

Elisabetta Ferrari, Ph.D.

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EDUCATION

- 2019 Ph.D. in Communication
Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.
Dissertation title: *The technological imaginaries of social movements: the discursive dimension of communication technology and the fight for social justice*
Dissertation Committee: Guobin Yang (advisor), Michael Delli Carpini, Jessa Lingel
Receiver of the 2020 Dissertation Award, Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)
- 2017 Visiting Doctoral Candidate
OSSCOM Research Centre, Catholic University of the Sacred Heart. Milan, Italy.
- 2016 M.A. in Communication
Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2013 M.A. in Political Science (with Distinction). Area: Political Communication
Central European University. Budapest, Hungary.
- 2010 B.A. in International Studies
University of Bologna. Bologna, Italy

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2020 – 2021 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Digital Studies Institute, University of Michigan.
- 2019 – 2020 Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center on Digital Culture and Society, University of Pennsylvania.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Media and communication; activism and social movements; social media; politics of technology; communication and social change; qualitative and interpretive methods.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- Forthcoming **Ferrari, E.** Sincerely fake: Exploring user-generated political fakes and networked publics. *Social Media + Society*.

- 2020 **Ferrari, E.** Bodies that matter, bodies that don't: Selective disembodiment in the early *Wired* magazine (1993-1997). *Internet Histories*.
- 2020 **Ferrari, E.** Technocracy meets populism: the dominant technological imaginary of Silicon Valley. *Communication, Culture & Critique*, 13(1), 121-124.
- 2019 **Ferrari, E.** "Free country, free internet": The symbolic power of technology in the Hungarian internet tax protests. *Media, Culture & Society*, 41(1), 70-85.
- 2018 **Ferrari, E.** Fake accounts, real activism: political faking and user-generated satire as activist intervention. *New Media & Society*, 20(6), 2208–2223.
- 2016 **Ferrari, E.** Social media for the 99%? Rethinking social movements' identity and strategy in the corporate web 2.0. *Communication and the Public*, 1(2), 143-158.

Other publications

- 2019 **Ferrari, E.** and Remensperger, J. "When under surveillance, always put on a good show": Representations of surveillance in the United States underground press, 1968-1972. In *Making Surveillance Societies: Transnational Histories*, ed. Robert Heynen and Emily van der Meulen. University of Toronto Press.
- 2018 **Ferrari, E.** The Hungarian internet tax protests: freedom, modernity and the political power of technology. [Internet Policy Observatory](#).
- 2017 Clark, R., Erdener, J., **Ferrari, E.**, Yang, G. "Activist Media". In *Oxford Bibliographies in Communication*. Ed. Patricia Moy. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2015 **Ferrari, E.** Italy issues a declaration of internet rights – now let's improve it. [CGCS Media Wire](#).

GRANTS

- 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Fund Grantee. Internet Freedom Festival.
- 2018 Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society (WFI), Villanova University. Dissertation Research Grant.
- 2017 Internet Policy Observatory, University of Pennsylvania. Research Grant.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2020 Dissertation Award, Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR).
- 2020 Best Paper Award, International Communication Association (ICA), Activism, Communication and Social Justice Interest Group.

- 2018, 2017 University of Pennsylvania, Graduate Student Assembly (GAPSA) Competitive Travel Award (2x).
- 2015 Annenberg – Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute. Full scholarship.
- 2014 – 2019 University of Pennsylvania. Doctoral Fellowship.
- 2013 Central European University. Department of Political Science. Departmental Excellence Award.
- 2012 Central European University. Alumni Scholarship for Leadership Potential and Civic Engagement.
- 2011 – 2013 Central European University. Department of Political Science. Full Tuition Waiver.
- 2009 University of Maastricht, Netherlands. Erasmus Program scholarship.

INVITED LECTURES (EXTERNAL)

- 2019 Workshop organizer, “Radical internet futures: let’s draw them together”, Our Networks, Toronto (Canada). September 22.
- 2019 Workshop organizer, “Imagined internets: a hands-on discussion on how we want the internet to be”, Internet Freedom Festival, Valencia (Spain). April 1.
- 2018 “The Hungarian internet tax protests: freedom, modernity and the political power of technology”. Talk at the Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, University of Oxford. August 8.
- 2017 “Media and Social Movements”. Guest Lecture for the Political Communication course (graduate), Central European University (Hungary). November 27.
- 2016 “Internet & rights: digital constitutions and ‘national’ internet governance”. Panelist. Centre for Global Communication Studies, University of Pennsylvania. April 16.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Using the tools of the system to fight the system: How radical activists negotiate their use of social media. Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) Annual Conference. Dublin (Ireland), October 28-31. (Remote presentation due to Covid-19).
- 2020 Visual focus groups: Stimulating reflexive conversations with collective drawing. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. Gold Coast, Australia. May 21-25. (Remote presentation due to Covid-19). *Best Paper Award, Activism, Communication and Social Justice Interest Group.*

