

# Jack LaViolette

## Contact Information

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## Education

Columbia University in the City of New York

Ph.D., Sociology, 2026 (expected)  
M.Phil., Sociology, 2024  
M.A., Sociology, 2022

Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford

M.Sc. with Distinction, Social Science of the Internet, 2018

University of Pennsylvania

B.A. with Honors, Linguistics, *summa cum laude*  
Minor, French  
Phi Beta Kappa, 2016

## Fellowships

- 2021–26 INCITE Graduate Fellowship, Columbia University
- 2021–22 Mellon Sawyer Seminar Doctoral Fellowship
- 2020–25 Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellowship, Columbia University

## Refereed Publications

- 2026 Han, S., **LaViolette, J.**, Borkenhagen, C., McAllister, W., and Bearman, P. Conceptual recombination as a distinctive feature of liberal arts curriculum. Forthcoming, *The liberal arts advantage: Measuring the deeper value* (R. Arum, Ed.), University of Chicago Press.
- 2025 **LaViolette, J.** Affordances and the sensual ecology of UFO sightings. Forthcoming, *Theory & Social Inquiry*.  
• **Winner, Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper, ASA Sociology of Culture Section, 2025**
- 2024 Wimmer, A., Lee, S., and **LaViolette, J.** Domain specificity and cultural diffusion: The spread of romantic nationalism in Europe's long 19th century. *American Journal of Sociology* 130(4), 931–975.  
• **Winner, Charles Tilly Best Paper Award, ASA Comparative and Historical Sociology Section, 2025**
- 2024 \*Gonclaves, M. S. O., Langrock, I., **LaViolette, J.**, and Spoon, K. Book bans in political context: Evidence from U.S. public schools. *PNAS Nexus* 3(6), pga197.

- 2024 O’Hanlon, R., Altice, F., Lee, R., **LaViolette, J.**, Mark, G., Papakyriakopoulos, O., Saha, K., De Choudhury, M., and Kumar, N. Misogynistic extremism: A scoping review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* 25(2), 1219–1234.
- 2023 Brunila, M., **LaViolette, J.**, CH-Wang, S., Verma, P., Féré, C., and McKenzie, G. (2023). Toward a critical toponymy framework for named entity recognition: A case study of Airbnb in New York City. *Proceedings of the 2023 Conference on Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, 4676–4695.
- **Winner, Outstanding Paper in Computational Social Science, EMNLP 2023 (195 submissions, 27 accepted papers)**
- 2023 Han, S., **LaViolette, J.**, Borkenhagen, C., McAllister, W., and Bearman, P. (2023). Interdisciplinarity through knowledge recombination and its post-graduation implications. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* 120(43), e2221915120.
- 2023 \*Capotescu, C., Cohn, E., Eyal, G., **LaViolette, J.**, and Tomson, D. L. (2023). The TrustWorkers Project: Challenges and methods of building trust into public scholarship. *Public Philosophy Journal* 5(1), 1–11.
- 2022 \*Capotescu, C., Chodon, T., Chu, J., Cohn, E., Eyal, G., Goyal, R., Ige, O., **LaViolette, J.**, Mallik, S., Phillips, L. M., Spencer, P., and Tomson, D. L. (2022). Community health workers’ critical role in trust building between the medical system and communities of color. *American Journal of Managed Care* 28(10), 294–296.
- 2022 †Brunila, M., and **LaViolette, J.** (2022). What company do words keep? Revisiting the distributional semantics of J.R. Firth & Zellig Harris. *Proceedings of the 2022 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics: Human Language Technologies*, 4403–4417.
- 2021 †Brunila, M., and **LaViolette, J.** (2021). WMDecompose: A Framework for Leveraging the Interpretable Properties of Word Mover’s Distance in Sociocultural Analysis. *Proceedings of the 5<sup>th</sup> Joint SIGHUM Workshop on Computational Linguistics for Cultural Heritage, Social Sciences, Humanities and Literature*, 154–167.
- 2019 **LaViolette, J.**, and Hogan, B. Using platform signals for distinguishing discourse: The case of Men’s Rights and Men’s Liberation on Reddit. *Proceedings of the 13th International Conference on Web and Social Media*, 323–334.
- 2018 **LaViolette, J.** Empathy as industry: An undergraduate perspective on neoliberalism and community engagement at the University of Pennsylvania. In *The ‘Experience’ of Neoliberal Education*, ed. B. Urciuoli, Ch. 3. New York: Berghahn Books.

