

Nicholas J. Croce

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AREAS OF INQUIRY

Technology, Society, and Governance; U.S. Public Policy; Genealogies of Work, Welfare, and Social Policy; Social Theory

EDUCATION

Syracuse University

Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

Ph.D., Social Science

June 2025

Hospitals of Industry: New York's Progressive Era Labor Colonies — All-University Doctoral Prize Winner

Committee: Gretchen Purser (Sociology, Chair), Gregg Lambert (Philosophy), Rick Welsh (Sociology), Barbara Arneil (Political Science, University of British Columbia)

M.A., Sociology (Certificate in University Teaching)

2021

Brandeis University

Heller School for Social Policy and Management

M.P.P., Public Policy (Poverty Alleviation)

2017

Nazareth University

B.A., Religious Studies

2013

Monroe Community College

A.S., Liberal Studies

2010

TEACHING

Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor, School of Public & International Affairs, University of Pittsburgh

2026–

- Redesigned and teaching Poverty & Inequality, Governing Technology, and Program Evaluation.

Instructor, Sociology Department, Syracuse University

2024

- Introduction to Sociology. Developed course, syllabus, lesson plans, and multi-modal class activities.
- Course evaluations are available at www.ncroce.com

Teaching Assistant and Co-Teacher, Technology, Science & Society, Syracuse University

2020

- Co-designed and co-taught course, transformed to an online modality during COVID-19.
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award (2021); Certificate of University Teaching (2021)

Teaching Assistant, Wealth and Poverty, Brandeis University

2016

- Facilitated one class session per week using original lesson plans and exercises, graded coursework.

RESEARCH

Postdoctoral Associate, Center for Urban Science + Progress, New York University

2026

- Research on data governance and smart city design with Dr. Stefaan Verhulst and Dr. Yuki Miura.

- Research Assistant, Syracuse University** 2018–2026
- Research in the Sociology and Political Science departments on inequality, and in partnership with the Center for Policy Design and Governance, on technology and government.
- Human Services Research Analyst, Mathematica** 2022–2025
- Conducted qualitative and quantitative studies on behalf of federal and foundation clients.
 - Produced systematic literature reviews, briefs and reports, podcasts and newsletters, qualitative study instruments.
 - Trained proposal manager and experienced proposal writer.
- Graduate Intern, New York City Department of Homeless Services** 2019
- Developed and piloted a qualitative research instrument to understand service delivery.
- Research Assistant, Brandeis University** 2016–2017
- Created research instruments and conducted qualitative interviews for a study on state-level policy diffusion.
- Student Trainee, U.S. Government Accountability Office** 2016
- Developed a taxonomy of the high technology sector for a Congressionally requested study.
- Clerk, New Hampshire Commission for Human Rights** 2015
- Researched the origins and development of state anti-discrimination laws.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

- Croce, Nicholas.** 2025. “Chatbot Democracy.” *Perspectives on Public Management and Governance* 8 (2): 53–60. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ppmgov/gvaf005>.
- Croce, Nicholas.** 2020. “Exploring the Interaction between Relative Surplus Population and Forms of Economic Production: A Case Study on Platform Capitalism.” *International Social Science Review* 96 (1): 1–19. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27071292>.
- Croce, Nicholas.** 2017. “Predicting the Fifth Phase: Interpellation, World Systems Theory, and the Fall of Nation-States.” *International Social Science Review* 94 (1): 1–15. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/90021001>.

CHAPTERS

- Croce, Nicholas, Md Abu Talha, and Kayla Schwoerer.** 2026. “Towards Guiding Principles for AI Chatbots and Inclusive Governance.” In *Handbook on Inclusive Governance*, edited by Saba Siddiki and Graham Ambrose, 192–210. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

