

PATRICK SHEEHAN

Department of Sociology | Boston University
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APPOINTMENTS

- 2025 - Assistant Professor of Sociology, Boston University
- 2023 - 2025 Postdoctoral Scholar | Work, Technology, and Organizations, Stanford University

EDUCATION

- 2023 Ph.D. Sociology, University of Texas at Austin
- 2019 M.A. Sociology, University of Texas at Austin
- 2013 B.A. Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Sheehan, Patrick. *To the Moon: Hype Culture and Silicon Valley* (In preparation)

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Forth. Shapira, Harel, Ken-Hou Lin, **Patrick Sheehan**, and Chen Liang. “The Ambivalence Asymmetry: Comparing the Heterogeneity of Gun Attitudes between Gun Control Supporters and Opponents.” *Handbook on Gun Violence and Society*.
- 2024 Sheehan, Patrick. “To the Moon: Hype and Start Up Work.” *Contexts*
- 2023 Neely, Megan; **Patrick Sheehan**; Christine Williams (equal authorship). “Social Inequality in High-Tech: How Gender, Race, and Ethnicity Structure the World’s Most Powerful Industry” *Annual Review of Sociology*. [[link](#)]
- 2023 Sheehan, Patrick and Christine Williams (equal authorship). “Unionizing High Tech: Opportunities and Obstacles,” *Work & Occupations*. [[link](#)]
- 2022 Sheehan, Patrick. “The Paradox of Self-Help Expertise: How Unemployed Workers Become Professional Career Coaches.” *American Journal of Sociology*, 127(4). [[link](#)]
*Winner, 2022 Richard A. Peterson Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASA section on Sociology of Culture

**Winner, 2022 James D. Thompson Best Graduate Student Paper Award from ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work*

**Winner, 2022 Ronald Burt Best Graduate Student Paper Award from ASA section on Economic Sociology*

2021 Sheehan, Patrick. "Unemployment Experts: Governing the Job Search in the New Economy." *Work and Occupations* 48 (1): 470-497 [[link](#)]

Papers Under Review/In Progress

R&R Sheehan, Patrick. "A Sociology of Hype: How Tech Start-ups Get Young Professionals to Work so Hard." **Revise and Resubmit** at *American Journal of Sociology*

R&R Sheehan, Patrick and Arvind Karunakaran (equal authorship). "The Best Defense is a Good Offense: How Occupational Members Use Moral Offense to Navigate a Shadow of Suspicion about their Work." **Revise and Resubmit** at *American Journal of Sociology*

In Prog. Sheehan, Patrick and Kyungmo Chun. "'This Changes Everything': Imagined Futures and Firm Valuations in the 'Dot Com' Bubble."

In Prog. Sheehan, Patrick. "The Organizational Fountain of Youth: Age Regimes in the Tech Industry"

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2022 Visiting Scholar, Max Planck Institute; Cologne, Germany

2022 Ronald Burt Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA section on Economic Sociology

2022 James D. Thompson Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA section on Organizations, Occupations and Work

2022 Richard A. Peterson Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA section of Sociology of Culture

2022 OGC Semester Fellowship Award, UT-Austin (\$10,000)

2021 University Graduate Continuing Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$44,000)

2020 Ethnography Lab Summer Research Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$5,000)

2019 Ethnography Lab Summer Research Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$5,000)

TEACHING

- 2023 Introduction to Criminology, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT Austin
2021 Introduction to Criminology, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT Austin
2020 Introduction to Criminology, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT Austin
2019 Health and Society, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT Austin
2018 Introduction to Sociology, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT Austin
2017 Introduction to Sociology, Graduate Teaching Assistant, UT Austin
2013-2015 Second Grade (all subjects), University Prep Science and Math, Detroit MI

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

American Sociological Association

- 2024 Co-Organizer, OOW Virtual Book Club
2023-2024 Council Member, Organization, Occupation, and Work Section

Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology, Socio-Economic Review, Work & Occupations*

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Thematic Session: Cultures of Work in the Precarious Age, ASA, Chicago
2024 “Navigating the Shadow of Suspicion: How Deceptive Occupations Establish Authority,” ASA, Montreal
2023 “To the Moon: Hype Culture in Tech Start-Ups,” ASA, Philadelphia
2021 “Unemployment Experts: Governing Job Search in the New Economy” ASA (online)
2020 “The Impossible Expert: How Unemployed Workers Become Professional Career Coaches.” ASA (online)
2019 “Career Coaching: Precarious Work as Identity Work for Older Professionals” Work 2019 Conference, Helsinki, Finland.
2019 “Unemployment Expertise in a Precarious Age,” ASA, New York

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY AND MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 [Expert Interview, Career Coaching](#) *The Dream, Season 3, Episode 7*
2022 “[The New Economy as Multi-Level Marketing Scheme: Career Coaches and Unemployment in the Age of Insecurity](#)” *ASA Work in Progress Blog*.
2020 “[Job Market Astrology](#),” *Public Seminar*
2020 “[Bosses in the US Have Far Too Much Power to Lay Off Workers Whenever They Feel Like it](#),” *Jacobin Magazine*.
2019 “[The Unemployment Rate is Not a Fact](#),” *Public Seminar*.
2019 “[In Defense of ‘Do What You Love,’](#)” *Public Seminar*.
2015 “[Revitalization as Gentrification](#),” *Jacobin Magazine*.