

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
Awarded the 2020 Best 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

- 2021 – Lecturer in Sociology (Digital Media), University of Glasgow.
- 2020 – 2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, Digital Studies Institute, University of Michigan.
- 2020 – Research Affiliate, Center on Digital Culture and Society, University of Pennsylvania.
- 2019 – 2020 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center on Digital Culture and Society, University of Pennsylvania.

PUBLICATIONS

Articles in Peer-Reviewed Journals

- 2022 **Ferrari, E.** Visual focus groups: Stimulating reflexive conversations with collective drawing. *New Media & Society*. OnlineFirst.
- 2022 **Ferrari, E.** Latency and crisis: Mutual aid activism in the Covid-19 pandemic. *Qualitative Sociology*. 45, 413–431.

- 2020 **Ferrari, E.** Sincerely fake: Exploring user-generated political fakes and networked publics. *Social Media + Society*, 6(4).
- 2020 **Ferrari, E.** Bodies that matter, bodies that don't: Selective disembodiment in the early *Wired* magazine (1993-1997). *Internet Histories*, 4(3), 333-348.
- 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

- 2022 – 2024 British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant.
- 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 Best 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)

- 2021 “Seen from the outside: Occupy, the view from Europe and the legacy”. Guest talk for the “We are the 99%: Media and Memory of Occupy” course (undergraduate), University of Pennsylvania. 11 October.
- 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

- 2022 How do we even study Instagram ethnographically? ECREA's Digital Culture and Communication (DCC) pre-conference, "The Work-in-Progress in Social Media Research". Remote presentation, October 12.
- 2022 A radical Instagram visual culture? ECREA pre-conference, "Visual politics and protest - Current methodological challenges". Remote presentation, October 6-7.
- 2022 Stickers, Stories and solidarity: The making of collective identity among mutual aid activists on Instagram. International Communication Association (ICA) Annual Conference. Paris (France), May 26-30.
- 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)

- 2021 “Online and social research methods”. Qualitative Research Methods (MSc Level), College of Social Sciences, University of Glasgow. 25 November. (Recording used again in 2022).
- 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 Glasgow

As Course Convenor

Digital Society: Theory and Substantive Issues (2022/23). MSc Digital Society core course.

As Course Lecturer/Contributor

Digital Society: Digital Technology, Inequality and Culture (2022/23). Undergraduate.

Digital Society: Theory and Substantive Issues (2021/22). MSc Digital Society core course.

Digital Society: The Social Living Lab (2021/22). MSc Digital Society.

University of Michigan

Global Digital Activism (Winter 2021). Undergraduate upper-level seminar.

University of Pennsylvania

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

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.

TEACHING CERTIFICATIONS

Postgraduate Certificate in Academic Practice (PGCAP), University of Glasgow (in progress).

Teaching Certificate, Centre for Teaching and Learning, University of Pennsylvania (2018).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2014 – 2018 Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania.
Research Fellow for Drs. Guobin Yang, Jessa Lingel, Marwan Kraidy and Devra Mochler. 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 & ADMINISTRATIVE WORK

2022 – Convenor, MSc Digital Society, University of Glasgow

2022 – Lead Academic for the University of Glasgow, Dual Degree Programme “Artificial Intelligence & Digital Society” with Radboud University (The Netherlands)

2021 – 2024 Secretary, Activism, Communication and Social Justice (ACSJ) Interest Group, International Communication Association (ICA).

2020 – 2021 Faculty Mentor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP), University of Michigan.

2020 – 2021 Member, Summer Institute Planning Committee, Digital Studies Institute, University of Michigan.

- 2020 – 2021 Speaker, Digital Studies Institute Grad Student Professionalization Workshop, “Pathways to Publishing”. University of Michigan. (November 18, March 24).
- 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*, *Journalism*, *Internet Histories*, *Information, Communication and Society*, Bristol University Press, National Science Foundation, Waterhouse Family Institute for the Study of Communication and Society (Villanova University).

SUPERVISION

PhD Students

Laura Blackham, committee member. University of Glasgow, 2022 –

Postgraduate Taught Students

Aleeza Joe Schreiner, Louis Gallix, Tian Gao, Qinghua Wang. University of Glasgow, 2022

Undergraduate Students

Luke Hills, University of Glasgow, 2022-2023

Sarah Reilly, University of Glasgow, 2022

Samantha Felgoise, University of Pennsylvania, 2019-2020

LANGUAGES

Italian	native
German	advanced

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Communication Association

Association of Internet Researchers

European Communication Research and Education Association

British Academy Early-Career Researcher Network