

# Anastasia Kavada

**Reader in Media and Politics**, School of Media and Communication, University of Westminster

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## Current Post and Areas of Interest

I am currently employed as a Reader in Media and Politics in the School of Media and Communication at the University of Westminster. I am Co-Leader of the Arts, Communication and Culture Research Community (ACC) and Course Leader of the MA in Media, Campaigning and Social Change. My research interests concern the role of digital communication in practices of political organizing, mobilization, democracy, as well as collective identity and solidarity.

## Posts held

2018 - : **Reader in Media and Politics**, School of Media and Communication, University of Westminster

2010 - 2018: **Senior Lecturer**, Westminster Faculty of Media, Arts and Design, University of Westminster

2009-2010: **Research Fellow**, Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI), Westminster Faculty of Media, Arts and Design, University of Westminster

2007-2009: **Post-Doctoral Research Fellow**, Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI), Westminster Faculty of Media, Arts and Design, University of Westminster

## Roles held

2019 - : **Co-Leader** of the **Arts, Communication and Culture Research Community**

2019 - : **Course Leader** of the **MA in Media, Campaigning and Social Change**

2018 - 2019: **Co- Director** of the **Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI)**

2015 - 2018: **Deputy Director** of the **Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI)**

2018 - : **Deputy leader** of the **MA in Media, Campaigning and Social Change**

2014 - 2018: **Co-leader** of the **MA in Media, Campaigning and Social Change**

## Education

(2007) **PhD in Media and Communication, University of Westminster**

Thesis Title: *'The European Social Forum and the internet: A case study of communication networks and collective action'*

Funded by the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI)

(2002) **MA in Communication, University of Westminster**

Thesis Title: *'Political Organizations and the Internet: Towards a new era of representative democracy?'*

Awarded with Distinction

(2000) **BSc in Marketing and Public Relations, Athens University of Economics and Business**

## Publications

## Monograph

(Under Contract) *Experiments in Democracy: Digital Communication and Social Movements*. Amsterdam University Press.

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

(2021) with Poell, T. From Counterpublics to Contentious Publicness: Tracing the Temporal, Spatial, and Material Articulations of Popular Protest Through Social Media. *Communication Theory* 31(2): 190–208.

(2019) with Treré, E. 'Live democracy and its tensions: making sense of livestreaming in the 15M and Occupy, *Information, Communication & Society* 23:12, 1787-1804, DOI: 10.1080/1369118X.2019.1637448 DOI: 10.1080/1369118X.2019.1637448

(2016) with Lappas, G., Triantafillidou, A., Yannas, P., Kleftodimos, A. and Vasileiadou, O. 'Social Media Battles: their Impact during the 2014 Greek Municipal Elections'. *Journal of Universal Computer Science* 22(3): 375-393.

(2015) 'Creating the collective: social media, the Occupy Movement and its constitution as a collective actor'. *Information, Communication and Society* 18(8): 872-886.

(2012) 'Engagement, bonding, and identity across multiple platforms: Avaaz on Facebook, YouTube, and MySpace'. *MedieKultur* 52: 28-48.

(2010) 'Email lists and participatory democracy in the European Social Forum'. *Media, Culture & Society* 32(3): 355-372.

(2010) 'Between Individuality and Collectiveness: Email Lists and Face-to-Face Contact in the Global Justice Movement'. In Calderaro, A. & Livermore-Romm, C. (Eds.) "E-Politics in a Global Context", Special Issue. *International Journal of E-Politics* 1(1): 41-56.

(2009) 'Email lists and the construction of an open and multifaceted identity: The case of the London 2004 European Social Forum'. *Information, Communication and Society* 12(6): 817-839.

(2005) 'Exploring the Role of the Internet in the "Movement for Alternative Globalization": The case of the Paris 2003 European Social Forum'. *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture*, 2(1): 72-95.

## Short Journal Articles

(2016) 'Social Movements and Political Agency in the Digital Age: A Communication Approach'. *Media and Communication* 4(4): 8-12. DOI: 10.17645/mac.v4i4.691.

(2015) 'Social Media as Conversation: A Manifesto'. *Social Media + Society* 1(1). DOI: 10.1177/2056305115580793.

## Book Chapters in Edited Collections

(In Press) 'Creating a hyperlocal infrastructure of care: COVID-19 Mutual Aid Groups' in B. Bringel and G. Pleyers (eds) *Social movements and politics in a global pandemic*, Bristol University Press/Policy Press.

(2022) with Specht, D. 'Environmental Movements and Digital Media' in M. Grasso and M. Guigni (eds) *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Movements*. New York: Routledge.

(2019) 'The Movement Party – Winning Elections and Transforming Democracy in a Digital Era: Reflections on Paolo Gerbaudo's Chapter' in D. Chandler and C. Fuchs (eds) *Digital Objects, Digital Subjects: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Capitalism, Labour and Politics in the Age of Big Data*, London: University of Westminster Press, pp. 199-204.

