

PHILIPP BRANDT

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Since 2019 **Sciences Po**, Paris, France
Assistant Professor, Sociology
Researcher, Centre de Sociologie des Organisations (CSO)

2016 – 2019 **University of Mannheim**, Mannheim, Germany
Postdoctoral researcher, Sociology
Chair of Economic and Organizational Sociology

EDUCATION

2016 **Columbia University**, New York, NY, USA
Ph.D., Sociology

2014 M.Phil., Sociology

2012 M.A., Sociology

2010 **Jacobs University Bremen**, Bremen, Germany
B.A., Integrated Social Sciences

MONOGRAPH

2025 **Brandt, P.** *Inside Data Science: Hackers and the Making of a New Profession*. Columbia University Press.

ARTICLES

2024 **Brandt, P.** Data Science's Cultural Construction: Qualitative Ideas for Quantitative Work. *Frontiers in Big Data: Applied Computational Social Science*. 7, 1287442

2022 **Brandt, P.** Sociology's Stake in Data Science. *Sociologica*. 16(2), pp. 149-166.

2021 **Brandt, P.** and Timmermans, S. Abductive Logic of Inquiry for Quantitative Research in the Digital Age. *Sociological Science*. 8, pp. 191-210.

2021 Dorschel, R. and **Brandt, P.** Professionalization via ambiguity: the discursive construction of data scientists in higher education and the labor market. *Zeitschrift für Soziologie*. 50 (3-4), pp. 192-210.

2018 **Brandt, P.**, Schrank, A and Whitford, J. Brokerage and Boots on the Ground: Complements or Substitutes in the Manufacturing Extension Partnerships? *Economic Development Quarterly*, 32(4), pp. 288-299.

2018 Hoffman, M. A., Cointet, J. P., **Brandt, P.**, Key, N., & Bearman, P. The (Protestant) Bible, the (printed) sermon, and the word(s): The semantic structure of the Conformist and Dissenting Bible, 1660–1780. *Poetics*. 68, pp. 89-103.
- *Distinguished Article Award from the American Sociological Association's Religion Section*

2017 **Brandt, P.** & Whitford, J. Fixing network failures? The contested case of the American Manufacturing Extension Partnership. *Socio-Economic Review*, 15 (2), pp. 331-357.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- 2023 **Brandt, P.** Machine Learning, Abduction and Computational Ethnography. In J. P. Pardo-Guerra & C. Borch (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning*. Oxford University Press.
- 2022 **Brandt, P.** & Safford, S. Globalization at the Crossroads of Organizational Strategies and National Institutions. In Olivier Borraz (Ed.), *La société des organisations*. Sciences Po Press.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Structural Footholds in the German Labor Market
(with Marcel Kappes, Jeremy Kuhnle, and Henning Hillmann; finalizing submission to the *American Journal of Sociology*)
- Does the Private Sector Add Value to Public-Private Partnerships?
(with Andrew Schrank and Josh Whitford; in preparation for submission to the *American Sociological Review*)
- Relational Footholds in New York City's Yellow Cab Industry
(completed manuscript)

OTHER WRITING

- 2020 Government crisis communication during the coronavirus crisis: Comparing France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (with Jan Wörlein). CSO Website.

GRANTS

- 2023 "Returns to Work in Occupational, Relational, and Corporate Settings" (ReWORCS) ERC Starting Grant (EUR 1.5mil)
- 2021 "Immigrants' career changes in German organizations" (EUR 205k from the German Research Foundation (DFG) as lead author with Henning Hillmann and Jeremy Kuhnle)
- 2021 "Veracity assessment framework for discovering social activities in urban big datasets" (Masters Internship Project--Data Intelligence Institute of Paris; with Soror Sahri)
- 2020 "Social media discourse responses of two professional communities to COVID-19" APICSO (EUR 2k CSO seed grant with Sophie Dubuisson-Quellier)
- 2018 "Immigrants' career changes in German organizations" Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (seed grant; Principal investigator)
- 2017 "Chains of opportunity in politics: An organizational analysis of politicians' careers in the German Bundestag since 1949" Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (seed grant; Co-Pi with Henning Hillmann)

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2019 Distinguished Article Award from the American Sociological Association's Religion Section
- 2019 Sociology and political sciences student teaching award, University of Mannheim
- 2010-2015 Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow, Sociology, Columbia University, New York, USA
- 2009-2010 President's List, Jacobs University, Bremen, Germany

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 "From Snapshots to Portraits of Social Problems: A Historical Comparison of Decision-reporting in Quantitative Research" Analytical sociology colloquium, University of Munich, Germany
- 2023 "Relational Footholds as Labor Market Mechanism" Abteilung SOWI VII, Universität Stuttgart, Germany

