

Georg Rilinger

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2023 – present** Fred Kayne (1960) Career Development Assistant Professor of Entrepreneurship, MIT Sloan School of Management
- 2022 – present** Assistant Professor of Technological Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Strategic Management, MIT Sloan School of Management
- 2025 – present** Faculty Affiliate, Scandinavian Consortium for Organizational Research (SCANCOR), Harvard University
- 2020 – 2022** Postdoctoral Fellow, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, Germany

EDUCATION

- 2020** PhD in Sociology, University of Chicago
Dissertation: "Toward a Sociology of Economic Engineering: Creation and Collapse of California's Electricity Markets between 1993 and 2001", defended in August 2020.
Committee: Andrew Abbott (Chair), Karin Knorr-Cetina, Gary Herrigel, Kimberly Hoang
- 2016** M.A. in Sociology, University of Chicago
- 2013** MPhil in Political Theory (with Distinction), University of Oxford
- 2011** B.A. in Political Science (with Honors), Freie Universität Berlin

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- 2024** *Failure by Design: The California Energy Crisis and the Limits of Market Planning*, University of Chicago Press.
Viviana Zelizer Best Book Award in Economic Sociology
Book Talks: Columbia University, Sociology Seminar (2024); Harvard History Culture & Society Workshop (2025); Harvard Economic Sociology Seminar (2025); St Gallen (2025), Grenoble ICT (2024); Copenhagen Business School (2023), Erasmus University of Rotterdam (2025), Weizenbaum Institute, Berlin (2025), Bayes Business School (2025), University of Chicago, Sociology Colloquium (2026), UC Berkeley, Economy and Society Initiative (2026).

Articles

- 2025** "Market Design as Organizational Problem: Explaining System Failures in Platform Markets", *American Journal of Sociology*, 130(5), 1065-1112
Runner-up, Best Paper 2023, Organizations and Management Theory Division, Academy of Management
- 2024** "Algorithmic Management and the Social Order of Digital Markets", *Theory and Society*, 53, 1-30.

- 2024** "Involution in Luhmanns Systemtheorie." In: Aloys Winterling (ed), *Systemtheorie und Antike (Beihefte der Historischen Zeitschrift)*, pp. 101-117.
- 2023** "Who Captures Whom? Regulatory Misperceptions and the Timing of Cognitive Capture", *Regulation and Governance*, 17(1).
- 2022** "Conceptual Limits of Performativity: Assessing the Feasibility of Market Design Blueprints in California's Transmission Capacity Markets (1993-2001)", *Socio-Economic Review*, 21(2)
- 2022** "Discursive Multivocality: How the Influence of Economics can Undermine the Authority of Economists", *Socio-Economic Review*, 20(4)
- 2019** "Corporate Conspiracies and Complex Secrets: Structure and Perception of the Insull Scheme in 1930s Chicago", *American Journal of Sociology*, 124(4)
- Ron Burt Best Student Paper Award, Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association

Other Publications

Philosophy

- 2015** "Methodenprobleme immanenter Kritik - Das Beispiel der Entfremdung ("Methodological Problems of Immanent Critique – The Case of Alienation")", *Leviathan*, 43(1)

Book Chapters & Encyclopedia Entries

- 2026** "Regulatory Capture," *Elgar Encyclopedia of Business and Government*, Cheltenham, UK (forthcoming).

Book Reviews

- 2025** "Mary J. Waller and Seth A. Kaplan. Crisis-Ready Teams: Data-Driven Lessons from Aviation, Nuclear Power, Emergency Medicine, and Mine Rescue," *Administrative Science Quarterly* (forthcoming).
- 2022** "The Current Economy by Canay Özden-Schilling," *Contemporary Sociology*, 51(6), 499-501.

Public Scholarship

- 2022** "Organisatorische Grenzen des Marktdesigns" (Organizational Limits of Market Design), *Gesellschaftsforschung* 1/22, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, pp. 6-7.
- 2021** "The organizational roots of market design failure structural abstraction, the limits of hierarchy, and the California energy crisis of 2000/01," MPIfG (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies) Discussion Paper 21/6.
- 2021** "The Texas Blackouts and the Problems of Market Design," *ProMarket*, Stigler Center at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, March 24, 2021.
- 2020** "Die virtuelle Auktion" (The Virtual Auction), *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, November 13, Nr. 265, p. 11.
- 2018** "Interview with SASE President Gary Herrigel," *SASE Newsletter*, 2(1), Winter 2018, pp. 4-9.

WORKING PAPERS

"When Less Testing is More: The Political Power of Experimentation in Data-Driven Organizations" (with Gretta Corporaal) – preparing for submission.

"The Art of the Short Story: Second-Order Inference and Rhetorical Fit in Strategic Communication" (with Brad Turner) – preparing for submission to Organization Science.

"Cultivating Outsiderness: How Activist Short Sellers Turn Outsider Identity Into a Resource" (with Brad Turner) – under review at Research Policy.

"The Double Bind of Market Intermediation: Occupational Encroachment and Procedural Credibility" (with Corentin Curchod and Gerardo Patriotta) – submitted to the American Sociological Review.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Marketplace Design" for Oxford Handbook of Marketplaces (2026), minor revisions requested.

