Christopher Barrie

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Research Interests

Computational Methods · Generative AI · Political Attitudes · Communication · Protest · Conflict · MENA

Positions

New York University, New York, USA — 2024 –
Assistant Professor of Sociology

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK — 2021 – 2024
Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Computational Sociology

University of Oxford, Nuffield College, Oxford, UK — 2019 – 2021
Postdoctoral Prize Research Fellow in Sociology

Education

University of Oxford, Nuffield College — 2016 – 2020
DPhil in Sociology, granted February 2020. No corrections.

University of Oxford, Nuffield College — 2015 – 2016
MSc in Sociology. *Distinction*.

School of Oriental and African Studies — 2014 – 2015
MSc in Middle East Politics. *Distinction*.

University of Oxford — 2009 – 2014
BA in European and Middle Eastern Languages (Arabic and French). *First Class*.

Institut français du proche orient (Ifpo), Damascus, Syria — 2010 – 2011
Stage annuel de langue arabe (Year Arabic language programme)

Under Review / Revise and Resubmit

- "AI and the Decline of Human Advice Seeking"
- with Michael Heseltine, Christopher A. Bail, Petter Törnberg, and Michelle Schimmel. "Political identity drives choice of large language models—even when accuracy is incentivized"
- with Michael Heseltine, Christopher A. Bail, Petter Törnberg, and Michelle Schimmel. "AI summaries in social media improve dialogue but reduce engagement"
- with Tiago Ventura, Margaret Roberts, Christopher Schwarz, and Joshua A. Tucker. "The Partisan Effects of Social Media Bans"
- with Roberto Cerina. "Synthetic personas distort the structure of human belief systems" under review
- with Steven Rathje, Nejla Asimovic, Claire E. Robertson, Tiago Ventura, Joshua Tucker, and Jay J. Van Bavel. "Testing the causal impact of social media usage around the globe" In-Principle Accept ***Nature***
- with Alexis Palmer and Arthur Spirling. "Replication for Language Models Problems, Principles, and Best Practice for Political Science" Conditionally Accepted ***American Journal of Political Science***

- with Elli Palaiologou and Petter Törnberg. "Prompt Stability Scoring for Text Annotation with Large Language Models" Conditionally Accepted ***Political Science Research and Methods***
- with Nicolò Pagan, Petter Törnberg, and Christopher A. Bail. "LLM Recommenders Produce Demographic Inequality Through Content Preferences"
- with Petter Törnberg, Michael Heseltine, Nicolò Pagan, Christopher A. Bail, and Michelle Schimmel. "Political Sorting Can Drive AI Models Apart Through User Feedback"
- with Nicolò Pagan, Christopher A. Bail, and Petter Törnberg. "Polarization by Default: Auditing Recommendation Bias in LLM-Based Content Curation"
- with Joe Higton and Joshua Tucker. "Request routing services undermine the reproducibility of open weight LLMs"
- with Lisa Argyle, James Bisbee, Michael Heseltine, Christopher Lucas, Jon Mellon, Alexis Palmer, Margaret Roberts, and Arthur Spirling. "AI and Research Methods" Book chapter
- with Maggie Zhang, Wei Zhong, and Joshua Tucker. "Social Media and Cross-Cutting Conversations" in progress
- "Orientalism and Exposure to the West: An Analysis of Millions of Digitized Books and Newspapers" in progress
- with Steven Brooke, Thomas Hegghammer, and Neil Ketchley. "Content analysis of 145 years of an Egyptian newspaper" in progress
- "Do algorithms homogenize cultural consumption?" in progress
- "What protest gets reported?" in progress

