

SAM JACKSON

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

University at Albany, College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity
Assistant Professor, 2018 -

VOX-Pol Network of Excellence, Dublin City University
Research Fellow, 2018 -

EDUCATION

- 2018 Ph.D., Syracuse University, Social Science Doctoral Program
Dissertation Title: “The Oath Keepers: Patriotism, Dissent, and the Edge of Violence”
- 2016 M.A., Syracuse University, Political Science
- 2012 M.A., University of Manchester, Religion and Political Life
- 2009 B.A., University of Tennessee – Knoxville, Religious Studies

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Extremism, Terrorism, and Political Violence; Computational Social Science; Social Movements; Political Identity and Nationalism; Political Sociology; Social Media

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

6. Forthcoming Olga Boichak and **Sam Jackson**. “From National Identity to State Legitimacy: Mobilizing Digitally Networked Publics in Eastern Ukraine.” *Media, War & Conflict*. [<link>](#)
5. 2019 **Sam Jackson**. “Non-Normative Political Extremism: Reclaiming a Concept’s Analytical Utility.” *Terrorism and Political Violence*. [<link>](#)
4. **Sam Jackson**. “‘Armed Civil Disobedience’: A Case Study of Strategic Framing in the Patriot/Militia Movement.” *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*: Special Issue on Homegrown Violent Extremism. [<link>](#)
3. 2018 Jeff Hemsley and **Sam Jackson**. “Political Issues that Spread: Understanding Retweet Behavior During the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.” In *Proceedings of the 9th International Conference on Social Media & Society*. [<link>](#)
2. Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson**, Jeff Hemsley, and Sikana Tanupabrungsun. “Automated Diffusion? Bots and Their Influence During the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.” In *Proceedings of the 2018 iConference*. Springer Lecture Notes in Computer Science. [<link>](#)
1. 2017 **Sam Jackson**, Feifei Zhang, Olga Boichak, Lauren Bryant, Yingya Li, Jeff Hemsley, Jennifer Stromer-Galley, Bryan Semaan, and Nancy McCracken. “Identifying Political Topics in Social Media Messages: A Lexicon-Based

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Approach.” In *Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Social Media & Society*. Toronto: ACM, 2017. <[link](#)>

Reports and Reviews

- 2019 **Sam Jackson**. “A Schema of Right-Wing Extremism in the United States.” Report for the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism – The Hague. <[link](#)>
- 2017 **Sam Jackson**. “Conspiracy Theories in the Patriot/Militia Movement.” Commissioned report for George Washington University’s Program on Extremism. <[link](#)>
- 2016 **Sam Jackson**. Review of James Aho, *Far-Right Fantasy: A Sociology of American Religion and Politics in Conflict and Society*. Vol. 2. <[link](#)>
- 2012 **Sam Jackson** and Charlie Pemberton. “Patriotism? A Set of Questions.” *ANVIL* 28, no. 1. Conference report.

Public Writing

- 2018 **Sam Jackson**. “‘We Are Patriots’: Uses of National History in Legitimizing Extremism.” *EuropeNow*. <[link](#)>
- Sam Jackson**. “Flockwatch: Tracking Changes in Language in Text Datasets over Time.” VOX-Pol blog. <[link](#)>
- 2017 **Sam Jackson**. “Don’t assume the militias at the Charlottesville rally were white supremacists. This is what they believe now.” *The Washington Post’s* Monkey Cage. <[link](#)>
- 2016 **Sam Jackson**. “Follow the Leaders? Jill Stein and Gary Johnson’s Twitter and Facebook Activity.” Illuminating 2016 Project blog. <[link](#)>
- Also appeared on the blog for the Tow Center for Digital Journalism at Columbia University. <[link](#)>

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Sam Jackson. *The Oath Keepers: Patriotism, Dissent, and Violence in an American Militia Movement*. Under contract with Columbia University Press.

