

Dr Robert Dorschel

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ACADEMIC CAREER

- Since 2024 Assistant Professor in Digital Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge
- 2022-2024 Assistant Professor in Social Inequality, Department of Sociology, Tilburg University
- 2019-2023 PhD Candidate, Department of Sociology, University of Cambridge, Darwin College
Dissertation Title: “The Social Codes of Tech Workers”
Awarded with the Dissertation Award 2024 by the Association of Internet Researchers
- 2017-2019 MA, Social Sciences, Department of Social Sciences, Humboldt University Berlin
Master Thesis Title: “‘Data Science’: Sociological Analysis of an Emerging Professional Field”
Awarded with the Master Thesis Award 2020 by the German Sociological Association
- 2018-2019 Visiting Graduate Student, Department of Sociology, Duke University
- 2013-2017 Dual-BA, Sociology and Political Science, Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel
- 2012-2013 Career-Integrated Study Program at Aldi and the Department of Business, Mannheim University DHBW (terminated before completion)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Since 2024 Associated Researcher, Einstein Center Digital Future, Berlin
- 2022-2024 Associated Researcher, Interdisciplinary Research Group “Social Inequality and Diversity”, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Tilburg University
- Since 2021 Associated Researcher, Cambridge Digital Humanities, University of Cambridge
- 2020 Fellow, Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, Berlin, September-November
- 2019-2022 Lead Convener, Technology & New Media Research Cluster, University of Cambridge
- 2017-2018 Student Assistant to Prof. Jutta Allmendinger, Berlin Social Science Center

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- 2025 Dorschel, Robert: *The Social Codes of Tech Workers: Class Identity in Digital Capitalism* (forthcoming with MIT Press, Labor and Technology Series).

Articles

- 2025 Dorschel, Robert: Global Warming as Investment Climate: Green Tech and the Translation of Needs. *Journal of Cultural Economy*. Online first, 1-16.
- 2025 Lindner, Michael / Dorschel, Robert / Schuster, Antonia: Climate Change and Class Structure: Greenhouse Gas Emissions of Social Classes in the United Kingdom. *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*. Online first, 1-25.
- 2024 Dorschel, Robert: Middle-Class Responses to Climate Change: An Analysis of the Ecological Habitus of Tech Workers. *Current Sociology*, 72(7), 1301-1318.
- 2022 Dorschel, Robert: Reconsidering Digital Labour: Bringing Tech Workers into the Debate. *New Technology, Work and Employment*, 37(2), 288-307.
- 2022 Dorschel, Robert: A New Middle-Class Fraction with a Distinct Subjectivity. Tech Workers and the Transformation of the Entrepreneurial Self. *The Sociological Review*, 70(6), 1302-1320.
- 2022 Dorschel, Robert: Tech Workers und das achtsam-moralische Selbst. Jenseits von Künstlerkritik und Arbeitskraftunternehmer. *Arbeits- und Industriesoziologische Studien*, 15(1), 125-143.
- 2021 Dorschel, Robert: Discovering Needs for Digital Capitalism. The Hybrid Profession of Data Science. *Big Data & Society*, 8(2), 1-13.
- 2021 Dorschel, Robert / Brandt, Philipp: Professionalisierung mittels Ambiguität. Die diskursive Konstruktion von Data Scientists in Wirtschaft und Wissenschaft. *Zeitschrift für Soziologie*, 50(3-4), 193-210.
- 2021 Allmendinger, Jutta / Dorschel, Robert: Der Raum des Möglichen. Haben Frauen die Wahl?, *Kursbuch*, 207, 61-72.
- 2021 Dorschel, R.: "Data Science" Analyse einer emergierenden Profession mittels einer Verknüpfung von Diskurs- und Feldtheorie. *Soziologie*, 50(1), 94-102.

Book Review Essay

- 2021 Dorschel, Robert: Contours of the Networked Self. *New Media & Society*, 23(1), 193-198.

Book Chapters

- 2020 Dorschel, Robert: A Field Theoretical Discovery of the Tourism Industry. In: Pietzcker, Dominik/Vaih-Baur, Christina: *Ökonomische und Soziologische Tourismustrends. Strategien und Konzepte im globalen Destinationsmarketing*.

Springer, Wiesbaden, pp. 29-44.

- 2019 Dorschel, Robert/Allmendinger, Jutta (2019): Über die sozialen Fesseln unserer Sprache. In: Eichinger, Ludwig / Plewnia, Albrecht (Hrsg.): Neues vom heutigen Deutsch. Empirisch – methodisch – theoretisch. Jahrbuch des Instituts für Deutsche Sprache 2018. Berlin / Boston: *de Gruyter*, pp. 313-23.

