

JOHNNIE A. LOTESTA

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

PUBLICATIONS

* Denotes student authorship

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

Graizbord, Diana and **Johnnie Lotesta**. Forthcoming. "Knowledge & Knowledge-Actors in Comparative-Historical Political Sociology." *The Oxford Handbook of Comparative Historical Sociology*, edited by Rebecca Jean Emigh and David M. McCourt. New York: Oxford University Press.

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. "Configuring the Political Landscape: Why Parties Adopt Fringe Policies." (revise & resubmit, *American Journal of Sociology*)

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

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. "Towards a Gramscian Sociology of Working Class Knowledge: What it Takes to Build a 'Good Sense.'"

Book Manuscripts in Preparation

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

Book Reviews & Academic Essays

Lotesta, Johnnie. 2024. "Who Can Capitalize on Capitalism's Disposessions?" Review of Edwin Ackerman's *Origins of the Mass Party*. *Critical Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08969205241248112>.

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.

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

- 2024 University Research Council Grant, Appalachian State University, \$3,899
- 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 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

- 2024 “Configuring the Political Landscape: Why Parties Adopt Fringe Policies.” Transformations of Democracy/Institutions and Political Inequality Workshop. WZB Berlin Social Science Center. Berlin, Germany.
- 2024 Participant. Historical Knowledge and World Problems Workshop. University of Turku. Turku, Finland.
- 2024 Panelist. Invited panel on “Politics, Elections, and Teaching as Public Sociology.” (with Edwin Ackerman, Benjamin Bradlow, Cedric de Leon, and Diana Graizbord). *First Publics*.
- 2024 Discussant. Invited panel on “21st Century Labor Movement Strategy” (with Jared Abbott, Barry Eidlin, Andrew Elrod, Ben Fong, and Stephanie Mudge). Center for Work and Democracy. Tempe, AZ.
- 2023 Interview. “Johnnie Lotesta and Tom VanHeuvelen on Right-to-Work Laws” (with Barry Eidlin and Tom VanHeuvelen). *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. 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 Kawashima-Ginsberg, and Tova Wang). Invited Presentation. Democracy, Power & Innovation Fund Annual Convening. Remote.

CONFERENCE PAPERS & PANELS (Last 5 Years Only)

2024 “Towards a Gramscian Sociology of Working Class Knowledge: What It Takes to Build a ‘Good Sense.’” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, QC Canada. With Apollonya Porcelli.

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.

TEACHING & ADVISING (Since PhD)

Courses Taught

- 2024-2025 The Sociological Perspective, Appalachian State University (Fall)
 Political Sociology, Appalachian State University (Fall)
- 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

- 2024-2025 Annelies West, Department of Sociology, Appalachian State, Reader.
 Molly Spruill, Department of Government & Justice Studies, Appalachian State,
 Reader.
- 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

- 2024- Foundations of Democracy Committee
- 2023- University Forum Committee

Department of Sociology, Appalachian State University

- 2024-2025 Member, Faculty Development Committee
- 2023-2024 Member, Policy 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