**(2018)** with Poell, T. and Rajagopalan, S. 'Publicness on Platforms: Tracing the mutual articulation of platform architectures and user practices' in Papacharissi, Z. (ed) *A Networked Self: Platforms, Stories, Connections*. New York: Routledge, p. 43-58.

**(2018)** 'Connective or Collective? The Intersection between Online Crowds and Social Movements in Contemporary Activism' in G. Meikle (ed) *The Routledge Companion to Media and Activism*, Routledge, pp. 108-116.

**(2017)** with Orsalia Dimitriou 'Protest Spaces Online and Offline: The Indignant Movement in Syntagma Square' in G. Brown, A. Feigenbaum, F. Frenzel and P. McCurdy (eds) *Protest Camps and Social Movements: Spaces, Infrastructures and Media of Resistance*, Bristol and Chicago: Policy Press, pp. 71-90.

**(2014)** 'Transnational Civil Society and Social Movements' in Wilkins, K.G., Tufte, T. and Obregon, R. (eds) *Handbook of Development Communication & Social Change*, Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, pp. 357-375.

**(2013)** 'Internet cultures and protest movements: the cultural links between strategy, organizing and online communication' in B. Cammaerts, A. Mattoni and P. McCurdy (eds) *Mediation and Social Movements*, Bristol: Intellect, pp. 75-94.

**(2010)** 'Activism Transforms Digital: The Social Movement Perspective' in M. Joyce (ed.) *Digital Activism Decoded: The New Mechanics of Change*, New York & Amsterdam: International debate education association, pp.101-118.

**(2010)** (in Greek) 'The Role of the Internet in Current Global Activism' in S. Papathanasopoulos (ed.) *Communication and Society from the Twentieth to the Twenty-first Century* (Fourth Edition). Athens: Kastaniotis.

**(2009)** 'Decentralization and Communication: Email Lists and the Organizing Process of the European Social Forum' in A. Karatzogianni (ed.) *Cyber Conflict and Global Politics*, London: Routledge, pp. 188-204.

**(2009)** 'Collective Action and the Social Web: Comparing the architecture of Avaaz.org and Openesf.net' in N. Carpentier, P. Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt, R. Kilborn, T. Olsson, H. Nieminen, E. Sundin and K. Nordenstreng (eds) *Communicative approaches to politics and ethics in Europe*, Tartu: University of Tartu Press, pp. 129-140.

**(2008)** 'Decision-making online and offline: The case of the 'movement for alternative globalization' in N. Carpentier, P. Pruulmann-Vengerfeldt, K. Nordenstreng, M. Hartmann, P. Vihalemm, B. Cammaerts, H. Nieminen and T. Olsson (eds.) (2008) *Democracy, Journalism and Technology: New Developments in an Enlarged Europe*, Tartu: University of Tartu Press, pp. 217-228.

**(2005)** 'Civil Society Organizations and the Internet: the Case Studies of Oxfam, Amnesty International and the World Development Movement' in W. de Jong, M. Shaw and N. Stammers (eds) *Global Activism, Global Media*, London: Pluto Press and Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, pp. 208-222.

## **Book Reviews**

**(2004)** Book Review of 'The Internet Revolution: A Global Perspective' by Giovanetti E., Kagami M., and Tsuji M. (eds) in *Trends in Communication*, Vol.12(1): 63-64.

**(2005)** Book Review of 'Contesting Media Power: Alternative Media in a Networked World' by Couldry N. and Curran J. (eds) in *Soundings: A Journal of Politics and Culture* (31): 111-114.

**(2011)** Book Review of 'Communication Power' by Castells, M. (2009) in *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* 8(1): 197-202.

## Articles for a general audience

(2022) with Specht, D. Social media can support environmental movements – but not in the way you might think. *The Conversation* (8 March). Available at: <https://theconversation.com/social-media-can-support-environmental-movements-but-not-in-the-way-you-might-think-177847>

(2021) Progressive Social Movements: The Collapse of the Centre in Liberal Democracy. *Progressive Review* (26 February). <https://doi.org/10.1111/newe.12231> Available at: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/newe.12231>

(2020) Creating a hyperlocal infrastructure of care: COVID-19 Mutual Aid Groups, *OpenDemocracy* (12 June), Available at: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/openmovements/creating-hyperlocal-infrastructure-care-covid-19-mutual-aid-groups/>

(2020) with Herasimenka, A. How ‘WhatsApp group admin’ became one of the most powerful jobs in politics. *The Conversation* (13 January). Available at: <https://theconversation.com/how-whatsapp-group-admin-became-one-of-the-most-powerful-jobs-in-politics-126041>

