

Sadie Dempsey

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Department of Sociology
University of Wisconsin-Madison
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EDUCATION

- In progress **Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Department of Sociology
Minor: Political Science
Preliminary Exams: Political Sociology, Ethnography
Dissertation: “Expanding Democracy: An Ethnography of Engaged Citizenship in Wisconsin”
- 2019 **M.S., University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Department of Sociology
Thesis: “No Blue, No Red”: Movement-Party Dynamics, Populism, and Collective Identity Formation”
- 2014 **B.A., University of Wisconsin-Madison**, Department of Sociology and
Department of Gender and Women’s Studies

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Sociology; Democracy; Social Movements; Political Communication; Ethnography and Qualitative Research Methods; Mixed-Methods Research; Community-Engaged Research

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Dempsey, Sadie, Jianing Li, Benny Witkovsky, Yiming Wang, Lewis A. Friedland, Michael W. Wagner, and Dhavan V. Shah. *Forthcoming*. “Manufacturing January 6th: How Republican County Parties Mobilized to #StopTheSteal.” *Politics & Society*.

Besbris, Max, **Sadie Dempsey**, Eva Rosen, and Brian McCabe. *Forthcoming*. “Housing Insecurity during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.

Dempsey, Sadie, Jiyouon Suk, Katherine J. Cramer, Lewis A. Friedland, Michael W. Wagner, and Dhavan V. Shah. 2020. “Understanding Trump Supporters’ News Use: Beyond the Fox News Bubble.” *The Forum* 18(3): 319-346.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Dempsey, Sadie and Jianing Li. 2024. “The Local Roots of January 6th: A Mixed-Methods, Multi-Level Approach to Political Communication” in *Media and January 6th*. Eds. Kadajah Costley White, Daniel Kreiss, Shannon C. McGregor, and Rebekah Tromble. Oxford University Press.

Friedland, Lewis A., Dhavan V. Shah, Michael W. Wagner, Chris Wells, Katherine J. Cramer, and John C. Pevehouse. 2022. *Battleground: Asymmetric Communication Ecologies and the Erosion of Civil Society in Wisconsin*. Cambridge University Press. **Co-author on four chapters.**

UNDER REVIEW

Dempsey, Sadie. “Mobilizing Potential: Pathways to Engaged Citizenship.” *Under Review*.

- Honorable Mention, 2024 Conflict Social Action and Change Division’s Graduate Student Paper Award, SSSP

Dempsey, Sadie. “The Mirage of Democracy: How the Political Process Undermines Democratic Values, Erodes Political Trust, and Nurtures Critical Citizens.” *Under Review*.

IN PREPARATION

Dempsey, Sadie. “Paved with Good Intentions: The Unintended Consequences of Sunshine Laws.” (Invited to *Democracy, Governance, and Law*)

Dempsey, Sadie, and Benny Witkovsky. “Mixing Qualitative Data Sources in the Study of Political Life.”

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2023 - 2024 **Research Assistant**, Qualitative Verification and the American Voices Project. PI: Max Besbris
- 2022 - 2023 **Research Assistant**, Building and Open Qualitative Social Science: COVID-19 and Housing. PIs: Max Besbris, Brian Cole, and Eva Rosen.
- 2018 - 2023 **Knight Fellow and Research Assistant**, Center for Communication and Civic Renewal, University of Wisconsin – Madison. PIs: Katherine Cramer, Lewis A. Friedland, Dhavan V. Shah, and Mike W. Wagner.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2023 **Guest Lecturer** on Social Movements and Mobilization, Survey of Sociology (Soc 220), University of Wisconsin – Madison.
- 2016-2018 (4 semesters) **Teaching Assistant**, Criminal Justice in America (Soc 131), University of Wisconsin – Madison.

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

2024	UW Madison Department of Sociology Small Grant
2024	UW Madison Graduate Student Service Scholarship (\$1,000)
2024	Morgridge Center Excellence in Engaged Scholarship Graduate Student Award
2024	Public Humanities Exchange (HEX) Grant (\$3,800)
2024	Institute for Humane Studies Fellowship (\$5,000)
2023-24	Mellon Public Humanities Fellowship
2023	Russell Sage Dissertation Research Grant (\$10,000)
2022	UW Madison Department of Sociology Graduate Student Service Award
2022	UW Madison Department of Sociology Small Grant
2019	UW Madison Exceptional Service TA Award (nominated)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Qualitative Verification: Challenges and Limitations”

- Verification Workshop, The Qualitative Data Repository at Syracuse University, NYC. February 23, 2024. With Max Besbris.

“The Mirage of Democracy: How the Political Process Undermines Democratic Values, Erodes Political Trust, and Nurtures Critical Citizens.”

- The Junior Theorists Symposium, Montreal. August 8, 2024.
- University of Chicago’s Spring Institute. April 5, 2024.
- The Chicago Ethnography Conference at Loyola University. April 15, 2023.
- The Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia, PA. August 18, 2023.

“The Local Roots of January 6th: Election Fraud Claims on Local GOP Facebook Pages.”

- Communication and Civic Life Amid Contention at University of Wisconsin – Madison. February 26, 2022.
- The Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia, PA. August 19, 2023.

“Narratives of Mistrust: The Intertwining of Political Trust and Media Trust.”

- The Great Mediation Conference at University of Chicago (Virtual). May 6, 2021.

“No Red, No Blue?: Populism, Partisanship and Collective Identity.”

- Chicago Ethnography Conference, Northwestern University. March 16, 2019.

“Negotiated Politics: Navigating Ideology, Political Opportunities, and Strategies in Social Movement Organizations.”

- Chicago Ethnography Conference, University of Chicago. March 17, 2018.
- Minnesota Political Methodology Conference, University of Minnesota. May 5, 2018.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 Discussant, Qualitative Methods Working Group, School of Journalism and Mass Communication at University of Wisconsin – Madison. February 24.
- 2022 Panelist, “New Research Questions” at The Capitol Coup One Year Later hosted by George Washington University. January 6. Virtual.

COMMUNITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2018-
2020- **Co-Founder and Graduate Student Coordinator**, Qualitative Methods Workshop.
Leadership Committee, Sociology Graduate Student Association Mentorship Committee
- 2022-2023 **Search Committee**, University of Wisconsin – Madison, Department of Sociology
- 2020-2022 **Lead Organizer**, Chicago Ethnography Conference 2022 at University of Wisconsin – Madison.