

Edward B. Kang

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New York University, 239 Greene St. 7th Floor, New York, NY 10003

Academic Appointments

09/2023 **Assistant Professor**, Department of Media, Culture, Communication (MCC)
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
New York University, New York, NY

Education

05/2023 **Ph.D.**, Communication
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Graduate Certificate in Science and Technology Studies (STS)
Dornsife Center on Science, Technology, and Public Life
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Dissertation: Machine Audibility: On its Imaginaries, Ontologies, and
Limitations

Committee: Larry Gross (Co-Chair), Josh Kun (Co-Chair), Mike Ananny,
John Cheney-Lippold (U. of Michigan, American Studies)

06/2021 **M.A.**, Communication
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

05/2016 **B.A.**, East Asian Area Studies, Magna Cum Laude
Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Science
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Minor in Music Industry
Thornton School of Music
University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA

Grants

National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH)

2024 – 2026 **Kang, E. B.** & Becerra-Sandoval, J. *Machine Listening in the Age of Artificial Intelligence*. [Principal Director]. “Dangers and Opportunities of Technology: Perspectives from the Humanities.”
Amount awarded: \$150,000.

Publications

Books (peer-reviewed)

Under Contract **Kang, E. B.** *Machine Voices: A Sonic Study of Artificial Intelligence* [working title]
Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press.

Journal Articles & Conference Proceedings (peer-reviewed)

2024 Orr, W. & **Kang, E. B.** AI as a Sport: On the Competitive Epistemologies of Benchmarking. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT’24)*.
<https://dl.acm.org/doi/10.1145/3630106.3659012>

2023 **Kang, E. B.** On the Praxes and Politics of AI Speech Emotion Recognition. *Proceedings of the ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT’23)*. <https://doi.org/10.1145/3593013.3594011>

2023 **Kang, E. B.** Ground Truth Tracings (GTT): On the Epistemic Limits of Machine Learning. *Big Data & Society*, 10(1).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/20539517221146122>

2023 **Kang, E. B.** On Streaming-Dating Convergence: Music-Mediated Self Presentations on Tinder. *New Media & Society*, 25(8).
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14614448211026618> *first published online in 2021.

2022 **Kang, E. B.** & Hudson, S. Audible Crime Scenes: ShotSpotter as Diagnostic, Policing, and Space-Making Infrastructure. *Science, Technology & Human Values*, Online first.
<https://doi/10.1177/01622439221143217>

2022 **Kang, E. B.** Biometric Imaginaries: Formatting Voice, Body, Identity to Data. *Social Studies of Science*, 52(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/03063127221079599>

Manuscripts in Preparation

Accepted **Kang, E. B.** & Becerra Sandoval, J.C. Dissecting Speech: Tracing the Acoustic Linguistic Divide in and through Artificial Intelligence. In (eds. Lora Koycheva, Angela VandenBroek, and Matt Artz) *Anthropology and AI*. Routledge.

Accepted **Kang, E. B.** 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.

In Preparation **Kang, E. B.** The Audible Face: Machine Learning as Metaphor. In (eds. Jennifer Lynn Stoeber, Dolores Inés Casillas, and Qiushi Xu) *The Bloomsbury Encyclopedia of Sound Studies*. Bloomsbury.

Book Reviews

2021 **Kang, E. B.** Joseph Turow, *The Voice Catchers: How Marketers Listen In to Exploit Your Feelings, Your Privacy, and Your Wallet*. *International Journal of Communication*, 15. Retrieved from <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/18640/3582>

2020 **Kang, E. B.** Lee Humphreys, *The Qualified Self: Social Media and the Accounting of Everyday Life*. *International Journal of Communication*, 14. Retrieved from <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/16098>

2019 **Kang, E. B.** Mercedes Bunz and Graham Meikle, *The Internet of Things*. *International Journal of Communication*, 13, 3. Retrieved from <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/view/12162/2674>

Essays

2020 **Kang, E. B.** (11. 13). Thinking Through Voice: Sound, Identity and Race. *Pop Junctions*. Available at <http://henryjenkins.org/blog/2020/10/11/thinking-through-voice-sound-identity-and-race>