## Awards

- Principal Investigator in *Digital Communications Technologies and Protest Movements: The Case of Occupy*, awarded £86,410 from the *British Academy Mid-Career Fellowship Scheme* (Ref: MD130045), 16 September 2013 to 15 September 2014.
- Co-Investigator in *Community-powered transformations: Digital transformations in the creative relationships between cultural and media organisations and their users*, awarded £29,836 from the AHRC Research Development Grants Scheme (Ref: AH/J01303X/1), 14 February 2012 to 30 September 2012.
- Co-Investigator in *Project Archimedes III: Computer Mediated Public Participation* (led by the Technical University of Western Macedonia), awarded £1,850 (2,100 euro) from the Greek Ministry of Education and the European Social Fund, 17 September 2012 – 30 November 2015.
- Awarded £500 from the British Academy Overseas Conference Grant Scheme to attend the conference of the International Communication Association in Montreal, Canada, 22 to 26 May 2008.
- Scholarship by the Oxford Internet Institute covering tuition fees and accommodation for the Oxford Internet Institute Summer Doctoral Programme in Beijing, China, 7 to 21 July 2005.
- Studentship by the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI) of the University of Westminster to study for a PhD in Media and Communication, September 2002 to September 2005.

## Professional and Editorial Activities

- October 2020 - : Coordinating Editor of *Social Movement Studies*
- September 2011 – March 2017: Associate Editor of *Media, Culture & Society* (Responsibilities: peer reviewing, co-editing the Crosscurrents section and editing special issues).
- Since 2015: Member of the advisory board of *Social Media + Society*.
- Since 2009: Member of the advisory board of the *International Journal of E-Politics*.
- 2008- 2011: Member of the editorial team of the journal *Interactions: Studies in Communication and Culture*.
- 2004-2008: Member of the editorial team of *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* (WPCC). Co-editor of the second issue: ‘Alternative Media Practices’ (published in 2005).

- Editing of special Issues and sections of academic journals:
  - Special Issue of *Information, Communication and Society* (co-edited with Alice Mattoni and Veronica Barassi) on 'Movement Cultures and Media in Grassroots Politics' (2020) Issue 23(12);
  - Special issue of *Social Movement Studies* (co-edited with Kevin Gillan, Gemma Edwards, John Krinsky, Thomas Poell and Lesley Wood.) on 'Time and Movements' (2020) Issue 19(5-6).
  - Special Crosscurrents Section of *Media, Culture and Society* on 'Media and the "Populist Moment"' (2018) Issue 40(8);
  - Special Crosscurrents Section of *Media, Culture and Society* (co-edited with Aswin Punathambekar) on 'Debating Big Data' (2015) Issue 37(7);
  - Special Issue on 'IP, Copyright and Cultural Production' (co-edited with Raymond Boyle) of *Media, Culture and Society* (2015) Issue 37(3);
  - Special Crosscurrents Section of *Media, Culture and Society* on 'Political Mobilization and the Internet' (2014) Issue 36(1);
  - Special Issue on 'Online Collective Action and Policy Change' (with Andrea Calderaro) of *Policy and Internet* (2013), Issue 5(1);
  - Special issue on 'Alternative and Political Media Practices' (co-edited with Pantelis Vatikiotis) of *Westminster Papers in Communication and Culture* (WPCC), (2005), Issue 2(1).
- Reviewer for 'Media, Culture & Society', 'Information, Communication & Society', 'Mobilization: An International Journal', the 'International Journal of Communication', the 'Journal of Communication', 'Social Movement Studies', 'Television and New Media', 'New Media and Society' and the 'International Journal of E-Politics'.

## Teaching

- Course Leader of the MA in Media, Campaigning and Social Change, a course I put together with my colleague Michaela O'Brien
- Leading the modules 'Critical Issues in Campaigning' and 'Media, Activism and Politics' (MA Course)
- Supervising MA dissertations
- Supervising 3 PhD students as Director of Studies and 4 as second supervisor. 5 students have completed their PhD under my supervision as Director of Studies and 4 as second supervisor

## Past teaching (since September 2002):

- Led the module 'Network Society and the Media' (BA Course)
- Led the module 'Theories of Communication' (MA Course)
- Led the module 'Creativity' (BA Course) (2011)
- Worked as a visiting lecturer for Kingston University, Birkbeck College and Middlesex University

## Conference and Events Organization

- Co-organized the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Joint Sessions Workshop 'Digital media and the spatial transformation of public contention', University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK, 25-30 April 2017.
- Co-organized the workshop 'Materiality, Publicness and Digital Media', University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, 25-26 October 2016.
- Co-organized the symposium 'Times are a Changin': Temporality, Memory and Social Movements in the Digital Age', University of Westminster, London, UK, 2-3 June 2016.

