
REBEKAH LARSEN, PHD

rebekahl@oslomet.no | +1 (617) 685 – 8658 | <http://rebekahlarsen.me>

SUMMARY

I am an early career media sociologist, currently a postdoctoral fellow at Oslo Metropolitan University and part of a team researching journalistic responses to misinformation. I have experience in collaborative research settings within academia, NGOs, and startup environments. My research agenda brings together concepts of networked publics, alternative news ecosystems, rurality, misinformation, and broadcast media. My work is also aimed at reflexive contribution to digital media research approaches and methods around these topics.

EDUCATION

2015 – **PhD Sociology (Media and Communications), CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY** 2021

- Dissertation: *Exploring Definitional Power in the Digital Age: A Case Study of Right to be Forgotten Framing*. My doctoral work explored influences—cultural, social, political, and economic—on news production, knowledge creation, and visibility online, using a data privacy controversy as a case study. I designed an innovative mixed methods project that prioritized less visible voices in the ‘networked public sphere’.
- **Visiting Scholar (2017) at the Center for Civic Media (MIT Media Lab)**, collaborating with a diverse team of researchers in the development of an open-source platform for studying media ecosystems in terms of texts, visuals, sources, and their connections.
- Organized the Cambridge Technology and New Media Research Cluster (2018 – 2019). Brought together a diverse range of international academics and practitioners each term.
- Research Group Convenor for Centre for Governance and Human Rights (2017 - 2018). Organized and moderated a UK-based conference; arranged monthly research presentations and discussions.
- Academic teaching experience (creating syllabi, presenting lectures) with Cambridge University undergraduate students in *Media, Culture, & Society*, *Modern Societies*, and *Privacy + Surveillance*.

2014 – **MPhil Technology Policy (Judge Business School), CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY** 2015

- Identified and researched case studies of information technologies being used for prevention of human rights violations, as a part of **a research team organized by the UN Human Rights Council**. Presented casebook to journalists, academics, and practitioners.
- **Designed and conducted European Commission consulting project on data protection tools and potential users**. Engaged in primary data collection and analysis, interviewing companies, NGOs, and academics involved in data management and privacy. Presented the findings in a market report to EU policymakers, leading to conferences, funding allocation, and roundtables within the European Commission.

2008 – **BA in Science, Technology, and Society (STS), UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA** 2012

- *Summa cum laude*. Coursework in computer science, anthropology, Internet law and policy, STS (science, technology, and society), history of science, religious studies.
- Founded and edited the undergraduate journal *Momentum* in the STS department, as an Advisory Committee member and student representative.

OTHER RESEARCH + WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2021 - **Postdoctoral Fellow, OSLO METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY**
2023 **Research Associate @ Centre for Governance and Human Rights, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY**
- Member of a collaborative, international team analyzing news domains' approaches to misinformation around recent and upcoming Norwegian and American elections. This project includes assessment of journalistic practices and partnerships through interviews, observations, and analysis of technologies.
- Co-organized academic track of *Global Fact 9*, an international conference with thousands of attending journalists, platform representatives, and researchers. Drafted and disseminated call for abstracts; reviewed and selected presenters; moderated major panel.
- 2022 - **Visiting Postdoctoral Fellow, MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**
2023
- Pursuing personal research agenda, mapping framings of election fraud in regional US communities (with a focus on the rural) via online and broadcast data sources. This entails interviewing journalists and other media commentators throughout the state of Utah about their work and upcoming midterm elections; I am also utilizing digital methods to track stories and relationships in regional media.
- 2020 **Research Consultant, GLOBAL DISINFORMATION INDEX**
- 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 disinformation.
- 2015 – **Founding Researcher, THE WHISTLE, ACADEMIC STARTUP**
2018,
2020
- Helped launch 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 – **Research Assistant, FACULTY OF LAW, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY**
2016
- Co-organized an industry-focused conference on data protection regulation, collaborating with data privacy lawyers in producing research report.
- Conducted qualitative case analysis on EU data protection transpositions. Synthesized open-source data and compiled case study reviews of different EU member states' approaches to privacy laws.
- 2012 - **Voluntary Research Assistant and Coordinator, ACCESS (Digital Rights NGO)**
2014
- Recruited, trained, and coordinated volunteer team of 20 for the international Silicon Valley Human Rights Conference, a professional multi-day event with over 700 attendees from 65 countries.
- Produced reports and collated research on cybersecurity and access issues for the head of Access and the policy team.

