

STEFANIA MILAN, PhD

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<https://stefaniamilan.net> || <https://data-activism.net>

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Critical data studies

Digital sociology

Data science & digital, experimental and participatory methods

Research & data ethics in the digital age

EDUCATION

- 2009 Ph.D. in Political and Social Sciences (ungraded), European University Institute. Dissertation: 'Stealing the fire. A study of emancipatory practices in the field of communication'. Supervisor: D. della Porta. Jury: D. A. Snow (University of California, Irvine), R. Bauböck (EUI), R. A. Hackett (Simon Fraser University). Research supported by a 4-year grant, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 2006 Master of Research in Political and Social Sciences (ungraded), European University Institute.
- 2003 BA and MSc ('Laurea Vecchio Ordinamento') in Communication Sciences (108/100), University of Padua, Italy. Dissertation (Political Theory): 'La comunicazione al Forum Sociale Mondiale. Un'analisi dei media della società civile a Porto Alegre'. Supervisors: C. Padovani and G. Riccamboni.

CURRENT POSITIONS

Associate Professor of New Media (tenured), Department of Media Studies, University of Amsterdam

Principal Investigator, DACTIVE & ALEX projects (European Research Council Starting Grant & Proof of Concept)

Principal, DACTIVE Ideas Lab (KVK 69570132)

ONGOING PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member, Digital Methods Initiative, University of Amsterdam

Co-founder, Amsterdam Network for the Study of Online Contention (ANSOC)

Co-founder, Big Data from the South Initiative (BigDataSur)

Research Associate, Internet Policy Observatory, Annenberg School for Communication, Univ. of Pennsylvania

Research Fellow, Center for Data, Media and Society, Central European University

Member, Center on Social Movement Studies (COSMOS), Scuola Normale Superiore (Florence, Italy)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor (II) of Media Innovation, Dept. of Media and Communication, University of Oslo (2017-2018)

Assistant Professor of New Media, Department of Media Studies, University of Amsterdam (2015-2017)

Assistant Professor of Data Journalism, Department of Communication and Information Science, Tilburg University (2012-2014); Program Director of the data science track of the MSc program in Communication and Information Sciences (2013-2014)

Advisor (digital policies and social innovation), Office of Direct Collaboration, Minister Francesco Profumo (Monti cabinet), Ministry of Education, University and Research, Italy (2012-2013)

Postdoctoral fellow, Citizen Lab & Canada Center for Global Security Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto (2011-2012)

Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest (Jan-Jun 2011)

Research Fellow, project "Caught in the act of protest: Contextualizing Contestation", EUI (2011)

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Lucerne (2008-2010)

Project Coordinator, European Union Democracy Observatory on Citizenship (EUDO CITIZENSHIP), Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute (2009-2010)

Research Assistant to Prof. Donatella della Porta, European University Institute (2006-2008)

Research Fellow, Project "Communication Rights between local and global: Movements networks and transformations in governance processes", Universities of Trento and Padova (2006-2008)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

European Research Council Starting Grant 2014 (no. 639379, EUR 1.5 million). Principal Investigator, project "Data Activism: The Politics of Big Data according to Civil Society—DACTIVE" (2015-2020) – data-activism.net

European Research Council Proof of Concept Grant 2018 (no. 825974, EUR 150,000). Principal Investigator, project “Algorithms Exposed (ALEX). Investigating Automated Personalization and Filtering for Research and Activism” (2018-2020) – algorithms.exposed

Internet Policy Observatory, Joint Digital Rights and Internet Freedom Research/Advocacy Projects call 2017, University of Pennsylvania (EUR 18.000). Principal Investigator, project “Content Regulation on and by Platforms: Rethinking Internet Governance vis-à-vis the Platformization of the Web” (2017-18)

Amsterdam Center for Globalization Studies, Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis, Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research, Amsterdam Center for European Studies (University of Amsterdam). Competitive funding for event organization: “Big Data from the South” workshop (11/2018), “Democracy Under Siege: Digital Espionage and Civil Society Resistance” workshop (7/2018); “Data for the Social Good” workshop (11/2017); “Connecting to the Masses: 100 Years from the Russian Revolution. From Agitprop to the Attention Economy” conference (11/2017); “Contentious Data” workshop (9/2015)