- 2020 “Everybody is on Facebook now”: social movements, technological uncertainties and the limits of the imagination. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. Gold Coast, Australia. May 21-25. (Remote presentation due to Covid-19).
- 2019 Mirrors, icebergs and puppet masters: making sense of the power of digital infrastructures through visual focus groups. ECREA Communication & Democracy conference “Infrastructures and Inequalities: Media industries, digital cultures and politics”. Helsinki (Finland), October 21-22.
- 2019 Contesting The Government, Performing Modernity: The Sociotechnical Imaginary Of The Hungarian Internet Tax Protests. Society for Social Studies of Science (4S) Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA, September 4-7.
- 2019 Bodies that matter, bodies that don’t: Selective disembodiment in the early *Wired* magazine (1993-1997). International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. Washington, D.C., May 24-28.
- 2019 Technocracy meets populism: the dominant technological imaginary of Silicon Valley. Lisbon Winter School for the Study of Communication - Media and Populism. Lisbon (Portugal), January 15-19.
- 2018 A short history of fake media: reclaiming fakeness as activist media practice. ECREA 7th European Communication Conference. Lugano (Switzerland), October 31-November 3.
- 2018 Mundane modernity: how the Hungarian internet tax protests imagined "the internet". International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Annual Conference. Eugene (OR), June 20-24.
- 2018 Fighting “the Man’s technology”: Visions of technology in the underground press of the American counterculture (1964-1974). International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. Prague (Czech Republic), May 24-28.
- 2017 Fake accounts, real activism: political faking and user-generated satire as activist intervention in the Italian public debate. Conference of the Italian Association of Political Communication (Compol) “Communication and Politics in the Pop Democracy”. Rome (Italy), December 14-16.
- 2017 The symbolic power of the internet in the Hungarian internet tax protests. ECREA Communication & Democracy conference “Digital democracy: Critical perspectives in the age of big data”. Stockholm (Sweden), November 11-12.
- 2017 The politics of digital constitutionalism and the discourse of Internet exceptionalism in the Italian Declaration of Internet Rights. Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (Italian Political Science Association) Annual Conference. Urbino (Italy), September 14-16.

- 2017 Playful and critical: the participatory satire of political fakes and their publics. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. San Diego (CA), May 26-29
- 2016 Keeping It Fake: Exploring User-Generated Political Fakes and Their Publics. Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR) Annual Conference. Berlin (Germany), October 5-8.
- 2016 Play, individualism, exploitation: towards a comprehensive critique of the web 2.0 and its relationship with contentious politics. International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR) Annual Conference. Leicester (UK), July 27-31.
- 2016 What “the Internet requires”: The discourse of internet exceptionalism in the Italian Declaration of Internet Rights. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. Fukuoka (Japan), June 9-13.
- 2016 Fake accounts, real activism: political faking and user-generated satire as activist intervention. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. Fukuoka (Japan), June 9-13.
- 2016 The History of *il Manifesto* and the Evolution of the Italian Left from the Prague Spring to the Arab Spring. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. Fukuoka (Japan), June 9-13.
- 2015 We protest, therefore we are: event-driven, action-oriented collective identities in contemporary social movements. ECREA Communication & Democracy conference “Political Agency in the Digital Age: Media, Participation and Democracy”. Copenhagen (Denmark), October 9-10.
- 2015 (Social) Media for the 99%? Rethinking alternative media and Social Movements’ Identity in the Corporate Web 2.0. Union for Democratic Communication (UDC) conference “Circuits of Struggle”. Toronto (Canada), May 1-3.
- 2014 (with Marina Popescu) Success may not always look the same: A theory-driven comparison of how new tools of democratic participation work across contexts. European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Joint Sessions. Salamanca (Spain), April 10-15.
- 2014 Holding Companies Accountable on Free Expression and Privacy. Panel. RightsCon conference. San Francisco (CA), March 3-5.
- 2013 (Social) Media for the 99%? Principles, practices and strategies of content production on social networking sites in Occupy Chicago. ECREA Symposium “(Mis)Understanding Political Participation”. Munich (Germany), October 11-12.
- 2013 WCIT’12: the Tradeoff Between Secrecy and Legitimacy in the Changing Landscape of Global Internet Governance. International Conference “Political Communication in times of crisis”, organized by the IPSA, RC-22 Committee. Granada (Spain), September 12-13.