RESEARCH BRIEFS

- Croce, Nicholas, and Saba Siddiki.** 2025. “What Municipalities Really Want: Perceptions of Artificial Intelligence among New York Municipal Leaders.” Research to Practice Brief no. 10, Center for Policy Design and Governance. <https://surface.syr.edu/cpdg/10/>.
- Bohl, Alex, Mike Burns, **Nicholas Croce**, Erich Denk, Allison Fox, Brian Gill, and Ellie Pasternack. 2023. *Response to the Request for Information: National Priorities for Artificial Intelligence* (Office of Science and Technology Policy, Executive Office of the President). Mathematica. <https://www.mathematica.org/-/media/publications/pdfs/data-analytics/2023/ai-request-for-info-final.pdf>.
- Vance, Sam, Katie Eddins, Heather Zaveri, **Nicholas Croce**, Cole Garvey, Carla Chavez, and Brandon Hollie. 2023. “Human Service Needs and Disaster Displacement.” OPRE Report no. 2023-011. Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/human-service-needs-and-disaster-displacement>.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR IN PREPARATION

Croce, Nicholas, Saba Siddiki, and Begoña Gonzalez Otero. “State Data Privacy Laws: Assessing Policy Scope and Variation.” Accepted to the 2026 Fall Research Conference, APPAM. *In preparation*.

Croce, Nicholas. “Working Out their ‘Economic Salvation’ on the Farm: Progressive Era Farm Colonies in New York State and the Non-Deserving Poor.” *Revise and Resubmit*.

Croce, Nicholas. “Navigating Policy Worlds through Archival Interviewing.” *Under Review*.

Croce, Nicholas. “The Futurity Trap in Participatory Public Policy and Digital Transformation.” *In preparation*.

Croce, Nicholas. “Domestic Colonies, Welfare, and the Distributive Dilemma.” *In preparation*.

BOOK REVIEWS

Croce, Nicholas. 2023. Review of *Poverty, by America*, by Matthew Desmond. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 42 (4): 1147–1152. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22506>.

Croce, Nicholas. 2023. Review of *Cannibal Capitalism: How Our System Is Devouring Democracy, Care, and the Planet—and What We Can Do About It*, by Nancy Fraser. *Capital & Class* 47 (1): 125–127. <https://doi.org/10.1177/03098168231151781>.

Croce, Nicholas. 2022. Review of *The Return of Inequality: Social Change and the Weight of the Past*, by Mike Savage. *International Social Science Review* 98 (1). <https://issr.ungjournals.org/articles/54>.

CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS & SYMPOSIA

“Domestic Colonialism in the Progressive Era? The Case of New York’s Labor Colonies.” 2025. Accepted to the *120th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Chicago, IL.

“Chatbot Democracy.” May 2024. *Conference on Policy Process Research*.

“Labor Colonies, World War I, and the Non-Deserving Poor: A Case Study of Progressive Era Welfare Reform in New York State.” 2020. *Eastern Sociological Society 2020 Annual Meeting* (Theme: Deviance and Social Control).

“Visualizing Inequality in United States Commuter Zones.” 2019. *Fall Poster Session*, School of Information Studies, Syracuse University. <https://drive.google.com/file/d/177PXwZ3ynhrlyXNehFOKE6B87x7RAO8y/view?usp=sharing>.

“Graduate Student Response: Derrida and the Lyric.” 2019. *1st Annual Central New York Humanities Corridor Undergraduate Conference in Critical Theory*.

“Best Practices & Lessons Learned – Setting up a Multi-Agency Resource Center.” 2018. Panel moderator, *Collaborative Coalition Conference*, New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

“Examining Intergenerational Occupational Prestige Transmission using the Panel Study of Income Dynamics.” 2017. *DC Regional Student Conference, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management*.