Postdoctoral grant, Canada Center for Global Security Studies, University of Toronto (2011-2012). Project: “Coding Cultural Values and Political Aspirations: The Grassroots Cre-Action of Technology and How It Shapes Power in Cyberspace” (ca. CA\$ 50,000 plus unlimited mission and fieldwork funding)

Excellent Teaching Award (Hervorragende Lehre), academic year 2008-2009, University of Lucerne, Switzerland, course “Governance and Democratization of Global Media”

PhD research grant of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, September 2005 to August 2008, followed by European University Institute-sponsored 4th year completion grant (2008-2009)

European Social Research Council (ESRC) grant, Central European University/ESRC Summer School in Non-Governmental Public Action, July 2007

Travel grant of the Institute of Development Studies (University of Sussex, UK), OURMedia conference, Sydney, April 2007 (GBP 1500)

Annenberg School of Communication (University of Pennsylvania), Annenberg/Oxford Summer Institute in Global Media Policy, University of Oxford, July 2005 (GBP 1800)

Excellent Young Researcher in Communication Award, International Association of Media and Communication Research/UNESCO Award, 2004 and travel grant

European Union grants: Erasmus (Portugal, 1 year, 2001/2002) and Leonardo (England, 3 months, 2004)

TEACHING

University of Amsterdam, Department of Media Studies (2015-present)

Digital Activism (course coordinator), MA course, Winter 2018 & 2019

Data Journalism/Science (course coordinator), BA course, Winter 2018 & 2019

Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship in Media, MA course, with M. Deuze et al., Winter 2017

Analysing Digital Culture, BA course, Fall 2016

MRes tutorials: *Data Activism* (2017 & 2018); *Protesting in the cloud* (2016); *Digital Activism* (2015)

Radical Publishing, MA elective course, Winter/Spring 2016

University of Oslo, Department of Communication (2017-2018)

Media and Politics, elevator (MA and BA) course, co-taught with G. Eli and T. Syvertsen (Fall 2017 & 2018)

University of Zurich, National Center for Competence in Research (2015)

Doing Social and Political Research in the Digital Age, National Center for Competence in Research

Tilburg University, Department of Communication and Information Sciences (2012-2014)

Research Skills: Research Interview, MA course, Winter 2013/2014

Digital Storytelling, MA course, Fall/Winter 2012-2014

Precision Journalism/Data Science, MA course, with G. Chrupala, Fall 2013/2014

Central European University, Department of Political Science (between 2008 and 2012)

Digital Research Methods, MA/PhD course, with L. Dencik, Winter 2012

Digital Technologies and Society, MA course, Winter 2011

Political Communication, MA course, Winter 2011

Digital Methods Workshop: Research in a digital environment, MA/PhD course, Winter 2011

Global Media, Governance and Civil Society, MA course, with A. Hintz and K. Coyer, Winter 2008

University of Lucerne, Department of Political Science (2008 –2010)

Democracy, Cosmopolitanism and the Global Civil Society, MA seminar, Spring 2010

Governance and Democratization of Global Media, MA seminar, Spring 2009

European University Institute, Department of Social and Political Sciences (2008-2009) – Teaching Assistant

Theory and Methods in Research on Political Participation and Associational Life, by D. della Porta

Transformations in Democracies: An Introduction to Political Sociology, by D. della Porta

