

Aliza Luft

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, 2016 —
Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles

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: How 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. "Unmaking Race, Making Nation? Symbolic Power and the Failure to Construct New Social Categories in Rwanda." *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.
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. "[Religion in Vichy France: How Meso-Level Actors Contribute to Authoritarian Legitimation.](#)" *European Journal of Sociology*. 61(1): 67-101.
- 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. "Citizen Reporting as Social Control." *American Journal of Sociology*.
- 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

- 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. "Killing in the Name: How Shifts in Social Perception Mediate Cognitive Responses to Violence."

Luft, Aliza, with Emily LeRoux-Rutledge and Jessica Corsi. "Can the law prevent media stereotyping that contributes to violence? The contemporary refugee crisis as a case study."

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

- 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
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CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2019 "Mobilizing For and Against Violence In Pursuit of Social Justice." With Dana Moss. ASA Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements
- 2018 "Charles Tilly, 20 Years-on." Social Science History Association. November 8-11. Phoenix, Arizona.
- 2018 Author-Meets-Critics, "Revolutionizing Repertoires: The Rise of Populist Mobilization in Peru." By Robert S. Jansen. Social Science History Association. November 8-11. Phoenix, Arizona.
- 2018 "The Politics of Memory & Memory's Influence on Politics." Social Science History Association. November 8-11. Phoenix, Arizona.
- 2017 "Archives in the Construction of History: Critical Perspectives Emerging from Historical-Sociological Archival Research." Social Science History Association. Nov. 2-5. Montreal, QC.
- 2017 New Developments in Contemporary Theory. ASA Theory Section. August 12-15. Montreal, QC.
- 2016 "Unpacking the Relationship between Social Boundaries and Political Violence: Four Approaches." Social Science History Association. November 17-20. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 "Collective Action and Social Relations in Contexts of Violence." Social Science History Association. November 6-9. Toronto, CA.
- 2014 "Shifts in Racial Classification: Self-identification and Ascription." Social Science History Association. November 6-9. Toronto, CA.

Invited Presentations

- 2021 Florida International University. Title TBD. April 2021.
- 2021 Duke University. Title TBD. April 2021.
- 2020 University of California, Irvine (Rescheduled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 University of Toronto (Rescheduled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 University of Southern California (Rescheduled due to COVID-19).
- 2020 Yale Political Violence and Its Legacies Workshop (Canceled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 "Deciding to Kill or Defecting to Save?" University of California, Berkeley. February 4. Berkeley, CA.
- 2018 "How Social Perception Mediates Moral Judgment in Genocide." University of Chicago, Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society. October 12. Chicago, IL.
- 2018 "Wartime Defection: Resistance and Rescue in Genocide." National Endowment for the Humanities Series, Queensborough College. April 12. Queens, NY.
- 2018 "Moral Judgment and Decision-Making in Genocide." Notre Dame. April 20. South Bend, IN
- 2017 "Decision-making in genocide: Explaining behavior variation at the micro and meso-levels of participation," University of Arizona, November 11. Tucson, AZ.

- 2017 "Democracy At Risk? A Forum For Exploring Lessons of the Holocaust." Facing History and Ourselves. June 29. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2017 "Behavioral Variation at the Micro-Level of Participation in Genocide." Yale University. April 24. New Haven, CT.
- 2017 "Theorizing Behavioral Variation in Genocide and Opportunities for Intervention." American Bar Foundation. March 1-2. Chicago, IL.
- 2017 "The Sounds of Silence: Explaining French Bishops' Support for the Statut des Juifs." Northwestern University. March 3. Evanston, IL.
- 2016 "Holocaust Pedagogy for the 21st Century." Lessons and Legacies Conference on the Holocaust: The Fourteenth Biennial Lessons and Legacies Conference, sponsored by the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern University. November 3-5. Claremont, CA.
- 2016 "A Bourdieusian Approach to Explaining the Rise of Religious Nationalism in France, 1940-1942." Politics and Protest Workshop, CUNY Graduate Center. April 7. New York, NY.
- 2016 "When the Personal Becomes Professional: A Sociologist Reflects on Teaching About the Holocaust." March 16. Jacksonville, IL.
- 2015 "Explaining French Bishops' Support for the Statut des Juifs." United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. June 22-25. Washington, DC.
- 2015 "The Unique Experiences of Women in the Holocaust." Columbia University. April 15. New York, NY.
- 2015 "Explaining French Bishops' Support for the Statut des Juifs." Young Scholars in Social Movements Conference. May 1. Notre Dame, IN.
- 2014 "100 years since the Armenian Genocide, 70 years since the Holocaust, 20 years since Rwanda." Harvard Kennedy School, Carr Center for Human Rights. April 27. Cambridge, MA.
- 2014 "Participation and Resistance in Genocides." Confronting Evil in Individuals and Societies. Harvard University with Project Zero and Facing History and Ourselves (Video). April 11. Cambridge, MA.
- 2014 "Boundary Crossing in High-Risk Contexts: From Killing to Saving in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide." XS Sociology Workshop, Columbia University. February 26. New York, NY.
- 2012 "The Holocaust and the Catholic Church in France." 3rd annual 'Ouisconsin' Alumni Association dinner. November 13. Paris, FR.