### Other works

- 2018 Koene, A., Clifton, C., Hatada, Y., Webb, H., Patel, M., Machado, C., **LaViolette, J.**, Richardson, R., and Reisman, D. (2018). A governance framework for algorithmic accountability and transparency. Report commissioned by the European Parliament Science and Technology Options Assessment Panel. Presented to the panel Oct 25, 2018.
- 2017 **LaViolette, J.** Cyber-metapragmatics and alterity on *reddit.com*. King’s College London Working Papers in Urban Language and Literacies, Tilburg University Papers in Cultural Studies.
- **Winner, Best Undergraduate Essay Prize, Society for Linguistic Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, 2016**
- 2014 Bercik, B., McGeehan, B., Hansen-Flidner, D., Holmes, H., Jadick, J., Kiderman, E., Kole, L., **LaViolette, J.**, Mainella, D., Rea, E., Schwartz, A. D., and Singh, A. (2014). *RE:CREATION MYTH*. Philadelphia: Institute of Contemporary Art.

### Working papers

Thieser, A., **LaViolette, J.**, and Eyal, G. “Our Vision is a World in which AI Evaluates AI”: AI Safety as a Space between Fields.

\*Equal/alphabetical authorship

†Joint first authorship

**LaViolette, J.**, and Brunila, M. Metalanguage, ideology, and alienation in the age of generative AI  
• *Invited to submit to a special edition of the Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*

**LaViolette, J.**, and Reed, I. A. Science fiction and social science in American undergraduate syllabi.

Hart, R. I., **LaViolette, J.**, and Bearman, P. The relationship between women on the syllabus and gendered choice of major: Evidence from American undergraduate syllabi.

**LaViolette, J.**, and Handler, R. The metapragmatics of eros and aggression in *Pride and Prejudice*.

### Conference presentations

- 2025 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA 2025: Chicago, August 8–12, 2025)  
“Schemas of personality in American literature, 1860–1900,” Section on the Sociology of Culture, main session
- 2025 17th Annual Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociology (New York, June 4–6, 2025)  
“Cultivating nostalgia in the American literary field, 1860–1900,” Discourse Analysis session
- 2024 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA 2024: Montréal, August 9–13, 2024)  
“Perception, place, and outer space: On affordances and sociological explanation,” Section on the Body and Embodiment roundtable
- 2023 Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing 2023 (EMNLP: Singapore December 6–10, 2023)  
“Toward a Critical Toponymy Framework for Named Entity Recognition: A Case Study of Airbnb in New York City” (with Mikael Brunila and Sky C.H. Wang).
- 2023 The 9th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2: Copenhagen, July 17–20, 2023)  
“Quantifying the origins and impacts of book bans in U.S. public schools, 2021–2022” (with Isabelle Langrock, Katherine Spoon, and Marcelo Silva).
- 2022 Annual Meeting of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL: Seattle, July 10–15, 2022)  
“What company do words keep? Revisiting the distributional semantics of J.R. Firth & Zellig Harris” (with Mikael Brunila).
- 2021 The 5<sup>th</sup> Joint SIGHUM Workshop on Computational Linguistics for Cultural Heritage, Social Sciences, Humanities and Literature (virtual: November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021)  
“WMDecompose: A framework for leveraging the interpretable properties of Word Mover’s Distance in sociocultural analysis” (with Mikael Brunila).
- 2019 The International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM: Munich: June 11<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup>, 2019)  
“Using platform signals for distinguishing discourse: The case of Men’s Rights and Men’s Liberation on Reddit.”

