

**Dr. Cathy Buerger**  
[catherine.buerger@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.buerger@gmail.com)  
[www.cathybuerger.com](http://www.cathybuerger.com)  
(978) 390-6858

## EDUCATION

- 2016                      PhD, Anthropology, University of Connecticut  
Graduate Certificate in Human Rights
- 2007                      MA, Applied Anthropology, Oregon State University  
Certificate in Urban Studies
- 2005                      BA, Anthropology, American University
- Phi Beta Kappa
  - *Magna Cum Laude*

## EMPLOYMENT

Director of Research (2020 – present)

*Dangerous Speech Project, Washington, DC*

- Lead an interdisciplinary applied research program examining polarization, harmful narratives, and prevention-oriented responses to dangerous and extremist speech.

Managing Editor (2013 – present)

*Journal of Human Rights*

- Oversee editorial operations for a leading academic journal, coordinating authors, reviewers, and staff across global networks.

Senior Researcher / Research & Communications Associate (2017 – 2020)

*Dangerous Speech Project, Washington, DC*

- Developed and led original qualitative and mixed-methods studies on online hate, collective action, and civic engagement, including the first ethnographic analysis of the global counterspeech network #iamhere.

Postdoctoral Fellow, Global Affairs (2016 – 2017)

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT

- Communicated with donors, faculty, and event planning staff to organize an international conference as well as lectures and events throughout the year.

**PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS**

- 2025 **Buerger, Cathy.** “Counterspeech: NGO Strategies for Responding to Online Hateful Speech.” In *Simply Human: A Guide to Understanding and Combatting Hate*. Ken Stern (Ed). University of Toronto Press.
- 2025 **Buerger, Cathy.** "Imagining Community Through Counterspeech." *Humans* 6(1).
- 2024 **Buerger, Cathy.** “Collective Counterspeech: External and Internal Impacts.” In *Harmful Speech and Contestation*. Mihaela Popa-Wyatt (Ed).
- 2024 **Buerger, Catherine** and Benesch, Susan. “Dangerous Speech as an Atrocity Early Warning Indicator: Measuring Changing Conflict Dynamics.” *Genocide Studies and Prevention*. 18(1).
- 2024 Mun, Jimin, **Buerger, Cathy**, Liang, Jenny T., Garland, Joshua, and Sap Maarten. "Counterspeakers’ Perspectives: Unveiling Barriers and AI Needs in the Fight against Online Hate." In *Proceedings of the CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems*, pp. 1-22.
- 2024 **Buerger, Catherine.** “Collective Counterspeech in Conflict Fragile Countries: Risks and Possibilities.” In *Countering Hate Speech in Conflict-Affected Situations*. Babak Bahador, Rachel Brown, Craig Hammer and Laura Livingston (Eds).
- 2024 Garland, Joshua, and **Buerger, Catherine.** "Seeing the Full Picture: The Value of Interdisciplinary Counterspeech Research." In *Counterspeech: Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Countering Dangerous Speech*, Stefanie Ullman and Marcus Tomalin (eds), pp. 67-82. Routledge.
- 2022 **Buerger, Cathy** and Glavinic, Tonei. "Prevent Violence, Strengthen Democracy: Electoral Codes of Conduct for the United States," *Peace and Conflict Studies*: 29(1).
- 2021 **Buerger, Catherine.** “#iamhere: Collective Counterspeech and the Quest to Improve Online Discourse.” *Social Media + Society*. 7(4).
- 2021 **Buerger, Catherine.** “Human Rights Hackers: Crafting Advocacy in Accra, Ghana.” *Journal of Legal Pluralism*. 53(2): 206-226
- 2018 **Buerger, Catherine** and Wilson, Richard. “The Practice of Human Rights.” In Jeremy MacClancy (ed.), *Exotic No More: Anthropology on the Front Lines*. 2nd Edition. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- 2017 Martinez, Samuel and **Buerger, Catherine.** “Human Rights.” *Oxford Bibliography Series*. ([Link](#)).
- 2017 Hertel, Shareen; Tagliarina, Corinne, and **Buerger, Catherine.** “Cheap Talk on Food: Party Politics in India and the Challenge of Implementing the Right to Food.” *Human Rights Quarterly*. May 2017
- 2017 **Buerger, Catherine.** “Legal Borderlands: Ghanaian Human Rights Advocacy Between the Layers of Law.” in *Human Rights Encounter Legal Pluralism*. Eva Brems, Mark Goodale, and Giselle Corradi (Eds) Oxford: Hart Publishers.

