
Recent Ph.D. Graduates - Job Placements



Julia Behrman, Northwestern University. Behrman's research explores the relationship between inequality in educational opportunity and demographic processes, with particular emphasis on health and fertility. Much of her work is motivated by a central question: how does family background shape educational opportunities, and in turn, how does education shape fertility, family formation, and the intergenerational transmission of inequality? Behrman takes an international comparative perspective that focuses on contexts undergoing rapid economic, social, and demographic change and draws on her experiences collecting household survey data and conducting qualitative interviews in several Sub-Saharan African and South Asian countries prior to my doctoral studies. Her work combines theoretical insights from sociology and demography with quantitative methods for causal inference, demography, and econometrics.



Max Besbris, Rice University. Besbris' research examines how individuals make decisions in organizations and economic markets, how these decisions are influenced by interaction with others, and how these decisions reproduce existing demographic and geographic inequalities.



Monica Caudillo, University of Maryland (postdoc). Caudillo's dissertation focuses on how social context impacts teenage women's sexual activity, fertility, marriage, and cohabitation in Mexico. Two of her dissertation papers assess the effect of exposure to community violence on fertility, marriage, and cohabitation in Mexico. This work builds on her past research on the impact of community violence on children's educational outcomes.



Daniel Cohen, University of Pennsylvania. Cohen's dissertation research explores the interplay of climate politics and social movement protest in global cities, especially São Paulo, New York, and London; it is tentatively titled, *Street Fight: Urban Climate Politics in an Age of Finance and Revolt*. He has presented and written about these topics for a wide range of audiences.



Mark Cohen, Chinese University of Hong Kong. Cohen's research seeks to provide new insights on historical sociology's classic questions of large-scale political and economic change. His work makes theoretical and empirical contributions to the study of revolutions, the economic and political dynamics of pre-modern agrarian societies, the transition to modern capitalism, and the prospects for "late" economic development. He employs the methods of comparative historical case study analysis to uncover the causal processes that lie underneath complex social transformations.



Jacob Faber, Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, New York University. Faber's research focuses on spatial inequality. He leverages observational and experimental methods to study the mechanisms responsible for sorting individuals across space and how the distribution of people by race and class interacts with political, social, and ecological systems to create and sustain economic disparities. While there is a rich literature exploring the geography of opportunity, there remain many unsettled questions about the causes of segregation and its effects on the residents of urban ghettos, wealthy suburbs, and the diverse set of places in between.



Michael Friedson, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Friedson's research focuses on analyzing how violent crime and intensive policing affect disadvantaged populations and places and on better understanding urban drug policing during the national crime decline. His research additionally treats the relationship of poverty to behaviors affecting childhood health, such as corporal punishment and breastfeeding. Finally, he is interested in issues related to teaching undergraduates about mass incarceration and the war on drugs.



Stacy Torres, State University of New York-Albany. Stacy Torres's research analyzes how multiply vulnerable populations build social support and thrive in changing urban environments. How do older people aged 60 and beyond struggle and survive in 21st century urban America? We know belonging matters for elders but less about how, why, and what facilitates it. How do older people maintain their independence when faced with multiple vulnerabilities? What forms of social relationships exist? In what ways does belonging to a place or a group help people manage crises and everyday challenges?



Nada Matta, Drexel University. Matta's work investigates questions of structural inequality and social change in the Middle East, with particular focus on gender, social, and labor movements. Her research adopts a comparative-historical approach and examines interactions between state policies and social movements at a cross-national level, combining qualitative in-depth interviews, newspaper research, and macro level economic data. Why in certain points in history, countries witness large-scale movements for change? What are the macro level political and economic conditions that facilitate the development of these movements? And what are the social and organizational factors that explain their success and failure?



Tey Meadow, Columbia University. Meadow's scholarship spans the domains of law, politics, the family, sexuality, and gender. Her recent publication, *Raising the Transgender Child: Being Male or Female in the Twenty First Century*, is an ethnographic and interview-based book about the first generation of families affirming and supporting their gender nonconforming and transgender children. (Meadow held a previous position at Harvard University)



Amaka Okechukwu, George Mason University. Okechukwu's research offers insight into the ways that racial politics shape mobilization, public policy, and urban space. Her book manuscript, *To Fulfill These Rights: Political Contention over Affirmative Action in Public Universities* (under contract with Columbia University Press) explores the retrenchment of race-and-class inclusive admissions policies. These deeply contested struggles reflect a post-civil rights racial order that is shaped by the incorporation of moderate racial representation into political power and the appropriation of civil rights strategies by the Right. Okechukwu is also working on another project that examines spatial politics and tactical repertoires of Black mobilization in Brooklyn in the 1970s and 1980s.



