

## SAMANTHA ANN MAJIC

Department of Political Science, John Jay College-City University of New York  
Political Science Doctoral Program, CUNY Graduate Center  
Criminal Justice Doctoral Program, CUNY Graduate Center  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023-present	Professor of Political Science, John Jay College-City University of New York
2023-2025	MA Program Director, Political Science, CUNY Graduate Center
2023-present	Faculty, Political Science Doctoral Program, CUNY Graduate Center
2018-present	Faculty, Criminal Justice Doctoral Program, CUNY Graduate Center
2016- 2023	Associate Professor (tenure), Department of Political Science John Jay College-City University of New York
2009- 2016	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science John Jay College-City University of New York

### EDUCATION

- Ph.D.** Department of Government, Cornell University (2009)
- MA.** Department of Government, Cornell University (2006)
- MA.** Department of Political Science, York University, Toronto ON (2003)
- BA (Hon.)** University of Toronto: Trinity College (2001)

### PUBLICATIONS

#### **Books**

Majic, S. (2023). *Lights, Camera, Feminism? Celebrities and Anti-Trafficking Politics*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Showden, C. & Majic, S. (2018). *Youth Who Trade Sex in the US: Intersectionality, Agency, and Vulnerability*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press

- Reviewed in *Criminal Law & Criminal Justice Books*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Choice*, and *Perspectives on Politics*

Majic, S. (2014). *Sex Work Politics: From Protest to Service Provision*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press (American Governance: Politics, Policy and Public Law series)

- Reviewed in *Gender and Society*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Human Rights Law Review*, *Politics and Gender*, *Labor and Society*, *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, *Social Anthropology*, *Labour/Le Travail*, *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, and *Canadian Committee on Labour History*

Showden, C. & Majic, S. (Editors). (2014). *Negotiating Sex Work: Unintended Consequences of Policy and Activism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press

- Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics, New Political Science, and Politics and Gender*

### **Peer Reviewed Articles & Book Chapters**

Majic, S. & Ditmore, M. (forthcoming). "Sex workers, Online Platforms, and De-platforming: A Case of Policy Feedback?" *New Political Science: A Journal of Politics and Culture*. (Accepted August 31, 2025)

Majic, S. & Ditmore, M. (2024). "Re-thinking Vulnerability: Research Fraud and Bureaucratic Harm in Community-Engaged Online Research" *Qualitative Research*.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/14687941241297417>.

Majic, S. & Murib, Z. (2024). "The Biggest Decision of your Life(Time)? Examining the Politics of Married at First Sight." *Social Sciences*. 13(11), 618

Majic, S. Ditmore, M. and Li, Jun. (2024). "440 Sex Workers Cannot be Wrong: Engaging and Negotiating Online Platform Power." *Social Sciences*. 13(7), 337.

Majic, S. (2024). "Ethics of Transparency and Data Sharing." In Cyr, J. and Goodman, S. *Doing Good Qualitative Research*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Majic, S. (2022). "It's Blue and It's Up to You! Policy narratives and anti-trafficking awareness in the United States." In Hirschmann, N. and Thomas, D. *Citizenship on the Edge: Sex/Gender/Race*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press

Majic, S. (2021). "Publicizing the (In)visible? Celebrities, Anti-Human Trafficking Activism, and Feminist Ideologies." *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*. 28(1), pp. 94-118 (Published online 30 October 2019)

Jacobs, A., Buthe, T., Majic, S., et al. (2021). "Transparency in Qualitative Research: An Overview of Key Findings and Recommendations." *Perspectives on Politics*. 19(1), pp. 1-38

- Introduction to symposium: "The Qualitative Transparency Deliberations (QTD): Insights and Implications"

Lake, M., Majic, S. & Maxwell, R. (2021). "Research on Vulnerable and Marginalized Populations: Summary of the Final Report of QTD Working Group IV.3." *Perspectives on Politics*. 19(1), pp. 202-203

Majic, S. & Strolovitch, D. (2020). "Editors' Introduction: Mentoring and Marginalization." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 53(4), pp. 763-69

- Introduction to symposium: "Mentoring in Political Science: Examining Strategies, Challenges, and Benefits"

Majic, S. (2020). "Same Same but Different? Gender, sex work and respectability politics in the MyRedBook and Rentboy closures." *Anti-Trafficking Review*. (4), pp. 82-98

Majic, S., O'Neill, D., & Bernhard, M. (2020). "From the Editors: Celebrity and Politics." *Perspectives on Politics*. 18(1), pp. 1-8

- Introduction to special issue on celebrity and politics, guest edited by S. Majic

- Majic, S. & Showden, C.R. (2019). "Redesigning the study of sex work: A case for intersectionality and reflexivity." In Dewey, S., Crowhurst, I. & Izugbara, C. *The Routledge Handbook of Sex Industry Research*. New York: Routledge
- Majic, S. (2018; published online 2020). "Not there for the Taking: DA-RT and Policy Research." *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*. 16(2), pp. 14-16
- Majic, S. (2018). Real Men Set Norms? Anti-trafficking campaigns and the limits of celebrity norm entrepreneurship. *Crime, Media, Culture*. 14(2), pp. 289-309
- Hozic, A., Majic, S., & Yahaya, I. (2018). "It is not about me...but it kind of is. Celebrity Humanitarianism in Late Modernity." In Persaud, R. & Sajed, A. (Eds). *Race, Gender, and Culture in International Relations: Postcolonial Perspectives*. London: Routledge.
- Majic, S. (2018). "Feminists, step back! (Re)centering and supporting sex workers' political projects." In Fitzgerald, S. & McGarry, K. (Eds). *Realising Social Justice for Sex Workers: An Agenda for Change*. London: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Majic, S. (2017). Sending a Dear John Letter: Public Information Campaigns and the Movement to "End Demand" for Prostitution in Atlanta, GA. *Social Sciences*. 6(138), pp.1-22
- Majic, S. (2017). Participating, Observing, Publishing: Lessons from the field. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 50(1), pp. 103-108
- Schwartz-Shea, P. & Majic, S. (2017). Participant Observation and Ethnography: Political science research amidst a "Late Methodological Moment." (Symposium editors' introduction). *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 50(1), pp. 97-102
- Majic, S. (2015). 'I'm Just a Woman. But I've Never Been a Victim': Re-conceptualizing Prostitution Policy through the Complex Narrative. *The Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*, 36(4), pp. 365-387
- Majic, S. (2015). Implementing "New" Norms? Examining "John School" Policies in the United States. *Critical Policy Studies*, 9(3), pp. 278-296
- Majic, S. (2014). Participation Despite the Odds: Examining Sex Workers' Political Engagement. *New Political Science*, 36(1), pp. 76-95
- Majic, S. (2014). Beyond 'Victim-Criminals': Sex Workers, Nonprofit Organizations, and Gender Norm Resistance. *Gender and Society*, 28(3), pp. 463-485
- Majic, S. (2014). Teaching Equality? 'John Schools,' Gender, and Institutional Reform. *Polity*, 46(1), pp. 5-30
- Showden, C.R. & Majic, S. (2014). Introduction: The Politics of Sex Work. In Showden, C.R. & Majic, S (Eds). *Negotiating Sex Work: Unintended Consequences of Policy and Activism*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Majic, S. (2011). Serving Sex Workers and Promoting Democratic Engagement: Re-thinking Nonprofits' Role in American Civic and Political Life. *Perspectives on Politics*, 9(4), pp. 821-840

Majic, S. (2010). An Opportunity to Publicize the Private: Public Education Campaigns and Domestic Violence in Ontario. In Fong, J. (Ed) *Out of the Shadows: Woman Abuse in Ethnic, Immigrant and Aboriginal Communities*. Toronto: Women's Press of Canada.

### **Book Reviews**

(2023). Review of "Sex Trafficking and Human Rights: The Status of Women and State Responses," by Heather Smith-Cannoy, Patricia C. Rodda, and Charles Anthony Smith. (2022 Georgetown University Press). In *Perspectives on Politics*. Volume 21. Issue 2

(2021). Review of "Why We Lost the Sex Wars: Sexual Freedom in the #MeToo Era," by Lorna N. Bracewell (2021: University of Minnesota Press). In *Political Theory*. Available online November 10, 2021

(2021). Review of "Migrant Crossings: Witnessing Human Trafficking in the U.S." by Annie Isabel Fukushima (2019: Stanford University Press). In *Contemporary Sociology*. 50(5), pp. 408-410

(2020). Review of "Fighting the U.S. Youth Sex Trade" by Carrie Baker. (2018: Cambridge University Press). In *Perspectives on Politics*. 18(3), pp. 944-945

(2020). Review of "Gendered Citizenship: Understanding Gendered Violence in Democratic India" by Natasha Behl. (2019: Oxford University Press). In *Journal of Women, Politics & Policy*. 41(2), pp. 243-244

(2019). Review of "When States Come Out: Europe's Sexual Minorities and the Politics of Visibility" by Philip Ayoub. (Review title: "Mixed methods and visibility politics in When States Come Out."). In *Politics, Groups, and Identities*. 7 (2), pp. 465-467

(2018). Review of "To Live Freely in this World: Sex Worker Activism in Africa" by Chi Adanna Mgbako. (2016: NYU Press). In *Perspectives on Politics*. 16(3), pp. 886-887

(2018). Review of "Sex & Harm in the Age of Consent" by Joseph Fischel (2016: University of Minnesota Press) and "Sexual Exploitation of Teenagers: Adolescent Development, Discrimination & Consent Law" by Jennifer Ann Drobac (2016: University of Chicago Press). In *Tulsa Law Review: Annual Book Review Issue*. 53(2), pp. 303-312

(2018). Review of "Responding to Human Trafficking: Sex, Gender, and Culture in the Law" by Alicia Peters. (2015: University of Pennsylvania Press). In *Women's Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. 47(1), pp. 111-114

(2016). Review of "Why Don't You Just Talk to Him? The Politics of Domestic Abuse" by Kathleen Arnold. (2015: Oxford University Press). In *Perspectives on Politics*. 14(3), pp. 852-853

(2013). Review of "Sex Work: Labour, Mobility and Sexual Services" by JaneMaree Maher, Sharon Pickering and Alison Gerard. (2013: Routledge). In *Rutgers Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books*. Available at [http://clcjbooks.rutgers.edu/books/sex\\_work.html](http://clcjbooks.rutgers.edu/books/sex_work.html)

(2013). Review of "An Agency of Their Own: Sex Worker Union Organising" by Gregor Gall. (2011: Zero Books). In *Working USA: The Journal of Labor & Society*. 16(1), pp.159-161

(2008). Review of "Sex Worker Union Organizing: An International Study" by Gregor Gall (2006: Palgrave MacMillan). In the *British Journal of Industrial Relations*. 46 (3), pp.561-563

## **GRANTS**

2023-2024. PSC-CUNY Enhanced Award (\$11,593)

Project title: Sex Workers and Online Platforms (Co-PI: Dr. Melissa Ditmore)

2022-2023. Woodhull Freedom Foundation (\$320,000)

Project title: Sex Workers' Online Safety (Co-PI: Dr. Melissa Ditmore)

2018-2019. PSC-CUNY Award # 61546-00 49 (\$5404.72)

Project title: "Glamor and Government? Understanding celebrities' efforts to end human trafficking"

2017-2018. PSC-CUNY Grant # 60028-00 48 (\$3397.49)

Project title: "Shining a Bright Light? Examining Celebrities Anti-Human Trafficking Advocacy"

2015-2016. PSC-CUNY Grant # 68629-00 45 (\$5568.40)

Project title: "In the Spotlight: Examining gender narratives in celebrity-sponsored anti-sex trafficking campaigns"

2014-2015. PSC-CUNY Grant # 67562-00 45 (\$5895.60)

Project title: "Increasing Awareness, Increasing Equality? Examining public awareness campaigns to "end demand" for prostitution in the United States"

2013: American Fellowship Short Term Research & Publication Grant, American Association of University Women (\$6,000.00)

Project title: "Sex Work Politics"

2013-2014. PSC-CUNY Grant # 66487-00 44 (\$5,657.23)

Project title: "Educating for Gender Equality? Examining Public Awareness Campaigns & Prostitution in the United States"

2012-2013. PSC-CUNY Grant # 65157-00 43 (\$3,164.04)

Project title: "Institutional Innovations and Gender Equality: Examining "John Schools" in the United States"

2010-2011. PSC-CUNY Grant #60072-40 41 (\$4,665.44)

Project title: "Sex Workers, Nonprofits, and Radical Politics"

2009-2010. Special Research Grant, John Jay College (\$1,600)

Project title: ""Doing What I Had to Do: Sex Work, Political Activism, & Feminist Theory""

## **FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

2023. Faculty Scholarly Excellence Award. Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College-CUNY (2 course releases)

2019. Senior Scholar Award. Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College-CUNY (1 course release)

2018. Mid-Career Award. Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College-CUNY (1 course release)

2017. Kwando Kinshasa Excellence in Mentoring Award. The McNair Program, John Jay College-CUNY

2015. Summer Research Internship Program Award (with undergraduate student MG Robinson), Office of Undergraduate Research (\$3,000)

2014. Donal E.J MacNamara Junior Faculty Award, John Jay College (\$2,000)

2012: Summer Research Internship Program Award (with undergraduate student Kelley Burke), Office of Undergraduate Research (\$3,500)

2012. William Stewart Travel Award, CUNY (\$500)

2011-2012. Fellowship: Center for Place, Culture and Politics, CUNY Graduate Center, (2 course releases)

2010. American Political Science Association's 2010 Women and Politics Section's Best Dissertation Award

2007-2008. Mellon Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Cornell University (\$20,000).

2006 & 2007. American Studies Graduate Research Grant, Department of American Studies (\$1,000), Cornell University

2006. Walter & Sandra LaFeber Faculty-Graduate Student Collaborative Research Grant, Department of Government, Cornell University (\$6,000).

2006. Alice Hanson Cook Award, Department of Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Cornell University (\$500)

2005. Beatrice Brown Award, Department of Feminist, Gender and Sexuality Studies, Cornell University (\$250)

2003. Sage Fellowship for Doctoral Study, Cornell University (\$20,000)

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (last 7 years)**

2024. "The effects of online platform governance on users: the case of sex workers" (written with Melissa Ditmore). Presented at the Western Political Science Association conference, Vancouver, BC (March 28).

2023. "Politics online: Sex workers and platform power" (written with Melissa Ditmore). Presented at the American Political Science Association conference, Los Angeles, CA (September 2).

- Honorable mention for the APSA's LGBTQ Caucus's Bailey Award (2023-2024)

2023. "The Give and Take of Community-based Research" (written with Melissa Ditmore). Presented at the Western Political Science Association conference, San Francisco, CA (April 7).

2022. "The Biggest Decision of your Life(time): Examining the Politics of Married At First Sight." (With Zein Murib). Presented at the Western Political Science Association conference, Portland, OR.

(March 10) and at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association conference, Montreal, PQ (September 17).

2021. "Celebrity Anti-trafficking Ambassadors? Julia Ormond, Mira Sorvino, and the UNODC." Presented at the American Political Science Association conference, virtually (September 30).