Olga Boichak, Jeff Hemsley, **Sam Jackson**, Rebekah Tromble, and Sikana Tanupabrungsun. “Duped by the Duplicates? Patterns of Orchestrated Amplification in the U.S. and German Election.” (Full draft)

Sam Jackson. “The Double-Edged Sword of Banning Extremists from Social Media.” (Full draft)

Sam Jackson. “Towards a Theory of Dog Whistles.” (Early working draft)

Sam Jackson and Maura Conway. “What Does the Study of Platforms’ Affordances Tell Us About the Workings of Contemporary Online Extremism and Terrorism?” (Early working draft)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers

- 2019 **Sam Jackson** and Maura Conway. “What Does the Study of Platforms’ Affordances Tell Us About the Workings of Contemporary Online Extremism and Terrorism?”

Sam Jackson

Terrorism and Social Media: An International Conference, June 25-26

Sam Jackson* and Maura Conway. "What Does the Study of Platforms' Affordances Tell Us About the Workings of Contemporary Online Extremism and Terrorism?" International Studies Association Annual Conference, March 27-30

2018 **Sam Jackson.** "The Double-Edged Sword of Banning Extremists from Social Media." Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference, October 10-13

Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson**, Jeff Hemsley, Rebekah Tromble, and Sikana Tanupabrungsun. "Bot Interventions: Identifying Patterns of Orchestrated Activity Across Election Campaigns on Twitter." The Internet, Policy & Politics Conference 2018, September 20-21

Sam Jackson. "The Double-Edged Sword of Banning Extremists from Social Media." VOX-Pol Third Biennial Conference, August 20-22

Sam Jackson. "The Oath Keepers, the Revolutionary War, and Preparations for Rebellion." American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 11-14

Olga Boichak and **Sam Jackson***. "Collective Identity and Its Boundaries: From 'Cloud Protesting' to State Legitimacy." American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 11-14

Jeff Hemsley and **Sam Jackson***. "Political Issues that Spread: Understanding Retweet Behavior During the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." International Conference on Social Media & Society, July 18-20

Olga Boichak and **Sam Jackson***. "Mariupol is Ukraine': Constructing Legitimacy through Digitally Networked Action." International Studies Association Annual Conference, April 4-7

Sam Jackson. "'We Are Patriots': Uses of National History in Legitimizing Extremism." Council for European Studies Annual Conference, March 28-30

Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson***, Jeff Hemsley, and Sikana Tanupabrungsun. "Automated Diffusion? Bots and Their Influence During the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." iConference. March 25-28

2017 Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson***, Jeff Hemsley, and Sikana Tanupabrungsun. "Not All Bots Are Created Equal: Automated Sociality and the Spread of Political Information in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Elections." European Symposium Series on Societal Challenges in Computational Social Science. November 15-17

Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson***, Sikana Tanupabrungsun, Daniela Fernandez Espinosa, and Jeff Hemsley. "Automated Diffusion? Bots and Their Influence During the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference, October 18-21

Sam Jackson. "'We Are Patriots': Uses of National History in Legitimizing Extremism." European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, September 6-9

Olga Boichak and **Sam Jackson***. "Mariupol is Ukraine': Constructing Legitimacy through Digitally Networked Action." European Consortium for Political Research General Conference, September 6-9