Peter Rich, Cornell University. Rich's research investigates how selection in school, housing, and marriage markets reproduces structural inequalities by race and class. He specializes in Stratification, Sociology of Education, Urban Sociology, and Race & Ethnicity sub-fields. Peter has quantitative training in causal inference, spatial demography, event history, discrete choice, population mobility, and experimental audit methods.



Poulami Roychowdhury, McGill University. Roychowdhury's broad intellectual project is a sociological study of gender, globalization, and governance: how these processes interact with, transform, and are in turn transformed by specific social spaces, what kinds of political subjects and legal institutions they create, and how they define possibilities for popular movements and criminal justice. More specifically, Roychowdhury's work asks how gendered norms and practices create inequalities in social policy and entitlements.



Hassan Abdel Salam, University of Minnesota. Salam's research seeks to use quantitative and computational methods and novel data sources to study law, religion, and human rights at a domestic and transnational level. Salam has used quantitative causal inference approaches in his doctorate to display historical trajectories of laws in the Muslim world. In particular, he is interested in exploring the historical impact of laws on the human rights of individuals and groups

around the world.



David Wachsmuth, McGill University. Wachsmuth is an urban political economist working at the intersection of economic and environmental urban governance. He studies urban governance problems which are difficult to capture with the traditional conceptual vocabulary of urban sociology and urban studies—above all, the concept of the city as the bounded, modular unit of analysis for the field. His past research has examined the breakdown of local growth

emergence of a new polycentric growth politics which he calls "comparative coalitions in mid-sized cities across the United States, and multi-city regionalism". Wachsmuth's current project is a North-South comparative analysis of so-called "smart city" approaches to urban sustainability governance in the global city network.



Abigail Weitzman, University of Texas-Austin. Weitzman's research addresses a fundamental issue at the intersection of demography and the social psychology of gender: how do gendered expectations influence the timing and nature of important demographic events in people's lives? And reciprocally, how do shifting demographic trends influence gender expectations? With the demographic environment and gender expectations in mind, most of her research examines one or more transitory periods of the life course—such as first-time parenthood, adolescence, and early

adulthood—because during these periods, people rely on their underlying expectations to navigate both substantial and diurnal choices. Likewise, she frequently conducts research in developing countries and post-disaster settings, where rapidly changing institutional environments can challenge expectations, but can also reinforce them.



Max Holleran, University of Melbourne. Holleran is Lecturer of Sociology at the University of Melbourne. His work focuses on urban development in Europe and the United States, particularly how cities manage tourism. His dissertation was a historical and ethnographic study of tourism development in post-Franco Spain and post-socialist Bulgaria focusing on the idea of Europe's evolving periphery. He has written about

gentrification, architectural aesthetics, post-socialist urban planning, and European Union integration for anthropology, sociology, and history journals. His work on cities and politics has also appeared in Australian Book Review, Boston Review, Contexts, Dissent, Los Angeles Review of Books, New Republic, Slate, and the Times Literary Supplement.



Issa Kohler-Hausmann, Yale University Law School. Kohler-Hausmann's research is primarily concerned with the intersection between law and inequality. She is interested in how legal institutions construct, reproduce or entrench existing dimensions of social and economic inequality, and how such inequality is reflected in legal operations formally committed to neutral norms. Her dissertation focuses on mass misdemeanors, and investigates what policies, organizational concerns, and normative values shape the prosecution, adjudication, and punishment of lesser crimes.



Caitlin Petre, Rutgers University. Petre's research analyzes the social and material implications of an increasingly data-saturated world, with particular attention to the relationship between digital technologies, expertise, and media industries. Using field research methods, she analyzes how new sources of quantitative data interact with long-established approaches to cultural production and the management of media workers. Her dissertation, "The Social Life of Metrics," explores how audience analytics are reshaping the work of journalism. In today's commercial newsrooms, journalists are increasingly judged based on the number of clicks, likes, shares, and "attention minutes" their articles generate. The dissertation -- now a book-in-progress -- delivers a behind-the-scenes account of these metrics and explores their implications for democratic discourse, workplace power distributions, and the very notion of editorial expertise.



John Halushka, San Jose State University. Halushka is Assistant Professor of Justice Studies at San Jose State University. His research explores how mass imprisonment shapes the daily lives of marginalized populations. His dissertation, *The Runaround: Punishment, Welfare, and Poverty Survival After Prison*, is an ethnographic study of prisoner reentry in New York City. Based on three years of ethnographic fieldwork at Second Chances and Uplift, two community-based prisoner reentry agencies, and 45 in-depth interviews with formerly incarcerated men, *The Runaround* explores prisoner reentry as both a lived experience of poverty survival and a political project of poverty governance. As social services in the United States have become increasingly austere, privatized, and disciplinary, *The Runaround* provides an on-the-ground account of how this policy regime shapes the poverty survival strategies of formerly incarcerated men, and how street-level organizations administer this uniquely American system of poverty governance.