

# JOHNNIE A. LOTESTA

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2021- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Appalachian State University  
2019-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance & Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School

## EDUCATION

2019 Ph.D. in Sociology, Brown University  
Dissertation: *Rightward in the Rustbelt: How Conservatives Remade the GOP, 1947-2012*  
\*Winner of 2020 Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award, Comparative Historical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association  
2014 M.A in Sociology, Brown University  
2011 B.A. in Global Affairs, George Mason University, summa cum laude

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Sociology, Sociology of Knowledge, Labor & Social Movements, Comparative-Historical and Qualitative Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

\* Denotes student authorship

### Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

Conner, Jerusha, **Johnnie Lotesta**, and Rachel Stannard\*. 2023. "Intersectional Politicization: A Facet of Youth Activists' Sociopolitical Development." *Journal of Community Psychology* 51:1345-1364. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/jcop.22941>.

Lotesta, Johnnie and Cedric de Leon. 2020. "Political Parties: From Reflection to Articulation and Beyond." Pp. 646-665 In *The New Handbook of Political Sociology*, edited by Thomas Janoski, Cedric de Leon, Joya Misra, and Isaac W. Martin. New York: Cambridge University Press.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108147828.025>.

Lotesta, Johnnie. 2019. "The Myth of the Business-Friendly Economy: Making Neoliberal Reforms in the Worst State for Business." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 7(2): 214–245. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41290-018-0058-x>.

Lotesta, Johnnie. 2017. "The Strength of Civil Society Ties: Explaining Party Change in America's Bluest State." *Research in Political Sociology* 24: 257-287. <https://doi.org/10.1108/s0895-993520160000024009>.

### **Under Review**

Lotesta, Johnnie, Jerusha Conner and Morgan Laverty\*. "From the Streets to the Ballot Box: Pathways Connecting Youth Activism to Electoral Engagement." (revise & resubmit, *Mobilization*)

Lotesta, Johnnie. "Configuring the Political Landscape: Why Parties Adopt Fringe Policies." (under review, *American Journal of Sociology*)

Graizbord, Diana and **Johnnie Lotesta**. "Knowledge & Knowledge-Actors in Comparative-Historical Political Sociology." (under review, *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Historical Sociology*)

### **Journal Manuscripts in Preparation**

Lotesta, Johnnie. "Manufacturing Consent: Opinion Crafting and the Campaign for Right-to-Work in America's Industrial Heartland."

Lotesta, Johnnie and Apollonya Porcelli. "What Does It Take to Build a "Good Sense"? Towards a Gramscian Sociology of Working-Class Knowledge Production"

### **Book Manuscripts in Preparation**

Lotesta, Johnnie. *Rightward in the Rustbelt*. Proposal and sample chapter available upon request.

### **Essays for Academic Outlets**

Bradlow, Benjamin H. and **Johnnie Lotesta**. 2019. "Whither a Global Wave of Populism." *GATS: Newsletter of the Global and Transnational Sociology Section of the ASA*. 16-22.

Triplett, Jennifer, **Johnnie Lotesta**, Ricarda Hammer, and Sara Tomczuk. 2018. "A Successful Mentorship Event: 2018 ASA Annual Meeting." *Trajectories: Newsletter of the Comparative and Historical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association* 30(1): 40-42.

### **Public Sociology: Op-Eds & Policy Reports**

- Conner, Jerusha, **Johnnie Lotesta**, Tova Wang, and Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg. 2021. *The Role of Electoral Engagement in Youth Social Movements*. (Study I of Protests, Politics, and Power: Exploring the Connections Between Youth Voting and Youth Movements). Medford, MA: CIRCLE, Tufts University.
- Lotesta, Johnnie. 2019. "Does Canceling Primaries Cancel Democracy?" *Daily Herald*, September 25, <https://www.dailyherald.com/discuss/20190925/does-canceling-primaries-cancel-democracy>.
- Lotesta, Johnnie and Cedric de Leon. 2015. "Challenging Racist Speech in US Politics." *Truthout*, October 8, <http://www.truth-out.org/opinion/item/33128-challenging-racist-speech-in-us-politics>.
- Baiocchi, Gianpaolo, Diana Graizbord, **Johnnie Lotesta**, Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz. 2015. "Resilient Communities and Distressed Neighborhoods: The Findings of the Southern Nevada Strong Ethnography Research Summer Clinic." Pp. 136-137 in *Southern Nevada Strong Regional Plan*. Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition. Las Vegas, NV.

## AWARDS

- |      |                                                                                                                     |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2023 | Academy of Outstanding Teachers, Appalachian State University                                                       |
| 2020 | Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award, Comparative Historical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association |

## GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- |           |                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2022      | Jerry Wurf Memorial Fund, AFSCME International, \$28,629                                                                                                                        |
| 2022      | CAS Summer Grant, Appalachian State University, \$5,000                                                                                                                         |
| 2021      | Student and Faculty Excellence (SAFE) Grant, Appalachian State University, \$400                                                                                                |
| 2019      | New Venture Fund & League of Conservation Voters, "Youth Movements in the 2018 Midterms and Beyond," Co-PI with Jerusha Conner, John Holbein, Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, \$125,000 |
| 2019-2021 | Harvard Kennedy School Ash Center for Democratic Governance & Innovation Postdoctoral Fellowship                                                                                |
| 2018      | History of American Democracy Graduate Student Fellowship, The Tobin Project                                                                                                    |
| 2017      | Joukowsky Summer Research Grant, Graduate School, Brown University, \$700                                                                                                       |
| 2016      | Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, Grant #1602931, \$11,743                                                                         |