Conference Presentations

- 2020 "Theorizing Morality: How Situational Contexts and Social Perceptions Influence Judgment." Annual Meeting of the 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." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 12-15. Montreal, QC.
- 2017 The Spirit of Resistance: Explaining Lower Clergy and Laity Activism in the Creation of Témoignage Chrétien." Social Movements and Protest: Nonviolent Strategies and the State. San Diego State University. May 5-6. San Diego, CA.

- 2016 "Normalizing Violence: Bourdieu, Theories of Socio-historical Change, and the Relationship between Church and State in France during the Holocaust." States and Society Network, Social Science History Association. November 17-20. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 "Explaining Behavioral Variation in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 22-25. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 "Toward a Dynamic Theory of Action at the Micro-Level of Genocide: Killing, Desistance, and Saving in 1994 Rwanda." Revisiting Remaking Modernity: New Voices in Comparative-Historical Sociology. American Sociological Association Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology Mini-Conference. August 21. Northwestern University. Evanston, IL.
- 2015 "Mass Violence as Contentious Politics: The Case of Rwanda's Genocide." American Sociological Association Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements Mini-Conference. August 20-21. Northwestern University. Evanston, IL.
- 2015 "Women and Religion: Considering Religion in Research on Intersectionality." Social Theory Forum. April 17-19. Boston, MA.
- 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.
- 2015 "Religion Also Matters." Eastern Sociological Society. February 26-March 1. New York, NY.
- 2015 "Behavioral Variation in the 1994 Rwandan Genocide." International Studies Association. February 17-20. New Orleans, LA.
- 2014 "Political Defections in Violent Contexts: French Bishops During the Holocaust." States and Society Network, Social Science History Association. November 6-9. Toronto, CA.
- 2014 "Religion Also Matters." Religion Network, Social Science History Association. November 6-9. Toronto, CA.
- 2014 "Explaining French Bishops' Support for the Statut des Juifs." 19th annual Association for the Study of Nationalities World Convention. April 24-26. New York, NY.
- 2014 "Boundary Crossing in High-Risk Contexts." Race and Ethnicity Working Group, University of Wisconsin, Madison. February 11. Madison, WI.
- 2013 "When the Bishops said "No": Religion and Resistance in France during the Holocaust." Religion Network, Social Science History Association. November 21-24. Chicago, IL.
- 2013 "Religion and Resistance in High-Risk Contexts." Annual Meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. November 7-10. Boston, MA.
- 2012 "Processes of Alignment and Perpetrator Motivation in the Rwandan Genocide." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 16-20. Denver, CO.

Other

- 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

- ASA Theory Section, Council Member. August 2018-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 Board: *Sociological Theory*.

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

- 2020- Co-organizer (with O. Lizardo, D. Longbear-Rodriguez, M. Gaddis, D. Chowdhury): Race and Violence Colloquium
- 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
- 2016-2018 Reader, Political Sociology Field Exam
- 2016-2018 Reader, Sociology of Gender Field Exam

Students Supervised

Ana Gonzales (Undergraduate Honors)
Katherine Amy Linder (Undergraduate Honors)
Franklin Acevedo (Undergraduate Honors)
Haoran Li (Undergraduate Honors)
Alexis Coopersmith (MA, Chair)
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)
Abraham Calderon (Dissertation, Committee)
Jessica Huerta (Dissertation, Committee)
Antwann Simpkins (Dissertation, Committee)
Corey O'Malley (Dissertation, Committee)

Other Professional Service

- 2017 Founding member, "We Stand With Our Students," a network of allies and consolidation of resources for faculty to support students at risk of harm by the current U.S. administration.

- 2013 Consultant, United States Agency for International Development.
Policy report: *Analysis of LGBTQI legal and social status in the sub-region of the Balkans.*
- 2011 Editor's Assistant, *Reconstructing Rwanda: State Building and Human Rights after Mass Violence*. Eds., Scott Straus and Lars Waldorf. University of Wisconsin-Madison Press.
- 2011 Consultant, Southern African Development Community.
Policy report: *Analysis of political parties' constitutions, policy documents and manifestos in the SADC region from a gender perspective*. With Inkeri Von Hase. SADC-PF.
- 2010 Research Assistant, Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, United Nations, NY
- 2009 Transitional Justice Database Project, UW Madison
- 2008 Montreal Institute for Genocide Studies
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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.