DOCTORAL SUPERVISION

Miren Gutierrez, Universidad de Deusto, Spain (2013-2017) (PhD 'cum laude', June 2017)
Rebecca (Becky) Kazansky, University of Amsterdam (2015-present)
Niels ten Oever, University of Amsterdam (2015-present)
Kersti R. Wissenbach, University of Amsterdam (2015-present)
Guillen Torres Sepulveda, University of Amsterdam (2017-present)
Dianeth Alicia Pérez Arreola, Law School, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2018-present)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Basiskwalificatie Onderwijs certificaat (Dutch teaching certificate), May 2016
Postdoctoral Fellow, the Citizen Lab and Canada Center for Global Security Studies, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, 2011-2012
Visiting Scholar, Department of Art History and Communication Studies & Media@McGill Research Hub, McGill University, invited by Prof. M. Raboy, Fall term 2010
Teaching Skills seminar series (2008); Course development and teaching portfolio seminar (2009); Public Speaking Training/Theatrical techniques for teaching (2009), European University Institute
Visiting Junior Specialist at the Center for the Study of Democracy, University of California, Irvine, invited by Prof. D. S. Meyer, Spring Term 2008
CEU/ESRC Summer School on Global Processes and Non-Governmental Public Action, Central European University, Budapest, July 2007
Annenberg/Oxford Summer Institute on Global Media Policy, University of Oxford, July 2005

SERVICE

Chair of the Board of Studies, MA in Media Studies (2018-present), University of Amsterdam
Member of the Board of Studies: BA Media & Information (2016/2017), MA Media Studies (2017-present), UvA
Advisory Council member, Information Controls Fellowships, Open Technology Fund (2016-present)
Advisory Board member, *netCommons* ("Community Wireless Network infrastructure as a Commons" (H2020-ICT-2015, Topic: ICT-10-2015 b) (2015-present)
Ethics Advisory Board member, *GrassrootWavelengths* (H2020-ICT-2017-1) (2017-present)
Council member (elected), Internet Society (ISOC) Italia (2016-2018)
Editorial Board member, Critical Digital and Social Media Studies series, University of Westminster Press (2015-present); *Platform: Journal of Media and Communication* (2009-2013); *Journal of Alternative and Community Media* (2014-present); *Internet Policy Review* (2015-present); *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Citizen Media* (2016-2018)
Councilor (elected), Generic Names Supporting Organization (2015-2017) and Executive Committee elected member and representative for Europe (2013-2015), Non-Commercial User Constituency of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)
Member, Working Group 'An Internet Free and Secure', Freedom Online Coalition (2014-2017)
Elected Member, International Council (2012-2016) and Co-chair, Task Force on Global Media Policy (2012-2016), International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR); Co-chair of the IAMCR Emerging Scholars Network (2008-2012)
Representative for academia, Steering Committee, 1/net (2013-2015)
External examiner, various PhD Committees, Anna University, Chennai, India (2011-2016)
External evaluator, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; U.S. National Science Foundation & Social Science Research Council; Cyprus Research Promotion Foundation; ISRF Independent Scholar Fellowships, Volkswagen Foundation, Irish Research Council
Reviewer of book proposals: MIT Press; Palgrave; Pluto Press; Routledge; Sage; Westminster University Press; University of Chicago Press.
Reviewer of academic articles, in alphabetical order (selected): *Big Data & Society*; *British Journal of Sociology*; *Communication, Culture and Critique*; *Communication Theory*; *Conflict, Security & Development*; *Contemporary Social Science*; *Digital media & Society*; *Global Media Journal*; *International Journal of Communication*; *International Journal of Press/Politics*; *International Journal of Sociology*; *International Studies Quarterly*; *Internet Policy Review*; *International Political Sociology*; *Journal of Communication*; *Mobilization*; *New Media & Society*; *Philosophy & Technology*; *Policy & Internet*; *Policy Studies*; *Política y Sociedad*; *Rivista Italiana di Sociologia*; *Science & Engineering Ethics*; *Science, Technology & Human Values*; *Social Media + Society*; *Social Movement Studies*; *Sociological Forum*

Member of scientific committees (selected): Impact of Social Sciences and Humanities for a European Research Agenda conference (Vienna, November 2018); New Media and Participation conference, COST action “Transforming Audiences, Transforming Societies” and Bahçeşehir University, Turkey (2013); Congreso Internacional de Comunicación, Sociedad Civil y Cambio Social, Universitat Jaume I, Spain (2015)

