Blaine G. Robbins

New York University Abu Dhabi
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Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates

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Employment

Associate Professor of Social Research and Public Policy — 2023–
New York University Abu Dhabi

Assistant Professor of Social Research and Public Policy — 2016–2023
New York University Abu Dhabi

Data Science Postdoctoral Scholar and Lecturer, School of Information — 2014–2016
University of California, Berkeley

Affiliations and Visiting Positions

Visiting Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Washington — 2025–2026

Global Network Associate Professor, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, New York University — 2023–

Faculty Affiliate, Center for Behavioral Institutional Design (C-BID), NYU Abu Dhabi — 2022–

Faculty Affiliate, Social Science Experimental Laboratory (SSEL), NYU Abu Dhabi — 2022–

Director, Government and Public Policy Research Cluster, NYU Abu Dhabi — 2023–2025

Washington Square Fellow, Department of Sociology, New York University — 2016–2017

Microsoft Research, Redmond, Washington — 2007

Education

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Washington — 2014

M.A. Sociology, University of Washington — 2008

B.A. Sociology and B.S. Psychology, Pacific Lutheran University — 2000

Publications

Book Project

Grigoryeva, Maria S. and Blaine G. Robbins. *Concealing to Control: Understanding When and Why We Keep Secrets and Lie* (In Preparation, Under Advance Contract with Columbia University Press).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Grigoryeva, Maria S. and Blaine G. Robbins. Forthcoming. "Are You Looking for Secrets? How Autonomy and Norms Shape Concealment." *Social Science Research*.

Robbins, Blaine, Steven Pfaff, and Ross Matsueda. 2025. "Affect, Efficacy, and Protest Intentions: Testing a Multilevel Dual-Pathway Model of Collective Action." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 88: 446-474.

Grigoryeva, Maria S. and Blaine G. Robbins. 2025. "Norms and Concealment." *Sociological Forum* 40: 213-230.

Robbins, Blaine, Daniel Karell, Simon Siegenthaler, and Aaron Kamm. 2024. "Pathways to Prosocial Leadership: An Online Experiment on the Effects of External Subsidies and the Relative Price of Giving." *European Sociological Review* 40: 903-916.

Demirović, Melisa, Jonathan Rogers, and Blaine Robbins. 2024. "Gender and Gender-Role Attitudes in Wage Negotiations: Evidence from an Online Experiment." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 87: 293-308.

Robbins, Blaine G. and Maria S. Grigoryeva. 2024. "The Effects of Facial Appearance on Measures of Generalized Trust." *Scientific Reports* 14: 18435.

Robbins, Blaine. 2024. "The Influence of Rating Scales and Question Attributes on the Validity and Reliability of Generalized Trust Scales." *Social Indicators Research* 173: 915-940.

Robbins, Blaine. 2024. "An Empirical Comparison of Four Generalized Trust Scales: Test-Retest Reliability, Measurement Invariance, Predictive Validity, and Replicability." *Sociological Methods & Research* 53: 760-803.

Grigoryeva, Maria S. and Blaine G. Robbins. 2024. "Every Forest has Its Shadow: The Demographics of Concealment in the United States." *Sociological Science* 11: 340-378.

Kornrich, Sabino and Blaine Robbins. 2024. "The Rise of Online Dating and Racial Homogamy in Marriage." *Social Science Research* 119: 102976.

Robbins, Blaine G. 2023. "Valid and Reliable Measures of Generalized Trust: Evidence from a Nationally Representative Survey and Behavioral Experiment." *Socius* 9: 1-26.

Robbins, Blaine. 2023. "Measuring Particularized Trust: A Name Generator Approach." *Social Networks* 72: 121-138.

Demirović, Melisa and Blaine Robbins. 2022. "The Norm of Wage Negotiations in the United States." *Socius* 8: 1-19.

Robbins, Blaine, Aimée Dechter, and Sabino Kornrich. 2022. "Assessing the Deinstitutionalization of Marriage Thesis: An Experimental Test." *American Sociological Review* 87: 237-274.

Robbins, Blaine. 2022. "Measuring Generalized Trust: Two New Approaches." *Sociological Methods & Research* 51: 305-356.

Robbins, Blaine, Ross Matsueda, and Steven Pfaff. 2020. "Mapping the Production and Mobilization Functions of Collective Action." *Socius* 6: 1-12.

Bélanger, Jocelyn J., Blaine G. Robbins, Hayat Muhammad, Manuel Moyano, Claudia F. Nisa, Birga M. Schumpe, and Michelle Blaya. 2020. "Supporting Political Violence: The Role of Ideological Passion and Social Network." *Group Processes & Intergroup Relations* 23: 1187-1203.