“Globalization and its Discontents: Examining the Policies Surrounding Globalization with Stiglitz’s Critical Lens.” 2011. *Globalization and Culture Conference*.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- Croce, Nicholas. 2024. "Platform Capitalism Can't Surveil Absurdism (and Worse)." *2600 Magazine*.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2024. "Politician comment amid encampments at SU fuel hate, not prevent it." *The Daily Orange*. <https://dailyorange.com/2024/04/politician-comment-amid-encampments-at-su-fuel-hate-not-prevent-it/>.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2022. "Kittens, an NFT scam, and the future of democratic decision-making?" *Slate*. <https://slate.com/technology/2022/02/cool-kittens-nft-scam-coup-rug-pull-dao.html>.
- Croce, Nicholas, and Elliott Teissonnière. 2022. "Interview: Blockchain in IoT: 'Connect to earn' plans emerge for decentralized, scalable Internet of Tomorrow." *IoT Now*. <https://www.iot-now.com/2022/10/13/124563-blockchain-in-iot-connect-to-earn-plans-emerge-for-decentralised-scalable-internet-of-tomorrow/>.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2021. "On this Labor Day, a call to academics studying work to... get to work." *Nicholas Croce's Blog*. <http://www.godblessyoumrrosewater.com/2021/09/on-this-labor-day-call-to-academics.html>.
- Ghost Nation. 2020. "Afterlife Sentence." Season 2, episode 4. Travel Channel, May 13. Shared research findings on farm colony and reformatory school in Warwick, NY. <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt12286132/>.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2020. "Student recounts DPS 'displays of force' at Crouse-Hinds protest." *The Daily Orange*. <https://dailyorange.com/2020/02/student-recounts-dps-displays-force-crouse-hinds-protest/>.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2019. "//WEALTHFARE.US: An Arts-Based Social Research Project." <https://www.wealthfare.us>.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2019. "DPS has a responsibility to inform SU community about Ackerman Avenue assault." *The Daily Orange*. <https://dailyorange.com/2019/02/reader-dps-responsibility-inform-su-community-ackerman-avenue-assault/>.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2017. "Reconsider Journalistic Conduct at Sensitive Events." *The Justice*. <https://www.thejustice.org/article/2017/03/reader-commentary-reconsider-journalistic-conduct-at-sensitive-events>.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2017. "Yes, in My Backyard! Evaluating Affordable Housing Solutions for a 21st Century Massachusetts." Master of Public Policy Capstone, Brandeis University.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2016. "It's True: America is an Overweight Welfare State... But for Whom?" *HuffPost*. https://www.huffpost.com/entry/its-true-america-is-an b_9777948.
- Croce, Nicholas. 2016. "It's time to revisit rent control in Massachusetts." *Heller MPP Blog*. <https://hellermppblog.wordpress.com/2016/03/21/its-time-to-revisit-rent-control-in-massachusetts/>.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Referee (selected)

International Journal of Public Sector Management
Journal of Information Technology & Politics
Perspectives on Public Management and Governance
Policy & Internet
Public Administration
State and Local Government Review

Editorial Board

Journal of Resilient Urbanism & Sustainable Design

Conference and Fellowship Reviewer

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
Poverty and Income Policy Section, 2025 Conference
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fellowship (2023, 2024, 2025)
Entrepreneurship Policy Student Fellowship

Textbook Reviewer

Essentials of Sociology 9e — Sociology: Theory and Method; Networks, Groups, Organizations

UNIVERSITY & PUBLIC SERVICE

Academic Integrity Panel, Syracuse University (2019–2021)
Graduate Pandemic Committee, Syracuse University (2020–2021)

Member, Transportation Commission, Borough of State College, PA (2025–2029)
Volunteer, American Red Cross (2009–)

AWARDS

Fellowships, Grants & Scholarships

- Fellow, Institute for Critical Social Inquiry, New School for Social Research (2024)
- Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Syracuse University, 2024 (\$4,500)
- Peter Andrews Memorial Fund, Syracuse University, 2024 (\$900)
- Professional Development Grant, Syracuse University, 2024 (\$600)
- Roscoe Martin Fund for Dissertation and Thesis Research, 2019 (\$930)
- Book Award, Heller School for Social Policy and Management, Brandeis University, 2015 (\$500)

Other Honors

- All-University Doctoral Prize, Syracuse University (2026)
- Finalist, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition, Syracuse University (2024)
- Youth Award, Flower City Habitat for Humanity (2012)
- President's Community Service Award, Nazareth University (2011; 2012)

AFFILIATIONS

- Professional Affiliate, [Center for Information, Technology, and Public Life \(CITAP\)](#), University of North Carolina
- Research Affiliate, [Governance and Digital Experience Lab \(GovDX\)](#), University of Albany/Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam