

Nicholas John

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EDUCATION

PhD	Hebrew University, 2008	Sociology and Anthropology
	Thesis: "The Arrival of the Internet in Israel: The Local Diffusion of a Global Technology" Supervised by Prof. Eva Illouz	
Honors B.A.	Cambridge University, England, 1995	Social and Political Sciences Class I

AFFILIATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Erasmus+ Scholar, Institute for Media and Communication Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, German, June 2020 (delayed by Corona until 2021)

Visiting Erasmus+ Scholar, School of Communication and Culture, Aarhus University, Denmark, April 2020 (delayed by Corona until 2021)

Visiting Scholar, Institute of Digital Technologies for Communication, Università della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland, October 2019

Senior Lecturer, Department of Communication, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, December 2017-present

Assistant Professor, Department of Communication, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, July 2013-December 2017

Visiting Scholar, Microsoft Research Labs, Boston, April 2016

Visiting Scholar, Institute for Advanced Study, Delmenhorst, Germany, March 2016

Visiting Fellow, Department of Media and Communications, The London School of Economics and Political Science, 2012-2013

Research Fellow, Kreitman School for Advanced Graduate Studies & Department of Communication, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, 2012-2013

Brenda Danet Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Communication, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2011-2012

Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Communication, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2010-2011

Research Fellow, Interdisciplinary Center for Technology Analysis and Forecasting at Tel Aviv University, 2008-2010

PUBLICATIONS

ARTICLES

Zhao, Luolin & Nicholas A. John. 2020. "The concept of 'sharing' in Chinese social media: Origins, transformations and implications." *Information, Communication & Society*. DOI: 10.1080/1369118X.2020.1791216

John, Nicholas. A., & Agbarya, A. 2020. "Punching up or turning away? Palestinians unfriending Jewish Israelis on Facebook." *New Media & Society*. DOI: 10.1177/1461444820908256

John, Nicholas A. 2020. "What is meant by 'sharing' in the sharing economy?," *Built Environment*, 46:1, 11-21.
DOI: 10.2148/benv.46.1.11

Sharon, Tzlil, and Nicholas A. John. 2019. "Imagining an ideal podcast listener," *Popular Communication*, 17:4, 333-347.
DOI: 10.1080/15405702.2019.1610175

John, Nicholas A. 2019. "Social media bullshit: What we don't know about facebook.com/peace and why we should care," *Social Media + Society*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/2056305119829863>

Bitman, Nomy, and Nicholas A. John. 2019. "Deaf and hard of hearing smartphone users: Intersectionality and the penetration of ableist communication norms," *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 24:2, 56–72.

John, Nicholas A., and Asaf Nissenbaum. 2019. "An agnotological analysis of APIs: Or, disconnectivity and the ideological limits of our knowledge of social media," *The Information Society*, 35:1, 1-12.
DOI: 10.1080/01972243.2018.1542647

John, Nicholas A., and Noam Gal. 2018. "'He's Got His Own Sea': Political Facebook Unfriending in The Personal Public Sphere," *International Journal of Communication*, 12:0, 2971–2988.

Sharon, Tzlil, and Nicholas A. John. 2018. "Unpacking (the) Secret: Anonymous social media and the impossibility of networked anonymity," *New Media and Society*, 20:11, 4177–4194.
DOI: 10.1177/1461444818768547

John, Nicholas A., and Benjamin Peters. 2017. "Why privacy keeps dying: The trouble with talk about the end of privacy," *Information, Communication & Society*, 20:2, 284-298.
DOI: 10.1080/1369118X.2016.1167229

John, Nicholas A., and Wolfgang Sützl. 2016. "The rise of 'sharing' in communication and media studies," *Information, Communication & Society*, 19:4, 437-441.
DOI:10.1080/1369118X.2015.1115888

John, Nicholas A., and Shira Dvir Gvirsman. 2015. "'I don't Like you any more': Facebook unfriending by Israelis during the Israel-Gaza conflict of 2014," *Journal of Communication*, 65:6, 953-974.
DOI:10.1111/jcom.12188

John, Nicholas A. 2014. "File sharing and the history of computing: Or, why file sharing is called 'file sharing'," *Critical Studies in Media Communication*, 31:3, 198-211.
DOI:10.1080/15295036.2013.824597

John, Nicholas A. 2013. "The social logics of sharing." *The Communication Review*. 16:3, 113-131.
DOI:10.1080/10714421.2013.807119

John, Nicholas A. 2013. "The Construction of the Multilingual Internet: Unicode, Hebrew and Globalization." *Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication*, 18:3, 321-338.
DOI: 10.1111/jcc4.12015

John, Nicholas A. 2013. "Sharing and Web 2.0: The emergence of a keyword." *New Media & Society*, 15:2, 167-182.
DOI: 10.1177/1461444812450684

Reprinted in Hewer, P., Jafari, A., & Hamilton, K. (2015). *New Directions in Consumer Research* (Vol. 2 - Sharing), Sage Publications.