Robbins, Blaine and Edgar Kiser. 2020. "State Coercion, Moral Attitudes, and Tax Compliance: Evidence from a National Factorial Survey Experiment of Income Tax Evasion." *Social Science Research* 91: 102448.

Robbins, Blaine and Edgar Kiser. 2018. "Legitimate Authorities and Rational Taxpayers: An Investigation of Voluntary Compliance and Method Effects in a Survey Experiment of Income Tax Evasion." *Rationality and Society* 30: 247-301.

Corcoran, Katie, David Pettinicchio, and Blaine Robbins. 2018. "A Double-Edged Sword: The Countervailing Effects of Religion on Cross-National Crime." *Social Science Quarterly* 99: 377-389.

Robbins, Blaine. 2017. "Status, Identity, and Ability in the Formation of Trust." *Rationality and Society* 29: 408-448.

Robbins, Blaine. 2016. "What is Trust? A Multidisciplinary Review, Critique, and Synthesis." *Sociology Compass* 10: 972-986.

Robbins, Blaine. 2016. "When Social Constraints Increase Trust: Considering Causal Attributions as a Source of Treatment Effect Heterogeneity." *Socius* 2: 1-11.

Robbins, Blaine. 2016. "Probing the Links between Trustworthiness, Trust, and Emotion: Evidence from Four Survey Experiments." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 79: 284-308.

- Outstanding Published Article Award 2018, Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association.
- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award 2014, Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association.

Robbins, Blaine. 2016. "From the General to the Specific: How Social Trust Motivates Relational Trust." *Social Science Research* 55: 16-30.

Robbins, Blaine. 2015. "Climate, Affluence, and Trust: Revisiting Climatoeconomic Models of Generalized Trust with Cross-National Longitudinal Data, 1981-2009." *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology* 46: 277-289.

Robbins, Blaine, Howard T. Welser, Maria Grigoryeva, and Eric Gleave. 2014. "Power-Use in Cooperative Competition: A Power-Dependence Model and an Empirical Test of Network Structure and Geographic Mobility." *Social Science Research* 45: 131-151.

Robbins, Blaine. 2013. "Cooperation without Culture? The Null Effect of Generalized Trust on Intentional Homicide: A Cross-National Panel Analysis, 1995-2009." *PLoS ONE* 8 (3): e59511.

Corcoran, Katie, David Pettinicchio, and Blaine Robbins. 2012. "Religion and the Acceptability of White-Collar Crime: A Cross-National Analysis." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 51: 542-567.

- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award 2011, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

Robbins, Blaine. 2012. "Institutional Quality and Generalized Trust: A Nonrecursive Causal Model." *Social Indicators Research* 107: 235-258.

Robbins, Blaine. 2012. "A Blessing and a Curse? Political Institutions in the Growth and Decay of Generalized Trust: A Cross-National Panel Analysis, 1980-2009." *PLoS ONE* 7(4): e35120.

Robbins, Blaine. 2012. "Playing with Fire, Competing with Spirit: Cooperation in the Sport of Ultimate." *Sociological Spectrum* 32: 270-290.

Gleave, Eric, Blaine Robbins, and Beth Kolko. 2012. "Trust in Uzbekistan." *International Political Science Review* 33: 209-229.

Robbins, Blaine and David Pettinicchio. 2012. "Social Capital, Economic Development, and Homicide: A Cross-National Investigation." *Social Indicators Research* 105: 519-540.

Robbins, Blaine. 2011. "Neither Government nor Community Alone: A Test of State-Centered Models of Generalized Trust." *Rationality and Society* 23: 304-346.

- James S. Coleman Award for Best Graduate Student Paper 2009, Rationality and Society Section of the American Sociological Association.

Robbins, Blaine. 2004. "'That's Cheap.' The Rational Invocation of Norms, Practices, and an Ethos in Ultimate Frisbee." *Journal of Sport & Social Issues* 28: 314-337.

Book Chapters, Encyclopedia Entries, and Other Publications

Kiser, Edgar, Steven Pfaff, and Blaine Robbins. 2026. "Sociological Rational Choice Theory: Retrospect and Prospect." *Public Choice* 208: 1-27.

Robbins, Blaine. 2018. "Probing the Links of Discovery." In *Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Forum: The Newsletter of the AMSS Section of the American Sociological Association* 9 (2): 2-5.

