

Aliza Luft

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, 2016* —
Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
**parental leave summer 2019*

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2016
M.S. Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2011
M.A. Department of Education, University of California, Berkeley, 2008
B.A. Departments of Sociology, History, and Religion, Bates College, 2006
Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

Books

in process Luft, Aliza. "Sacred Treason: Why Catholic Bishops Defected From Vichy to Save Jews During the Holocaust." Under contract with Harvard University Press.
in process Luft, Aliza, with Steve Hitlin and Shai Dromi. (Eds.) "Handbook of The Sociology of Morality." Under contract with Springer Publishing.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

forthcoming Luft, Aliza and Sue Thomson (2021). "Race, Nation, and Resistance to State Symbolic Power in Rwanda Since the 1994 Genocide." *Political Power and Social Theory*.

2020 Luft, Aliza. "[How Do You Repair A Broken World? Conflict\(ing\) Archives after the Holocaust.](#)" *Qualitative Sociology*. 43:317-343.

★ 2021 Outstanding Published Article Award, Peace War and Social Conflict Section.

- 2020 Luft, Aliza. "[Religion in Vichy France: How Meso-Level Actors Contribute to Authoritarian Legitimation.](#)" *European Journal of Sociology*. 61(1): 67-101.
- ★ 2021 Distinguished Article Award, Honorable Mention, ASA Sociology of Religion Section.
- 2020 Luft, Aliza. "[Theorizing Moral Cognition: Culture in Action, Situations, and Relationships.](#)" *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*. 6:1-15.
- 2020 Luft, Aliza. "[Three Stories and Three Questions about Participation in Genocide.](#)" *Journal of Perpetrator Research*. 3(1): 196–206.
- 2019 Luft, Aliza. "[The Contribution of Social Movement Theory to Understanding Genocide: Evidence from Rwanda.](#)" *Contention: The Journal of Social & Political Protest*. 7(2): 1-30.
- 2017 Luft, Aliza. "[Has the 2016 Election Institutionalized Systemic Social Exclusion and Violence in America—and Perhaps Paved the Way for Authoritarianism and the Possible ‘Social Death’ of Groups Perceived as Undesirable to the New Administration in Washington?](#)" *Jewish Social Studies*. 22(3): 203-211.
- 2015 Luft, Aliza. "[Toward a Dynamic Theory of Action at the Micro-Level of Genocide: Killing, Desistance, and Saving in 1994 Rwanda.](#)" *Sociological Theory*. 33(2):148-172
- ★ 2015 Candace Rogers Best Student Paper Award, Eastern Sociological Society.
 - ★ 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, American Sociological Association.
 - 📄 Op-Ed summarizing findings published in The Washington Post; reposted on [RwandaWire.com](#), MMC News, and Political Science Now.
- 2015 Luft, Aliza. "[Genocide as Contentious Politics.](#)" *Sociology Compass*. 9(10): 897-909.

Book Chapters, Book Reviews, Essays

- Forthcoming* Luft, Aliza. "Religion, Authoritarianism, and The Normalization of Violence Against Jews in France: A Bourdieusian Approach." In *A Response Delayed: Social Science and The Holocaust*, eds. Jeffrey S. Kopstein, Jelena Subotić, and Susan Welch. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Forthcoming* Luft, Aliza. An Ordinary Tale of Solidarity and Survival? Reflections on Jacques Sémelin's The Survival of the Jews in France, 1940–44. In *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*.
- 2020 Luft, Aliza. "[Citizen Reporting as Social Control.](#)" Review Essay, "Judge Thy Neighbor: Denunciations in the Spanish Inquisition, Romanov Russia, and Nazi Germany." By Patrick Bergemann. New York: Columbia University Press, 2019. In *American Journal of Sociology*. 126(2): 453-458.
- 2020 Luft, Aliza. "[Culture, Crisis, and Morality.](#)" *Footnotes*, ASA monthly newsletter, special issue on COVID-19. 48:3.