2020 **Kang, E. B.** (06. 09). Thematic, a Music Marketplace for Influencers and

Producers: Digital Labor and the Creative Class. *Pop Junctions*. Available at <http://henryjenkins.org/blog/2020/6/9/thematic-a-music-marketplace-for-influencers-and-producers-digital-labor-and-the-creative-class-1-of-3>

Media Interviews

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

Reading Lists

- 2022 Corry, F., **Kang, E. B.**, Sridharan, H., Luccioni, S., Ananny, M., & Crawford, K. Knowing Machines Critical Dataset Studies Reading List. Available at: <https://knowingmachines.org/reading-list>

Research Presentations

Panel Organization

- 2024 Becerra Sandoval, J. C. & **Kang, E. B.** 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 (peer-reviewed)

- 2024 Orr, W. & Kang, E. B. 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, E. B. 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, E. B. 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, E. B. 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, E. B., & Corry, F. Tracing Training: Understanding Media Industries' Machine Learning Datasets. *Annual International Communication Association Conference*, May 26-30, Paris, France.
- 2021 Kang, E. B. "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, E. B., 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, E. B. 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, E. B. 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, E. B.** 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

2023 **Kang, E. B.** 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. *Colloquium* (New York University), March 2, New York, NY.

2023 **Kang, E. B.** Machine Audibility: On its Imaginaries, Ontologies, and Limitations. *Colloquium* (Microsoft Research New England Lab), Feb 9, Cambridge, MA.

2023 **Kang, E. B.** Imagining K-Pop Futures. *Take Two Interactive* (2K Games Inc.), January 11, Los Angeles, CA.

2022 **Kang, E. B.** 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, E. B., Hudson, S.** ShotSpotter as a Diagnostic, Policing & Space-Making Instrument. *Media as Socio-Technical Systems Group*, February 18, Los Angeles, CA.

2019 **Kang, E. B.** Transpacific Perspectives on Fandom Discourses in Hallyu. *Korean Culture: From Ancient to Modern Times* (Undergraduate Class, University of Southern California), November 18, Los Angeles, CA.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record (developed & taught)

Fall 2024 Data & Society (MA Core Class)

Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University
Enrollment: TBD

Spring 2024 AI & Society / Critical AI Studies (UG Seminar Inquiry)
Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University
Enrollment: 20/20

Data & Society (MA Core Class)
Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University
Enrollment: 14/18

Fall 2023 AI & Society / Critical AI Studies (UG Seminar Inquiry)
Media, Culture, and Communication, New York University
Enrollment: 20/20

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2020 Interpreting Popular Culture (COMM 384), Prof. Hye Jin Lee
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of
Southern California

Spring 2020 Media and Society (COMM 310), Prof. Robert Scheer
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of
Southern California

Fall 2019 Sound Clash: Popular Music and American Culture, Prof. Josh Kun
Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of
Southern California
Guest Lecture: Jazz Up North: Tin Pan Alley Days

Editorial Experience

2019 – 2020 Assistant Editor (08/2019-12/2020), International Journal of Communication
University of Southern California
Supervisors: Larry Gross, Arlene Luck, Kady Bell-Garcia

Research Experience

2024 – 2026 Working Group Co-Director. *Machine Listening in the Age of AI.*

New York University.
Co-PI: Juanis Becerra Sandoval (IBM Research)

2023 Working Group Co-Director (09/2023-Present), *Sociotechnical Approaches to AI*
Institute for Public Knowledge (IPK), New York University.
Co-PIs: Nahoko Kameo (NYU), Simone Zhang (NYU)

2021–2023 Research Assistant (08/2021-12/2023), *Knowing Machines*
University of Southern California; Alfred P. Sloan Foundation
PIs: Kate Crawford (USC, Microsoft), Michael Ananny (USC), Jason
Schultz (NYU)

Projects:

- Dataset Inventory (Tracing Deprecation)
- Critical Dataset Studies Reading List
- Tracing Training: Understanding Media Industries’ Machine Learning Datasets
- Tracing the Praxes and Politics of AI Speech Emotion Recognition
- History of “Training” in Machine Learning
- “The Map” 86 years of Machine Learning Datasets
- “Communication Map” Critical Reading
- GPT Infrastructure Research

2021 Research Assistant (01/2021-05/2021), USC Annenberg
University of Southern California
PI: Jennifer Petersen (USC)
Projects:

- Manuscript preparation for *How Machines Came to Speak: Media Technologies and Freedom of Speech* (2022)
- Clearview AI research on public discourse around First Amendment rights
- Bibliography on legal research around AI
- Bibliography on broad AI topics ranging from history, ethics, governance, creativity, sociality, and fairness, among others

Program Committee

Conferences

Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) 2024 Conference on Fairness,
Accountability, and Transparency (FAccT’24)

Academic Service

Board

2024 Member, AI Advisory and Insights Board.
Steinhardt School of Education, Culture, and Human Development.
New York University.

