Samantha Jo Fried, Ph.D.

163 Packard Ave | Medford, MA 02155 | samanthajofried.com | Samantha.Fried@tufts.edu

Trained as a **critical theorist, intellectual historian, and ethnographer of science and technology**, I have 15 years of experience working across disciplinary boundaries, rooted in the humanities and interpretive social sciences. I care most about the politics of knowledge, how both physical and ideological infrastructure shape democratic life, effective critiques of technological utopianism and progress, sensible repair of institutions (particularly those of higher education), and fostering transformative connections between universities and the publics and students they (ought to) serve. My scholarship is most influenced by Bruno Latour, Ian Hacking, Harry Collins, Thomas Kuhn, Christopher Lasch, Susan Leigh Star, Asad Haider, Donna Haraway, Walter Benjamin, Neil Postman, Peter Levine, Catherine Liu, Phil Mirowski, Bayard Rustin, J.F. Martel, and the Book of Ecclesiastes.

Education

- Ph.D., 2019: Science and Technology Studies, Virginia Tech
  - Advisor: Dr. Saul Halfon
  - Dissertation: *Landsat in Contexts: Deconstructing and Reconstructing the Data-to-Action Paradigm in Earth Remote Sensing*
- Graduate Certificate, 2019: Remote Sensing, Virginia Tech
- M.S., 2016: Science and Technology Studies, Virginia Tech
- M.A., 2014: Communication, Culture, and Technology, Georgetown University
  - Advisor: Dr. David Ribes
  - Thesis: *Quantify This: Statistics, the State, and Governmentality*
- B.A., 2011: Communications and Media Studies, Goucher College

Employment History

- **Associate Director**, Civic Studies: July 2025-present
  Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, Medford, MA
- **Research Assistant Professor**: Feb. 2025-present
  Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, Medford, MA
- **Program Manager**, Civic Studies and STS: Jan. 2020-July 2025
  Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, Medford, MA
- **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Civic Science: Jun. 2019-Nov. 2020
  Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life, Tufts University, Medford, MA
- **Graduate Research Fellow**, Remote Sensing IGEP: Aug. 2014-May 2019
  Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, VA
- **Curriculum Design and Development Intern**, Summer 2018
  National Humanities Center, Research Triangle Park, NC
- **Graduate Research Assistant** to David Ribes on NSF-funded (#1431219 and #1322275) research: Jun. 2013-Aug. 2014
  Georgetown University, Washington, DC

Teaching and Advising

- CVS 190: *Civic Knowledge*, Instructor of Record (Spring 2027)
- CVS 151-01: *Civic Knowledge*, Instructor of Record (Spring 2026)
- Interdisciplinary Studies Committee Member, Candy Li: "Critical Ecology and Animal Factors Engineering" (Spring 2024—Present)

- Dissertation Reader, Bridget Moynihan: Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering (Spring 2025—Spring 2026)
- STS 50: *STS Lunch Seminar*, Instructor of Record and Co-Instructor (Spring 2020—Spring 2025)
- Dissertation Reader, John DeFrancisci: Ph.D. in Civil and Environmental Engineering (Spring 2023—Spring 2024)
- STS 10: STS Reading Lab - *Progress*, Instructor of Record (Fall 2023)
- Senior Thesis Chair, Arlyss Herzig: "Counting as Control: A Multi-State Analysis of Prison Gerrymandering" (AY2022-23)
- STS 10: STS Reading Lab – *Classification*, Instructor of Record (Spring 2022)
- STS 50-02: Data in Context - *Musical Algorithms in Society*, Instructor of Record (Fall 2021)
- Senior Thesis Chair, Grant Versfeld: "White Hats and Black Boxes: A Sociotechnical Analysis of Bug Bounty Programs" (AY2020-21)
- STS 10: STS Reading Lab - *Power*, Instructor of Record (Fall 2020)
- STS 10: STS Reading Lab - *Energy*, Instructor of Record (Spring 2020)
- STS 10: STS Reading Lab - *Automation*, Instructor of Record (Fall 2019)
- HIS/STS 2604: *Introduction to Data in Social Context*, Instructor of Record (Fall 2018, Virginia Tech)
- STS 1504: *Introduction to Science & Technology in Society*, Instructor of Record (Spring 2017, Virginia Tech)