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- Sam Jackson**, Feifei Zhang, Olga Boichak, Lauren Bryant, Yingya Li, Jeff Hemsley, Bryan Semaan, Jennifer Stromer-Galley, and Nancy McCracken. "A Method for Computational Topic Identification in Social Media Messages." American Political Science Association Annual Conference, August 31-September 3
- Sam Jackson**. "Principled Law Breaking in America: Nullification and Civil Disobedience." American Sociological Association Annual Conference, August 12-15
- Sam Jackson**, Feifei Zhang, Olga Boichak, Lauren Bryant, Yingya Li, Jeff Hemsley, Bryan Semaan, Jennifer Stromer-Galley, and Nancy McCracken. "Identifying Political Topics in Social Media Messages: A Lexicon-Based Approach." International Conference on Social Media & Society, July 28-30
- Patricia Rossini, **Sam Jackson***, Feifei Zhang, Lauren Bryant, Kate Kenski, and Jennifer Stromer-Galley. "Disrupting Controlled Interactivity? An Analysis of Public Comments on Facebook in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Campaign." International Communication Association, May 25-29
- Sam Jackson**. "The Oath Keepers: Patriotism, Dissent, and the Edge of Violence." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 6-9
- Sam Jackson**. "The Oath Keepers: Patriotism, Dissent, and the Edge of Violence." 14th Annual Conference of the Center for the Study of Citizenship, Wayne State University, March 30-April 1
- 2016 **Sam Jackson**. "The American Revolution Redux: The Oath Keepers and the Ongoing Struggle over Natural Rights." Social Science History Association Annual Conference, November 17-20
- Sam Jackson**. "Pragmatics, Dog Whistles, and Extremist Texts." Council for European Studies Annual Conference, April 14-16
- 2015 **Sam Jackson**. "Nullification and Civil Disobedience: What Makes for 'Good' Law Breaking?" Social Science History Association Annual Conference, November 12-15
- Sam Jackson**. "Collecting and Storing Qualitative Data Using Online Sources." Graduate Student Forum on Research Methodologies, Syracuse University, November 13
- Sam Jackson**. "Political Extremism: A Non-Normative, Comparative Definition." Council for European Studies Annual Conference, July 8-10
- 2014 **Sam Jackson**. "A New Manifest Destiny: A Calling to Lead the World." Social Science History Association Annual Conference, November 6-9

*Non-presenting co-author

Posters

- 2018 Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson**, Jeff Hemsley, Rebekah Tromble, and Sikana Tanupabrungsun. "Identifying Patterns of Bot Interference across Election Campaigns on Twitter" International Conference on Social Media & Society, July 18-20
- Jeff Hemsley, **Sam Jackson**, Jiyoung Lee, and Daniela Fernandez Espinosa. "The Viral Diffusion of Campaign Messages About Political Issues During the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." iConference, March 25-28

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- 2017 Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson**, Sikana Tanupabrungsun, Jeff Hemsley, Daniela Fernandez Espinosa. “Automated Diffusion? Bots and Their Influence During the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.” International Conference on Social Media & Society, July 28-30

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 **Sam Jackson**. “Right-Wing Extremism in the U.S.” Year Ahead 2020: A Strategic Outlook for Security, Intelligence, and Defence for Canada. Centre for Security, Intelligence, and Defence Studies at Carleton University. December 6
- 2018 **Sam Jackson**. “Introducing FlockWatch.” Workshop on Introducing VOX-Pol Tools. VOX-Pol Third Biennial Conference. August 22
- 2017 **Sam Jackson**. “Conspiracy Theories in the Patriot/Militia Movement.” New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness 2nd Annual Domestic Terrorism Conference. May 15
- Sam Jackson**. Panel on domestic extremism. New York City Police Department Cyber and Counterterrorism Conference. February 1

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019 Google Cloud Platform research credits (\$5000)
- 2013-2018 University Fellowship, Syracuse University
- 2017 American Political Science Association Travel Grant
- 2016 Olympia Summer Academy Scholarship

AWARDS

- 2016 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Syracuse University

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

FlockWatch – A Python tool to monitor text data collections for changes in discourse <[link](#)>

ServerReport – A Python tool to monitor basic Linux machine metrics and active processes <[link](#)>

domain_parser – A Python tool to expand shortened URLs and identify domains <[link](#)>

STACKS – A Python tool to collect, process, and store Twitter data <[link](#)>

MEDIA

- 2019 Panelist for “The Intersection of Hate and Speech.” Episode of *Connect NY*. WCNY (PBS affiliate, Syracuse, NY). <[link](#)>
- Quoted in Casey Michel. “The Oath Keepers Providing Volunteer Security at Trump’s Minneapolis Rally Are Itching for a Civil War.” *Daily Beast*. <[link](#)>
- Quoted in Leah Sottile. “Bundyville: The Remnant: Chapter Two: The Hunter and the Bomb.” *Longreads*. <[link](#)>