Crutchfield, Robert D., David Pettinicchio, and Blaine Robbins. 2012. "Cultures of Inequality, Threat, and Imprisonment." In *Pratiques et Esthétique de la Déviance en Amérique du Nord*, edited by Pascale Antolin and Arnaud Schmitt. Pessac: University of Bordeaux Press.

Robbins, Blaine and Maria Grigoryeva. 2010. "Information Technology, Political Institutions, and Generalized Trust: An Empirical Assessment Using Structural Equation Models." *International Journal of Dependable and Trustworthy Information Systems* 1(2): 55-69.

Robbins, Blaine and Maria Grigoryeva. 2010. "Technology: A Bane or Boon for Cross-National Levels of Generalized Trust?" In *Trust and Technology in a Ubiquitous Modern Environment: Theoretical and Methodological Perspectives*, edited by Dominika Latusek and Alexandra Gerbasi. Hershey, PA: IGI Global.

Kitts, James A. and Blaine G. Robbins. 2008. "Prestige." Entry in *Encyclopedia of Social Problems*, edited by Vincent N. Parrillo. New York, NY: Sage Publications.

Doctoral Dissertation

Robbins, Blaine. 2014. *On the Origins of Trust*. Department of Sociology, University of Washington. Committee: Edgar Kiser (chair), Ross Matsueda, Jerald Herting, and Darryl Holman.

Articles in the File Drawer

Matsueda, Ross L., Blaine Robbins, and Steven J. Pfaff. "Under What Conditions are Students Willing to Protest? Selective Incentives, Production Functions, and Grievances." https://doi.org/10.31235/osf.io/z3myc

Data Collection and Analysis

Glanville, Jennifer, Elisa Bienenstock, and Blaine Robbins. "Who are "Most People?" Assessing the Measurement of Generalized Trust."

Robbins, Blaine. "Measuring Generalized Trust: A Cross-National Comparative Study."

Robbins, Blaine. "Trust and Gullibility: A Redux."

Grants

External Grants Awarded

National Science Foundation SES-1330559 2013–2017
"Testing an Integrated Structural-Cognitive Theory of Collective Action" ($138,050)
Co-Investigator with Steven Pfaff (PI) and Ross Matsueda (CO-PI)

National Science Foundation SES-1303577 2013–2016
"Assessing the Origins of Trust and Trustworthiness" ($11,998)

Co-Principal Investigator with Edgar Kiser (PI)

Microsoft Research Grant ($5,000) 2007

External Grants Declined

National Science Foundation 2021
"Collaborative Research: Uncovering the True Relationship Between Diversity and Generalized Trust" ($585,400)
Co-Principal Investigator with Jennifer Glanville (PI) and Elisa Bienenstock (CO-PI)

National Science Foundation 2021
"Measuring Generalized Trust: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Study" ($323,941)
Principal Investigator

Internal Grants Awarded

New York University Abu Dhabi, REF Research & Creative Grant 2022–2024
"Measuring Generalized Trust: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Study" ($217,530)
Principal Investigator

New York University, NYUAD Institute, Program Grant 2017
Workshop on *The Future of Survey Experiments* ($10,000)
Convener and Organizer

University of California, Berkeley, Xlab Research Grant 2016
"When Police Brutality Backfires: How Information Asymmetries Moderate the Link between Violent Repression and Collective Action" ($3,365)
Co-Principal Investigator with Ali Sanaei (PI)

University of Washington, Department of Sociology, Departmental Research Grant 2013
"Assessing the Origins of Trust and Trustworthiness" ($200)
Principal Investigator

University of Washington, Royalty Research Fund Seed Grant A74643 2012–2015
"Is There a Consensus on Marriage? Socioeconomic and Ethnic Differences in Marriage Norms" ($32,837)
Co-Investigator with Aimée Dechter (PI)

University of Washington, Royalty Research Fund Seed Grant A69919 2012–2014
"Public Goods and the Propensity to Protest: A Factorial Survey of Participation in Collective Action" ($29,507)
Co-Investigator with Steven Pfaff (PI) and Ross Matsueda (CO-PI)

University of Washington, Department of Sociology, Departmental Research Grant 2011
"Political Institutions in the Growth and Decay of Generalized Trust" ($300)
Principal Investigator

University of Washington, Department of Sociology, Travel Endowment ($300) 2009

Awards and Distinctions

Award for Excellence as a Senior Program Committee Member (Best Meta-Reviewer) 2020
12th International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo-20)

Presidential Dissertation Fellowship 2013
University of Washington, Graduate School

Otto Larsen Dissertation Award ($1,000) 2012
University of Washington, Department of Sociology

