

CONTACT INFORMATION

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Toronto

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, 2024–
Faculty Affiliate, Centre for Global Social Policy
Faculty Affiliate, Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society

Princeton University

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for Information Technology Policy, 2022–2024

EDUCATION

Columbia University

Ph.D., Sociology. May 2022

Dissertation: *Producing Consumer “Identities”: Identity Theft and Insecurity in the Data Economy*

— 2023 Robert K. Merton Award for Best Dissertation, Columbia University
Committee: Gil Eyal, Marion Fourcade, Shamus Khan, Zeynep Tufekci, Bruce Western

Columbia University, M.A., Sociology, 2017

Columbia University, M.I.A., Urban and Social Policy, 2013

Messiah College, B.A., Mathematics and Spanish, 2007

FOCUS

Using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, I study how organizations harness data about people — from banking records to brain activity — and what those systems mean for everyday life, opportunity, and inequality.

BOOKS

Brensinger, Jordan. *Misidentified: Searching for Security in the Data Economy*. Under contract with Princeton University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Brensinger, Jordan. 2023. “Identity Theft, Trust Breaches, and the Production of Economic Insecurity.” *American Sociological Review* 88(5):844–71.

Brensinger, Jordan, and Ramina Sotoudeh. 2022. “Party, Race, and Neutrality: Investigating the Interdependence of Attitudes Toward Social Groups.” *American Sociological Review* 87(6):1049–1093.

— 2021 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Political Sociology Section

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

UNDER REVIEW

Brensinger, Jordan, and Oliver Schilke. “The Social Life of Trust Violations: How Culture and Networks Shape the Interpretation of Breaches.”

Brensinger, Jordan, and Madisson Whitman. “Beyond ‘Tools’: The Implications of Digital Platforms for Qualitative Research.” *R&R Big Data & Society*.

WORKING PAPERS	Brensinger, Jordan. "Personal Data Work: Managing Personal Information in Everyday Life." <i>Manuscript available upon request.</i>
	Brensinger, Jordan. "The Relational Production of 'Accurate' Personal Financial Data." <i>Manuscript available upon request.</i>
	Brensinger, Jordan, and Sarah Lageson. "Credit Reports, Criminal Records, and their Convergence." <i>In preparation.</i>
	Brensinger, Jordan, and Madisson Whitman. "Critically Assessing the Use of Commercial Digital Platforms in Research." <i>Manuscript available upon request.</i>
REVIEWS AND BOOK CHAPTERS	Brensinger, Jordan. 2022. "The Unforgiving Society." Review of Sarah Esther Lageson, <i>Digital Punishment</i> . <i>European Journal of Sociology</i> 62(3):519–24.
	Belyavina, Raisa, and Jordan Brensinger. 2013. "Building Knowledge-Based Economies in Latin America." Pp. 39–53 in <i>Latin America's New Knowledge Economy</i> , ed. J. Balán. New York: Institute of International Education.
PUBLIC WRITING	Sotoudeh, Ramina, and Jordan Brensinger. 2023. "Partisanship is Not the Only 'Logic' Informing Americans' Attitudes Toward Social Groups." <i>USAPP – American Politics and Policy</i> .
	Brensinger, Jordan, et al. 2022. <i>Commercial Surveillance ANPR R111004</i> . Federal Trade Commission.
	Brensinger, Jordan, et al. 2021. "Who Should be Responsible for Personal Data?" <i>Change Machine Blog</i> .
HONORS, AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS	<i>External</i>
	Siegel Research Fellow, Siegel Family Foundation (2022, Declined)
	ISP Resident Fellowship, Information Society Project, Yale University (2022, Declined)
	Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation (2019–2023, \$32,356)
	Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Political Sociology Section (2021)
	Global Fraud Scholarship, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (2019, \$1,600)
	Harvey Fellow, Mustard Seed Foundation (2018–2021, \$48,000)
	ASA Student Travel Grant (2016)
	Travel Grant, American Educational Research Association, Division J (2015)
	Student Paper Award, Comparative International Education Society MESIG (2012)
	<i>Internal</i>
	A&S Collaborative Research Grant, University of Toronto, Co-PI (2025–2027, \$40,000)
	Anti-Ableist Research Grant, Center for Global Disability Studies, University of Toronto, Co-PI (2025, \$1,000)
	Robert K. Merton Award for Best Dissertation, Columbia University (2023)
	Graduate Student Research Grant, Columbia University (2018, 2019, 2020)
	Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow, Columbia University (2015–2020)
	Jinny M. Goldstein Scholar in Sociology and Education, Columbia University (2014–2015)
	Doctoral Fellow, Columbia University (2013–2015)
	Alice Stetton Fellow, Columbia University (2012–2013)
INVITED TALKS	2026: ROSE Network Annual Conference, University of Toronto.

