*. New York, NY, August 12.
- 2007 Sharon Zukin, Valerie Trujilo, Peter Frase, Danielle Jackson, **Tim Recuber** and Abraham Walker. Entrepreneurial Retail Capital in the Gentrification of Harlem and Williamsburg. *Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society*. Philadelphia, PA, March 16.
- 2006 Immersion Cinema: Towards a Spatial Analysis. *Space as a Category of Analysis: New Perspectives*. Brown University, Providence, RI, April 7.
- 2002 Global Media and Post-Nationalism: From Print-Capitalist Nationalism to Post-National Simulacra. *Globalizations: Cultural, Democratic, Economic*. University of Maryland, College Park, MD, April 14.

CAMPUS TALKS

- 2022 Moderator: How Americans Lost (and Can Regain) Trust in the Press: Lessons from a Life in Journalism, by Margaret Sullivan (November 14).
- 2018 Technologies of Empathy. Invited talk at Hamilton College Humanities Council. Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, February 28.
- 2017 Media Reactions to Disasters. Invited talk at General Meeting of LaVanguardia Latinx Student Association. Hamilton College, Clinton, NY, September 14.
- 2015 Using Mass Media as Primary Sources. Invited workshop for Princeton University Writing Fellows. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 16.
- 2013 Teaching with WordPress. Invited presentation at *Lunch & Learn Information Technology Seminars*. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 10.
- 2012 Using WordPress as Courseware. Invited presentation at *The Productive Scholar*. Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, March 30.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Smith College, Assistant & Associate Professor
Introduction to Sociology

Media, Technology, and Society
 Pandemic! A Sociology of Disease, Disaster, and Death
 Qualitative Methods
 Sociology of Emotions
 Sociology of the Family

Hamilton College, Visiting Assistant Professor

Witnessing Disaster
 Digital Divisions: Race, Class, and Gender Online
 Life and Death Online
 History of Communication
 Communication and Emotion
 Journalism: History, Theory, and Practice

Princeton University, Postdoctoral Lecturer

Witnessing Disaster
 Ways of Knowing
 Life and Death Online

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2019-20 Five Colleges Crossroads in the Study of the Americas (CISA) Program Fellow
 2019-20 Kahn Liberal Arts Fellow, Smith College
 2014-16 Mathey College Faculty Fellow, Princeton University

SERVICE

2024-25 Past-Chair: Communication, Information Technology and Media Sociology section of the American Sociological Association.

2024 Organizer and Presider: Media, Technology and Emotion. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*. Montreal, CA: August 13.

2024 Organizer and Presider: Plenary—Media and Death. *CITAMS Media Sociology Symposium*, [virtual session], August 9.

2023-24 Chair: Communication, Information Technology and Media Sociology section of the American Sociological Association.

2023 Organizer and Presider: Communication, Information Technologies and Media Sociology Open Panel. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association*. Philadelphia, PA: August 20.

2022-23 Chair-Elect: Communication, Information Technology and Media Sociology section of the American Sociological Association.

2021 Nominations Committee Member: Sociology of Emotions Section of the American Sociological Association.

- 2021 Organizer and Presider: Open Paper Session on Digital Sociology. *Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association* [virtual session]. August 7.
- 2018-2020 Council Member: Communication, Information Technology and Media Sociology section of the American Sociological Association.
- 2019 External reviewer, Hamilton College Sociology Department senior thesis proposal presentations. November 17.

Article reviewer: *Information, Communication & Society*; *Journal of Communication*; *Journalism*; *Journalism and Media*; *New Media & Society*; *Research Ethics*; *Social Currents*; *Social Forces*; *Social Problems*; *Social Science Computer Review*; *Sociological Focus*; *Sociological Forum*; *Sociology Compass*; *Space and Culture*; *Water Resources Research*

Book manuscript reviewer: Bristol University Press/ Policy Press; New York University Press; Routledge; University of California Press

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2025 Interviewed in “The Digital Departed: How We Face Death, Commemorate Life, and Chase Virtual Immortality.” *Contemporary Sociology* (May) [Audio podcast].
- 2025 Interviewed in “More than 1 million Americans have died of COVID-19. Why is there no national day to remember them?” *Boston Globe*, Claire Thornton (March 1).
- 2024 Interviewed in “Happy birthday, baby! What the future holds for those born today.” *MIT Tech Review*, Kara Platoni (August 15).
- 2024 Interviewed in “When violence and trauma visit American places, a complex question follows: Demolish, or press on?” *Associated Press*, Ted Anthony, June 18.
- 2023 Interviewed in “Clicking Beyond Mortality.” *Smith Alumnae Quarterly*, Jan McCoy Ebbets, December 20.
- 2023 Interviewed in “What the Titanic submersible saga and the Greek migrant shipwreck say about our reactions to tragedy.” *Associated Press*, David Sharp and Cara Rubinsky. (June 24).
- 2022 Interviewed in “Promoting Peace Through Communication Technologies,” *Pomilio Blumm’s The Journal: Wednesday Briefing*. (Mar. 16). [Newsletter].
- 2022 Interviewed in Tiffany, K. (Mar. 3). “The Ugly, Embarrassing Spectacle of ‘Milling’ Around Online.” *The Atlantic*.
- 2020 Interviewed in Hagen, R. (Aug. 29). “Issue 24: The Sociology of Doomscrolling.” *The CovOdyssey*. [Newsletter]
- 2020 Interviewed in Green, K. (Jan 2). “Timothy Recuber on Colin Campbell.” *Give Theory a Chance*. The Society Pages. [Audio podcast]
- 2019 Interviewed in Carman, A. (June 26). “The Worst Twitter is Celebrity Death Twitter.” *Why’d You Push That Button?* The Verge. [Audio podcast]
- 2018 Interviewed in Resnick, B. (July 11). “‘Empathetic hedonism’: why we were so glued to the Thai cave drama.” *Vox*.
- 2017 Interviewed in Robertson, M. (November 30). “Destroyed by Wine Country fires, some North Bay neighborhoods have become ‘tourist’ attractions.” *SF Gate*.
- 2017 Quoted in Betancur, B. & V. Livingstone. (January 20). “America’s Great Social Media Divide.” *Fair Observer*.

2015 Quoted in Dewey, C. (April 21). "Three years after it fell apart, Kony 2012 may have finally changed the world." *Washington Post*.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Eastern Sociological Society
National Communication Association