John, Nicholas A. 2011. "Representing the Israeli Internet: The Press, the Pioneers, and the Practitioners." *International Journal of Communication*, 5:0, 1545-1566.

John, Nicholas A. 2011. "The Diffusion of the Internet to Israel: The First Ten Years." *Israel Affairs*, 17:3, 327-340.
DOI:10.1080/13537121.2011.584661

Reprinted in G. Doron, & A. Lev-On (Eds.). (2012). *New Media, Politics and Society in Israel*, Routledge, pp. 15-38.

Illouz, Eva, and Nicholas A. John. 2003. "Global Habitus, Local Stratification and Symbolic Struggles over Identity: The Case of McDonald's Israel." *American Behavioral Scientist*, 47:201-229.
DOI:10.1177/0002764203256184

BOOK CHAPTERS

John, Nicholas A. (2017). "The emergence of the ISP industry in Israel," in G. Goggin & M. McLelland (Eds), *The Routledge Companion to Global Internet Histories* (pp. 90-104). Routledge.

John, Nicholas A. (2016). "Sharing," in B. Peters (Ed.), *Digital Keywords* (pp. 269-277). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.

John, Nicholas A. (2012). "Some of the social logics of sharing," in W. Sützl, F. Stalder, R. Maier & T. Hug (Eds.), *Media, Knowledge and Education: Cultures and Ethics of Sharing* (pp. 45-56). Innsbruck: Innsbruck University Press.

Illouz, Eva and Nicholas A. John. (2007). "Romantic webs: emotions, the body and the Internet." Chapter 3 of E. Illouz (2007), *Cold intimacies: the making of emotional capitalism*. Malden, MA: Polity Press.

Illouz, Eva, and John, Nicholas A. (2007). Oprah Winfrey and Women's Autobiography: A Televisual Performance of the Reflexive Self. In E. Watson & J. Harris (Eds.), *The Oprah Phenomenon* (pp. 87-100). Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky.

RESEARCH REPORTS

John, Nicholas and Raban, Yoel. 2010. *National Report: Mapping the Israeli Security Regime*. Tel Aviv: Interdisciplinary Center for Technology Analysis and Forecasting. (For EU-funded Privacy Awareness through Security Branding project.)

John, Nicholas and Soffer, Tal. 2009. "*What Future?*": *Findings from the foresight process*. Tel Aviv: Interdisciplinary Center for Technology Analysis and Forecasting. (For EU-funded Social Sciences and Humanities for Europe project.)

BOOK

John, Nicholas A. 2016. *The Age of Sharing*. Cambridge: Polity Press. (Winner, Nancy Baym Book Award, 2017; Best Book, Israel Communication Association, 2017; Winner, Outstanding Book Award, Popular Communication Division, International Communication Association, 2018. Korean translation published in 2019.)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

"Sharing: A keyword for the digital age", *Preconference for the International Communication Association's Annual Conference*, Seattle, USA, May 2014.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Social media and religious identity change among Muslim Arab women in Israel", *AoIR 2020, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, online only. With Aysha Agbarya.

"The Concept of 'Sharing' on Chinese Social Media", *AoIR 2019, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Brisbane, Australia. With Luolin Zhao.

"Punching Up or Turning Away? When Palestinians Unfriend Jews in Israel", *AoIR 2019, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Brisbane, Australia. With Aysha Agbarya.

"The Language of 'Sharing' on Chinese Social Media", *The Web That Was*, Amsterdam, Holland, June 2019. With Luolin Zhao.

“Up close and personal: The hyper-localization of platform moderation”, *AoIR 2018, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Montreal, Canada, October 2018. With Yifat Mor and Asaf Nissenbaum.

“Social Media Bullsh*t? What we Don’t Know About Facebook.com/peace”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Prague, May 2018.

“The Performance of Voice in Marginalised Groups”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Prague, May 2018. With Nomy Bitman.

“Transparency, research and Facebook: The case of Facebook.com/peace”, *AoIR 2017, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Tartu, Estonia, October 2017.

“‘I Make the Decisions Here’: Political Facebook Unfriending in The Personal Public Sphere”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, San Diego, USA, May 2017. With Noam Gal.