"Gatekeepers of Trust in Financial Data: The Case of Identity Theft Police Reports"

2025: Seminar on Identity Theft, Financial Fraud and Economic Abuse in the Digital Age, University of Oslo.

"Rethinking Risk and Responsibility for Personal Data"

2024: Department of Private Law, University of Oslo; Rutgers Law Conference on Coerced Debt, Identity Theft, and Financial Exploitation, Newark, NJ.

"Identity Theft, Trust Breaches, and the Production of Economic Insecurity"

2023: Keystone Konnection, International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators, King of Prussia, PA.

"Who are You Calling 'Normal'? The Uses and Limits of Intuition in Identity Theft Investigations"

2021: Technology Ethics Center, Notre Dame University, South Bend, IN.

"Identity Theft, Trust Breaches, and the Production of Economic Insecurity"

2020: "Documenting Identity" Conference, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

"Identity Theft and the Contestation of Personal Financial Data"

2019: Domestic Violence and Economic Justice Task Force; Domestic Violence and Consumer Law Working Group, New York, NY.

"The Personal Data and Identity Theft Study"

CONFERENCE TALKS

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (2016, 2018, 2020, 2023, 2024, 2026)

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Meeting (2020)

Privacy Law Scholars Conference (2020)

Eastern Sociological Society (2018)

Aage Sørensen Memorial Conference, Stockholm (2016)

CAMPUS TALKS

2025: Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Stetson University

2024: Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Columbia University

2023: Center for Information Technology Policy; Department of Sociology, Princeton University

2022: Center for Information Technology Policy, Princeton University

2021: Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop; Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, Columbia University

2020: Gender, Sexuality, and Culture Workshop; Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Columbia University

2019: Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Columbia University

2018: Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality, Columbia University

2016: Race, Ethnicity, and Migration Workshop, Columbia University

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

University of Toronto

Logic and Design of Social Research (w/ Melissa Milkie). [2026]

Cyborgs, Implants, and Wearables: Embodied Technologies in Society. [2026-2027]

Data, Technology, and Society. [2024-2026]

Introduction to Qualitative Methods in Sociology. [2024-2027]

Teaching Assistant

Columbia University

Master's Thesis Seminar. [2021–22]
 The Social World (Introduction to Sociology). [2016, 2020–21]
 Senior Thesis Seminar. [2017–18]
 Methods for Social Research. [2017]
 Evaluation of Educational and Social Programs. [2014]
 Data Analysis for Policy and Decisionmaking I & II. [2013–14]
 Quantitative Analysis (Senior TA, managed 4 TAs; led 4 sections). [2012–13]

Messiah College

Calculus I. [2006]

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committee Member, Distinguished Speaker Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto (2025–)
 Committee Member, AI & Teaching Working Group, Department of Sociology, University of Toronto (2025–)
 Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Sociology, Columbia University (2019–2020)
 PhD Student Representative, Department of Sociology, Columbia University (2016–2017)
 Peer Advisor, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (2013)
 Academic and Orientation Chair, Student Association, Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs (2012–2013)
 Student Forum Representative, Student Government Association, Messiah College (2006)
 Honor Code Committee Member, Department of Mathematics, Engineering, and Business, Messiah College (2005–2006)
 Reviewer: *ACM CHI* (Special Recognition for Outstanding Review), *Big Data & Society*, *Journal of Data Science*, *Sociological Theory*, *Socius*

MEMBERSHIPS

4S - Society for the Social Studies of Science
 American Sociological Association (Sections: CITAMS; Crime, Law, and Deviance; Economic Sociology; Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility; Science, Knowledge, and Technology)
 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (past)