

# JORDAN J. BRENSINGER

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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2022-Present Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Information Technology Policy,  
Princeton University

## EDUCATION

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2022 PhD, Sociology, Columbia University  
*Dissertation:* Producing Consumer “Identities”: Identity Theft and Insecurity in the  
Data Economy  
*Committee:* Shamus Khan, Gil Eyal, Marion Fourcade, Bruce Western, Zeynep  
Tufekci

2019 MPhil, Sociology, Columbia University

2017 MA, Sociology, Columbia University

2013 MIA, Urban and Social Policy, Columbia University

2007 BA, Mathematics and Spanish, Messiah College

## PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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*Peer-Reviewed (\* denotes equal authorship)*

Forthcoming **Brensinger, Jordan** and Ramina Sotoudeh.\* “Party, Race, and Neutrality:  
Investigating the Interdependence of Attitudes Towards Social  
Groups.” *American Sociological Review*.

- 2021 Co-Winner, Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA  
Political Sociology Section

2021 **Brensinger, Jordan** and Gil Eyal. “The Sociology of Personal Identification.”  
*Sociological Theory* 39(4): 265-292.

*Under Review*

**Brensinger, Jordan.** “Data Vulnerability, Mistrust, and the Production of Economic Insecurity.”  
*Re&R at American Sociological Review*.

**Brensinger, Jordan.** “Data Work: The Nature and Implications of Managing Personal Information  
in Everyday Life.” *Re&R at American Sociological Review*.

*Reviews and Book Chapters*

- 2021                    **Brensinger, Jordan.** “The Unforgiving Society.” Review of Sarah Esther Lageson, Digital Punishment. *European Journal of Sociology* 62(3):519-24.
- 2013                    Belyavina, Raisa and **Jordan Brensinger.** “Building Knowledge-Based Economies in Latin America: The Role of National Study-Abroad Scholarship Programs.” Pp. 39-53 in *Latin America’s New Knowledge Economy: Higher Education, Government, and International Collaboration*, edited by J. Balán. New York: Institute of International Education.

*Public Writing*

- 2021                    **Brensinger, Jordan,** Taylor Leaphart, Jorge Rosero, Raul De La O, Venitia Boyce, and Amina Kirk. “Who Should be Responsible for Personal Data?” *Change Machine Blog.*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

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**Brensinger, Jordan.** “The Achievement of Legibility: Algorithms, Expert Judgment, and Individual Subjectivity in Consumer Banking.”

BOOK PROJECT

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**Brensinger, Jordan.** *Misidentified: Opportunity and Insecurity in the Data Economy.*

Without the ability to uniquely identify individuals, much of contemporary society would grind to a halt. Organizations use personally identifiable information to calculate crime and child abuse risks; regulate migration; determine eligibility for voting; manage clients and vendors; and allocate resources like healthcare, housing, and public benefits. What happens, then, when the links between data and people break down? *Misidentified* will explore this question through the lens of financial identity theft, interweaving rich personal narratives from victims and staff who work on their cases, first-hand observations of industry and advocacy settings, and analysis of organizational and policy documents. It will document financial institutions’ often-clandestine efforts to track people across time and space—from visual inspection of documents to cutting-edge behavioral biometrics and machine learning models—and the lengths to which consumers must go to dispute data that contradicts their experiences. To fully understand how identification systems work along with their consequences, we need to take a hard look at contemporary data governance and social welfare regimes. My book will show how the absence of comprehensive data regulations interacts with the growing tendency to privatize social welfare to shift responsibility onto individuals to manage and protect the personal information about them, burdening them with work and often increasing their sense of insecurity. Moreover, the technological and organizational complexity of identification systems often disproportionately harm society’s most vulnerable, like the poor and people of color. By mapping these issues through the eyes of the victims and personnel who deal with them, *Misidentified* will show how things can go wrong with identification, who suffers most when they do, and what we can—and should—do about it to promote justice and flourishing in the digital age.

HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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*External*

- 2022 ISP Resident Fellowship, Information Society Project, Yale University (Declined)  
 2019-2023 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation (\$32,356)  
 2021 Co-Winner, Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Political Sociology Section  
 2019 Global Fraud Scholarship, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (\$1,600)  
 2018-2021 Harvey Fellow, Mustard Seed Foundation (\$48,000)  
 2016 ASA Student Travel Grant, American Sociological Association  
 2015 Travel Grant, American Educational Research Association, Division J  
 2012 Student Paper Award, Comparative International Education Society (CIES) Middle East Special Interest Group (MESIG)

*Internal*

- 2020 Graduate Student Research Grant, Columbia University  
 2019 Graduate Student Research Grant, Columbia University  
 2018 Graduate Student Research Grant, Columbia University  
 2016 Travel Grant, Columbia University Graduate Student Advisory Council  
 2015-2020 Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow, Columbia University  
 2015 Travel Grant, Columbia University  
 2014-2015 Jinny M. Goldstein Scholar in Sociology and Education, Columbia University  
 2013-2015 Doctoral Fellow, Columbia University  
 2012-2013 Alice Stetton Fellow, Columbia University

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (\* = INVITED)

