

Anna Thieser

Department of Sociology, Columbia University
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EDUCATION

2027 (exp.)	Ph.D. in Sociology, Columbia University (defense scheduled May 2027) Dissertation: <i>Culture and Organization in the Maintenance of Ethereum</i> Committee: Gil Eyal (chair), Tey Meadow, David Stark
2024	M.Phil. in Sociology, Columbia University
2023	M.A. in Sociology, Columbia University
2020	M.A. in Sociology, The New School for Social Research
2018	B.A. in Social Sciences, Humboldt University of Berlin
2016	Study abroad, Social and Cultural Analysis, New York University

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Chapters

Forthcoming	“AI Safety as a Space Between Fields” (with Gil Eyal). In <i>The Routledge Companion to the Professions and Professionalism</i> , edited by Tracey L. Adams, Mike Dent, Swethaa S. Ballakrishnen, and Jean-Louis Denis. London: Routledge.
2020	Review of <i>Taking the Floor</i> by Daniel Beunza. <i>Journal of Cultural Economy</i> .

Under Review

“Vanguard Cities” (with Zackary Dunivin, Fabio Rojas, and Jelani Ince). Revise and resubmit, *American Sociological Review*.

In Preparation

“AI Safety as a Space Between Fields” (with Jack LaViolette and Gil Eyal). For submission to *Social Studies of Science*.
“Protocol Time: Ritual and Pacing in the Maintenance of Ethereum.”

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2026	Merton Award for Outstanding Scholarship, Columbia University
2024–25	Seed Grant, Office of the Vice President for Research, Columbia University (“Closing the Gap Between Trusted and Trustworthy AI”)
2020–25	Paul Lazarsfeld Fellowship, Columbia University
2018–20	Merit Scholarship, The New School for Social Research
2014–20	Scholarship, German Academic Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)
2016	Max Kade Fellowship, New York University

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

2026	Visiting Scholar, Department of Communication, Stanford University (Winter)
2023	Visiting Scholar, Ethereum Foundation

2018, 2020	Research Assistant to Prof. Rachel Sherman, The New School for Social Research
2019	Research Assistant to Prof. Jeffrey Goldfarb, The New School for Social Research

INVITED TALKS

2025	“Blockchain and Belief: Histories and Futures of Money, Power and Faith.” Keynote panelist, Princeton University DeCenter, November.
2025	“AI Safety as a Space Between Fields” (with Gil Eyal). Technology, Culture and Power Lecture Series, Stanford PACS, March.
2023	“Open Network of the Saints: Culture and Governance in Ethereum’s Core Protocol Development.” STS Circle, Harvard University, October.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026	“Brokering Existential Risk: AI Safety as a Space Between Fields.” Society for Social Studies of Science (4S), Toronto, panel “The Political Economy Underpinning AI,” November.
2026	“Protocol Time: Ritual and Pacing in Ethereum’s Development.” American Sociological Association, Cultural Sociology Section session “The Sociology of Outcomes and Expectations,” August.
2026	“AI Safety as a Space Between Fields.” American Sociological Association, SKAT Section session “Expertise in an Age of AI,” August.
2026	“AI Safety as a Space Between Fields.” Weizenbaum Conference, Berlin, June.
2023	“Open Network of the Saints: Culture and Governance in Ethereum’s Core Protocol Development.” American Sociological Association, regular session “Mapping Social Life Online,” August; also presented at GRiSTS, Harvard University, October.
2019	“Competition, Collaboration and Utopianism in a Blockchain Community.” <i>New Directions in Interdisciplinary Research on Blockchains</i> , Parsons School of Design, The New School, October.
2019	“A Comparative Heuristic for Basic Income Experiments.” <i>Overcoming Injustice</i> , Universidad Complutense de Madrid, May.
2019	“An Interpretive Sociological Perspective on Cryptocurrencies.” <i>Global Historical Sociology</i> , The New School for Social Research, April.
2017	“Locking Legitimacy: Populism and Technocracy as Narratives to the Crisis of Sovereignty.” <i>Truth and Politics</i> , Universität Bremen, September.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University

2026	Teaching Fellow, Qualitative Analysis (graduate), Department of Sociology, Spring
2025	Instructor of Record, Classical Social Theory, Columbia College, Summer session
2022, 2023, 2024	Teaching Fellow, The Social World, Columbia College, Spring semesters
2021, 2022	Teaching Fellow, Organizing Innovation, Columbia College, Fall semesters

Berlin University of the Arts

2023	Adjunct Instructor, Social Media and the Body in Capitalism, Summer
2022	Adjunct Instructor, Technology Critique and its Alternatives, Summer

The New School, Eugene Lang College

2019-2020 AY Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Media Studies

SERVICE

2020–	Peer Reviewer, <i>Socio-Economic Review</i>
2022–25	Coordinator, Science, Knowledge and Technology Workshop, Columbia Sociology
2021–24	Coordinator, Qualitative Methods Lab, Columbia Sociology
2019–20	Representative, Sociology Student Association, The New School for Social Research
2018	Guest Editor, German Sociological Association (DGS), Division of Sociology of Knowledge

LANGUAGES

German and Hungarian (native); English (fluent); French (intermediate, B-level)