- Co-organized the Conference 'Reframing Media/Cultural Studies in the Age of Global Crisis', University of Westminster, London, UK, 19-20 June 2015.
- Co-organized the 'Protest and the Media' Conference, University of Westminster, London, UK, 12-13 June 2013.
- Co-organized the 'Transforming Audiences 4' Conference, University of Westminster, London, UK, Sept. 2013.
- Co-chair of the Section 'Internet and Politics: Bridging Current Research and Outlining Future Directions', General Conference of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Reykjavik, 25-27 Aug. 2011.
- Co-organized the 'Transforming Audiences 3' Conference, University of Westminster, London, UK, 1-2 Sept. 2011.
- Co-organized the 'Transforming Audiences 2' Conference, University of Westminster, London, UK, 3-4 Sept. 2009.
- 2007 - 2013: Organizer of the Research Seminars of the Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI), University of Westminster.

## Invited Talks

- 7 April 2022, Keynote talk: 'Towards a society of care: Care as a point of convergence during a time of crisis', Campaigning Forum, University of Oxford, UK.
- 27 October 2021, 'Towards a society of care: How are social movement across Europe approaching the need to build convergence among different democratic agendas amidst the COVID-19 crisis?', European Civic Forum (online).
- 6 May 2021, 'Social Media Pedagogies', Presentation and Dialogue with Simona Levi (Partido X), Referencies Programme, El Born Centre de Cultura i Memòria, Barcelona, Spain.
- 26 October 2020, 'Creating a hyperlocal infrastructure of care: COVID-19 mutual aid groups and digital media', Bournemouth University, UK.
- 7 May 2020, Talk COVID-19 Mutual Aid Groups & Hyperlocal Activist Organising, Webinar: Digital Activism in Times of Pandemic, Kings College London, UK.
- 15-16 November 2019, *Keynote Panel*, 'HASHTAGS TWEETS PROTEST: Social Movements in the Digital Age, Annual conference of the Institute for Social Movement Studies in co-operation with the Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, Berlin, Germany.
- 21-22 March 2019, *Keynote Speaker*, PiCME Final Workshop on 'Media Practices in Grassroots Politics against Corruption', Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence, Italy.
- 16 March 2017, 'Media and Fear: International Symposium', SOL Centre, Lund University, Sweden.
- 1 March 2017, 'Research-In-Progress' Seminar Series, School of Media, Film and Music, Sussex University, UK.
- 16 March 2016, Politics and Media Research Group Research Seminar Series, Bournemouth University, UK.
- 24 February 2016, Research Seminar Series, School of Media and Communication, University of Leeds, UK.
- 9-10 October 2015, *Keynote Speaker*, ECREA Communication and Democracy Section Conference: 'Political Agency in the Digital Age. Media, Participation and Democracy', Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.
- 6 October 2015, Higher seminar arranged by Media and Communication Studies at the School of Culture and Education, Södertörn University, Sweden.
- 22 April 2015, Film and Screen Studies Seminar Series, University of Brighton, Brighton, UK.
- 19-20 June 2015, 'Reframing Media/Cultural Studies in the Age of Global Crisis', University of Westminster, London, UK. [Panelist/ Co-organizer].

- 10 April 2015, E-Campaigning Forum, Peer presentation together with Sandy Schumann from Oxford University on 'Researching social media engagement: the case of Greenpeace International', Oxford University, UK.
- 6 March 2015, Social Movement Research Group Seminar Series, City University, London, UK.
- 25 February 2015, Communication and Media Research Institute (CAMRI), University of Westminster, London, UK.
- 19 December 2014, 'Research Seminar: SMOs and ICTs: Analytical and Theoretical tools for further research', Doctoral School of Social Sciences, Center of Media Studies, Technologies and Internationalisation (CEMTI), University Paris VIII, Paris, France.
- 29 October 2014, School of Political, Social and International Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.
- 7 June 2014, Participated (via Skype) in the panel 'Hindsight is 20:20: Organizing Lessons from Occupy Wall Street' at the 5th annual conference 'Organizing 2.0: Digital Boots Online', New York, USA.
- 16 April 2014, Media Research and Action Project Seminar, Boston University, Boston, USA.
- 26 March 2014, Comparative Media Studies Department, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA.
- 20 February 2014, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA.
- 31 January 2014, Columbia Journalism School, Columbia University, New York, USA.
- 25 November 2013, Department of Communication, University of Washington, Seattle, USA.
- 15 November 2013, Lund University, Lund, Sweden.

### **Professional Memberships and Leadership**

- Member of the European Communication Research and Education Association (ECREA) Ethics Committee (since 2018)
- Member of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Standing Groups on 'Internet and Politics' and on 'Forms of Participation'.
- Co-Convenor of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) Standing Group on 'Internet and Politics' (2013-2016)