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# REBEKAH LARSEN, PHD CANDIDATE

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

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Enthusiastic, interdisciplinary digital media sociologist with interest in social impacts of datafication and surveillance technologies. Excellent track record of high quality publications, presentations, and project dissemination in international settings. Extensive administrative and managerial background in collaborative research settings in academia, NGOs, and startup environments. Specific research interests centered on the theories of networked publics, digital age inequalities, and rural/urban divides, and reflexive methods.

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## EDUCATION

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| 2015 – 2020 | <p><b>PhD in Sociology (Media and Communications), CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Submitted doctoral dissertation (August 2020) exploring influences—social, political, and economic—on news production and visibility online. <b>Includes findings on how journalist and source practices and products are influenced by rising surveillance capitalism.</b></li><li>• Employing qualitative and quantitative research methodologies: semi-structured interviews, network mapping, qualitative and quantitative textual analysis.</li><li>• Visiting Scholar at the MIT Media Lab (2017 - 2018), <b>collaborating with a diverse team of researchers in the development of an open source platform for studying media ecosystems.</b> MediaCloud tracks how stories move through news domains and media markets. Collected and coded hundreds of news media stories and sources.</li><li>• <b>Published peer-reviewed findings on how different sources and social groups contributed to the development of a controversial privacy issue.</b></li></ul> |
| 2014 – 2015 | <p><b>MPhil in Technology Policy, JUDGE BUSINESS SCHOOL, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Identified and researched case studies of information technologies being used for prevention of human rights violations,</b> as a part of a research team organized by the UN Human Rights Council. <b>Presented casebook to journalists, academics, and practitioners.</b></li><li>• Designed a European Commission telecommunications consulting project. Engaged in primary data collection and analysis, creating case reviews of data management tools.</li><li>• Presented the findings in a market report to EU policymakers, leading to conferences, funding allocation, and roundtables within the European Commission.</li></ul>   |
| 2008 – 2012 | <p><b>BA in Science, Technology, and Society Studies (STS), UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presented the Society of the College award for authoring best interdisciplinary thesis, examining social and political influences on key Internet architecture.</li><li>• High honors summa cum laude graduate (3.83 GPA); Phi Beta Kappa member. Coursework in computer science, anthropology, Internet law and policy.</li></ul>   |

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## RESEARCH TEAM EXPERIENCE

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April – June 2020

**Research Consultant, GLOBAL DISINFORMATION INDEX (UK)**

- As part of an international team, analyzing 30 UK news domains in terms of content and operations; employing research expertise in journalism studies and specific media markets to assess journalistic practice, including algorithmic technology.
- Assessing news domains in terms of 'risk of disinforming' using the GDI's rating criteria and index methodology; this risk assessment will be used to disrupt, defund, and down-rank websites spreading disinformation.

2015 – 2018

**Researcher and Founding Member, THE WHISTLE (UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, UK)**

- Launched an academic startup developing an online information verification reporting platform for human rights violations. Authored and presented findings to journalists, academics, and practitioners in workshops and seminars.
- Led market research efforts surveying media engaged in information verification. Developed protocol and coded media actors based on their practices, outputs, and funding. Conducted content analysis and interviewed journalists, activists, and startups involved in online information verification practices.

2015 – 2016

**Research Assistant, FACULTY OF LAW (UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, UK)**

- Conducted qualitative case analysis for Law Faculty on EU data protection transpositions. Synthesized open source data and compiled case study reviews of different EU member states' approaches to updated privacy laws.
- Co-organized an industry-focused conference on data protection regulation, collaborating with data privacy lawyers in producing research report.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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- **Avid rock climber and runner. Awarded a Collier Grant from the MIT Outdoor Club (2019 - 2020) to further outdoor inclusivity. Significant experience with outdoor environments, particularly in New England, the UK and the American West (Utah).**
- Digital methods training certificates from the University of Amsterdam's Digital Methods Institute (2018) and Boston University Department of Emerging Media Studies (2017).
- Experience with collaborative media research tools: Atlas.ti, MediaCloud, Microsoft Office and Google Drive, markup languages (HTML and XML), OOP (java and python), Slack.
- Peer reviewer for highly ranked journals such as *New Media and Society*, the *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, and the *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*.
- Teaching experience (creating syllabi and presenting lectures) with Cambridge University undergraduate students in courses such as Media, Culture, & Society and Modern Societies.
- Successfully applied for and administered grant (2019) for an 'Empowering Women' program at St. John's College, Cambridge. Supported gender-inclusive weight training and facilities.

## SELECT PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

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Larsen, Rebekah. **"Beyond the Dominant: Critiquing Networks and Discourse in 'Right to be Forgotten' Frame Research"**. July 2020, *New Media and Society*. This article presents both empirical findings and methodological critique around network methods, focusing mainly on a networked privacy case study. This article also explores the impact of new digital intermediaries and surveillance capitalist practices within newsrooms and on different social groups. Online at <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444820912534>.

Larsen, Rebekah. "Networked Discussions about the Network: A Case Study of Public Discussion around the Right to be Forgotten". 8 January 2019. Presented at Understanding the Social in the Digital Age, Norwich University.

Larsen, Rebekah. "Media Manipulation, Visibility, and Rights: Public Discussion Around the Right to Be Forgotten". 29 June 2018. Presented at Media Manipulation Conference, University of Cambridge.

Larsen, Rebekah. "Data Colonialism and Data Protection Reform: Transnational Advocacy Networks in Latin America". 22 May 2018. Presented at Data Justice Conference, Cardiff University.

Larsen, Rebekah. "Media Cloud: A Platform for Exploring Dynamic Media Ecosystems". 16 March 2018. Technology Demonstration at the Post Truth Conference, University of Cambridge.

Larsen, Rebekah. "Mapping Dynamic Media Ecosystems: A Case Study of the Right to Be Forgotten". 28 October 2017. Presented at Dubrovnik Media Days: Digital Intermediaries and Media Pluralism.

Larsen, Rebekah. **"The Digital Information Verification Field: Current Actors, Practices and Trends"**. 27 October 2015. Findings from field research with The Whistle Project at the University of Cambridge. This report contains an overview of new and emerging technologies around online information verification; it also contains analysis of certain practices discovered via fieldwork. Available online at <http://thewhistle.org/>.

Larsen, R., Brochot, G., Lewis, D., Eisma, F.L., Brunini, J. **"Personal Data Stores"**. 7 August 2015. European Commission – DG Connect. Report commissioned by the European Commission to on personal data tools to evaluate feasibility and potential areas of policy assistance. Available online at <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/study-personal-data-stores-conducted-cambridge-university-judge-business-school>.

Larsen, Rebekah. 18 April 2012. "The Political Nature of TCP/IP". Momentum. Published thesis in undergraduate journal, exploring socio-technical development of key Internet infrastructure.