- 2020 Luft, Aliza. [“Interdisciplinary Travels.”](#) Reflections on Historical Sociology and Political Science. In *Trajectories Newsletter of the ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology Section and APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter*.
- 2018 Luft, Aliza. [War, Women, and Power: From Violence to Mobilization in Rwanda and Bosnia Herzegovina](#). New York: Cambridge University Press. By Marie Berry. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2018. In *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*. 23, no. 4, pp. 531-541.
- 2018 Luft, Aliza. [The Roots of Ethnic Cleansing in Europe](#). By H. Zeynep Bulutgil. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016. In *The Journal of Politics*. 80, no. 2 (April 2018): e41-e43.
- 2017 Luft, Aliza. [Who Counts? The Mathematics of Life and Death after Genocide](#). By Diane M. Nelson. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2015. In *Contemporary Sociology*. 46(3): 341-342.
- 2016 Luft, Aliza. [“Women’s and Feminist Activism in Eastern Africa.”](#) The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies, eds: Nancy Naples, Renee C. Hoogland, Maithree Wickramasinghe, & Angela Wong. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- 2016 Luft, Aliza. [“LGBT Activism in Eastern Africa.”](#) The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies, eds: Nancy Naples, Renee C. Hoogland, Maithree Wickramasinghe, & Angela Wong. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- 2013 Luft, Aliza. [“A Train in Winter: An Extraordinary Story of Women, Friendship, and Resistance in Occupied France.”](#) In *Mobilizing Ideas*.
- 2009 Luft, Aliza. Teacher’s Accompaniment. Racial Domination, Racial Progress: The Sociology of Race in America. Matthew Desmond, Mustafa Emirbayer. McGraw Hill

Public Sociology

- 2020 Luft, Aliza. [“Vichy’s Family Separation Policy, and Our Own.”](#) Blog post published on *Scatterplot*.
- 2019 Luft, Aliza. [“Dehumanization and The Normalization of Violence: It’s Not What You Think.”](#) Social Science Research Council, Items Digital Forum.
 🗣️ Featured in *The New York Times*, [“What We’re Reading Now.”](#)
- 2019 Luft, Aliza. [“Dual-Process Theories of Morality and Their Implications for Research on Genocide.”](#) *Inference: International Review of Science*.
- 2019 Luft, Aliza. [“On Cruelty.”](#) Interview for *The Why Factor: BBC Podcast in Collaboration with American Public Media*.
- 2018 Luft, Aliza. [“Threat and Mobilization in Vichy France.”](#) In *Mobilizing Ideas*.
- 2018 Luft, Aliza. [“The Root of Violence.”](#) Letter in *The New Yorker*.

- 2018 Luft, Aliza with Daniel Solomon. [“How Dangerous Is It When Trump Calls Some Immigrants ‘Animals’?”](#) Op-Ed published in *The Washington Post*.
- 2018 Luft, Aliza. [“What We, As Citizens, Can Do To Fight Genocide.”](#) Op-Ed published in *The Washington Post*.
- 2016 Luft, Aliza. [“What Vichy France Can Teach Us About the Normalization of State Violence.”](#) Blog post published on *Scatterplot*.
- 2015 Luft, Aliza. [“Questions of Complicity: France and the Nazi Occupation.”](#) Videotaped interview for *Facing History and Ourselves*.
- 2015 Luft, Aliza. [“Past and Present in France: Don’t Give Them What They Want.”](#) Article published on *Political Violence at a Glance*.
- 2015 Luft, Aliza. [“Once a killer, always a killer? Here are 4 lessons about stopping mass violence.”](#) Op-Ed published in *The Washington Post*.
- 2011 Acar, Taylan, Robert Chiles, Garrett Grainger, Aliza Luft, Rahul Mahajan, João Peschanski, Chelsea Schelly, Jason Turowetz, and Ian F. Wall. 2011. [“Inside the Wisconsin Occupation.”](#) *Contexts*. 10(3): 50-55.
- 2011 Luft, Aliza. [“Another Look at Rwanda.”](#) *Footnotes*, ASA monthly newsletter. 39:7.
- 2010 Luft, Aliza. [“Genocide: What’s in a Name?”](#) Article published on *salon.com*.
- 2010 Luft, Aliza. [“Increasing Political Violence in Rwanda.”](#) Article published on *salon.com*.

Other Media (Appearances, etc.)

[“Across the US, families are having tough talks about racism.”](#) *LA Times*, 06/19/20.

[“Opening of ‘Hitler’s Pope’ Archive May Shed More Light on Roles of Vatican and Pius XII During World War II.”](#) *Newsweek*, 02/23/20.

[“New UCLA institute will study — and spread — kindness.”](#) *LA Times*, 09/25/19.

[“The Interpreter: What We’re Reading.”](#) *New York Times*, 09/06/19.

[“The U.S. Holocaust Museum is wrong to deny that Trump’s racism resembles Nazism.”](#) *LA Times*, 07/15/19.

[“An Open Letter to the Director of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.”](#) *New York Review of Books*, 7/1/19.

[“The Treatment of Migrants Likely ‘Meets the Definition of a Mass Atrocity.’”](#) *NY Times*, 06/29/19.

[“University of Chicago's Interdisciplinary Conference on Violence.”](#) *Chicago Policy Review*, 2/18/19.

[“You take a life, you’re going to go through something.”](#) *Chicago Tribune*, 2/15/18.

[“Here’s what social science tells us about that migrant ‘caravan’ — and the Trump administration’s response.”](#) *Washington Post*, 10/23/18.

[“Remembering Rwanda.”](#) *Daily Maverick*, 05/7/18.

[“UCLA professors launch website to help students affected by travel ban.”](#) *The Daily Bruin*, 2/17/17.

Works In Progress

Luft, Aliza. “Silence as Statement: French Bishops’ Support for the Statut des Juifs.”
★ 2016 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, American Sociological Association.
★ 2014 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Association for the Study of Nationalities.

Luft Aliza. “Moral Shifting and Decision-Making About Violence.”

Luft, Aliza with Jocelyn Viterna. “The State of the Field of Women in War.” (Working title.)

Luft, Aliza and Evgeny Finkel. “Sexualized Violence during the Holocaust.”

AWARDS & FUNDING

Awards

2018 Hellman Award, UCLA
2018 Faculty Career Development Award, UCLA
2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, American Sociological Association.
2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, American Sociological Association.
2015 Candace Rogers Best Student Paper Award, Eastern Sociological Society
2014 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Association for the Study of Nationalities
2013 Vilas Research Travel Award, UW Madison
2011 Honored Instructor Teaching Award, UW Madison

Fellowships

2020 Bedari Kindness Institute Research Fellowship, UCLA
2016 Visiting Fellow, Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, \$10,500 (*declined*)
2015 Kagan Fellow, Saul Kagan Claims Conference (includes 2013-2014), \$40,000

- 2014 CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Sociology, Visiting Research Fellow
- 2012 Chateaubriand/Fulbright Fellowship, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, €20,000
- 2010 Scott-Kloeck Jensen Global Studies Fellowship, UW Madison, \$3000

Grants & Scholarships

- 2020 Research Enabling Grant (with Jessica Collett), UCLA
- 2020 Sharon Abramson Research Grant for the Study of the Holocaust, HEF Northwestern University
- 2018 US-UK American Academy of Arts & Sciences/British Academy of Arts & Sciences Research Grant (co-PI)
- 2018 Research Enabling Grant, UCLA
- 2017 Faculty Research Grant, Center for the Study of Women, UCLA
- 2017 Dean's Faculty Opportunity Fund, UCLA
- 2015 Wisconsin Department of Sociology Travel Grant, UW Madison
- 2015 International Studies Association Travel Grant, International Studies Association
- 2013 SSHA Tilly Graduate Student Travel Grant, Social Science History Association
- 2014 Departmental Small Grants Award, UW Madison
- 2013 Berman Scholarship, Center for Jewish Studies, UW Madison
- 2013 Mazursky Grant, Center for Jewish Studies, UW Madison
- 2012 'Ouisconsin' Field Research Scholarship, Wisconsin Alumni, UW Madison
- 2009 Departmental Small Grants Award, UW Madison

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Invited Presentations

- 2021 Duke University, Political Science. April 14.
- 2021 Yale, Political Violence and Its Legacies Workshop. April 1.
- 2021 University of Toronto, Center for Jewish Studies. February 8.
- 2021 University of Southern California, Sociology. February 3.
- 2020 Colby College, Sociology. September 10.
- 2019 University of California-Berkeley, Sociology. February 4.
- 2018 University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society. October 12.
- 2018 Queensborough College, National Endowment for the Humanities Series. April 12.
- 2018 Notre Dame, Sociology and Kroc Institute. April 20.
- 2017 University of Arizona, Sociology. November 11.
- 2017 Facing History and Ourselves. June 29.
- 2017 Yale, Order, Conflict, and Violence Workshop. April 24.
- 2017 Northwestern Buffet Institute for Global Affairs. March 4.
- 2017 Northwestern University. March 3.
- 2017 American Bar Foundation. March 1-2.
- 2016 CUNY Graduate Center, Politics and Protest Workshop. April 7.
- 2016 Illinois College, History. March 16.
- 2015 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. June 22-25.
- 2015 Columbia University. April 15.
- 2015 Notre Dame, Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference. May 1.

- 2014 Harvard Kennedy School, Carr Center for Human Rights. April 27.
- 2014 Harvard University with Project Zero and Facing History and Ourselves. April 11.
- 2014 Columbia University, XS Sociology Workshop. February 26.
- 2012 3rd annual 'Ouisconsin' Alumni Association dinner. November 13. Paris, FR.