- 2017 **Buerger, Catherine** and Wilson, Richard Ashby, “The Practice of Human Rights” *Exotic No More: Anthropology on the Front Lines*. Jeremy MacClancy (ed., 2017), 2nd Ed, University of Chicago Press.
- 2016 **Buerger, Catherine**. “Contested Advocacy: Negotiating between Rights and Reciprocity in Nima and Maamobi, Ghana.” in *Global Urban Justice – the Rise of Human Rights Cities*. Barbara Oomen, Martha Davis & Michele Grigolo (Eds). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- 2015 **Buerger, Catherine** and Holzer, Elizabeth. “How Does Community Participation Work? Human Rights and the Hidden Labor of Interstitial Elites in Ghana.” *Journal of Human Rights Practice*. 7(1):72-87.
- 2014 **Buerger, Catherine**. Book Review of Jean Godefroy Bidima’s *Law and the Public Sphere in Africa: La Palabre and Other Writings*. *African Conflict and Peacebuilding Review*. 4(2):160-162.
- 2013 **Buerger, Catherine**. “Achieving Women’s Economic Rights, in Policy and Practice: A Case Study of Women’s Economic Rights in Ghana.” *The State of Economic and Social Human Rights: A Global Overview*. Lanse Minkler (Ed.) London: Cambridge University Press.

#### SELECTED POLICY BRIEFS & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2025 **Buerger, Cathy**. “Revolutionary rhetoric: Patriotism and dangerous speech during the 2024 U.S. Election Campaign” ([Link](#))
- 2025 **Buerger, Cathy**. “Repression as Rescue: The Authoritarian Logic of Trump’s Early Executive Orders.” *Just Security*. September 25, 2025. ([Link](#))
- 2025 **Buerger, Cathy**. “Unequal Before the Law: How Trump’s Death Penalty Order Codifies Dangerous Speech.” *Just Security*. June 6, 2025. ([Link](#)).
- 2024 Benesch, Susan and **Buerger, Cathy**. “Can AI Rescue Democracy? Nope, it’s not funny enough.” *Tech Policy Press*. March 11, 2024. ([Link](#)).
- 2024 Benesch, Susan and **Buerger, Cathy**. “Opinion: Many Americans believe migrants bring fentanyl across the border. That’s wrong and dangerous.” *Los Angeles Times*. February 12, 2024. ([Link](#)).
- 2024 “Dangerous Speech and Gun Violence: An Interview with Cathy Buerger.” Everytown for Gun Safety. ([Link](#))
- 2022 **Buerger, Catherine**. "Why They Do It: Counterspeech Theories of Change." Dangerous Speech Project. 2022. ([Link](#)).
- 2019 **Buerger, Catherine**. “How Internet Shutdowns Amplify Dangerous Speech.” *Dangerous Speech Project*. ([Link](#)).
- 2018 Benesch, Susan; **Buerger, Catherine**; Glavinic, Tonei; and Manion, Sean. “Dangerous Speech: A Practical Guide.” *Dangerous Speech Project*. ([Link](#)).

## SELECTED APPLIED RESEARCH & ADVISORY ROLES

*Selected roles supporting prevention initiatives, intervention design, and interdisciplinary research collaborations*

- (2025) Arizona State University, Qualitative research consultant on AI, media, and newsroom decision-making in emerging information environments, [Newswell Project](#).
- (2021 – present) Toda Peace Institute, Research Advisory Council
- (2021 – 2024) Member, Block-Hate Advisory Board, YWCA Canada
- (2022 – 2024) International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Consultant on [Chain of Harms](#) Project
- (2022) FHI 360 and Patani Forum (Thailand), Consultant on [Dangerous Speech Monitoring in Thailand](#).
- (2022) Peace Tech Labs, Reviewer, [Countering Hate Action Network](#) curriculum.
- (2014 – 2020) Editor, Teaching Human Rights Database for College Instructors: <http://teachinghumanrights.uconn.edu/>
- (2010 – present) Member, Economic and Social Rights Research Group (ESRG), an interdisciplinary group of University of Connecticut faculty, graduate students and affiliates that meets bi-monthly to share ongoing research, and to discuss current scholarship in the area of economic and social rights.

## CORE QUALIFICATIONS

- Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Research
- Interviews, Ethnography, and Focus Groups
- Program Evaluation and Impact Assessment
- Interdisciplinary Research Leadership
- Survey Design and Data Interpretation
- Research Ethics and IRB Management
- Academic and Policy Writing
- Public Communication of Research

## HONORS

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2016 | Outstanding Senior Woman Academic Achievement Award  |
| 2016 | Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award Finalist   |
| 2015 | Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Society for Urban, National, and Transnational Anthropology (SUNTA) |

2011 PhD Exams, High Pass  
2005 Phi Beta Kappa National Honors Society, American University  
2005 Graduated *magna cum laude* and University Honors, American University  
2005 Barbara J. Reimann Postgraduate Scholarship  
2001-2005 Honors College, American University  
2001-2004 Varsity letters earned, American University, Volleyball