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Quoted in Kelly Weill. "America Under Attack by White Supremacists Acting Like ISIS." *Daily Beast*. <[link](#)>

- 2018 Quoted in Leah Sottile. "Ammon Bundy spoke kindly about the migrant caravan. The backlash has him reevaluating his supporters." *Washington Post*. <[link](#)>

CEHC Crisis Informatics lab profiled in "Crisis informatics lab tracks extreme weather on social media." *Phys.org*. <[link](#)>

Quoted in Casey Michel. "Trump has caused an identity crisis for American militias." *Think Progress*. <[link](#)>

Quoted in Leah Sottile. "Malheur wildlife refuge occupation still reverberating as FBI agent goes on trial." *Washington Post*. <[link](#)>

- 2017 Research profiled in Mack Lamoureux. "The Integral Role Conspiracies Play in Far-Right Violence." *Vice*. <[link](#)>

Quoted in Stephen Montemayor. "Minnesota group targeted in FBI counterterrorism probe." *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. <[link](#)>

Featured in episode of "Intelligence. Unclassified." Podcast from the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness. "Domestic Terrorism Conference Series: Patriotism, Dissent, and the Edge of Violence with Sam Jackson." <[link](#)>

Quoted in Bill Morlin. "ACT's Anti-Muslim Message Fertile Ground for Oath Keepers." Southern Poverty Law Center's *Hatewatch*. <[link](#)>

- 2016 Quoted in Jennifer Williams. "The Oath Keepers, the far-right group answering Trump's call to watch the polls, explained." *Vox*. <[link](#)>

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016-2018 Research Assistant, Illuminating 2016, Center for Computational and Data Sciences (CCDS), Syracuse University
- 2015, 2014 Research Assistant, Institute for National Security and Counterterrorism (INSCT), Syracuse University
- 2014 Program Assistant, SU ADVANCE, Syracuse University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Albany CEHC

Undergraduate

Research Seminar in Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security & Cybersecurity (F18, S19, F19, S20)

Social Media Analysis (F19)

Graduate

Social Media Analysis (F19)

SERVICE

Sam Jackson

University at Albany

College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity

2018- Policy Committee, member

2019 Ad-hoc Instructional Quality Assurance Subcommittee, chair

Student Advising

M. Gandara, MS in Information Science – Data Analytics (current)

Conferences

2019 Roundtable Organizer, “Roundtable on Online Data.” Society for Terrorism Research

Session Chair, “Political Effects of Digital Media.” International Studies Association

Program Committee, International Conference on Social Media & Society

Radicalism and Violence Research Network Panels Organizer. Council for European Studies Annual Conference

2018 Panel Organizer, “Countermeasures and Responses to Misinformation and Manipulation Online.” Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference

2016 Session Chair, “Responding to Radicalism 2.” Council for European Studies Annual Conference

2011-2012 “Patriotism?” Conference Planning Team, Lincoln Theological Institute, University of Manchester

Reviewing

Journals: *Social Media + Society*, *The Electronic Library*

Misc.: International Conference on Social Media & Society, VOX-Pol

Public Engagement

2019 Facebook DC Academic Roundtable on Hate Speech Policies

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2019 ITLAL Course Design Academy, University at Albany

2017 Propaganda and Media Manipulation Workshop, Data & Society (New York City)

2016 Certificate in University Teaching, Syracuse University

2016 Olympia Summer Academy on Conflict and Political Violence (Nafplio, Greece)

2016 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (Syracuse, New York)

2014-2016 Syracuse University Future Professoriate Program

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association

Sam Jackson

Association of Internet Researchers

Council for European Studies (Radicalism and Violence Research Network)

International Studies Association

Last updated November 12, 2019