

Edward B. Kang

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Academic Appointments

New York University, New York, NY

2023— **Assistant Professor**, Department of Media, Culture, and Communication (MCC)
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

Education

University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

2023 **Ph.D.** in Communication
Graduate Certificate in Science and Technology Studies (STS)
Dissertation: Machine audibility: On its imaginaries, ontologies and limitations.
Committee: Larry Gross, Josh Kun, Mike Ananny, John Cheney-Lippold

2021 **M.A.** in Communication
Specialization: Technology & Culture, Social & Cultural Identity, Critical
Algorithm Studies, Sound Studies

2016 **B.A.** in East Asian Area Studies
Minor in Music Industry

Grants

National

2024—2026 **Principal Investigator** (with co-PI Juana Becerra).
National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). [DOC-299565-24]
“Machine Listening in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.” (\$149,991)

In Preparation

— **Principal Investigator** (with co-PIs Dylan Mulvin and Juana Becerra).
“Manufactured Realities: Synthetic Data, Generative AI, and the Politics of Trust”

— **Principal Investigator.**
“Tracing Intelligences: A critical genealogy”

Publications (peer-reviewed)**Books**

Forthcoming **Kang EB.** *Machine Voices: A Sonic Study of Artificial Intelligence*.
The MIT Press. (tentatively scheduled for Fall 2026 publication)

Journal Articles

- 2024 **Kang EB & Hudson S.** Audible crime scenes: ShotSpotter as diagnostic, policing, and space-making infrastructure. *Science, Technology, and Human Values*, 49(3).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/01622439221143217>.
- 2023 **Kang EB.** Ground truth tracings (GTT): On the epistemic limits of machine learning. *Big Data & Society*, 10(1).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517221146122>.
- 2023 **Kang EB.** On streaming-dating convergence: Music-mediated self-presentations on Tinder. *New Media & Society*, 25(8).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448211026618>.
- 2022 **Kang EB.** Biometric imaginaries: Formatting voice, body, identity to data. *Social Studies of Science*, 52(4).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/03063127221079599>.

Proceedings

- 2024 Orr W & **Kang EB.** AI as a sport: On the competitive epistemologies of benchmarking. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on fairness, accountability and transparency (FAccT'24)*.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3630106.3659012>.
- 2023 **Kang EB.** On the praxes and politics of AI speech emotion recognition (SER). *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on fairness, accountability and transparency (FAccT'23)*.
<https://doi.org/10.1145/3593013.3594011>.

Book Chapters

- Forthcoming. **Kang EB.** The voice disaggregate: A computational ontology. In (eds. Colleen Montgomery Leigh, Lisa Coulthard, and Katherine Spring) *Oxford Handbook of Media and Vocality*. Oxford University Press.
- Forthcoming. **Kang EB & Becerra J.** Dissecting speech, manufacturing difference: Troubling the acoustic-linguistic divide in artificial intelligence. In (eds. Lora Koycheva, Angela Vandenbroek, and Matt Artz) *Anthropology and AI*. Routledge.

In Preparation

Under Review. **Kang EB** and Orr W. Measuring AGI: Against the psychometric turn in AI benchmarks. *Big Data & Society*.

Invited. **Kang EB**. The audible face: Machine learning as metaphor. In (eds. Jennifer Lynn Stoeve, Dolores Inés Casillas, and Qiushi Xu) *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Sound Studies*. Bloomsbury.

Invited. **Kang EB** Becerra J. Sounding data in the age of artificial intelligence. *Big Data & Society*.

Publications (lightly reviewed)

Book Reviews

2021 **Kang EB**. Joseph Turow, *The voice catchers: How marketers listen in to exploit your feelings, your privacy, and your wallet*. *International Journal of Communication*, 15.
<https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/18640>.

2020 **Kang EB**. Lee Humphreys, *The qualified self: Social media and the accounting of everyday life*. *International Journal of Communication*, 14.
<https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/16098>.

2019 **Kang EB**. Mercedes Bunz and Graham Meikle, *The internet of things*. *International Journal of Communication*, 13(3).
<https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/12162/2674>.

Essays

2020 **Kang EB**. Thinking through voice: Sound, identity and race. *Pop Junctions*.
<http://henryjenkins.org/blog/2020/10/11/thinking-through-voice-sound-identity-and-race>.

2020 **Kang EB**. Thematic, a music marketplace for influencers and producers: Digital labor and the creative class. *Pop Junctions*.
<http://henryjenkins.org/blog/2020/6/9/thematic-a-music-marketplace-for-influencers-and-producers-digital-labor-and-the-creative-class-1-of-3>.

Reading Lists

2022 Corry F, **Kang EB**, Sridharan H, Luccioni S, Ananny M, & Crawford K. Knowing Machines critical dataset studies reading list.
<https://knowingmachines.org/reading-list>.

