Jack LaViolette

CONTACT INFORMATION	Columbia University Department of Sociology 606 W. 122nd St., Rm. 501 New York, NY 10027	Phone: (434) 806-5064 Email: jack.laviolette@columbia.edu

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

INCITE Graduate Fellowship, Columbia University, 2021–

Mellon Sawyer Seminar Doctoral Fellowship, 2021–2022

Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellowship, Columbia University, 2020–2025

HONORS & AWARDS

Charles Tilly Best Article Award, ASA Comparative and Historical Sociology Section, 2025
Paper: Diffusion through multiple domains: The spread of Romantic Nationalism across Europe, 1770–1930 (third author, with Andreas Wimmer and Seungwon Lee)

Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper, ASA Sociology of Culture Section, 2025
Paper: "Affordances and the sensual ecology of UFO sightings"

Alex Inkeles Award, Department of Sociology, Columbia University, 2024
For outstanding scholarship in publications and conference presentations

American Crossword Puzzle Tournament
3rd place, pairs division, 47th annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, 2025 *(with K. Zheng)*
2nd place, pairs division, 46th annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament, 2024 *(with K. Zheng)*

Outstanding Paper in Computational Social Science, EMNLP 2023
Paper: "Toward a critical toponymy framework for named entity recognition: A case study of Airbnb in New York City."

Clarendon Scholarship, Oxford University, 2017–2018
Awards full tuition and living expenses for graduate studies at Oxford University

Phi Beta Kappa, University of Pennsylvania, 2016

Best Undergraduate Essay Prize, Society for Linguistic Anthropology, American Anthropological Association, 2016

Paper: "Cyber-metapragmatics and alterity on reddit.com"

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

FORTHCOMING

Han, S., **LaViolette, J.**, Borkenhagen, C., McAllister, W., and Bearman, P. (2026 expected). Conceptual recombination as a distinctive feature of liberal arts curriculum. Forthcoming in *The liberal arts advantage: Measuring the deeper value* (R. Arum, Ed.), University of Chicago Press.

LaViolette, J. (2025 expected). Affordances and the sensual ecology of UFO sightings. Forthcoming, *Theory & Social Inquiry*.

- **Co-winner, Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper, ASA Sociology of Culture Section**

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Wimmer, A., Lee, S., and **LaViolette, J.** (2024). Domain specificity and cultural diffusion: The spread of romantic nationalism in Europe's long 19th century. *American Journal of Sociology 130*(4), 931–975.

- **Co-winner, Charles Tilly Best Paper Award, ASA Comparative and Historical Sociology Section**

*Gonclaves, M. S. O., Langrock, I., **LaViolette, J.,** and Spoon, K. (2024). Book bans in political context: Evidence from U.S. public schools. *PNAS Nexus 3*(6), pgae197.

O'Hanlon, R., Altice, F., Lee, R., **LaViolette, J.**, Mark, G., Papakyriakopoulos, O., Saha, K., De Choudhury, M., and Kumar, N. (2024). Misogynistic extremism: A scoping review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse 25*(2), 1219–1234.

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)**

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.

*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.

*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.

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.

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 5th Joint SIGHUM Workshop on Computational Linguistics for Cultural Heritage, Social Sciences, Humanities and Literature*, 154–167.

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*Denotes equal authorship.

LaViolette, J., and Hogan, B. (2019). 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.

LaViolette, J. (2018). 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

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.

LaViolette, J. (2018). Modeling the manosphere: Towards a computational discourse analysis of online masculinities. Master's Thesis, Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford. Supervised by Dr. Bernie Hogan.

LaViolette, J. (2017). 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**

LaViolette, J. (2016). *Look at those suitcases!*: A quantitative and interpretative analysis of demonstrative determiners with body parts in 31 Super Bowl broadcasts. Honors thesis, Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania. Supervised by Dr. Meredith Tamminga.

