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# Rodney Benson

## Professor of Media, Culture, and Communication

Media, Culture, and  
Communication

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Rodney Benson is Professor in the Department of Media, Culture, and Communication, with a cross appointment in the Department of Sociology, at New York University.

Benson is lead author of the forthcoming book, *How Media Ownership Matters* (Oxford, 2025; with Mattias Hessérus, Timothy Neff, and Julie Sedel). Daniel Hallin, Distinguished Professor of Communication at the University of California-San Diego, has described the book as the "finest work to date on this subject, rigorous and complex at the same time engaging and accessible -- a wonderful contribution to the political economy of news."

He is also the author of [\*Shaping Immigration News: A French-American Comparison\*](#) (Cambridge, 2013), winner of four book awards: the 2020 Doris Graber American Political Science Association Award for the Best Book of the Decade in Political Communication; the 2015 International Journal of Press/Politics Best Book Award; the 2014 Association for Education in Journalism & Mass Communication (AEJMC) Tankard Book Award; and the 2014 NYU Steinhardt Daniel Griffiths Research Award. George Washington University Professor Silvio Waisbord, former editor of the *Journal of Communication*, praised the book as “a sophisticated, elegant, and evidence-packed cross-national analysis that will be a go-to reference for comparative media research.” *Shaping Immigration News* was published in French as [\*L'immigration au prisme des médias\*](#) (Presses universitaires de Rennes, Res Publica, 2018, preface by Erik Neveu; translated by Bruno Poncharal).

In addition, Benson is the editor (with Erik Neveu) of [\*Bourdieu and the Journalistic Field\*](#) (Polity 2005; [Chinese translation summer 2017](#)) and co-author (with Matthew Powers) of [\*Public Media and Political Independence\*](#) (Free Press, 2011).

Prior to joining the NYU faculty, he was assistant professor of international communications and sociology at The American University of Paris. He holds a PhD in sociology from the University of California-Berkeley and an MA in international affairs from Columbia University. His research and theoretical articles have appeared in leading sociological and media/communications journals, including the *American Sociological Review*, *Theory and Society*, *American Sociologist*, *Poetics*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Journal of Communication*, *Journalism*, *Political Communication*, and *International Journal of Press/Politics*. He has also written articles for [\*Le Monde Diplomatique\*](#), [\*The Conversation\*](#), [\*Byline Times\*](#), and the *Christian Science Monitor*, and his research has been featured in [\*The Atlantic\*](#), [\*NiemanLab\*](#), [\*Axios\*](#), [\*Medium\*](#), [\*Salon\*](#), [\*The New Republic\*](#), [\*Columbia Journalism Review\*](#), [\*Poynter\*](#), [\*Sydney Morning Herald\*](#), [\*Le Monde\*](#), [\*Al Jazeera English\*](#), [\*Reuters\*](#), [\*Semafor\*](#), and many other publications.

# Selected Publications

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- Rodney Benson. 2025. "[Media Ownership](#)." In A. Nai, M. Grömping, & D. Wirz, eds. *Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Communication*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- Rodney Benson et al. 2025. [How Media Ownership Matters](#). New York: Oxford.
- Rodney Benson. 2024. "[How Media Ownership and Funding Matter for Democracy](#)." In M.L. Young, A. Hermida, and C. Castaneda, eds., *Novel Directions in Media Innovation and Funding* (Vancouver: The Global Journalism Innovation Lab): 58-62
- Timothy Neff and Rodney Benson. 2021. "[News you can use to promote your interests: Media ownership forms and economic instrumentalism](#)." *Journalism Studies* 22(5): 2103-2121.
- Rodney Benson. 2020. "[Journalism and Inclusion](#)." In M. Powers and S. Vera-Zambrano, eds., *Rethinking Media Research for Changing Societies* (Cambridge Univ. Press): 91-104.
- Rodney Benson. 2019. "[Rethinking the Sociology of Media Ownership](#)." In L. Grindstaff, Ming-Cheng M. Lo, and John R. Hall, eds., *Routledge Handbook of Cultural Sociology* (London: Routledge): 387-396.
- Rodney Benson. 2019. "[Paywalls and Public Knowledge: How Can Journalism Provide Quality News for Everyone?](#)" *Journalism* 20(1): 146-149.
- Rodney Benson. 2018. "[Can Foundations Solve the Journalism Crisis?](#)" *Journalism* 19 (8): 1059-1077.
- Rodney Benson, Timothy Neff, and Mattias Hessérus. 2018. "[Media Ownership and Public Service News: How Strong are Institutional Logics?](#)" *International Journal of Press/Politics* 23(3): 275-298.
- Rodney Benson, Matthew Powers, and Timothy Neff. 2017. "[Public Media Autonomy and Accountability: Best and Worst Policy Practices in 12 Leading Democracies](#)." *International Journal of Communication* 11: 1-22.
- Rodney Benson. 2012. "[Murdoch in the United States: Kingmaker or Ringmaster?](#)" *Global Media and Communication*, 8, 1: 4-7.
- Rodney Benson, Mark Blach-Orsten, Matthew Powers, Ida Willig, and Sandra Vera Zambrano. 2012. "[Media Systems Online and Off:](#)

## Comparing the Form of News in the U.S., Denmark, and

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- Rodney Benson. 2006. “News Media as a ‘Journalistic Field’: What Bourdieu adds to New Institutionalism, and Vice Versa.” *Political Communication* 23, 2: 187-202.
- Rodney Benson and Abigail C. Saguy. 2005. “Constructing Social Problems in an Age of Globalization: A French-American Comparison.” *American Sociological Review* 70, 2: 233-259.

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