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- 2021 \*"Data Vulnerability, Mistrust, and the Production of Economic Insecurity." Purdue University Department of Sociology (Virtual)  
 "Data Vulnerability, Mistrust, and the Production of Economic Insecurity." Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, Columbia University, New York, NY  
 "Data Vulnerability, Mistrust, and the Production of Economic Insecurity." Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Columbia University, New York, NY  
 "The Sociology of Identification Processes." Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Columbia University, New York, NY (Virtual)  
 2020 "Identity Theft and the Production of Economic Insecurity." Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, Columbia University, New York, NY (Virtual)  
 \*"Data Work: The Structure and Consequences of Managing Personal Information in Everyday Life." Gender, Sexuality, and Culture Workshop, Columbia University, New York, NY (Virtual)  
 "Identity Theft and the Reproduction of Inequality." American Sociological Association Meeting, San Francisco, CA (Virtual)

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- “Identity Theft and the Contestation of Personal Financial Data.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Meeting, Amsterdam, Netherlands (Virtual)
- “Identity Theft and the Reproduction of Inequality.” Privacy Law Scholars Conference, Washington, DC (Virtual)
- \*“Identity Theft and the Contestation of Personal Financial Data.” Documenting Identity: Recognition and Risk in the Twenty-First Century Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN (Virtual)
- 2019 \*“(Mis)Trust in Numbers: Narratives and the Negotiation of Personal Data.” Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- 2018 “Identity Theft and the Production of Economic Insecurity.” Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- “Openness to Diversity and the Maintenance of Distinction in Elite Higher Education.” American Sociological Association Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- “Openness’ as Distinction: Moral Discourse and the Reproduction of Inequality.” Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- “Open and Shut: Revisiting the Paradox of Elite Distinction.” Eastern Sociological Society Mini-conference on Class and Culture, Baltimore, MD.
- 2016 “Under Surveillance: Higher Education and the Construction of Muslim Cultural Citizenship.” Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Workshop, Columbia University, New York, NY.
- “Under Surveillance: Higher Education and the Construction of Muslim Cultural Citizenship.” American Sociological Association Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- “Embodied Boundaries: Modesty and Superiority in Zionist Religious Girls Schools.” American Sociological Association Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- “Embodied Boundaries: The Institutional Transmission of Social Hierarchy.” Aage Sørensen Memorial Conference, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 2015 “Habitus, Reflexivity, and the Cognitive Foundations of Social Mobility.” American Sociological Association Meeting, Chicago, IL.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (\*= WITH SECTIONS; §=SENIOR TEACHING ASSISTANT)

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*Undergraduate Courses*

- 2020-21 The Social World\* (Columbia’s Introduction to Sociology; with Teresa Sharpe and Adam Reich) (*online*)
- 2017-18 Senior Thesis Seminar (with Van Tran)
- 2017 Methods for Social Research (with Jacob Boersema)
- 2016 The Social World\* (Columbia’s Introduction to Sociology; with Gil Eyal)
- 2006 Calculus I (with Douglas Phillippy)

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*Graduate Courses*

2021-22	Master’s Thesis Seminar (with Denise Milstein)
2014	Evaluation of Educational and Social Programs (with Aaron Pallas)
2014	Data Analysis for Policy and Decisionmaking II (with Douglas Ready)
2013	Data Analysis for Policy and Decisionmaking I (with Douglas Ready)
2012-13	Quantitative Analysis*§ (with Paul Thurman)

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS ADVISEES

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<i>Year</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Topic</i>
2017-18	Trendha Hunter	Gender Performance in Sexual Health Education
2017-18	Cindy Liu	Gendered Occupational Barriers in Classical Music
2017-18	Amber Officer-Narvasa	Race and Neighborhood Change in a NYC Coop
2017-18	Julius Wilson	The Transformation of Journalistic Norms

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

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2019-2020	Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Sociology, Columbia University
2016-2017	PhD Student Representative, Department of Sociology, Columbia University
2013	Peer Advisor, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs
2012-2013	Academic and Orientation Chair, Student Association, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs
2005-2006	Honor Code Committee Member, Department of Mathematics, Engineering, and Business, Messiah College
2006	Student Forum Representative, Student Government Association, Messiah College

MEMBERSHIPS/AFFILIATIONS

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American Sociological Association (Sections: Culture; Economic Sociology; IPM; SKAT)  
 Society for the Advancement of Socio Economics  
 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (NYC Chapter)

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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Programming: R  
 Software: Microsoft Excel, NVivo, Qualtrics, Stata

LANGUAGE SKILLS

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English (Native), Spanish (Advanced), Arabic (Beginner), French (Beginner)

ADVOCACY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (SELECTED)

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- 2015-2019 Co-founder, Director of Program Evaluation, and Mentor, Pathways Mentorship Program, Viva Uptown
- 2013 Teacher, Columbia Philosophy Outreach Program, Harlem Fortune Society
- 2011-2013 Co-founder and Outreach Chair, Education Collaborative, Columbia University
- 2008-2009 Director of Student Relations, Forgotten Voices International
- 2006 Peacebuilding Trainee, Summer Peacebuilding Institute, Eastern Mennonite University