

## John Mirsky

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### EDUCATION

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#### University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

PhD, Sociology

Ann Arbor, MI

Expected June 2028

- University of Michigan Sociology Graduate Fellowship (5 years)
- Weiser Emerging Democracies Fellowship

#### Bucknell University

B.A. with honors, Sociology/Music (double major)

Lewisburg, PA

June 2023

- GPA: 3.99/4.0
- Phi Beta Kappa (Vice President of Bucknell Chapter)
- President's Award for Distinguished Academic Achievement
- Meerwarth Prize for Sociology
- Presidential Fellowship
  - Four-year merit scholarship awarded to the top 1% of admitted students.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Cultural Sociology, Ethnography, Social Theory, the Frankfurt School, Conspiracy Theory, Populism, Social Psychology, 19th century German thought (especially Marx and Nietzsche), Semiotics, The Sociology of Music

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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#### *Mushroom Tacos: Multicultural Festivals and Environmental Racism in a Rural Pennsylvania Town*

- Published in the *Journal of Intercultural Studies*
- Engaged in Ethnographic Practices
- Created, conducted, and transcribed 60 semi-structured interviews in both English and Spanish with social service staff and Latinx agricultural workers.
- Translated Spanish interviews to English, engaged in a semiotic analysis, investigated the relationship between housing and health conditions at my fieldsite.

#### *Democracy Defeated Discursively: EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler's Rhetoric and Deregulatory Actions*

- Submitted
- Conducted a content analysis interpreting EPA Director Andrew Wheeler's linguistic techniques used to weaken environmental regulations. Coded and analyzed findings with Atlas.ti software and socio-linguistic theory.

### Honors Thesis:

#### *"What if There's No One Pulling the Strings? A Cultural-Theoretical Analysis of Big-tent Conspiracy Theories and Nationalist Populism."*

- A comparative cultural media analysis, employing critical theories of Modernity and mobilizing contemporary social-psychological literature to understand the current appeal of nationalist populism, the Qanon, and Anti-vaccine conspiracy theories.

## In Progress

**Birds of a Feather do *not* Flock Together: Pedagogical Differences and Inequality Within Classical Music Conservatory Culture**

**Towards a Fuller Sociological Analysis of Inequality: Anti-Blackness, Afro Pessimism, and the Decline of Class**

**What's in a Name? Consonances and Dissonances between Social and Music Theories in Ontological and Epistemological Domains**

**Expanding the Sociological Horizon: Music, Meaning, and Matter."**

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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|---|------------|
| <i>Scholars Denied: Du Bois, Collins, and Crenshaw on Race and Class</i>   Innsbruck, AT  | July 2025  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper Presentation, International Sociological Association</li></ul>  |            |
| <i>A Socio-Historical Perspective for the Study of Conspiracy Movements</i>   Toronto, CA   | Oct. 2024  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper Presentation, Social Science History Association Conference</li></ul>   |            |
| <i>What if There's No One Pulling the Strings? A Cultural Theoretical Account of the QAnon and Anti-vaccine Conspiracy Theory</i>   Philadelphia, PA  | Aug. 2023  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper Presentation, American Sociological Society Conference</li></ul>  |            |
| <i>A Legacy Bears its Ugly Head: The Enlightenment and Populism</i>   Lewisburg, PA   | April 2023 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper Presentation, Kalman Symposium</li></ul>  |            |
| <i>Anti-vaccine and QAnon Conspiracy Theories Sociology Considered</i>   Baltimore, MD  | Feb. 2023  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper presentation, Eastern Sociological Society Conference</li></ul>   |            |
| <i>Multiculturalism in Crisis: Housing Illness in a PA Mushroom Town</i>   Boston, MA   | March 2022 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper presentation, Eastern Sociological Society Conference</li></ul>   |            |
| <i>Mushroom Tacos</i>   Lewisburg, PA   | March 2022 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper presentation, Bucknell Diversity Symposium</li></ul>  |            |
| <i>Democracy Defeated Discursively</i>   Lewisburg, PA  | April 2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper Presentation, Bucknell Sustainability Symposium</li></ul>   |            |
| <i>Floating Signifiers in Multicultural Politics</i>   Lewisburg, PA  | April 2021 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Paper Presentation, Kalman Research Symposium</li></ul>   |            |
| <i>The Effects of Religious Activity on Self-reported Health Outcomes</i>   Philadelphia, PA  | Feb 2020   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Poster Presentation, Eastern Sociological Society Conference</li><li>• Multivariate logistic regression analysis using SPSS and GSS data.</li></ul> |            |