"Thinking like a Computer Scientist" (with Arvind Karunakaran, Julie Seager, Elif Birced), data collection

"A Sociology of AI Organizations" (with Nathan Wilmers) – in preparation.

RESEARCH FUNDING & GRANTS

2026	MIT Schwarzman College of Computing, Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing (SERC), Project Support Grant (with Nathan Wilmers), \$35,000.
2025	MIT Schwarzman College of Computing, Social and Ethical Responsibilities of Computing (SERC), Postdoctoral Fellow Grant, \$333,000.
2025	Conference Funding Grant from Dean's Office for Junior Faculty OT Conference (with Austin van Loon and Johan Chu), \$24,000.
2023 – 2024	Dean's Office Pre-Doc Grant (Technical Associate I), \$95,000.
2019	Henderson Research Grant, Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago (\$10,000)
2017	Stigler Center PhD Dissertation Award (Bradley Fellowship), Booth School of Business, University of Chicago (\$4000)

FELLOWSHIPS

2024	Summer Institute on Organizations and Their Effectiveness, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS), Stanford.
2018 – 2020	Hanna Holborn Gray Fellowship, Mellon Foundation.
2016 - 17	Fellowship, Critical Realism Working Group, Yale University
2015	Fellowship, Philosophy of Social Science Seminar, Yale University
2014 – 2018	PhD Fellowship, Sociology Department, University of Chicago.
2014	Fellowship, Gesellschaftswissenschaftliches Kolleg: Religion und Kultur (Social Science Institute: Culture and Religion), German National Academic Foundation

- 2013** Fellowship, Political Theory Summer School, Dubrovnik
- 2012 - 2013** Scholarship, Department of Politics, University of Oxford
- 2012 – 2013** Scholarship, Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes (German National Academic Foundation).
- 2011** Study Abroad Fellowship, Fulbright Commission.
- 2011** Scholarship, Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (German Academic Exchange Service) For Study Abroad at University of California, Berkeley

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

Current Working Papers

"When Less Testing is More: The Political Power of Experimentation in Data-Driven Organizations" (with Greta Corporaal)

Invited seminars: Stern School of Business, NYU Economics and Strategy Conference (2025); University College London, School of Management (2025), MIT, Government-Tech Relations in the Era of Digital Capitalism (2025); Gies School of Business, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2025); University of Trier, Digital(-ized) Economy Conference (2024) (Keynote Lecture); Invited Panel at SASE, Limerick (2024) *Conference presentations:* AOM Panel Symposium, Chicago, 2024; Harvard Business School, Junior Faculty OT Conference (2024) EGOS, Athens (2025)

"The Art of the Short Story: Second-Order Inference and Rhetorical Fit in Strategic Communication" (with Brad Turner)

Invited seminars: Robert H. Smith School of Business, Maryland Entrepreneurship Conference (2025). *Conference presentations:* American Sociological Association, Chicago (2025), Economic Sociology Conference, Yale (2025), Academy of Management, OMT Division, Philadelphia (2026 – Best Paper Proceedings Designation)

Published Papers

"Market Design as Organizational Problem: Explaining System Failures in Platform Markets" (*American Journal of Sociology*, 2025)

Invited seminars: Haas School of Business, U.C. Berkeley (2024); Sociology Colloquium, University of Lucerne (2022); Crisis of the Energy Markets, Virtual International Workshop at Virginia Tech (2023); Humboldt University Berlin (2022); MIT Sloan, TIES Group (2020) *Conference presentations:* Academy of Management, Chicago (2023)

"Algorithmic Management and the Social Order of Digital Markets" (*Theory and Society*, 2024)

Invited seminars: Harvard University, Economic Sociology Seminar (2022); Kennedy Institute, Freie Universität Berlin (2023); Medici Summer School, MIT Sloan (2023); SASE, Limerick, Invited Panel (2024) *Conference presentations:* American Sociological Association, Philadelphia (2023); Junior Faculty OT Conference, London Business School (2023); American Sociological Association, Virtual Conference, (2020)

"Discursive Multivocality: How the Influence of Economics can Undermine the Authority of Economists" (*Socio-Economic Review*, 2022)

Conference presentations: American Sociological Association, virtual conference (2021); SASE, virtual conference (2021)

"Who Captures Whom? Regulatory Misperceptions and the Timing of Cognitive Capture"

(*Regulation and Governance*, 2023) and related papers on detecting market power

Invited seminars: Stigler Center for the Study of the Economy and the State, University of Chicago (2018) *Conference presentations:* Annual Economic Sociology Conference, CMU (2020), American Sociological Association, New York (2019), SASE, New York (2019), SASE, Kyoto, Japan (2018)

"Corporate Conspiracies and Complex Secrets: Structure and Perception of the Insull Scheme in 1930s Chicago" (*American Journal of Sociology*, 2019)

Conference presentations: American Sociological Association, Montreal (2017), Social Science History Association, Chicago (2016), SASE, University of California, Berkeley (2016), XXXVI Sunbelt Conference (International Network for Social Network Analysis), Newport Beach (2016)