“Forgotten unfriending: An agnotological analysis of APIs”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, San Diego, USA, May 2017. With Asaf Nissenbaum.

“Homophily, Polarization, and Unfriending During Elections in Israel and the United States”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, San Diego, USA, May 2017. With Shira Dvir-Gvirsman and R. Kelly Garrett.

“‘I can’t see you any more’: A phenomenology of political Facebook unfriending”, *AoIR 2016, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Berlin, Germany, October 2016. With Noam Gal.

“Unobservable unfriending”: An agnotological analysis of APIs”, *AoIR 2016, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Berlin, Germany, October 2016. With Asaf Nissenbaum.

“When sharing became caring: An historical analysis”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Fukuoka, Japan, June 2016.

“‘Seedbox Hogs’ and ‘Ratio Whores’: Discussions over File Sharing Strategies in Private Bittorrent Communities”, *Internet Research 16.0, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Phoenix, Arizona, USA October 2015.

“Collaborative consumption and technologies of sharing”, *Consumption and Culture in Israel: Critical Aspects and Social Meanings*, Israel, June 2015.

“It Ain’t What You Share (It’s The Way That You Share It): The Surprising Regulation Of Sharing In Private BitTorrent File-Sharing Communities”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Puerto Rico, May 2015.

“‘I don’t Like you any more’: Facebook unfriending among Israelis during the war of 2014”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Puerto Rico, May 2015. With Shira Dvir-Gvirsman.

“Facebook unfriending during the Israel-Gaza conflict in Summer 2014”, *The 19th Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association*, Israel, April 2015. With Shira Dvir-Gvirsman

“An analysis of the repeated claims of the end of privacy”, *Internet Research 15.0, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Daegu, South Korea, October 2014. With Benjamin Peters

“Sharing and the boundary between the public and the private”, *Social Media and the Transformation of Public Space Conference*, University of Amsterdam, Holland, June 2014.

“Is the end always near? Analysis of claims to the end of privacy, 1990-2012”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Seattle, USA, May 2014. With Benjamin Peters.

“Why is file sharing called file sharing?”, *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, London, England, June 2013.

“Sharing 2.0: The emergence of a keyword,” *Internet Research 13.0, The Annual Conference of the Association of Internet Researchers*, Manchester, England, October 2012.

“The Social Logics of Sharing,” *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Phoenix, USA, May 2012.

“Sharing: Or, what do collaborative consumption and Web 2.0 have in common?” *Communication and the Ethics of Consumption*, Pre-Conference to the International Communication Association Annual Conference, Phoenix, USA, May 2012.

“Sharing 2.0: The emergence of a key word,” *The 16th Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association*, Israel, April 2012.

“Sharing 2.0: The evolution of a new key word,” *The 43rd Conference of the Israel Sociological Association*, Israel, February 2012.

“The social logics of sharing: Web 2.0, Sharing Economies and the Therapeutic Narrative,” *Media, Knowledge & Education: Cultures and Ethics of Sharing*, hosted by The Media Forum, Innsbruck University, Austria, November 2011.

“Conceptualizing the Israeli Internet: The Press, the Pioneers and the Practitioners,” *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Boston, USA, May 2011.

“The Construction of the Multilingual Internet: Unicode, Hebrew and Globalization,” *International Communication Association Annual Conference*, Boston, USA, May 2011.

“New media and children’s privacy,” *The 15th Annual Conference of the Israel Communication Association*, Israel, April 2011.

“Privacy, Children and Technology,” *The 42nd Conference of the Israel Sociological Association*, Israel, February 2011

“Israeli Internet Pioneers,” *Annual Conference of the Israel Society for History and Philosophy of Science*, Israel, April 2009

“The future of the ISP industry in Israel,” *The 13th Annual Conference of the Israel Internet Association (ISOC-IL)*, Israel, March, 2009

“Unicode and the Glocalization of the Internet,” Conference organized by the Netvision Institute for Internet Studies, Tel Aviv University, Israel, March 2006

“The Internet as a cultural aspect of globalization in Israel,” *The 35th Conference of the Israel Sociological Association*, Beer Sheva, Israel, February 2004

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“‘Sharing’ over time and across cultures”, Keynote lecture for The Age of Sharing? conference, University of Koblenz-Landau, March 2019

“What We Can’t Know About Social Media, and Why”, Cyber Security Research Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, November 2018

“Fake news is not a bug”, Digital Rights Activism: Defining and Defying the Boundaries, Cyber Security Research Center, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 2018

“What Facebook doesn’t tell us: Towards an agnology of social media”, Departmental Seminar, Department of Communication, University of Haifa, December 2017