Publications

- with Nicolò Pagan, Petter Törnberg, and Christopher A. Bail. "AI-generated language remains systematically distinguishable from human communication" ***PNAS***. 123(42) e2531748123. doi.org/10.1073/pnas.2531748123 2026
- with Nicolò Pagan, Christopher A. Bail, and Petter Törnberg. "LLMs as Content Curators: A Large-Scale Audit of Recommendation Bias Across Providers and Platforms" ***Conference on Language Modeling (COLM)***. https://openreview.net/forum?id=ciOsHGa109 2026
- with Aybüke Atalay and Alia ElKattan. "Information diets are more diverse in attention than in engagement" ***Sociological Science***. 13 864-883. doi.org/10.15195/v13.a33 2026
- with Michael V. Reiss et al. "Improving computational reproducibility in the social sciences" ***Nature Human Behaviour***. doi.org/10.1038/s41562-026-02570-w 2026
- with Stefan Feuerriegel et al. "A reporting checklist for large language models in behavioural science" ***Nature Human Behaviour***. 10(7) 1182-1186. doi.org/10.1038/s41562-026-02492-7 2026
- with Kate Wright and Dani Madrid-Morales. "Beyond 'Emergencies?' Reporting on Humanitarian Issues Around the World" ***Digital Journalism***. 14(6) 925-955. doi.org/10.1080/21670811.2025.2502129 2026
- with Petter Törnberg. "Emergent LLM behaviors are observationally equivalent to data leakage" Comment. ***arXiv***. https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.23796 2025
- with Aybüke Atalay and Alia ElKattan. "An enriched, multimodal social media dataset of a UK General Election campaign" ***Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media***. 5. doi.org/10.51685/jqd.2025.017 2025
- with Mossaab Bagdouri, Neil Ketchley, and Alexandra Siegel. "Measuring Media Criticism with ALC Word Embeddings" ***Political Analysis***. doi.org/10.1017/pan.2025.10012 2025

- with Ali Kadivar, Neil Ketchley, and Abolfazl Sotoudeh-Sherbaf. "Online calls for protest and offline mobilization in autocracies: Evidence from the 2017 Dey Protests in Iran" ***European Sociological Review***. doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcae017 — 2024
- with Roberto Cerina, Neil Ketchley, and Aaron Zelin. "Explaining Recruitment to Extremism: A Bayesian Hierarchical Case-Control Approach" ***Political Analysis***. 32(2) 256-274. doi.org/10.1017/pan.2023.35 — 2024
- "The Process of Revolutionary Protest: Development and Democracy in the Tunisian Revolution" ***Perspectives on Politics***. doi.org/10.1017/S1537592723002062 — 2024
- with Thomas Fleming and Sam Rowan. "Does Protest Influence Political Speech? Evidence from UK Climate Protest, 2017-2019" ***British Journal of Political Science***. 54(2) 456-473. doi.org/10.1017/S0007123423000376 — 2024
- with Killian Clarke and Neil Ketchley. "Burnings, Beatings, and Bombings: Disaggregating Anti-Christian Violence in Egypt, 2013-2018" ***Perspectives on Politics***. 22(2) 481-500. doi.org/10.1017/S1537592722002730 — 2024
- "Did the Musk Takeover Boost Contentious Actors on Twitter?" ***Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review***. 4(4) 1-9. doi.org/10.37016/mr-2020-122 — 2023
- with Justin Chun-ting Ho. "Using the Twitter Academic API With R for Social Science Research" ***SAGE Research Methods: Doing Research Online***. doi.org/10.4135/9781529609233 — 2022
- "Sect, Nation, and Identity after the Fall of Mosul: Evidence from a Natural Experiment" ***American Journal of Sociology***. 127(3) 695-738. doi.org/10.1086/718179 — 2021
- with Arun Frey. "Faces in the crowd: Twitter as alternative to protest surveys" ***PLOS ONE***. 16(11) 1-18. doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0259972 — 2021
- "Political sociology in a time of protest" ***Current Sociology***. 69(6) 919-942. doi.org/10.1177/00113921211024692 — 2021
- with Justin Chun-ting Ho. "academictwitteR: an R Package to Access the Twitter Academic Research Product Track V2 API Endpoint" ***Journal of Open Source Software***. 6(62) 3272. doi.org/10.21105/joss.03272 — 2021
- with Alexandra A. Siegel. "Kingdom of Trolls? Influence Operations in the Saudi Twittersphere" ***Journal of Quantitative Description: Digital Media***. 1(1) 1-41. doi.org/10.51685/jqd.2021.012 — 2021
- "Searching Racism after George Floyd" ***Socius***. 6. doi.org/10.1177/2378023120971507 — 2020
- with Michael Biggs and Kenneth T. Andrews. "Did Local Civil Rights Protest Liberalize Whites' Racial Attitudes?" ***Research and Politics***. doi.org/10.1177/2053168020914757 — 2020
- with Neil Ketchley. "Fridays of Revolution: Focal Days and Mass Protest in Egypt and Tunisia." ***Political Research Quarterly***. 73(2) 308–324. doi.org/10.1177/1065912919893463 — 2020
- with Neil Ketchley. "Opportunity without Organization: Labour Mobilization in Egypt after the 25th January Revolution." ***Mobilization***. 23(2) 181-202. doi.org/10.17813/1086-671X-23-2-181 — 2018
- "The contentious politics of nationalism and the anti-naturalization campaign in Tunisia, 1932-1933." ***Nations and Nationalism***. 23(4) 707-725. doi.org/10.1111/nana.12254 — 2017