- “Relational Footholds as Labor Market Mechanism” FAU Speaker Series on Computational Social Science and Sociology, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Nürnberg, Germany
- “Exploring the Roads not Taken: Putting the Social Sciences back into Computational Social Science.” Digitalization and Society Series, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung, Berlin, Germany
- “The Big Apple’s Inner Workings: Structural Stress, Individual Strain, and Relational Footholds in a Labor Market.”
SRPP Seminar Series, New York University-Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2022 “Data discipline: how hackers took on science.” SKAT Workshop, Columbia University
- 2021 “The social world in digital traces.” Summer Institute in Computational Social Science-UCLA
“Surprises in Modern Data Work and its Motives.”
Sustainable democracies workshop, CEU/MPIfG/Sciences Po
- 2019 “The data scientist: tertius gaudens of the digital transformation.”
Séminaire de la chaire société algorithmique, Université Grenoble Alpes
- “Hidden social structures in NYC’s yellow cab trip data.” LIPADE, Université de Paris
- “Fast bucks, good money and public service: Optimizing and experimenting in NYC’s yellow cab industry.” Center for Research in Economics and Statistics (CREST), Paris, France
- “The data scientist identity: reflexive creativity in the digital age.”
Séminaire de la chair PARI, Paris, France
- 2017 “The emergence of data science: Professional identity construction in the digital age”
Centre de Sociologie des Organisations, Sciences Po, Paris, France
- “The story(ies) of the data scientist(s): Forging established ideas into a novel identity.”
University of Lucerne, Lucerne, Switzerland

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “The Effects of Organizational Exposure on Immigrants’ Earnings.”
(with Jeremy Kuhnle; Marcel Kappes; Henning Hillmann)
ECSR Annual Conference, Barcelona, Spain
- “Earmarking, Embeddedness, and Organizational Change: The Manufacturing Extension Partnerships in the COVID-19 Era.”
(with Andrew Schrank and Josh Whitford)
ASA Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada
- “Relational Holds as a Labor Market Mechanism”
Sociological Science Conference, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA
- 2023 “Career Erraticism among Migrant Workers in a German LEE Dataset.”
(with Jeremy Kuhnle; Marcel Kappes; Henning Hillmann)
DGS-Methodensektion Frühjahrstagung
MZES Ethnic Diversity Workshop, March 30, 2023
- 2022 “What Can Sociology Do with Data Scientists? Train, Practice, and Change”
ASA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, USA
- “Jurisdictional Struggle in the Digital Age: French Food Professionals on Twitter”
Society for the Advancement of Socio Economics (SASE), Amsterdam, NL
- 2021 “Data Science’s Motives: Methods, Profits, and Ideas for Doing Things Differently”
Contentious Science, Tricky Politics, Bordeaux, France
- “Data science’s motives: Methods, Profits, and Ideas for Doing Things Differently”
ASA Annual Meeting, Zoom
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), Zoom
- 2020 “Data science’s social origins: Professional identity construction in the digital age.”
ASA Annual Meeting (Roundtable), Zoom
- “The data scientist role: Professional identity construction as creative action.”
Society for the Advancement of Socio Economics (SASE), Zoom
- “Revisiting the ‘Boundary Specification Problem’ in the digital age.”
Sunbelt 2020, Zoom (Organizer with Katharina Burgdorf and Sebastian Pink)
- 2019 “Data (and) Science(s): The Double Movement of Continuity and Experimentation in Expertise Production”

- 4S Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana, USA
 ASA Annual Meeting, New York City, New York, USA
 35th EGOS colloquium, Edinburgh, Scotland
 DGNet Tagung, Aachen, Germany
- 2018 “From gig to gig: Causes and consequences of job mobility in New York City’s yellow cab industry”
 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), New York City, USA
 “Building the data science profession: Between individual creativity and collective discipline”
 Daten-Praktiken-Professionen Workshop, Universität Luzern, Luzern, Switzerland
- 2017 “Disciplining the Data Scientist Role: Professional Emergence as Local Action”
 ASA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA
 “Data science: Professional emergence as a self-fulfilling prophecy.”
 34th EGOS colloquium, Tallinn, Estonia
 “The ties that move The City: Vehicle sharing networks in New York City’s yellow cab industry.”
 Sunbelt XXXVIII Conference, Utrecht, Netherlands
- 2016 “The emergence of data science: A micro-level explanation of professional status formation.”
 ESA 13th Conference, Athens, Greece
 “The construction of data science expertise: A comparative study of professional work in terms of concrete skills.”
 SGS-Kongress 2017, Zurich, Switzerland
- 2015 “Public Expectations of Professional Expertise: Skills and Knowledge in Data Science, Law, and Other Occupations.”
 ASA Annual Meeting (Roundtable), Seattle, WA, USA
- 2014 “Mechanisms in the Emergence of Data Science: A Comparative Study of Abstract Knowledge.”
 ASA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, USA
- 2013 “Systems of Skills and Knowledge: The Formation of the Data Science Profession.”
 ASA Annual Meeting (Roundtable), San Francisco, CA, USA;
 Technology, Economy and Democracy Conference, New York, NY, USA;
 Sunbelt XXXIV, St. Pete Beach, FL, USA
- 2012 “Tools to Build Ties: Network Failure in the Industrial Economy.”
 Sunbelt XXXIII, Hamburg, Germany (with Josh Whitford)
 “Dynamic Art Objects: The Evolving Structural Composition of the Global Art Scene.”
 Sunbelt XXXIII, Hamburg, Germany (with Alix Rule)
- 2011 “Tools to Build Ties.” (with Josh Whitford)
 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), Boston, USA
 “Beyond Control: Organizational Uncoupling at Daimler/Chrysler.”
 Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), New York, USA
 “Connecting the Past to the Present: A Structural Analysis of Anglican Concepts in the Early Modern Period.” Eastern Sociological Society (Roundtable), New York, USA