Distinction on Ph.D. Major Examination in Institutional Analysis – Political Sociology 2009
University of Washington, Department of Sociology

Doctoral minor certification in *Social Statistics and Quantitative Methods* 2009
University of Washington, Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences

Letter of Commendation for Pedagogical Contributions 2009
University of Washington, Dean of Social Sciences

Conferences, Invited Seminars, and Workshops

University College London Centre for Quantitative Social Science (London, UK), 2024
University of Arizona Workshop on *Trust and Networks* (Tucson, USA)

Utrecht University Department of Sociology (Utrecht, Netherlands), Aarhus University 2023
Department of Political Science (Aarhus, Denmark), University College Dublin
Department of Sociology (Dublin, Ireland), ASA Annual Meeting

Center for Behavioral Institutional Design (NYUAD), ASA Annual Meeting 2022

Spanish National Research Council's Institute of Public Goods and Policies 2021
(Madrid, Spain)

ASA Annual Meeting 2020

ASA Annual Meeting 2019

NYU Abu Dhabi 3Labs Social Psychology Working Group, ASA Annual Meeting, 2018
Workshop on *Determinants of Social Trust* (Uppsala, Sweden), Umeå University
Department of Sociology (Umeå, Sweden)

ASA Annual Meeting, University of Washington Earl & Edna Stice Lecture Series 2016

NYU Abu Dhabi Division of Social Science, NYU Department of Sociology, UC-Berkeley School of Information — 2015

UC-Riverside Department of Sociology, ASA Annual Meeting (x2), University of Washington Symposium in Celebration of Margaret Levi — 2014

ASA Annual Meeting, ASC Annual Meeting, University of Washington Graduate Research Symposium — 2010

University of Washington Book Workshop on *Women, Work, and Politics* (Discussant) — 2009
ASC Annual Meeting (x2), Sunbelt XXIX, ASR Annual Meeting, University of Washington Deviance Seminar

ASC Annual Meeting (x2), University of Washington Deviance Seminar — 2008

Professional Service and Activities

Advisory Board Member — 2025–
Survey Experiments for the Scientific Study of Religion (SESSR)
John Templeton Foundation Grant (PIs: Christopher Scheitle, Katie Corcoran, and Kim Rios)

Committee Member — 2025
Curricular Reform to SOCSC-UH 1010Q: Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences
New York University Abu Dhabi

Co-founder and Co-convener (with Maria Grigoryeva) — 2024
Workshop on *Information Management*
New York University Abu Dhabi, October 28-29

Program Committee Member — 2024
4th Workshop on Experimental Sociology
Online Workshop Hosted by the University of Essex and University College London

Committee Member — 2023–2025
Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee
New York University Abu Dhabi

Chair — 2023–2025
Social Science Graduate Policy and Curriculum Committee
New York University Abu Dhabi

Academic Consultant — 2023–2024
Weave: The Social Fabric Project
The Aspen Institute

Committee Member — 2023–2024
Foundations of Social Science Curriculum Committee

New York University Abu Dhabi

Program Committee Member 2023
3rd Workshop on Experimental Sociology
Online Workshop Hosted by the University of Essex and University College London

Co-organizer (with Laure Assaf) 2022–2024
Social Research and Public Policy Speaker Series
New York University Abu Dhabi

Senior Program Committee Member 2022
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-22)

Committee Member 2019–2021
Senior Faculty Search for Social Research and Public Policy
New York University Abu Dhabi

Committee Chair 2021
Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award for Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section
American Sociological Association

Senior Program Committee Member 2020
12th International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo-20)

Program Committee Member 2020
12th International ACM Conference on Web Science (WebSci-20)

Senior Program Committee Member 2019
11th International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo-19)

Committee Member 2019
Outstanding Published Article Award for Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section
American Sociological Association

Program Committee Member 2019
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-19)

Committee Member 2018–2023
Academic Integrity Hearing Panel
New York University Abu Dhabi

Program Committee Member 2018
The NYUAD Research Conference
New York University Abu Dhabi, November 5-7

Co-founder and Co-convener (with Kinga Makovi and Malte Reichelt) 2018
Workshop on *The Frontiers of Network Science*
New York University Abu Dhabi, April 8-10

Program Committee Member 2018
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-18)

Founder and Convener 2017
Workshop on *The Future of Survey Experiments*
New York University Abu Dhabi, 19 Washington Square North, April 6-7

Program Committee Member 2017
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-17)

Program Committee Member 2016
International AAAI Conference on Web and Social Media (ICWSM-16)