Select Publications

- **Fried, S**. (2025). Data, Relationships, and Action. In M'Closkey, K., & K. VanDerSys (Eds.), *Media Matters in Landscape Architecture*. Applied Research and Design.
- Scoville, C., Faxon, H., Chapman, M., **Fried, S**., Xu, L., Boettiger, C., Reed, J.M., Lapeyrolerie, M., Van Scoyoc, A. & Amironesei, R. (2025). Environment, Society, and Machine Learning. In Borch, C., & J.P. Pardo-Guerra (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Machine Learning*. Oxford University Press.
- Ross, C., & **Fried, S**. (2023). Why STEM Education—and Democracy—Need Civic Science. *American Scientist*, 111(3): 156-159.
- **Fried, S.**, Ozkan, D., Halldén, K., Moynihan, B., DeFrancisci, J., Kuchma, D., Bachant, C., Hines, E. (2022). Low-Carbon, Bio-Enhancing Concrete Gravity-Based Foundations for Offshore Wind Turbines. *Offshore Power Research & Education Collaborative (OSPRE) Reports*, Tufts University.
- Ross, C., & **Fried, S**. (2022). For the Public Good: Incorporating Civic Science into Undergraduate STEM Education. *Journal of Science Policy & Governance*, 19(2).
- **Fried, S.** (2021). Toward a More Equitable Landsat, Using Frameworks from Postphenomenology. In Fried, S., & R. Rosenberger (Eds.), *Postphenomenology and Imaging: How To Read Technology* (247-271). Lexington Books.
- **Fried, S.** (2020). How Climate Science Could Lead to Action. *American Scientist*, 108(1): 34-41.

Select Panels, Conference Presentations, and Invited Talks

- "Extending the Periodic Table of Expertise to the Humanities"
  Civility and Civic Virtue panel at the 2026 Conference on Civic Thought | Chase Center for Civics, Culture, and Society
  September 24, 2026: Columbus, OH
- "Working on *x* in the space of *y*: Expertise and Adaptability in Transdisciplinary Work"
  SEEDS (Science Educators for Equity, Diversity, and Social Justice) Webinar
  June 4, 2026: Online

- "Power in Practice: A Community Power Audit," with Peter Levine
  Civic Life Lunch | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University
  February 11, 2026: Medford, MA
- "The Data-to-Action Paradigm and the Critique-to-Action Paradigm"
  Social Theory in Education for Activists | Jonathan M. Tisch College of Civic Life at Tufts University
  April 2, 2024: Medford, MA
- "On the Multistability of Images in Science: Examples from Neurobiological and Planetary Imagining," with Robert Rosenberger (Georgia Tech)
  Philosophy of Science Association (PSA) 27th Biennial Meeting
  November 11, 2021: Online and Baltimore, MD
- "Landsat in Contexts: Deconstructing and Reconstructing the Data-to-Action Paradigm in Environmental Remote Sensing"
  Science and Democracy Network | Harvard University
  August 30, 2019: Cambridge, MA

Grants and Funded Projects

- Co-PI, Educating Character Initiative (ECI) Institutional Impact Grant – $500,000
  Advancing Civic Character at Tufts and Beyond: A Three-Year Institutional Impact Initiative (with PI Sunah Hyun and Co-PI Jonathan Tirrell)
  Summer 2026 – Summer 2029
- Co-PI, NSF Award #2536796
  FIRE-WUI: Harnessing AI and Engineering Innovation for Post-Fire Property Decontamination and Economic Recovery (with PI Lauryn Spearing and Co-PI Deborah Sunter)
  February 15th, 2026 – January 31st, 2029

Appointed and Elected Positions

- Affiliate Faculty: Tufts Center for Civic AI, Tufts University, Fall 2026-Present
- Co-Chair: Educational Resources Committee, Tisch College, Fall 2025-Spring 2026
- Resource Partner: Rita Allen Foundation Civic Science Fellows Program, Spring 2020-Fall 2021
- Member: Transdisciplinary Mapping Team for COVID-10 Research, Tufts University, Fall 2021
- Appointee: Task Force on Energy and the Environment, Tufts University, Spring 2021
- President: Graduate and Professional Student Senate, Virginia Tech, AY2018-19
- Director of Communications: Graduate and Professional Student Senate, Virginia Tech, AY2016-17 and AY2017-18