Organization of international conferences (selected): “Big Data from the South” (Cartagena, Colombia, July 2017 and Amsterdam, December 2018); “Data “Connecting to the Masses. 100 years from the Russian Revolution” (Amsterdam, November 2017); “Data for the Social Good” (Amsterdam, November 2017); 2nd Open Data Research Symposium 2016 (Madrid, 2016); “Contentious Data” (Amsterdam, September 2015); IAMCR (Mexico City 2009; Braga 2010; Istanbul 2011; Durban 2012; Dublin 2013; Hyderabad 2014; Montreal 2015); ICA regional conference (Budapest 2009); OURMedia IV (Porto Alegre 2004), OURMedia V (Bangalore 2005), OURMedia VI (Sidney 2007), OURMedia VIII (Dublin 2013)

CONSULTANCY

DATACTIVE Ideas Lab (2017-present), advising on grant writing (ERC, H2020, etc), data literacy and data science programs, internet governance and cybersecurity

European Commission, Expert Evaluator & Reviewer, for e.g. FP7, Horizon2010, DG Communications, Network Content, and Technology (CONNECT), Collective Awareness Platforms for Sustainability & Social Innovation (CAPS) (2013/2015/2017); Collective enHanced Environment for Social Tasks (CHEST) project

Free Press Unlimited. Vision and planning of civil society pre-conference to the Global Conference on Cyberspace, The Hague (2014)

Ministry of Education, University, and Research, Italy. Area digital policies and social innovation: Digital Agenda for Europe legislation, design of online public consultations, digital policy literacy (2012-2013)

Inter Press Service News Agency. Contextual analysis and business plan for 2012-2014

Pentsamendua: A Laboratory for Thought and Inquiry, Basque Global Initiatives (USA). Media and Communications Group (2009-2010)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (in alphabetical order)

Association of Internet Researchers (AoIR)

European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST)

European Sociological Association (ESA)

Global Internet Governance Academic Network (GIGANet)

International Association for Media and Communication Research (IAMCR)

International Communication Association (ICA)

International Studies Association (ISA)

Latin America Studies Network (LASA)

Surveillance Studies Network (SSN)

KEYNOTES, GUEST LECTURES, and INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

“Error 404: Social Life Not Found. Towards datafication from below”, keynote at STS Italia conference, University of Padova, 15 June 2018

“‘Lately I have been feeling ethical’. Interrogations into the ethical challenges of critical data studies”, keynote address, *Winter School of the Dutch Research School of Media Studies*, 24 January 2018

“Social order in/by the cloud”, keynote address, *Social Media and the Social Order* conference, 2 December Oslo

“Resist, subvert, accelerate. Towards an ethics of engagement in the age of the computational theocracy”, keynote address, *Slow Computing* workshop, Maynooth University, 14 December 2017

“Vigilancia masiva, tecnología y resistencia desde la base”, keynote address, *Annual Symposium of the Rede Latino-Americana de Estudos sobre Vigilância, Tecnologia e Sociedade*, Universidad de Chile, Santiago de Chile, 29 November 2017

“Big data desde el Sur. Una conversacion urgente”, keynote address, *Move.net*, Sevilla, 26 October 2017

“Data-logies. The conditions of possibility for democratic agency in the datafied society”, keynote address, *Data Power* conference, Carleton University (Canada), 23 June 2017

“Big Data, surveillance and resistance”, invited lecture, *Surveillance Studies Summer Seminar*, Queen’s University, Kingston (Canada), 15-21 June 2017

“Elements of a digital skillset for doctoral education”, keynote address, *10th Annual Symposium of the Council for Doctoral Education of the European Universities Association*, Tallinn, 15 June 2017

“Questioning and subverting the tracking of experience: Distributed agency and alternative epistemologies from the ground up”, invited speaker, *Tracking experience – enhancing lives*, U of Copenhagen, 24 April 2017

Invited Speaker (scientific session), *ERC 10th Anniversary Conference*, Brussels, 21 March 2017

“Poisoned water in the goldfish bowl: Cool capitalism vs bottom-up data practices”, *Openness workshop*, Uppsala University, 29 September 2016