ADVISING & TEACHING

- Advising **Sciences Po**, Paris, France
 Josephine Bertoux (M.A. 2025)
 Adrien Terras (M.A. 2025)
 Wenting Fang (M.A. 2025)
 Daniel Creech (M.A. 2024)
 Jorge Solozabal Zapata (M.A. 2024)
 Aminah Nassiff (M.A. 2023)
 Friedrich Donner (M.A. 2023)
 Robert Fröhlich (M.A. 2023)
 Eve Albergel (M.A. 2021)
 Yann David (M.A. 2021)
- BA Seminars - Expert work in the digital age (Spring 2023; 2022; 2020)
 - Data science gegen soziale Probleme (Spring 2021; 2020)

- MA Seminars - Sociology of organizations and collective action (mandatory course; Fall 2024; 2023; 2022; 2021)
 - Social Network Analysis Research Methods and Designs (PSIA, Spring 2025; 2024; 2023; 2022)
 - Data science in context (EPA, Fall 2020; 2021)
 - Social capital and relational capital (with Emmanuel Lazega, Fall 2020)

University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany

- Advising Hannah Kottmann (B.A. 2019)
 Felix Schmidt (B.A. 2019)
 Eva Balzer (B.A. 2018)
 Clara Weißenfels (M.A. 2018)
 Joshua Zecha (M.A. 2018)
 Adrian Toroslu (B.A. 2017)
 Simon Koob (B.A. 2017)

- BA Seminars - Introduction to the Sociology of Professions and Science (Spring 2019; 2018; 2017)
 - Introduction to Economic Sociology (Fall 2018; Spring 2018; Fall 2017; Fall 2016)
 - Empirical Research Practicum (Fall 2018)
 - Organizational Innovation (Spring 2016)
 - Hacking the Meso-Level (Computational Social Science Introduction; March 2014)

- MA Seminars - Python Programming for Social Sciences (February 2018)
 - Sociology of Professions and Science (Fall 2018; Fall 2016)
 - Topics in Economic Sociology (Spring 2017)

Columbia University, New York, USA

- Fall 2015 - Organizing Innovation (2015; Teaching assistant; instructor: David Stark)
 2013 - 2014 - Senior Thesis Seminar (2014-2015; Teaching assistant; instructor: Tom DiPrete)

SERVICES

- Since 2022 **AxPo Observatory of Market Society Polarization**, SciencesPo, Paris, France
 Scientific Steering Committee
- 2021-2024 **Institute Systems Complexes**, Paris, France
 Substitute to Emmanuel Lazega on scientific advisory board
- 2020-2023 **Sciences Po**, Paris, France
 Faculty representative for the sociology department, Institute for Skills and Innovation (ICI)
- Since 2021 CSO Workshop on Work, Employment, and Professions
- 2019 **University of Mannheim**, Mannheim, Germany
 Conference organizer, “How to analyze large-scale network structures? The ‘boundary specification’ problem revisited” Mannheimer Zentrum für Europäische Sozialforschung (MZES) & Akademie für Soziologie (EUR 1 500; with Katharina Burgdorf & Sebastian Pink)
- 2017 Conference organizer, “Labor market and Economic sociology in the context of large-scale Migration (LEMS)” MZES (EUR 10 000; with Jeremy Kuhnle)
- 2014 **Columbia University**, New York, USA
 Coordinator, “Technology, Economy and Democracy” Conference with Max-Planck, Northwestern University, Science-Po, Columbia (Organizers: David Stark and Josh Whitford)
- 2011-2014 Coordinator, “Networks and Time” Seminar series for innovative analytical strategies in sociology (Organizer: Peter Bearman, \$5k annual grant).
- Referee *American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; Social Forces; Social Networks; Sociological Research Online; Journal of Professions and Organization; Socio-Economic Review; Sociological Methods and Research; Current Sociology; European Societies; Big Data & Society.*