

SAM JACKSON

Social Science Doctoral Program
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EDUCATION

- 2018 (expected) Ph.D. candidate, Social Science Doctoral Program
Syracuse University
Dissertation Title: “The Oath Keepers: Patriotism, Dissent, and the Edge of Violence”
Abstract: This project investigates the political philosophy and identity of the Oath Keepers, a prominent group in the militia movement. It argues that the group uses American political ideas and history to justify their political goals and behavior, specifically by interpreting contemporary events through the lens of moments of conflict and crisis in the nation’s history.
Committee: Michael Barkun (chair, Political Science); David H. Bennett (History); Mark Rupert (Political Science); Grant Reeher (Political Science); Jennifer Stromer-Galley (Information Studies)
- 2016 MA, Political Science
Syracuse University
- 2012 MA, Religion and Political Life
University of Manchester (UK)
- 2009 BA, Religious Studies and Philosophy
University of Tennessee – Knoxville

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Extremism, Terrorism, and Political Violence; Computational Research Methods; Social Movements; Political Identity and Nationalism; American Political Thought and Culture; Political Sociology

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Forthcoming **Sam Jackson.** “Non-Normative Political Extremism: Reclaiming a Concept’s Analytical Utility.” *Terrorism and Political Violence*. <[link](#)>
- 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 Approach.” In *Proceedings of the 8th International Conference on Social Media & Society*. Toronto: ACM, 2017. <[link](#)>

Reports and Reviews

- 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*

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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.

Under Review

Contact for information

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

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

Olga Boichak and **Sam Jackson.** “‘Mariupol is Ukraine’: Constructing Legitimacy through Digitally Networked Action.” (Full working draft)

Sam Jackson, Jeff Hemsley, and Jennifer Stromer-Galley. “Social Media Echo Chambers in the 2016 Presidential Election.” (Analysis in progress)

Patricia Rossini, **Sam Jackson,** Feifei Zhang, Lauren Bryant, Kate Kenski, Jennifer Stromer-Galley. “Disrupting Controlled Interactivity? An Analysis of Public Comments on Facebook in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Campaign.” (Analysis in progress)

Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson,** Sikana Tanupabrungsun, Jeff Hemsley, Daniela Fernandez Espinosa. “Automated Diffusion? Bots and Their Influence During the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.” (Analysis in progress)

Patricia Rossini, **Sam Jackson,** Feifei Zhang, Kate Kenski, Bryan Semaan, Jennifer Stromer-Galley. “Public Comments and Uncivil Discourse in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.” (Analysis in progress)

Jeff Hemsley, **Sam Jackson,** and Daniela Fernandez Espinosa. “Examining the Differences in Political Social Media Message Diffusion by Message Topic.” (Analysis in progress)

Sam Jackson and Jeff Hemsley. “Mapping the Patriot/Militia Movement Blogosphere.” (Data collection in progress)

Sam Jackson and Jeff Hemsley. “Discourses of Firearms Activism on Twitter.” (Data collection in progress)

Sam Jackson and Bart Bonikowki. “American National Identity and Political Protest in 2017.” (Data collection in progress)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Papers

2017 Patricia Rossini, **Sam Jackson***, Feifei Zhang, Kate Kenski, Bryan Semaan, Jennifer Stromer-Galley. “Public Comments and Uncivil Discourse in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election.” Association of Internet Researchers Annual Conference, October 18-21

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

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- 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
- 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, 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

- 2017 Olga Boichak, **Sam Jackson,** Sikana Tanupabrungsun, Jeff Hemsley, Daniela Fernandez

Sam Jackson

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

2017 **Sam Jackson.** Invited speaker. “Conspiracy Theories in the Patriot/Militia Movement.” New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness 2nd Annual Domestic Terrorism Conference. May 15.

Sam Jackson. Invited speaker. Panel on domestic extremism. New York City Police Department Cyber and Counterterrorism Conference. February 1.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2013- University Fellowship, Syracuse University

2017 American Political Science Association Travel Grant

2017 Syracuse University Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant (x3)

2017 Syracuse University Social Science Doctoral Program Travel Grant (x8)

2016 Olympia Summer Academy Scholarship

AWARDS

2016 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Syracuse University

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Media

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>](#)

Writing

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>](#)

Sam Jackson

- 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](#)>

Speaking

- 2016 Jennifer Stromer-Galley, Bryan Semaan, Jerry Robinson, **Sam Jackson.** “The Illuminating 2016 Project.” Social Media Breakfast Syracuse. October 27. Public presentation.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2016- 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
2015 Research Assistant, Prof. David H. Bennett, Syracuse University
2014 Program Assistant, SU ADVANCE, Syracuse University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant – Section Instructor

- Political Science American National Government and Politics, Prof. Gavan Duffy (Spring 2016)
History American History to 1865, Prof. Mark Schmeller (Fall 2015)

Teaching Assistant - Grader

- Political Science The Politics of Populism and Conspiracy Culture, Prof. Mark Rupert (Spring 2015)
Political Science Marxist Theory, Prof. Mark Rupert (Fall 2014)

SERVICE

- 2016 Session Chair, “Responding to Radicalism 2.” Council for European Studies Annual Conference
2011-2012 MA Religions and Theology Student Faculty Liaison, Department of Religions and Theology, University of Manchester
2011-2012 “Patriotism?” Conference Planning Team, Lincoln Theological Institute, University of Manchester

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2017 Propaganda and Media Manipulation Workshop, Data & Society (New York, New York)
2016 Certificate in University Teaching, Syracuse University

Sam Jackson

- 2016 Olympia Summer Academy on Conflict and Political Violence (Nafplio, Greece)
Topics: Civil War; Terrorism; Coups; Intercommunal Violence; Legacies of Conflict; Post-Conflict Violence
- 2016 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (Syracuse, New York)
Modules: Discourse Analysis; Causal Mechanisms, Process Tracing, and Counterfactuals; Process Tracing; Qualitative Data Management; Computer Assisted Text Analysis; Interpretation and History
- 2014-2016 Syracuse University Future Professoriate Program

SOFTWARE

ATLAS.ti
Python
R
SQL
MongoDB

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
American Sociological Association
Council for European Studies (Radicalism and Violence Research Network)
European Consortium for Political Research (Extremism and Democracy Standing Group)
Midwest Political Science Association
Social Science History Association

Last updated: September 8, 2017