“Privacy from the perspective of (organized) collective action”, invited lecture for the *Pllab Summer School on Privacy*, Nijmegen, 14 July 2016

“Datafication & participation: Inside data activism”, keynote address, *Digital Methods Summer School*, University of Amsterdam, 4 July 2016

“Digital & virtual communities”, *Making Democracy Work* conference, Central European University, 23 Jun 2016

“Datafication and civic participation: the emerging epistemic culture of data activism”, *Forschungskolloquium Medienkultur*, University of Bremen, 3 June 2016

“The political self, digitally. Citizenship, participation & subversion today”, *Amsterdam Filosofie Nacht 2016*

“Big data, data activism, and the global civil society”, inaugural talk of the Oxford Internet Institute’s *Data and Development* series, 26 January 2016

“Big Data and the understanding of the political”, keynote address, annual conference of the International Society for Information Studies, Vienna, 6 June 2015

“Illusions of democracy and the media”, School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 18 May 2015

“Hacktivism, or Fifty Shades of Grey Hat”, with Oxblood Ruffin and B. Coleman, *Re:publica*, Berlin, 7 May 2015

“We Come in Peace: Inside Hacktivists’ Imaginaries and Repertoires”, Goldsmiths College, 14 May 2015

“In multistakeholderism we trust”, *Internet governance. Actors, Technology, Content* conference, Alexander von Humboldt Institute for Internet and Society (Berlin), 9 October 2014

“Stealing the Fire. Emancipation and Resistance at the Margins of Cyberspace”, keynote address, *Voice + Matter* conference, Roskilde University and Malmo University, 18 September 2014

“The future of internet policy and civil society post-Snowden”, invited lecture, Annenberg-Oxford Media Policy Summer Institute, Oxford University, 11 July 2014

“Governance della rete- Come cambiano i massimi sistemi di Internet”, Istituto di Informatica e Telematica, Centro Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy, 6 June 2014

“Limitations of the multi-stakeholder governance model: Neo-corporatism, cliques and forms of exclusions in the civil society realm”, *The Future of Cyber Governance* conference, The Hague, 13 May 2014

“Ethics of technology and ethics of organizing. The cyberactivists’ struggle for moral values in cyberspace”, *Ethics in Cyber-Activism* workshop, Warwick University, 31 January 2014

“Los movimientos sociales y su tecnologías: radio comunitaria y auto-organización en la red”, Universidad del Rosario, Bogota, Colombia, 3 December & Universidad Complutense, Madrid, 16 December 2013

“Social movements and their technologies: On the role of autonomy and self-organizing in cyberspace”, Kings’ College London, 28 November & Aberystwyth University, 26 November 2013

“Is Hacktivism Good for Democracy?,” keynote address, *A Global Village? Hacktivists, Cyberwarriors, and International Relations* conference, University of Toronto, 26 January 2013 ‘

“The Guardians of the Internet? Politics and Ethics of Cyberactivists (and of their Observers)”, *Inter-Asia Roundtable on Cyberactivism*, National University of Singapore, 28-30 August 2012

“Emancipatory communication practices from a sociological point of view”, Movement/Media Research Action Project, Boston College, 1 December 2010

“Stealing the Fire: How social movements create grassroots communication infrastructures”, public lecture, McGill University Canada, November 25, 2010

DIGITAL & PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Data collection/analysis software: SPSS, STATA, Gephi, T-CAT, Netvizz, Atlas.ti, EnVivo, BigBang, Hypertopic

Programming languages: R, Python, PHP (intermediate level), in MatLab and the Linux environment

Other: Zotero, Hypertext Markup Languages and content management frameworks (Drupal, Wordpress, Joomla)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Excellent Italian (mother tongue)

Excellent English (C2 in speaking, reading, writing)

Excellent Portuguese (C2 in speaking, reading, writing)

Excellent Spanish (C2 in speaking, reading, writing)

Fair Dutch (B1 in speaking, reading, writing)

Fair French (C1 in reading, A2 in writing and speaking)

Basic German (A1 in speaking, reading, writing)