“How should we view what Facebook tells us about cross-conflict friendships? The curious case of facebook.com/peace”, OMNILab Seminar, The Open University, October 2017

“Unfriending and social media”, Departmental Seminar, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, April 2017

“From ‘Sharing is Caring’ to ‘Sharing for Money’: The Contemporary Paradoxes of Sharing,” Keynote lecture for the IAJBS 2017 World Forum, Namur, Belgium, July 2017

“Sharing in social networks,” Kultursymposium Weimar: The sharing game, Weimar, Germany, June 2016

“‘I can’t see you any more’: Unfriending during the Israel-Gaza conflict of 2014,” Regenerating Communication, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, May 2016, with Noam Gal

“Sharing,” Sharing Cultures and Participation, Delmenhorst, Germany, March 2016

“Sharing: The keyword for the digital age,” Communications Colloquium, Columbia University, USA, September 2015

“Sharing,” Social Influence in Interactive Discourse, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, June 2015

“Discourses of sharing,” Sharing the Challenges of Collaborative Consumption: A workshop, Center for Research on Consumption & Leisure, The University of Namur, Belgium, April 2015

“The never-ending end of privacy,” Cyber and Privacy Workshop, Tel Aviv University, Israel, April 2015

“The many faces of sharing,” Collaborative Consumption: Is it Sustainable?, The School for Sustainability, IDC, Herzliya, Israel, January 2015

“Goodbye, Friend: Political Facebook unfriending during the Israel-Gaza conflict, 2014,” Departmental Colloquium, Department of Communication, Tel Aviv University, January 2015, with Shira Dvir-Gvirsman

“I don’t Like you any more: Political Facebook unfriending during the Gaza conflict in Summer 2014,” Gatekeepers: Media and Popular and Cultural Processes in the Middle East, The Smart Family Institute of Communications, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, December 2014

“Sharing,” Digital Keywords Workshop, University of Tulsa, USA, October 2014

“Sharing and the digital age,” Colloquium of the Program of Science, Technology and Society, Bar Ilan University, Israel, January 2014

“Children and privacy,” Keynote talk for the Annual Conference of the Israeli National Council for the Child, Sha’arei Mishpat College, Israel, December 2013

“Sharing in the digital age,” Departmental Seminar, The Technologies in Education Program, Haifa University, Israel, October 2013

“On the history of ‘Share’ in Web 2.0,” Fifth Annual Conference of the Israeli Forum for Internet and Technology Researchers, Scholarly Use of Web Archives: Studying Israeli Politics on the Web, Bar Ilan University, Israel, May 2013

“‘I share therefore I am’: Web 2.0 and the rise of ‘sharing’,” The Oxford Internet Institute, University of Oxford, UK, December 2012

“Share 2.0: The Internet, sharing economies, and interpersonal communication,” The Orange Institute for Internet Studies, Tel Aviv University, Israel, December 2012

“Some social logics of sharing: From Web 2.0 to the therapeutic narrative,” Department of Social and Developmental Psychology (SDP) Seminar Series, University of Cambridge, UK, November 2012

“Sharing,” Research Dialogue, Department of Media and Communications, The London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, October 2012

“The many sides of sharing,” Departmental Seminar, Department of Communication, Ben Gurion University, Beer Sheva, Israel, May 2012

“The social logics of sharing: Web 2.0, economies of sharing and the therapeutic discourse,” Departmental Colloquium, Department of Communication, Tel Aviv University, Israel, November 2011

“Parental surveillance,” Cost Action: Living in Surveillance Societies, University of Haifa, Israel, December 2011

“Sharing: From Web 2.0 to the therapeutic discourse, and back again,” Departmental Seminar, Department of Communication, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, April 2011.

“Technology, Privacy and Children: The Problem in Context,” The Israeli Law and Society Association International Conference, Israel, December 2010

“How the internet came to Israel: the local diffusion of a global technology,” Departmental Seminar, Department of Sociology, Haifa University, Israel, April 2010

“Global Habitus, Local Stratification and Symbolic Struggles over Identity: The Case of McDonald's Israel,” Bourdieu and Israeli Society, The van Leer Institute, Jerusalem, Israel, November 2003

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Outstanding Book Award for *The Age of Sharing* from the Popular Communication Division of the International Communication Association, 2018

Nancy Baym Book Award for *The Age of Sharing* from the Association of Internet Researchers, 2017

Outstanding Book award for *The Age of Sharing* from the Israel Communication Association, 2017

Outstanding Lecturer award, 2014-15

Outstanding Lecturer award from the Student Union of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for making courses accessible for students with disabilities