### Invited talks

- 2025 Presidential panel, 50th Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association (Chicago: November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025)  
“Schemas of personality in American literature, 1860–1900”
- 2024 Narrative Workshop, Incite Institute, Columbia University (New York: November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024)  
“Narrative, voice, and anomie in the long 19th century: New approaches to American realist literature”

## Honors & awards

- 2025 Charles Tilly Best Article Award, ASA Comparative and Historical Sociology Section  
*Diffusion through multiple domains: The spread of Romantic Nationalism across Europe, 1770–1930 (with Andreas Wimmer and Seungwon Lee)*
- 2025 Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper, ASA Sociology of Culture Section  
*"Affordances and the sensual ecology of UFO sightings"*
- 2024 Alex Inkeles Award, Department of Sociology, Columbia University  
*For outstanding scholarship in publications and conference presentations*
- 2023 Outstanding Paper in Computational Social Science, EMNLP 2023  
*"Toward a critical toponymy framework for named entity recognition: A case study of Airbnb in New York City" (with others)*
- 2017 Clarendon Scholarship, Oxford University  
*Awards full tuition and living expenses for any graduate program at Oxford University*
- 2016 Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania
- 2016 Best Undergraduate Essay Prize, Society for Linguistic Anthropology, American Anthropological Association  
*"Cyber-metapragmatics and alterity on reddit.com"*

## Teaching experience

- 2024 Center for Smart Streetscapes, Department of Engineering, Columbia University  
Instructor, "Survey methods for the social science of technology." Workshop held on July 10, 2024.
- 2023 Center for Smart Streetscapes, Department of Engineering, Columbia University  
Instructor, "Survey methods for the social science of technology." Workshop held on July 11, 2023.
- 2023 Vagelos Computational Science Center, Barnard College, Columbia University  
Instructor, "Data Analysis for Social Media: A Primer on the Twitter API." Workshop held on October 7, 2022.
- 2022 Department of Sociology, Barnard College, Columbia University  
Teaching assistant, "Social Theory" (Prof. Debbie Becher), Fall 2022

## Grants

- 2024 Columbia University Department of Sociology Small Research Grant (\$750)
- 2023 Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Council Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2023 Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Matching Travel Small Grant (\$300)
- 2023 Paul F. Lazarsfeld Lecture Series Grant (\$3000)
- 2022 SICSS Research Grant: SSRC, the Russell Sage foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 2022 (\$1500)

2022 Columbia University Department of Sociology Small Research Grant (\$882.15)

### **Professional service**

#### Peer reviewer

14th Annual International Joint Conference on Natural Language Processing & 4th Annual Asia-Pacific Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (IJCNLP/AAACL 2025) (Mumbai: December 20<sup>th</sup>–24<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

*Questions in Politics*

63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2025) (Vienna: July 27<sup>th</sup>–August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025)

2025 Annual Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL) 2025) (Albuquerque: April 29<sup>th</sup>–May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

*Anthropological Quarterly*

Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) 2024 (Miami: November 12<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Bangkok: August 11<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

International Conference on Web and Social Media (Buffalo: June 3<sup>rd</sup>–6<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (Hamburg: April 23<sup>rd</sup>–28<sup>th</sup>, 2023)

International Conference on Web and Social Media (Atlanta: June 6<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup>, 2022)

International Conference on Web and Social Media (virtual: June 8<sup>th</sup>–11<sup>th</sup>, 2020)

2024 Program Committee Member, NLP4Science Workshop, EMNLP 2024 (Miami: November 12<sup>th</sup>–16<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

2021–22 Graduate student representative, Department of Sociology, Columbia University

2018 Communication and Outreach teams volunteer, Connected Life Conference (Oxford, UK: June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2018)

### **Professional memberships**

American Sociological Association (ASA)

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)

### **Miscellany**

2025 American Crossword Puzzle Tournament  
3<sup>rd</sup> place, pairs division, 47<sup>th</sup> annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament (*with K. Zheng*)

2024 American Crossword Puzzle Tournament  
2<sup>nd</sup> place, pairs division, 46<sup>th</sup> annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament (*with K. Zheng*)