Presentations

Conference Panel Organization

- 2024 Becerra J & **Kang EB**. Machine listening: Dissonance and transformation. *Quadrennial Joint Conference of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology & Society for the Social Studies of Science (EASST-4S 2024)*. July 16-19, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Conference Presentations

- 2024 Orr W & **Kang EB**. AI as a sport: On the competitive epistemologies of benchmarking. *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '23)*. June 12-15, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 Orr W & **Kang EB**. AI as a sport: On the competitive epistemologies of benchmarking. *Society for Social Studies of Science Conference (4S)*. November 8-11, Honolulu, HI.
- 2023 **Kang EB**. On the praxes and politics of AI speech emotion recognition (SER). *ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT '23)*. June 12-15, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Kang EB**. Machine audibility: On vocal ontology and machine learning epistemologies. *Annual Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference*, April 12-15, Denver, CO.
- 2022 Ananny M, Sridharan H, **Kang EB**, & Corry F. Tracing training: Understanding media industries' machine learning datasets. *Annual International Communication Association Conference*, May 26-30, Paris, France.
- 2021 **Kang EB**. "Who is it?": Complicating the cultural logics of the voiceprint. *Annual Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference*, March 17-21, Virtual (due to COVID-19).
- 2020 Zhang S, Jeong D, **Kang EB**, Choi S, Xu J, & Lee J. Using data visualization and musification to foster public accessibility of LGBTQ research. *Annual National Communication Association Conference*, November 19-22, Indianapolis, IN (changed to Virtual due to COVID-19).
- 2020 **Kang EB**. Sensory appropriation in music-mediated dating: Between obfuscation and dataveillance. *Centre for Sensory Studies Conference*, May 1-3, Montreal, QC (accepted but conference cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 **Kang EB**. The politics of streaming-dating convergence: Spotify & Tinder. *Annual Society for Cinema and Media Studies Conference*, April 1-5, Denver, CO (accepted but conference cancelled due to COVID-19).

- 2019 **Kang EB.** The resume of flesh: Performances of excess and subtlety in South Korea's hyper-lookist society. *Annual Cultural Studies Association Conference*, May 30-June 1, New Orleans, LA.

Invited Talks & Panel Discussions

- 2025 Shirky C & **Kang EB.** AI and language. *The Power of Language* (Undergraduate class). New York University, September 30, New York, NY.
- 2025 **Kang EB.** The acoustic-linguistic divide. *Listening for Bias: The Politics and Potential for Speech AI*. Center for Urban Science + Progress, New York University. Just Tech, Social Science Research Council, April 12, Brooklyn, NY.
- 2025 **Kang EB.** Benchmarks in AI. *AI Stories: Narrative Archetypes for Artificial Intelligence*. Center for Digital Narrative. University of Bergen, March 10–12, Bergen, Norway. *invited but could not attend due to personal matters
- 2023 **Kang EB.** Aural cultures. *Mass Media and Popular Culture* (Undergraduate class). University of Illinois—Chicago, March 30, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 **Kang, E. B.** Machine audibility: On its imaginaries, ontologies, and limitations. New York University, March 2, New York, NY.
- 2023 **Kang EB.** Machine audibility: On its imaginaries, ontologies, and limitations. Microsoft Research New England Lab, Feb 9, Cambridge, MA.
- 2023 **Kang EB.** Imagining K-Pop futures. Take Two Interactive (2K Games Inc.), January 11, San Francisco, CA.
- 2022 **Kang EB.** Sociotechnical imaginaries of voice tech: From the sounding body to the flat ecology of numbers. *Cultures of New Media* (Undergraduate class). University of Southern California, March 7, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2021 **Kang EB & Hudson S.** ShotSpotter as a diagnostic, policing & space-making instrument. *Media as Socio-Technical Systems (MASTS)*. University of Southern California, February 18, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2019 **Kang EB.** Transpacific perspectives on fandom discourses in Hallyu. *Korean Culture: From Ancient to Modern Times* (Undergraduate Class). University of Southern California, November 20, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2019 **Kang EB.** Jazz up north: Tin pan alley days. *Sound Clash: Popular Music and American Culture* (Undergraduate Class). University of Southern California, October 7, Los Angeles, CA.

Respondent

- 2025 **Kang, E. B.** Hilke Schellmann, *The algorithm: How AI decides who gets hired, monitored, promoted, and fired, and why we need to fight back*. Book Talk. AI in

Society, Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University. March 12, New York, NY.

Media

- 2024 **Interview.** Carter Miles N. (06.23). Are you 80% angry and 2% sad? Why ‘emotional AI’ is fraught with problems. *The Guardian*.
<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/article/2024/jun/23/emotional-artificial-intelligence-chatgpt-4o-hume-algorithmic-bias>.
- 2023 **Interview.** McClain J. (12.19). There’s reason to worry about AI reading emotions. *Futurity*.
https://www.futurity.org/artificial-intelligence-emotions-3010572/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=artificial-intelligence-emotions-3010572.
- 2023 **Interview.** McClain J. (12.18). “Alexa, am I happy? How AI emotion recognition falls short.” *NYU News*.
<https://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2023/december/alexa--am-i-happy--how-ai-emotion-recognition-falls-short.html>.
- 2020 **Interview.** Yi D. (04.15). How K-Pop Changed the Meaning of Masculinity in South Korea. *ALLURE*.
<https://www.allure.com/story/k-pop-and-masculinity>.