2012 – **Legal Assistant, SKARZYNSKI BLACK (civil litigation law firm, NYC)**

2014

Effectively managed fifteen separate attorneys' caseloads as head paralegal, and took on increasing levels of responsibility to typical new associate work at time of departure. Managed intern pool and coordinated file review material for clients.

Conducted legal research; proofed and revised legal filings; prepared evidence and documents for discovery.

2008 – **Content Assistant, WXPB (NPR-affiliated radio station in Philadelphia)**

2012

Hands-on experience at a Top-25 Music site in web production and music festival operations: meeting tight deadlines with live blogging and content development, operating within a web team, and gaining exposure to backend site management.

AWARDS AND FUNDING

2022: One of two recognized by major scholarly organization, Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR), for outstanding doctoral dissertation with honorable mention: “[A] very timely study on internet governance, user data processing and control. The study is particularly interesting as it looks at the right to be forgotten as an ‘activist’ tool for marginalized groups but also on the other hand how it serves as an exclusionary measure. The dissertation thus not only deals with many issues important in internet scholarship but has implications for policy debates along the North-South divide.”

2020: Awarded a Collier Travel Grant from the MIT Outdoor Club to further inclusivity in sports. (USD 400)

2019: Awarded grant for an ‘Empowering Women’ program at St. John’s College, Cambridge. Oversaw disbursement of funds for gender-inclusive weight training and facilities. (GBP 1450)

2019: Lundgren Fund research award for continuing doctoral research (GBP 675).

2018 – 2019: Grant from the Cambridge Political Economy Society for doctoral research. (GBP 4000)

2018 – 2019: Grant from Cambridge Trust for continuing doctoral research. (GBP 9000)

2017 – 2018: Applied for and was awarded departmental funding for fieldwork, based at MIT. (GBP 7990)

2016: Awarded Parson’s Fund travel grant at St. John’s College, Cambridge University, for the trip ‘Exploring the Dodecanese: Climbing and Community. (GBP 400)

2015 – 2019: Cambridge International Scholarship. Received a full-ride, highly competitive PhD scholarship (three years) from the Cambridge Trust at Cambridge University based on significant academic potential and achievement. Scholarship covered overseas tuition, living stipend, and training costs. (Estimated GBP 122,844)

2012: Presented the Society of the College Award (University of Pennsylvania) for best interdisciplinary thesis.

2012: Induction into national honor society, *Phi Beta Kappa*, for high academic achievement.

2005 - 2008: Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) - various competitive testing awards in *Business Law*, *Personal Finance*, and *Insurance* at statewide, and national levels. Received national first place twice.

LEADERSHIP, SKILLS, TRAINING

- Peer reviewer for highly ranked journals such as *New Media and Society*, *Digital Journalism*, *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, and the *International Journal of Politics, Culture and Society*.
- 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.
- Elected MPhil in Technology Policy student representative of 30 students at Judge Business School, University of Cambridge (2014 – 2015).
- Board member, Cambridge University Science & Policy Exchange (2014 – 2015). Roundtable with industry and academic experts (Google, EU, Cambridge Engineering) at Digital Agenda Europe event, and published material.
- Internet Society (ISOC) Next Generation Leader (2012 – 2013). Produced group report regarding privacy online and international trade implications.
- Avid runner and climber. St. John's Mountaineering Society President and committee, 2016 – 18.

PUBLICATIONS

Belair-Gagnon, Valérie, Rebekah Larsen, L. Graves, O. Westlund. “‘There’s a Cap’: An Examination of Knowledge-Based Coordination and Cooperation in Platform-Fact-Checking Partnerships.” *Under review*.

Westlund, Oscar, Rebekah Larsen, L. Graves, L. Kavtaradze. “Technologies and fact-checking: a sociotechnical mapping and assessment”. Forthcoming chapter in Disinformation Studies: Perspectives in an emerging research field. LabCom Books.

Larsen, Rebekah. “‘Information Pressures’ and the Facebook Files: Navigating questions around leaked platform data”. July 2022, *Digital Journalism*. DOI: [10.1080/21670811.2022.2087099](https://doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2022.2087099)

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. It also explores the impact of new digital intermediaries and surveillance capitalist practices within newsrooms and on different groups.* <https://doi.org/10.1177/1461444820912534>.

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, Rebekah, 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.* 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.*

PRESENTATIONS

Larsen, Rebekah. 25 September 2021. "Approaching a Pressured Press in Context: Differing Journalistic Responses to Media Controversy." Future of Journalism. Cardiff University.

Larsen, Rebekah. 9 February 2021. Presentation: "Data into Theory: Visibility in Media Research and Culture Studies". Data into Theory Seminar Series. Online at <https://www.sociology.cam.ac.uk/data-theory>.

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.