TEACHING

University of Cambridge, Lecturer and Supervisor

SOC1 Supervisions, Christ's College and Peterhouse College (Michaelmas and Lent 2024-25)

Undergraduate Dissertation Paper Organiser, Department of Sociology (Michaelmas and Lent 2024)

SOC7 Lectures, Undergraduate Level, Department of Sociology (Michaelmas and Lent 2024)

Media and Culture Pathway Lectures, MPhil, Department of Sociology (Michaelmas 2024)

SOC 6 Lectures, Undergraduate Level, Department of Sociology (Michaelmas 2022)

Critical Approaches to Discourse Analysis Lectures, MPhil and First-year PhD Level, Social Science Research Methods Programme (Michaelmas 2020 and 2021)

Tilburg University, Lecturer

Networks and Cohesion, Research Master, Department of Sociology (Fall Term 2023)

Foundations of Sociology, Research Master, Department of Sociology (Fall Term 2023)

Pre-Master Research Project, BA Level, Department of Sociology (Spring Term 2023)

University of Potsdam, Lecturer

Introduction to Classical Sociological Theory, Undergraduate Level, Department of Social Sciences (Fall Term 2020 and 2021)

Humboldt-University Berlin, Teaching Assistant

The Sociology of “Good Work”, Master’s Level, Assistant to Professor Jutta Allmendinger (Summer Term 2018)

University of Kiel, Tutor

Introduction to Academic Research, Undergraduate Level, Department of Social Sciences (Fall Term 2015 and 2016)

Tutor Teaching Qualification Programme, University of Kiel, 20 Hours

GRANTS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS

2024	PhD Dissertation Award, Association of Internet Researchers
2022	Research Network Grant, Cambridge Digital Humanities
2022	Early Career Workshop Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
2020	Best Master Thesis Award, German Sociological Association
2020	Fellowship, Weizenbaum Institute for the Networked Society, Berlin, September-November
2020	Field Work Funding Award, Department of Sociology, Cambridge
2019-2022	PhD Stipend, Foundation of the German Economy
2017-2019	MA Stipend, Foundation of the German Economy

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY

2021	Co-Organiser of the College Reading Group “Interdisciplinary Perspectives on ‘The Good Life’” at Darwin College
2017-2021	Student Representative at the election committee for new stipends, Foundation of the German Economy
2014-2017	Member of the Student Parliament, University of Kiel
2014-2017	Officer for Educational Politics, Student Council (AStA), University of Kiel

SELECTED ACADEMIC TALKS

2024	Inaugural British Journal of Sociology Conference, “Eco-Social Class: Reconsidering Class Theory through A Case Study of Tech Workers”
2023	Digital Labor Conference, Weizenbaum Institute Berlin, “Tech Workers and the Emancipatory Potential of High-Paid Digital Laborers”
2023	Diversity and Difference Conference, University of Kiel, “Elements of a Post-Entrepreneurial Self. Tech Workers and the Contradictory Power of Moral Codes”
2023	British Sociological Association, Annual Conference, “The Social Codes of Tech

- Workers”, “Ecology and Class Structure: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Social Classes in the United Kingdom”
- 2023 Dutch Sociological Association, Annual Conference, “The Ecological Habitus of Tech Workers”; “Towards a Theory of Eco-Social Class”
- 2022 SASE Conference, “Tech Workers and the Class Matrix of Digital Capitalism”, “The Professionalization of Data Science in the U.S. and Germany”
- 2022 British Sociological Association, Annual Conference, “Digital Labour and Tech Workers”, “The Subjectivity of Data Scientists”
- 2022 Oxford Internet Institute, Platform Economy Seminar, “The Professionals Behind the Platform Economy”
- 2021 American Sociological Association, Annual Conference, “Reconsidering Digital Labour: Bringing Tech Workers into the Debate”

SELECTED PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

- 2024 Panel Discussion Round, “Schöne Neue Arbeitswelt”, Berliner Ensemble Theater
- 2023 Podcast Interview, “ChatGTP and the Future of Work“, Was Tun? Der Podcast
- 2022 Newspaper Interview, “Tech Worker: So ticket die neue digitale Mittelklasse“, Süddeutsche Zeitung
- 2022 Podcast Moderation, “(In)Security in the Context of Epochal Shifts”, Berlin Social Science Center (WZB) and OECD
- 2022 Newspaper Article, “Die Hinterbühne der Datenwelt”, Frankfurter Rundschau
- 2022 Newspaper Interview, “Digital Pioneers: Wie ticken Tech Workers?“, T3N Magazine
- 2020 Blog Post, “Digital Professionals, Surveillance and the Covid-19 Pandemic”, Cambridge Trust and Technology Website

REVIEWER

American Journal of Sociology, Berliner Journal für Soziologie, Big Data & Society, British Journal of Sociology, Current Sociology, Ethics and Information Technology, Leviathan, The Sociological Review, Work in the Global Economy, Work Organisation, Labour & Globalisation

DATA ANALYSIS SKILLS

Interviewing (narrative, semi-structured, structured), ethnography, digital ethnography, discourse analysis (software: MAXQDA), statistical analysis (software: R)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

HOBBIES

Hiking, Football, Tennis, and Mushroom Foraging