## INVITED TALKS AND SELECT OTHER PRESENTATIONS

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|--|------------|
| <i>Musicological and Sociological Perspectives on Social Change in the 21st Century</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sociology of Music Workshop   New York City, NY</li></ul>                        | April 2025 |
| <i>Expanding the Sociological Horizon: Meaning, Music, and Matter</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Culture, History and Politics Workshop   Ann Arbor, MI</li></ul>                                   | Feb 2025   |
| <i>Queer Theory and Political Stereotyping by the Right: Edleman's No Future Revisited</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Sociology of Sexualities (Sociology 345)   Ann Arbor, MI</li></ul>        | Oct. 2024  |
| <i>The Media of History: Social Media in Contemporary Politics</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies   Ann Arbor, MI</li></ul>                                  | April 2024 |
| <i>Musical Semiotics in Contemporary National Anthems: Nettl's Theory Revisited</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sociology of Music Workshop   New York City, NY</li></ul>                            | Jan 2024   |
| <i>Beethoven and Bowholds: The Chamber Music Collective Chapter 2</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation on Historical Music Practice   Lewisburg, PA</li></ul>                                | June 2023  |
| <i>Fascism and Falsity: The Bolsonaro QAnon Connection</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bucknell Center for Social Science Research   Lewisburg, PA</li></ul>   | April 2023 |
| <i>People are Interesting, Too! How to Conduct Sociological Research as an Undergraduate</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presidential Fellow Research Panel   Lewisburg, PA</li></ul>                | Feb. 2023  |
| <i>Approaches to Multiculturalism: A Critical Review and Steps Forward</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bucknell Center for Social Science Research   Lewisburg, PA</li></ul>                         | Sept. 2022 |
| <i>The Chamber Music Collective</i>   Berkeley, CA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation on historical musical practice</li></ul>   | June 2022  |
| <i>Catching the Rising Tide: The Communal-Divisive Link in Bolsonaro, Trump, and Orban</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Manuscript presentation, Bucknell Research Symposium</li></ul>                | April 2022 |
| <i>The Latinx Research Lab: Progress, Challenges, and the Road Forward</i>   Lewisburg, PA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bucknell Diversity Symposium (Co-presentation with Dr. David Rojas)</li></ul> | March 2022 |

## PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY/SERVICE

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|---|-------------------|
| <i>University of Michigan Personnel Committee Representative</i>  | May 2024–Oct-2024 |
|  <i>The Qanon and Anti-vaccine Conspiracy Theories Sociologically Considered</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Interview Conducted by Sage Publishing</li></ul> | Aug 2023          |
| <i>Housing Violence in the Mushroom Capital of the World</i>   Kennett Square, PA <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACOLA (<a href="#">Kennett Advisory Commission on Latino Affairs</a>) research meeting</li></ul>                                | June 2021         |

**PAID RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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<b>Graduate Student Research Assistant, Roi Livne</b>	Jan 2024–May 2024
<b>Lead Interviewer, <i>The Bucknell Experience</i></b>	Jan 2023–June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conducted and transcribed structured and semi-structured interviews with Bucknell students</li><li>• Created a database of opinions surrounding diversity held by the campus community. Project supported by the Latinx Research Lab.</li></ul>	
<b>Research Associate, Bucknell Center for Social Science Research</b>	May 2020–June 2023
<b>Research Assistant, Professor Elizabeth Durden</b>	Aug. 2019 - May 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transcribed interviews in English and Spanish</li><li>• Compiled and thematized historical data from archival newspapers and academic journals</li></ul>	

**GRANTS AWARDED**

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Rackham Graduate Student Conference Award	Nov 2024
Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant	April 2024
Rackham Graduate Research Award	Sept 2023
Candland Travel Fund	Feb 2023
Tom Greaves Fund for Research and Curricular Development	Jan 2023
Provost Office Research Award	Jan 2023
Eddy Lopez Arts and Creativity Grant	April 2022
Douglas K. Candland Research Grant	March 2022
Provost Office Research Award	Jan 2022
Douglas K. Candland Research Grant	March 2021
Douglas K. Candland Research Grant	March 2020
Tom Greaves Fund for Research and Curricular Development	Jan 2020

**TEACHING AND MENTORING EXPERIENCE**

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<b>Classical Sociological Theory (50 students)</b>	Jan 2025–June 2025
<b>Sociology of Sexualites (75 Students)</b>	Aug 2024– Dec 2024
<b>Latinx Research Lab, Research Associate</b>   Lewisburg, PA	Jan 2022 – June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinated method workshops attended by student researchers</li><li>• Trained students to use qualitative and ethnographic methods in their research.</li></ul>	
<b>Presidential Fellowship, Senior Academic Advisor</b> Lewisburg, PA	May 2020 – June 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lead weekly mentorship meetings with Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior Presidential Fellows</li></ul>	

**Staff Member, Florida Youth Orchestra** | Davie, FL

Aug 2017 – May 2021

- Taught weekly individual and group cello lessons to intermediate and advanced students.
- Wrote classical music compositions for concert performance.

## **ORIGINAL MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS PERFORMED**

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**A Descent into the Mind of Friedrich Nietzsche** | Signature Grand Hall | Davie, FL

- To be Performed by the Florida Youth Orchestra Jan 2026

**Shostakovich Addendum** | St. Mary Magdalene Church | Coral Springs, FL

- Performed by Encore Chamber Ensemble June 2023

**Violin Miniatures** | Oktaven Studios | New York City, NY

- Recorded by Grammy-nominated violinists Emma Frucht and Miho Saegusa. May 2021

## **CERTIFICATIONS**

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CITI Program Certification in Human Research: Social Behavior Track

PEERS Program Certification in Human Subjects Protections

PEERS Program Certification in Responsible Research and Scholarship Conduct

Adobe Premiere Pro CC Professional Certification (video-editing software)

## **SKILLS AND LANGUAGES**

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SPSS, Stata, Atlas.ti

Semi-structured interviews, ethnography

Discourse Analysis

Comparative-Historical Methods

Spanish (advanced speaking, writing, and reading), German (introductory reading), French (introductory reading)

## **References:**

### **Dr. Rob Jansen**

Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

Email: [rsjansen@umich.edu](mailto:rsjansen@umich.edu)

### **Dr. David Rojas**

Director and Associate Professor of Latin American Studies, Bucknell University

Email: [dmr028@bucknell.edu](mailto:dmr028@bucknell.edu)

### **Dr. George Steinmetz**

Charles Tilly Collegiate Professor of Sociology, University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

Email: [geostein@umich.edu](mailto:geostein@umich.edu)

**Dr. Genevieve Zubryzcki**

William H. Sewell Jr. Collegiate Professor of Sociology University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

Email: [genez@umich.edu](mailto:genez@umich.edu)

**Dr. Gary Steiner**

Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, Bucknell University

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