Skills

Programming	Python, R, SQL, JavaScript
Software	Gephi, QGIS, Qualtrics, Stata
Languages	English, French, Arabic

Software

- **academictwitteR**: Access the Twitter Academic Research Product Track V2 API Endpoint
  https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/academictwitteR/index.html
- **quiltr**: Qualtrics for Labelling Text using R
  https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/quiltr/index.html
- **extremeR**: Repository for package accompanying paper "Explaining Recruitment to Extremism: A Bayesian Hierarchical Case-Control Approach."
  https://extremer.info/
- **promptstability**: Package for generating Prompt Stability Scores (PSS) with Python."
  https://pypi.org/project/promptstability

Grants

NYU Google Cloud Platform (GCP) for Research Grant Program (Co-PI: USD 20k) 2026
NYU REBOOT Grant (Co-PI: USD 300k) 2026
LSE-NYU Small Research Grant Scheme in Data Science, AI & Society (Co-PI: USD 13k) 2025
Department of Defense Minerva Grant Scheme (Co-PI: USD 3.5m). *Cancelled as a result of funding cuts under Trump Admin.* 2024
T-AP Democracy, Governance, and Trust Grant (Lead PI: USD 1m) 2024
Bayes Centre Bayes Innovation Fellow (GBP 5k) 2024
Department of Sociology Seed Funding Grant for Social Data Science Hub (GBP 5k) 2023
British Academy/Leverhulme Small Grant (GBP 10k) 2023
British Academy Early Career Researcher Network Scotland Hub (GBP 3k) 2023
Edinburgh Futures Institute Launch Grant for Social Data Science Hub (GBP 3.5k) 2023
Turing Institute Collaboration Fund (GBP 2.5K) 2022
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Organizer Grant, Sloan Foundation (USD 13K) 2022
SRSF seed funding for *arabress* Project (GBP 2k) 2021
SAGE Concept Grant for **academictwitteR Studio** (USD 2K) 2021
Summer Institute in Computational Social Science Organizer Grant, Sloan Foundation (USD 15K) 2021
Nuffield College and UK Economic and Social Research Council, DTS (∼ GBP 66K) 2015 – 2019

Reviewer

- *ACM FAccT*; *AI and Ethics*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *American Political Science Review*; *American Sociological Review*; *British Journal of Sociology*; *Comparative Political Studies*; *European Societies*; *European Sociological Review*; *Frontiers in Sociology*; *Harvard Kennedy School Misinformation Review*; *ICWSM*; *Journal of Computational Social Science*; *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Journal of Open Source Software*; *Journal of Politics*; *Journal of Social Computing*; *Journal of Quantitative Description*; *Mediterranean Politics*; *Microsoft CMT*; *Mobilization*; *Nature*; *Nature Communications*; *New Media & Society*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Political Analysis*; *Political Science Research and Methods*; *PNAS*; *Politics*; *Research & Politics*; *Royal Society Open Science*; *Social Forces*; *Social Movement Studies*; *Social Problems*; *Sociological Methodology*; *Sociological Methods & Research*