Research Collectives

- 2024— **Principal Investigator / Co-Director** (with co-PI Juana Becerra)
 “Machine Listening in the Age of AI” (Working group).
 Supported by the NEH. Based at NYU.
- 2023— **Co-Director** (with Simone Zhang, 2023—; Nahoko Kameo, 2023—2025)
 “AI in Society” (Working group).
 Supported by the Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK). Based at NYU.
- 2021—2023 **Researcher.** (PIs: Kate Crawford, Mike Ananny, Jason Schultz)
 “Knowing Machines” (Working group).
 Supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Based at USC Annenberg.
- 2021 **Research Assistant.** (Supervisor: Jennifer Petersen)
 General research assistant PhD fellowship.
 Supported by and based at USC Annenberg.

Editorial Experience

- Accepted. **Special Issue Guest Editor** (with Juana Becerra).

Big Data & Society.

“Sounding Data in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.”

2019—2020 **Assistant Editor.** (Supervisors: Larry Gross, Arlene Luck, Kady Bell-Garcia)
International Journal of Communication.

Teaching

Instructor of Record (developed & taught)

2025— **AI & Society (MA).**
Media, Culture, and Communication. New York University.
Fall 2025, Spring 2025.

2024— **Data & Society (MA).**
Media, Culture, and Communication. New York University.
Fall 2024, Spring 2024.

2023— **AI & Society (UG).**
Media, Culture, and Communication. New York University.
Fall 2025, Spring 2025, Spring 2024, Fall 2023.

Teaching Assistant

2020 **Interpreting Popular Culture (UG)** (Prof. Hye Jin Lee).
Annenberg School for Communication. University of Southern California.
Fall 2020.

2020 **Media & Society (UG)** (Prof. Robert Scheer).
Annenberg School for Communication. University of Southern California.
Spring 2020.

2019 **Sound Clash: Popular Music and American Culture (UG)** (Prof. Josh Kun).
Annenberg School for Communication. University of Southern California.
Fall 2019.

Advising

Graduate (NYU)

2025—2026 Hyobin Im. MA Thesis. Media, Culture, and Communication.

2024—2025 Hiro Nagata. MA Thesis (Outstanding Thesis Award). Media, Culture, and Communication.

2023—2024 Keaton Ireland. PhD Specialization Exam & Independent Study (Sound Studies).
Media, Culture, and Communication.

Undergraduate (NYU)

- 2025—2026 Antonella Rodio. Honors Thesis. Media, Culture, and Communication.
- 2025—2026 Paul Laliberte. Honors Thesis. Media, Culture, and Communication.
- 2024—2025 Adva Shapira. Honors Thesis. Media, Culture, and Communication.
- 2023—2024 Julia Pepper. Honors Thesis. Media, Culture, and Communication.

Academic Service

Board (school-level)

- 2024— **Department Representative.** Steinhardt AI Advisory and Insights (AIAI) Board. New York University.

Committee (department-level)

- 2025— **Member.** Undergraduate Committee. Media, Culture, and Communication. New York University.
- 2025 **Member.** Search Committee (Global Media Tenure-Track Assistant Professor). Media, Culture, and Communication. New York University.
- 2024— **Co-Organizer** (with James Siguru Wahutu, 2024-2025; Whit Pow, 2025-2026) Department Colloquia. Media, Culture, and Communication. New York University.
- 2023—2025 **Member.** MA Committee. Media, Culture, and Communication. New York University.

Conference Organization (department-level)

- 2019 **Head of Design.** Graduate Student Conference Organizing Committee. “Critical Mediations: The Unruly Canon.” Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism. University of Southern California.

Workshops

- 2022 **Invited Participant.** Knowing Machines (closed workshop). Supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. Based at NYU.
- 2020 **Panel Organizer** (with Ally Arietta). Music Production & Song-Writing Panel. Critical Media Project. “I Too Am” Media Festival. Supported by California Humanities. Based at USC.

Program Committee

Conferences

2023—2024 **Reviewer.** Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT).

Reviewer

Journals

Big Data & Society
BioSocieties
Communication, Culture, & Critique
International Journal of Communication
Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication
New Media & Society
Open Research Europe
Science, Technology & Human Values
Sound Studies
Social Media & Society
Society & Space

Academic Affiliations

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
Centre for Sensory Studies
Cultural Studies Association (CSA)
International Communication Association (ICA)
Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK)
National Communication Association (NCA)
Society for Cinema and Media Studies (SCMS)
Society for the Social Studies of Science (4S)

Fellowships and Distinctions

2018—2023 Annenberg Graduate Fellowship & Assistantship. University of Southern California.

2016 Renaissance Scholar Distinction. University of Southern California.
Fields: East Asian Area Studies, Music Industry

2016 Magna Cum Laude, University of Southern California
Cumulative GPA: 3.897 | Major GPA: 4.0

2015 Phi Beta Kappa Society.

- 2014 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Southern California
- 2014 Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization.
- 2014 Golden Key International Honour Society.
- 2011—2016 Dean's List, University of Southern California