Conference Presentations (Select)

- 2021 "Challenges to Democracy: Do We Learn From the Past?" American Sociological Association. (Invited Session, Comparative-Historical Sociology)
- 2021 "Graduate Student Professionalization Panel: Studying Culture in Times of Crisis: Methods and Approaches." American Sociological Association. (Invited Session, Sociology of Culture)
- 2020 "Theorizing Morality: How Situational Contexts and Social Perceptions Influence Judgment." American Sociological Association. (Online due to COVID-19).
- 2019 "The Global-Historical Dimensions of Race and Racism." Social Science History Association. November 21-24. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 "The Future of Comparative-Historical Social Science II: Extending Classical Traditions." Social Science History Association. November 21-24. Chicago, IL.
- 2019 "Archival Work as Qualitative Sociology II: Case Studies." Social Science History Association. November 21-24. Chicago, IL.
- 2017 "A Bourdieusian Approach to Explaining the Rise of Religious Nationalism in France 1940-1942." American Sociological Association. August 12-15. Montreal, QC.
- 2016 "Normalizing Violence: Bourdieu, Theories of Socio-historical Change, and the Relationship between Church and State in France during the Holocaust." Social Science History Association. November 17-20. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 "Explaining Behavioral Variation in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide." American Sociological Association. August 22-25. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 "A Theory of Behavioral Boundary Crossing: Killing, Desistance, and Saving in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide." Eastern Sociological Society. February 26-March 1. New York, NY.
- 2014 "Political Defections in Violent Contexts: French Bishops During the Holocaust." Social Science History Association. November 6-9. Toronto, CA.

Other

- 2021 Dehumanization Workshop (Invited), University of Bristol. September 20, 2021.
- 2020 Processual Perspectives in Research on Political Violence and Collective Action Workshop (Invited), Scuola Normale Superiore. October 14-15 2020. (Canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2018 Author-Meets-Critics for Neda Maghbouleh, "The Limits of Whiteness: Iranian Americans and the Everyday Politics of Race." Social Science History Association. November 8-11. Phoenix, AZ.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

External

- Social Science History Association, Executive Committee. August 2020-ongoing.
- ASA Theory Section, Council Member. August 2018-ongoing.
- ASA Theory Section, Nominations Committee. August 2020-ongoing.

ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology Section, Council Member. August 2019-ongoing.
ASA Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section, Nominations Committee. August 2019-ongoing.
ASA Theory Section, Best Book Award. January-August 2018.
ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology Section, Best Graduate Paper Award. January-August 2018.
SSHA, Network Organizer. AY 2017, 2018.

Editorial Boards:

American Sociological Review. AY 2021-ongoing.
Sociological Theory. AY 2016-2020.

Reviewer: *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Theory*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Sociology Compass*, *Gender & Society*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science History*, *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*; *Peace and Change*; *Genocide Studies and Prevention*.

Internal

2019- Founding Member, Bedari Kindness Institute
2017- Affiliate, Center for European and Russian Studies
2016- Faculty Advisory Committee, Center for Jewish Studies
2016- Affiliate, Center for the Study of Women

Departmental

2021- Co-organizer (with K. Harris), Political Sociology Field Exam
2020- Co-organizer (with O. Lizardo, D. Longbear-Rodriguez, M. Gaddis, D. Chowdhury):
Scholars(hip) Denied: UCLA Sociology Race and Violence Colloquium
2020- Reader, Sociology of Culture Field Exam
2018- Member, Graduate Committee
2017- Co-organizer (with E. Walker): Movements, Organizations, Markets Working Group
2016-2019 Co-organizer (with K. Harris): Theory & Research Seminar in Comparative Social Analysis
2017-2018 Organizer: Gender and Sexuality Working Group
2017-2018 Member, Junior Faculty Search Committee
2016-2017 Member, Undergraduate Executive Committee
2016- Reader, Political Sociology Field Exam
2016- Reader, Sociology of Gender Field Exam

Students Supervised

Alexis Coopersmith (Dissertation, Chair)
Abraham Calderon (Dissertation, Committee)
Ana Gonzales (Undergraduate Honors)
Katherine Amy Linder (Undergraduate Honors)
Franklin Acevedo (Undergraduate Honors)
Perla Hernandez (Undergraduate Honors)
Haoran Li (Undergraduate Honors)
Joseph Weinger (MA, Committee)
Jorge Mancillas (MA, Chair, stopped in summer 2019 due to parental leave)
Oscar Contreras (MA, Committee)

Dan Zipp (MA, Committee)
Andrew Malmuth (MA, Committee)
Amelia Hill (Dissertation, Committee)
Jessica Huerta (Dissertation, Committee)
Antwann Simpkins (Dissertation, Committee)
Corey O'Malley (Dissertation, Committee)
Mallory Rees (Dissertation, Committee)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association; Association for the Study of Nationalities; International Studies Association; Social Science History Association; Sociologists for Women in Society.

LANGUAGES

English: Native.
French: Advanced reading, writing, speaking.
Hebrew: Intermediate reading, writing, speaking.
Yiddish: Intermediate reading, writing, speaking.
Italian: Working.