Committee

2024 External Member, Search Committee
Department of Music and Music Professions.
Steinhardt School of Education, Culture, and Human Development.
New York University.

2023-2024 Member, MA Committee.
Department of Media, Culture, and Communication.
Steinhardt School of Education, Culture, and Human Development.
New York University.

Advising

2024 2025 Hiro Nagata. Machine-generated Voice as Proxy of “Repetitious Content”: A
Consideration on Sociotechnical Function of Algorithms on Platform [tentative
title]. MA Thesis.
Department of Media, Culture, and Communication.
Steinhardt School of Education, Culture, and Human Development.
New York University.

2023 2024 Keaton Ireland. Sound Studies. Independent Study. PhD Specialization Exams.
Department of Media, Culture, and Communication.
Steinhardt School of Education, Culture, and Human Development.
New York University.

2023 2024 Julia Pepper. The Manifestation of Ground Truths in Foundation Models.
Undergraduate Honors Thesis.
Department of Media, Culture, and Communication.
Steinhardt School of Education, Culture, and Human Development.
New York University.

Conference Organization

2019 Head of Design, Conference Organizing Committee
 Critical Mediations, *The Unruly Canon* 2019
 Communication & Cultural Studies Graduate Student Conference.
 Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
 University of Southern California

Workshops

Forthcoming Invited Participant (Fall 2024), *Machine Listening: Critical Perspectives*.
 McGill University (Sponsored by SSHRC)
 Organizers: Jonathan Sterne, James Parker

2022 Invited Participant, *Knowing Machines*
 New York University (Sponsored by Alfred P. Sloan Foundation)
 Organizers: Kate Crawford, Mike Ananny, Jason Schultz

2020 Workshop Co-Leader, Music Production & Song-writing Panel
 Critical Media Project 2020, *I Too Am* Media Festival, California Humanities
 Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism
 University of Southern California
 Co-Leader: Ally Arietta
 Director: Alison Trope

Reviewer

Journals

Communication, Culture, & Critique (CCC)
International Journal of Communication (IJOC)
Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication
New Media & Society (NMS)
Sound Studies
Social Media & Society

Conferences

Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Fairness, Accountability,
and Transparency in Machine Learning (ACM FAccT)

Academic Affiliations

Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)
Centre for Sensory Studies
Cultural Studies Association (CSA)
International Communication Association (ICA)
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, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism, University of Southern California
Full coverage of tuition for doctoral program, stipend, medical insurance, and research funds
- 2016 Renaissance Scholar Distinction, University of Southern California
Awarded to undergraduate students pursuing widely disparate fields of study while maintaining a GPA of 3.5 or above.
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, University of Southern California
- 2014 Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, University of Southern California
- 2014 Sigma Alpha Lambda National Leadership and Honors Organization,
University of Southern California
- 2014 Golden Key International Honour Society, University of Southern California
- 2011 – 2016 Dean’s List, University of Southern California

Professional Experience

- 2023 Consultant/Advisor, 2K Games Inc., 31st Union, Los Angeles, CA
- 2015 - 2020 Producer, Songwriter, Music Cube Publishing, Seoul, South Korea
- 2011 - 2018 Independent Producer, Songwriter, Artist & Creative Director, Nocturnal
Records, Los Angeles, CA (2011 - 2016); Seoul, South Korea (2016 - 2018)
- 2014 - 2015 Production and Licensing Intern, Noa Noa Music, Santa Monica, CA
- 2008 - 2011 Independent Musician, Creative Director & Concert Manager of Peach
Frequency, Toronto, ON

Artistic Work [selected]

- 2024 Oh, A., Lee, A., & **Kang, E. B.** (forthcoming). Unravel [Music Video]. Seoul,
South Korea: Stolo.
- 2022 **Kang, E. B.** Unravel [Single]. Seoul, South Korea: Stolo.