2021. "Glamor and Government? Celebrities, International Organizations, and the Anti-Trafficking Movement." Presented at the Western Political Science Association conference, virtually. (April 3)

2019. "Framing Anti-Trafficking Activism: Celebrity feminism, representation and performance." Presented at the Western Political Science Association conference, San Francisco, CA. (April 20).

2018. "Lights! Camera! Misinformation? Celebrities and the Movement to End Human Trafficking." Presented at the Western Political Science Association conference, San Francisco, CA. (March 30)

2017. "Same Event, Different Discourse? Gender and sex work in the internet age." Presented at the American Political Science Association conference, San Francisco, CA. (September 1).

2017. "All Girls are Innocent? All Men are Predators? (Re)Invigorating Feminist Goals in Sex Trafficking Research" (with Carisa Showden). Presented at the Western Political Science Association conference, Vancouver, BC. (April 14).

#### **INVITED PRESENTATIONS (last 7 years)**

June 2025. "Fit-fluencers and the Politics of (Online) Wellness Culture." Knapp Social Science Center, Wellesley College.

April 2025. "Research Methods: Ethical and Practical Considerations." Guest Lecture for students in the courses "Sex Work is Real Work" and "Power, Politics, and Praxis," Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts and the New School for Social Research.

March 2025. "Fit for politics? Celebrity "fit-fluencers" and the politics of "wellness" culture." Department of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder.

June 2024. "Celebrity Activism and Democracy." Keynote address for Frontiers of Democracy, Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University.

Book talks for *Lights, Camera, Feminism? Celebrities and Anti-Trafficking Politics*:

March 2024. CUNY Academy, CUNY Graduate Center

February 2024. LEX Research Network on Gender, Law, and Sexuality; Johns Hopkins University, School for Advanced International Studies

November 2023. Brown University's Simmons Center for the Study of Slavery; Wellesley College, Dept of Gender Studies; Geneva Graduate Institute, Geneva, Switzerland (virtually)

September 2023. John Jay College. Office for the Advancement of Research

September 2022. "Studying Sex Work and Online Platforms." Department of Government: Cornell University

June 2021 & 2022. "Ethics and Qualitative Research." Institute for Civically Engaged Research: APSA (virtual in 2021; Tufts University in 2022)

September 2020. "'Latin Lovers' and 'Tech Guys': Ricky Martin, Ashton Kutcher, and Variations of Male Celebrity Feminism." American Studies Workshop: Princeton University.

November 2019. "Performing Feminism? Examining Celebrities' Anti-Human Trafficking Activities." Program in Gender & Sexuality Studies. Princeton University.

June 2019. "Celebrities' Anti-Trafficking Activism." C4: Conference on Contemporary Celebrity Culture. Drake University.

October 2018. "Through an Intersectional Lens: Rethinking the Narrative of Young People who Trade Sex." Department of Political Science: Fordham University

April 2018 (multiple dates). Book talks: Youth Who Trade Sex in the US: Intersectionality, Agency, and Vulnerability. Department of Gender Studies: Santa Clara University, San Jose, CA; Department of Gender Studies: USC, Los Angeles, CA; Depts. of Gender Studies & Social Welfare: UCLA

January 2018. "Just Like the Movies? Celebrities and the Anti-Human Trafficking Movement." Department of Gender Studies: UCLA

November 2017. "Sex Work(ers) and the Third Sector: Research and advocacy from the ground up." Lilly Family School of Philanthropy: IU-PU

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2009-present	John Jay College/CUNY Graduate Center POL101. <i>American Government</i> POL214. <i>Parties, Interest Groups, and Social Movements</i> POL237. <i>Gender and Politics</i> POL409. <i>Colloquium for Research in Government and Politics</i> PSC79000. <i>Core Seminar in Political Science</i> CRJ70100. <i>Survey of Research Methods</i> CRJ80100/PSC89301. <i>Advanced Qualitative Methods</i>
Spring 2009	Instructor, University of Toronto, St. George Campus USA401H. <i>Race, Class, Gender and the Politics of Sexual Morality in America</i>
Fall 2009 & Spring 2010	Instructor, University of Toronto, Mississauga Campus POL203Y. <i>Politics &amp; Government of the United States</i>
August 2006 & 2007	Research Facilitator, Smith College Khan Liberal Arts Institute: Student Research Workshop
Fall 2005 & Spring 2006	Instructor, Cornell University GOVT100.1. <i>Sex for Sale: Thinking Through Sex Work</i>