Committee Member 2010
Graduate Student Paper Award for Rationality and Society Section
American Sociological Association

Co-Founder and Co-convener (with Heather Evans and Emi Tamaki) 2010
Graduate Research Symposium
Department of Sociology, University of Washington

Graduate Student Representative 2009
Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, University of Washington

External Peer Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, British Journal of Sociology, Comparative Political Studies, European Sociological Review, Frontiers in Psychology, Gender & Society, Homicide Studies, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, International Political Science Review, Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, Journal of Civil Society, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology, Justice Quarterly, Nature Human Behaviour, PLoS ONE, Political Behavior, Political Psychology, Political Studies, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Public Opinion Quarterly, Rationality and Society, SAGE Open, Social Currents, Social Forces, Social Indicators Research, Social Psychology Quarterly, Social Science Information, Social Science Quarterly, Social Science Research, Sociological Forum, Sociological Methods & Research, Socius, Theory and Society, West European Politics*, Chapman & Hall/CRC, National Science Foundation (USA)

Teaching

New York University Abu Dhabi

Social Science UH 2211: Survey Research. Fall 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022. Spring 2019, 2020, 2024.

Social Science UH 1010Q: Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences. Fall 2018, 2022. Spring 2018, 2021 × 2, 2024 × 2.

Social Research and Public Policy UH 3214: Social Networks. Fall 2018. Spring 2018, 2020. Summer 2021.

Social Research and Public Policy AD 115J: Social Networks. J-Term 2017.

New York University

Sociology 201: Social Psychology. Fall 2016, Spring 2017.

University of California, Berkeley

Master of Information and Data Science W203: Exploring and Analyzing Data. Fall 2014 × 3, 2015 × 2. Spring 2015 × 2, 2016 × 2. Summer 2015 × 2, 2016 × 3.

University of Washington

Sociology 110: Survey of Sociology. Summer 2009

Sociology 240: Introduction to Social Psychology. Spring 2011

Sociology 344: Cognitive Social Psychology. Spring 2012, Summer 2014

Advising

New York University Abu Dhabi

Post-Graduation Research Fellowship Faculty Supervisor, Melisa Demirovic (AY 20-21)

Post-Graduation Practical Training Program Faculty Supervisor, Melisa Demirovic (Summer 2020), Abdur Rehman Arshad (Summer 2020)

Capstone Adviser, Maya Blodgett (AY 23-24), Shamma Al Dhaheri (AY 22-23), Salama Al Hosani (AY 20-21), Katie Glasgow-Palmer (AY 20-21), Melisa Demirovic (AY 19-20), Salama Al Ghafli (AY 19-20), Diego Sandoval (AY 18-19)

Capstone Reader, Emilija Platukyte (AY 22-23), Houda Ould Khal (AY 22-23), Alexandros Agiostratitis (AY 22-23), Federico Jannelli (AY 22-23), Lama Ahmad (AY 18-19), Cristina Lupusor (AY 18-19), Songyue Xu (AY 18-19), Kate Melville-Rea (AY 17-18), Hannah Taylor (AY 17-18)

Student Research Assistant Supervisor for "Measuring Generalized Trust: A Cross-Cultural Comparative Study" Project (AY 22-23), Alex Agiostratitis, Aya Amine, Francesca Antonone, Walid Belbach, Maya Blodgett, Alex Chae, Roberta Danieliute, Klara-Jesefin Ehrnst, Claudio Falcioni, Kenza El Gamra, Codrin Ghidiu, Ryunosuke Hashimoto, Ema Higaki, Valentin Josan, Paulina Lajkowska, Sara Abo Madalala, Linh Nguyen, Julia Oleszynska, Fedi Ben Othmen, Minseo Park, Alejandra Perez, Emilija Platukyte, Lucas de Lellis da Silva, Spyros Sofianos, Amine Tabsissi, Linh Tran

University of Washington

Undergraduate Academic Adviser 2009–2011

Research Assistant

University of Washington, Department of Sociology

Testing an Integrated Structural-Cognitive Theory of Collective Action Project 2014
Supervisor: Steven Pfaff

Life-Course Trajectories of Substance Use and Crime 2013
Supervisors: Elena Erosheva and Ross Matsueda

Consensus on Marriage Project 2012–2013
Supervisor: Aimée Dechter

Public Goods and the Propensity to Protest Project 2012–2013
Supervisor: Steven Pfaff

Microsoft Research, Redmond, Washington

Communities Technologies Group 2006–2007
Supervisor: Marc Smith

Last updated: September 29th, 2026