GUEST LECTURES (INTERNAL)

- 2019 “Media and Social Movements”. Zhejiang Summer School Program, University of Pennsylvania. July 10.
- 2019 “Appropriation, Negotiation, Challenge: How the Technological Imaginaries of Contemporary Social Movements Respond to Silicon Valley”, Media Activism Research Collective (MARC), University of Pennsylvania. May 2.
- 2018 “The Academy and Activism”, Media Activism Research Collective (MARC), University of Pennsylvania. September 13.
- 2018 “Media and Social Movements”. Summer School Program “Frontiers in Media and Communication”, University of Pennsylvania. July 28.
- 2018 “Satire, culture jamming and online humor”. Summer School Program “Frontiers in Media and Communication”, University of Pennsylvania. July 26.
- 2016 “Communication Behavior Methods: Qualitative Approaches”. Introduction to Communication Behavior course (undergraduate), University of Pennsylvania. September 16.
- 2016 “Fake, authentic, real”. WARNING! Graphic Content course (undergraduate), University of Pennsylvania. March 31.
- 2015 “Democratic software? The case of Liquid Feedback”. New Tools of Citizen Participation and Democratic Accountability course (graduate), Central European University. March 10.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania

Global Digital Activism (Summer 2018)
Sole Instructor. Undergraduate seminar.

Teaching Certificate, Centre for Teaching and Learning (2018)
Introduction to Communication Behavior (Summer 2017)
Co-Instructor. Undergraduate survey class.

Media Ethnography for Social Justice (Fall 2017)
Teaching Assistant. Instructor: Dr. Jessa Lingel. Undergraduate seminar.

Introduction to Communication Behavior (Fall 2016)
Teaching Assistant. Instructor: Dr. Amy Jordan. Undergraduate survey class.

WARNING! Graphic Content (Spring 2016)
Teaching Assistant. Instructor: Dwayne Booth (Mr. Fish). Undergraduate seminar.

Central European University

New Tools of Citizen Participation and Democratic Accountability (Spring 2014).
Teaching Assistant. Instructor: Dr. Marina Popescu. Graduate seminar.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2014 – 2018 Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.
Research Fellow for Drs. Guobin Yang, Jessa Lingel, Marwan Kraidy and Devra Moehler. Assisted with literature reviews, review essays and book manuscripts.
- 2013 – 2014 Ranking Digital Rights project.
Researcher on privacy and freedom of expression in the policies of European telecommunication companies. Project coordinated by Rebecca MacKinnon.
- 2014 UNESCO Report “Fostering freedom online: the role of Internet intermediaries”.
Researcher. Topic: iWiW.hu (Hungarian social media platform).
- 2013 – 2014 Centre for Media, Data and Society, Central European University. Research Assistant.
- 2013 Central European University, Political Science Department.
Researcher. Project: “Populism in Central and Eastern Europe, Baltic States and Former Soviet Republics”, coordinated by Dr. Kirk Hawkins, Brigham Young University (USA).

SERVICE

- 2019 – 2020 Advisor, Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Annenberg School for Communication
(Student: Samantha Felgoise)
- 2015 – Reviewer for conference submissions: ICA, IAMCR, ECREA, AoIR.
- 2017 Organizer, Media Activism Research Collective, University of Pennsylvania
- 2016 Graduate Council member, Annenberg School for Communication
- 2015 – 2016 Member of the organizing committee, Graduate Student Symposium, Annenberg School for Communication
- 2015 – 2016 Elected representative. Graduate and Professional Student Assembly, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2015 Student organizer, Scholars Symposium 2015: Digital Culture, Annenberg School for Communication
- Ad hoc Reviewer: *New Media & Society*, *Social Media + Society*, *Journal of Creative Communications*, *International Journal of Communication*.

LANGUAGES

English	full proficiency
Italian	native
German	advanced

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Communication Association
International Association for Media and Communication Research
Association of Internet Researchers
European Communication Research and Education Association