## SERVICE

### Editorial Board Member: Journals

2021-present	<i>Sexuality Research and Social Policy</i>
2014-present	<i>Critical Policy Studies</i>
2013-present	<i>Perspectives on Politics</i>
2020-2024	<i>American Political Science Review</i>
2017-2019 (3 yr term limit)	<i>PS: Political Science and Politics</i>

**Editorial Board Member: Publishers**

- 2019-present Law and Visual Jurisprudence series (Springer)
- 2015-present Feminist Institutional Perspectives series (Rowman & Littlefield)

**American Political Science Association (APSA)**

- 2024 Selection Committee. APSA Civic Engagement Award
- 2023-present Co-Director (with Peter Levine & Adriano Udani). Institute for Civically Engaged Research
- 2022 Editor Search Committee for the journal *Perspectives on Politics*  
Advisory board member. Institute for Civically Engaged Research
- 2016-2021 Qualitative Transparency Deliberations. Member of Working Group IV.3: Research with Vulnerable and Marginalized Populations
- 2017-2021 Executive committee member. Interpretive Methodologies and Methods (APSA related group)
- 2018-2020 Executive committee member. Critical Policy Studies (APSA related group)
- 2016-2018 Secretary. Women's Caucus for Political Science
- 2020 Selection committee member. Herbert Gottweis Prize (Critical Policy Studies-APSA related group)
- 2019 Selection committee member. Victoria Schuck Book Award
- 2016 Selection committee member. Women and Politics Research Section: Best Dissertation Award

**Political Science Program: CUNY Graduate Center**

- 2024-2025 Executive Committee (elected member)
- 2023-2025 MA Program Advisor
- 2022 Admissions & Awards Committee  
Appeals Committee (alternate)

**Criminal Justice Doctoral Program: CUNY Graduate Center**

- 2023-2024 Admissions Committee  
Curriculum Committee
- 2020-2022 Diversity Committee  
Admissions Committee  
Comprehensive exam grader (methods)
- 2018-2020 Core Faculty  
Curriculum & Exam Committee  
Awards Committee  
Facilitated professional development seminar for graduate students on teaching (2019)  
Comprehensive exam grader (methods)
- 2017 Interviewer for CJ PhD Admissions (interview day)

**Other: CUNY Graduate Center**

- 2024-2025 Selection committee: Dissertation Fellowship Award
- 2020 Selection committee: Provost's Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Grants
- 2019 Selection committee: Doctoral Student Research Grant

**Department of political science: John Jay College-CUNY (last 7 years)**

2024 (fall)	Deputy Chair
2023-24	Personnel & Budget Committee (tenure and promotion) Member: Law and Society self-study committee Grade Appeals committee
Fall 2022	Member: Department self-study committee
2021-2022	Deputy Chair Personnel and Budget Committee (P&B) Department Treasurer
2020-2021	Personnel & Budget Committee (tenure and promotion)Curriculum Committee (department) Racial Justice & Equity Committee
2019-2020	Grade Appeals Committee POL lecturer search committee
2018-2019	Pi Sigma Alpha/POL Student Club (Co-adviser) POL Coordinator (Spring) POL Lecturer search committee
2017-2018	SABBATICAL (visiting scholar at UCLA). No department service.
2016-2017	Deputy Chair Personnel & Budget Committee (tenure and promotion) POL Major Self Study Committee
2015-2016	Personnel & Budget Committee (tenure and promotion)

**MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association  
Western Political Science Association  
Popular Culture Association  
American Society of Criminology  
National Women's Studies Association