Golda Meir Fellowship, 2013-14

Kreitman School for Advanced Graduate Studies Post-Doctoral Fellowship, 2012-13, 92,000NIS

Lady Davis Post-Doctoral Scholarship, 2010-2011, 72,000NIS

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University, 2002, 2003, 2005

The Shaine Center for Research in Social Science, Hebrew University, 2005

The Levi Eshkol Institute for Social, Economic and Political Research in Israel, Hebrew University, 2003

“One-time scholar,” Corpus Christi College, Cambridge University, England, 1995

RESEARCH GRANTS

Israel Science Foundation, 2020-2024, The cultural logic of podcast listening, Grant No. 482/20, 656,000NIS

The Levi Eshkol Institute for Social, Economic and Political Research in Israel, research grant of 10,100NIS, 2016

Israel Science Foundation, 2014-2017, Sharing: A keyword for the digital age, Grant No. 38/14, 360,000NIS

The Levi Eshkol Institute for Social, Economic and Political Research in Israel, research grant of 12,000NIS, 2015

The Israel Internet Association (ISOC-IL), research grant of 20,000NIS, 2008

GRADUATE STUDENT SUPERVISION

PhD students

- Tzlil Sharon, Podcast listening (co-supervised with Prof. Amit Pinchevski)
- Aysha Agbarya, Unsociability on social network sites
- Nomy Bitman, Disability media studies
- Caitlin Reynolds, 1st Amendment Auditing

MA students

- Deema Abu El-Assal, The firing of Arab citizens of Israel following content posted on Facebook, degree awarded 2016
- Liad Reuven, Privacy concerns about parents posting photos of their children on social media, degree awarded 2016
- Tzlil Sharon, The application Secret and anonymity in the era of social media, degree awarded 2017
- Eli Shenker-Dvir, Music and mobile phones, degree awarded 2017
- Nomy Bitman, Smartphones and Deaf and Hard of Hearing People in Israel, degree awarded 2017
- Ohad Nave, Facebook tie management among ex-partners, degree awarded 2019
- Yariv Ratner, Share buttons on the internet, social media, and operating systems, degree awarded 2019
- Reut Avrahami, The Hebrew word *shituf* (sharing) and its evolution over time, degree awarded 2020

PEER REVIEWING

I am on the Editorial Board of *Communication Research*.

I have reviewed for:

Journal of Communication; New Media & Society; Communication Research; Information, Communication & Society; Critical Studies in Media Communication; Popular Communication; Journalism: Theory, practice and criticism; Current Sociology; Big Data & Society; Social Media + Society; Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology; Studies of Transition States and Societies; The Russian Journal of Communication; Convergence; Internet Histories; Annals of the International Communication Association; International Communication Association; Association of Internet Researchers; The Israel Communication Association; International Conference on Information Systems; Journal of the Association for Consumer Research; Online Information Review; MIT Press; The Open University (Israel).

ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

- Acting Head, Internet & Society Program for Outstanding Students, February-August 2019
- Member, Faculty Research Ethics Committee, October 2017-present
- Head, Internet and New Media MA Concentration, October 2018-present
- MA Advisor, November 2014-September 2018

TEACHING

Department of Communication, Hebrew University

- Unfriend, unfollow, dislike: Disconnectivity, disengagement and communication technologies
- Sharing: The keyword of the digital age
- Technology and social change
- Privacy, technology and new media
- Internet principles: basic and practical tools
- Internet, social media and society
- New Technologies and family: Privacy, surveillance and moral panics

Internet and Society Program for Outstanding Students, Hebrew University

- New media and society
- Building communities on the internet

Department of Communication Studies, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev

- Sharing: Web 2.0, sharing economies and interpersonal relations, BA research seminar

Department of Communication, Hebrew University

- Critical approaches to technology and society, 2011-12
MA course/seminar
- Communication Technologies and Society: Historical Issues, 2011-12
Compulsory 3rd year BA course

- Behind the Scenes of the Internet, 2010-2012
This course offers students an introduction to the Sociology of Technology, using the internet, and more specifically, the history of the internet in Israel, as a source for a wide range of case studies.

Department of Communication, Tel Aviv University

- Behind the Scenes of the Internet: Globalization, Technology and the Israeli Web, 2009-2012
- Technology and Society, 2012-13, MA course

Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Hebrew University

- Sociology of the Internet, 2005-2006
- Computer Applications in Sociology and Anthropology, 2000-2006
- Academic Writing, 2003-2005
- Sociological Theory (teaching assistant to MA course), 2001-2002

Ha'Michlela Le'Minhal, Rishon Le'Tzion

- Introduction to Sociology (2004-2006)