Other Invited Talks

"Marketplace Design", Oxford Handbook of Marketplaces Conference, University of St. Gallen (2026)

"Market Design in Platform Companies – When and Why Do Market Designs Fail or Succeed in Practice?", Workshop on Market Design and Politics, Radboud University Nijmegen (2026)

Panelist, "Cases of Industry Creation", Conference on Antitrust, Regulation, and the Democratization of the Economy, Neubauer Collegium, University of Chicago (2026)

Critic, Author-Meets-Critics: "The Ordinal Society", American Sociological Association, New York (2026)

"The Future of Economic Sociology", American Sociological Association, Chicago (2025)

"Involution in Luhmanns Systemtheorie", Humboldt Universität Berlin, 2022

"Digitalisierung, Ökonomische Rationalität und die Aufgabe der Kunst" (Digitalization, Economic Rationality, and the Mission of Art) BDK Fachverband für Kunst und Welt, Wuppertal (2022)

"A Future for Economic Sociology: Offering Solutions" American Sociological Association, Los Angeles (2022)

"The Use of Network Analysis in Historical Research" Stellenbosch Institute, Workshop for Network Analytical Tools, South Africa (2020)

"Regulation under Uncertainty: Failures and Potentials in Complex Industrial Settings" (with Gary Herrigel) Max Weber Institute of Sociology, Heidelberg University (2016)

"The Problem of Normative Justification in Sociological Research" Beyond Positivism Conference, Montreal (2017)

Conference Organization

2025 – 2026 Co-Organizing the Medici Summer School (with Ezra Zuckerman, Nathan Wilmers, Rodolphe Durand, Simone Ferriani, and Emilio Castilla), sponsored by Bologna Business School (University of Bologna), HEC Paris (Sustainability & Organizations Institute), and the MIT Sloan School of Management (Economic Sociology PhD Program).

- 2025 – 2026** Organizing Junior Faculty Organization Theory Conference 2026 at MIT Sloan (with Austin van Loon and Johan Chu). Fundraising: \$24,000.
- 2025 – present** Organizer, MIT Sloan TIES Seminar Series.
- 2022 – present** Co-Organizer, MIT Sloan Economic Sociology Seminar Series (with Nathan Wilmers).
- 2024** Organized AOM Panel Symposium "Studying the Designers Behind Technologies of Coordination and Control: Scholars Discuss an Emergent Research Agenda" (with Gretta Corporaal).
- 2023** Organized ASA Panel on "Digital Marketplaces."
- 2022** Workshop Organizer, "Prospects and Limits of Platform Control," Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, May 5-7.

TEACHING

- 2026** Instructor, 15.900 Competitive Strategy, MIT Sloan (Spring). Scheduled: 15.342 Organizations and Environments (Fall).
- 2025** Faculty Mentor, 15.311 Organizational Processes (Instructor: Nathan Wilmers), MIT Sloan.
Guest Lecture, Organizations and Environments (Instructor: Susan Silbey), MIT Sloan.
- 2024** Instructor, 15.900 Competitive Strategy, MIT Sloan (Recommend Professor: 4.3 out of 5).
Instructor, Competitive Strategy Boot Camp, MIT Sloan
- 2023** Instructor, 15.900 Competitive Strategy, MIT Sloan (Recommend Professor: 4.0 out of 5; Recommend Subject: 4.0 out of 5).
Guest Lecture, Organizations and Environments (Instructor: Susan Silbey), MIT Sloan
Guest Lecture, Using Simulations to Build Theory (Instructor: Johan Chu), MIT Sloan
- 2019 – 2020** Instructor (Preceptor), Sociology B.A. Seminar, University of Chicago.
- 2018** Instructor, Introduction to Social Thought ("Power, Identity, Resistance"), University of Chicago.

Teaching Assistant, Sociological Theory, University of Chicago. 2017

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Economic Sociology ("Maverick Markets – Social and Cultural Aspects of Markets"), University of Chicago.
- 2016 – 2017** Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Social Thought ("Power, Identity, Resistance"), University of Chicago.

Committee Service

- 2027 – 2028** Editor, Economic Sociology: Perspectives and Conversations (economic sociology_the european electronic newsletter).

- 2024** Granovetter Paper Prize Committee, Member, Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.
- 2022** Ron Burt Student Paper Prize Committee, Chair, Economic Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.
- 2019 – 2021** Language Editing for Zeitschrift für Historische Forschung (Journal for Historical Research).
- 2017 – 2018** Student Editor for Newsletter of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE).

Reviewing

Occasional Reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Administrative Science Quarterly*, *Organization Science*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Economy and Society*, *Berliner Journal für Soziologie*, *Sociology Compass*, *Current Sociology*, *Social Currents*, *Journal of Cultural Economy*, *Platforms & Society*, and *Regulation & Governance*

Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Soziologie (DGS), European Group for Organizational Studies (EGOS), Academy of Management (AOM).

LANGUAGES & TECHNICAL SKILLS

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (reading)

Programming: Python, R