LaViolette, J. (2016). Evidence for phonological assimilation and other predictors in the allophonic distribution of rhotics in Abidjanais French. Senior project, Department of Linguistics, University of Pennsylvania.

Bercik, B., McGeehan, B., Hansen-Fliedner, 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.

Conference presentations

17th Annual Conference of the International Network of Analytical Sociology (New York, June 4–6, 2025)
    Presenter, "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)
    Presenter, "Perception, place, and outer space: On affordances and sociological explanation," Section on the Body and Embodiment roundtable

Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing 2023 (EMNLP: Singapore December 6–10, 2023)
    Presenter, "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).

The 9th International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2: Copenhagen, July 17–20, 2023)
    Presenter, "Quantifying the origins and impacts of book bans in U.S. public schools, 2021–2022" (with Isabelle Langrock, Katherine Spoon, and Marcelo Silva).

The 2022 Annual Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL: Seattle, July 10–15, 2022)
    Presenter, "What company do words keep? Revisiting the distributional semantics of J.R. Firth & Zellig Harris" (with Mikael Brunila).

The 5th Joint SIGHUM Workshop on Computational Linguistics for Cultural Heritage, Social Sciences, Humanities and Literature (virtual: November 10th, 2021)
  Presenter, "WMDecompose: A framework for leveraging the interpretable properties of Word Mover's Distance in sociocultural analysis" (with Mikael Brunila).

The International Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM: Munich: June 11th–14th, 2019)
  Presenter, "Using platform signals for distinguishing discourse: The case of Men's Rights and Men's Liberation on Reddit."

INVITED TALKS	Narrative Workshop, Incite Institute, Columbia University (New York: November 20th, 20124) Presenter, "Narrative, voice, and anomie in the long 19th century: New approaches to American realist literature"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Center for Smart Streetscapes, Department of Engineering, Columbia University
  Instructor, "Survey methods for the social science of technology." Workshop held on July 10, 2024.

Center for Smart Streetscapes, Department of Engineering, Columbia University
  Instructor, "Survey methods for the social science of technology." Workshop held on July 11, 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.

Department of Sociology, Barnard College, Columbia University
  Teaching assistant, "Social Theory" (Prof. Debbie Becher), Fall 2022

GRANTS

Columbia University Department of Sociology Small Research Grant, 2024
  $750 to support computational costs associated with doctoral research

Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Graduate Council Travel Grant
  $500 to support attendance at EMNLP 2023

Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Matching Travel Small Grant
  $300 to support attendance at EMNLP 2023

Paul F. Lazarsfeld Lecture Series Grant, 2023
  $3,000 to support the original lecture series, "NLP for Social Science: From Language Models to Social Structures" in Spring 2023

SICSS Research Grant: SSRC, the Russell Sage foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 2022
  $1,500 to support the Banned Books Project (with Katie Spoon, Isabelle Langrock, and Marcelo Goncalves)

Columbia University Department of Sociology Small Research Grant, 2022
  $882.15 to support conference attendance at NAACL 2022

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer reviewer

Questions in Politics
63rd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL 2025) (Vienna: July 27th–August 1st, 2025)
2025 Annual Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL) 2025 (Albuquerque: April 29th–May 4th, 2025)
Anthropological Quarterly
Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing (EMNLP) 2024 (Miami: November 12th–16th, 2024)

The 62nd Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics (Bangkok: August 11th–16th, 2024)
International Conference on Web and Social Media (Buffalo: June 3rd–6th, 2024)
ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (Hamburg: April 23rd–28th, 2023)
International Conference on Web and Social Media (Atlanta: June 6th–9th, 2022)
International Conference on Web and Social Media (virtual: June 8th–11th, 2020)

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

Graduate student representative, Department of Sociology, Columbia University, 2021–2022

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

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)
2023–

Association for Computational Linguistics (ACL)
2021–

OTHER SKILLS

Programming: Python, R

Software: Gephi, Praat, networkx, Beautiful Soup, spaCy, LLMs

Languages: French (advanced)