- 2016            Doctoral Research Travel Grant, Graduate School, Brown University, \$2,000
- 2016            Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Brown University
- 2015            Hazeltine Fellowship, Business, Entrepreneurship & Organizations Program, Brown University
- 2013-2015     National Science Foundation Integrated Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Fellowship, Watson Institute for International & Public Affairs, Brown University

### **INVITED TALKS & PANELS**

- 2023            “Johnnie Lotesta and Tom VanHeuvelen on Right-to-Work Laws.” *The Marxist Sociology Blog Podcast*. 13 April 2023.
- 2023            Panelist. Author-Meets-Critics Panel on Daniel Laurison’s *Producing Politics* (with James Jones and Andrew Perrin). Eastern Sociological Society Conference. Baltimore, MD.
- 2022            “Manufacturing Consent: Opinion Crafting and the Campaign for Right-to-Work in America’s Industrial Heartland.” Invited Panel on “Party Problems: Electoral Politics, Ballot Initiatives, and Egalitarian Aspirations.” Center for Work and Democracy Fall Conference. Arizona State University. Tempe, AZ.
- 2022            Panelist. Invited Presidential Panel on “State of the Unions: Labor Law and the Future of Collective Bargaining.” (with Barry Eidlin, Veena Dubal, and William V. Gould IV). American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2021            “Voting in Youth-Led Social Movements.” (with Jerusha Conner, Kei Kei Kawashima-Ginsberg, and Tova Wang). Invited Presentation. Democracy, Power & Innovation Fund Annual Convening (remote).

### **CONFERENCE PAPERS & PANELS (Last 5 Years Only)**

- 2023            “Reactive Innovation: Why Republicans Became Anti-Labor.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC.
- 2023            “What Does It Take to Build a “Good Sense”? Towards a Gramscian Sociology of Working-Class Knowledge Production.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Washington, DC. With Apollonya Porcelli.
- 2022            “From the Streets to the Ballot Box.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA. With Jerusha Conner and Morgan Laverty.
- 2022            Session organizer. “The New Youth-Led Social Movements.” American Sociological

Association Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.

- 2021 “The New Sociology of Political Parties and Interest Group Power.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2021 Discussant. Paper session on “Elite Networks.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2021 “From Protest to Participation: On the Front Lines of Youth Civic Engagement.” Democracy & Power Innovation Fund Convening. Virtual. With Jerusha Conner.
- 2021 “Relentless Innovators: Youth Perspectives on Social Change and Intersectional Organizing in the Wake of COVID-19.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Virtual. With Jerusha Conner and Alex Foley.
- 2021 Session organizer. “Who Governs?: Power and Policymaking in the States.” Social Science History Association. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2019 “Beyond the Koch Network: Making Sense of Conservatives’ Variable Success in the States.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2018 “War of Position: Business, Think Tanks and the GOP.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 “The Right and the Crisis of Labor.” The Crisis of History and the History of Crisis. Mini-Conference of the Comparative Historical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 “Rightward in the Rustbelt: How Business Took over the GOP and Ousted Organized Labor, 1971-2012.” Comparative Historical Social Sciences Conference. Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.

## **TEACHING & ADVISING (Since PhD)**

### **Courses Taught**

- 2023-2024 Wealth, Power & Privilege, Appalachian State University (Spring)
- The Sociological Perspective, Appalachian State University (Spring)
- 2022-2023 Political Sociology, Appalachian State University (Fall)
- The Sociological Perspective, Appalachian State University (Spring)
- Social Movements, Appalachian State University (Spring)

2021-2022     Social Movements, Appalachian State University (Fall)  
                     The Sociological Perspective, Appalachian State University (Fall, Spring)  
                     Wealth, Power & Privilege, Appalachian State University (Spring)

### **Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committees**

2023-2024     Elizabeth Moeller, Department of Sociology, Appalachian State, Reader.  
 2022-2023     Morgan Laverty, Department of Sociology, Appalachian State, Chair.

### **Undergraduate Honors Contracts**

2023-2024     Annelies West  
 2022-2023     Elizabeth Moeller, Mané Ortega Poblete  
 2021-2022     Morgan Laverty, Allison Costner

### **Independent Studies**

2021-2022     Morgan Laverty, Youth-Led Social Movements

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **National Discipline**

2022-            Member, Advisory Board, Center for Work and Democracy, Arizona State University.  
 2022-2023     Member, Nominations Committee, Comparative Historical Sociology Section of the  
                     American Sociological Association.  
 2019-2021     Editor, American Sociological Association Sociology of Culture Section Newsletter  
 2018            Member, Mentorship Event Planning Committee, Comparative Historical Sociology  
                     Section of the American Sociological Association  
 2017-2019     Managing Editor, *Studies in Comparative International Development*  
 2016            Chair, Mini-Conference Planning Committee, Comparative Historical Sociology Section  
                     of the American Sociological Association

Occasional Reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *Contexts*, *Sociation*, *Youth & Society*

## **Appalachian State University**

2023-            University Forum Committee

## **Department of Sociology, Appalachian State University**

2023-2024    Member, Policy Committee

Member, Faculty Development Committee

2022-2023    Chair, Student Development Committee

Member, Policy Committee

2021-2022    Chair, Student Development Committee

Organizer, Speaker Series on Sociology-Related Careers

## **Ash Center for Democratic Governance & Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School**

2020-2021    Member, Democracy Convening Planning Committee

2020           Organizer, Labor Politics Workshop

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Sociological Association

Social Science History Association