

Last updated: May 1, 2026

Benjamin Hofman Bradlow

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Academic appointments

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

- 2023- Assistant Professor of Sociology and International Affairs
School of Public and International Affairs and Department of Sociology
Associate / Affiliate Faculty:
High Meadows Environmental Institute
Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment (*core faculty*)
M.S. Chadha Center for Global India
Program in Urban Studies
Program in African Studies (*member of Executive Committee*)
Program in Latin American Studies
Brazil LAB (*member of Steering Committee*)
Africa World Initiative
Metropolis Initiative
- 2022-2023 Associate Research Scholar, Department of Sociology

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

- 2021-2022 Lecturer, Department of Sociology
- 2020-2021 Postdoctoral Fellow, Weatherhead Scholars Program,
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs
- 2019-2020 Visiting Democracy Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and
Innovation, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Additional Research Appointments

- 2026-2027 Member, “Emerging Forces in Global Political Economy” Theme, School of Social
Science, Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton, NJ)
- 2026- CIFAR Fellow, “Humanity’s Urban Future” Research Program, Canadian Institute For
Advanced Research
- 2024- Visiting Research Associate, Southern Center for Inequality Studies, University of
Witwatersrand (Johannesburg, South Africa)
- 2024-2026 CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar, “Humanity’s Urban Future” Research Program,
Canadian Institute For Advanced Research
- 2022- Affiliate Scholar, Climate Social Science Network, Brown University
- 2020-2022 Affiliate Scholar, Weatherhead Research Cluster on Comparative Inequality and
Inclusion, Harvard University
- 2016-2017 Visiting Research Associate, Center for Metropolitan Studies, University of São Paulo
- 2015-2018 Visiting Research Associate, Public Affairs Research Institute (Johannesburg, South Africa)

Education

Brown University, Providence, RI

- 2014-2020 Ph.D. Sociology
Committee: Patrick Heller (chair), Nitsan Chorev, Peter Evans (UC-Berkeley), John Logan

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

- 2011-2013 M.C.P. Masters in City Planning

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

- 2004-2008 B.A. History, *with high honors*

Awards

- 2025 Winner, Charles Tilly Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award, American
Sociological Association — Collective Behavior & Social Movements Section
- Winner, Best Book Award, Latin American Studies Association — Subnational Politics and
Society Section

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- Honorable Mention, Best Book Award, American Sociological Association — Sociology of Development Section
- Short List, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award, American Sociological Association — Political Sociology Section
- Honorable Mention, Faculty Article Award, American Sociological Association — Sociology of Development Section
- 2023 Winner, Faculty Article Award, American Sociological Association — Sociology of Development Section
- Top 10 Finalist, Jane Addams Best Article Award, American Sociological Association — Community and Urban Sociology Section
- 2022 Honorable Mention, Charles Tilly Best Article Award, American Sociological Association, Comparative Historical Sociology Section
- Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard University, Office of Undergraduate Education
- 2021 Winner, Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award, American Sociological Association — Comparative Historical Sociology Section
- Winner, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Dissertation Award, American Sociological Association — Collective Behavior & Social Movements Section
- Honorable Mention, Sérgio Buarque de Holanda Prize for Best Dissertation in the Social Sciences, Latin American Studies Association — Brazil Section
- 2020 Early Career Workshop Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
- 2011 Top 200 Young South Africans (civil society), *Mail & Guardian* newspaper

External Grants

- 2026-2027 Open Society Foundations, “The Climate Factory in the Global South,” with Imraan Valodia (University of Witwatersrand) (\$264,776.84)
- 2026- Canadian Institute For Advanced Research, CIFAR Fellow, “Humanity’s Urban Future” Program (CAD \$30,000 annually)
- 2025-2027 Canadian Institute For Advanced Research, Catalyst Fund Grant, “Biofuels or Batteries: Dual Pathways for Decarbonizing Brazil’s Auto Sector,” with Haotian Wang (Rice University) (CAD \$50,000)
- 2024-2026 Canadian Institute For Advanced Research, Catalyst Fund Grant, “Geopolitical competition and attitudes towards green transitions in the Global South,” with Nicole Wu (University of Hong Kong) (CAD \$50,000)
- 2024-2026 Canadian Institute For Advanced Research, CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar, “Humanity’s Urban Future” Program (CAD \$100,000)
- 2023-2025 Climate Social Science Network, Research Grant, “Just Industrial Transitions in the Global South: The Case of Auto Manufacturing” (\$10,000)
- 2022-2024 Climate Social Science Network, Research Grant, “Just Industrial Transitions in the Global South: The Case of Auto Manufacturing” (\$15,000)
- 2019-2020 American Council of Learned Societies, Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$38,000)
- 2018-2020 National Science Foundation, Sociology Program, Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award #1802543: “The Governance of Mega-Cities” (\$11,970)
- 2017 Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, US Study & Research Award (\$11,500)
- 2016 Brazilian Studies Association, Brazil Initiation Scholarship (\$1,500)

Book

- 2024 *Urban Power: Democracy and Inequality in São Paulo and Johannesburg*. Princeton University Press (Princeton Studies in Global and Comparative Sociology).
- *Winner, Charles Tilly Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award, American Sociological Association — Collective Behavior & Social Movements Section*
- *Winner, Best Book Award, Latin American Studies Association — Subnational Politics and Society Section*
- *Honorable Mention, Best Book Award, American Sociological Association — Sociology of Development Section*

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**Short List, Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award, American Sociological Association — Political Sociology Section*

**Finalist, Foreword INDIES, Political and Social Sciences Category*

**Reviews: American Journal of Sociology, British Journal of Sociology, Choice, Contemporary Sociology, European Journal of Sociology, International Journal of Urban and Regional Research, Journal of the American Planning Association, Journal of Development Studies, Perspectives on Politics, Social Forces, The Conversation*

**Author-Meets-Critics, Social Science Historical Association 2024*

**Lists: “Top 75 Community College Titles,” by Choice, April 2025 issue*

“Must Read Books About Cities” by The New Urban Order

“11 Books About Urban Africa in 2024” by This Week in Africa

“What We Are Reading Today” by Arab News

**Podcasts: Our Long Walk, New Books Network, Aufhebunga Bunga: The Global Politics Podcast at the End of the End of History, The Annex, Urban Affairs Review Remixed, In Pursuit of Development*

**Graduate seminar virtual visits: UCLA (Global and Transnational Sociology), Brown (Social Movements and Political Change), MIT (Frontiers of Urban Political Economy)*

Journal articles (^undergraduate student)

- OnlineFirst “The ‘Power to Pollute’ and ‘Post-Neoliberal’ Climate Finance,” with ^Aishwarya Swamidurai. *Socio-Economic Review*. DOI: 10.1093/ser/mwag015
- 2025 “A Processual Framework for Understanding the Rise of the Populist Right: The Case of Brazil (2013-2018),” with Tomás Gold. *Social Forces*. 104:1, 21-43.
- 2024 “Globalizing green industrial policy through technology transfers”, with Alexandros Kentikelenis. *Nature Sustainability*. 7: 685-687.
- 2024 “Urban social movements and local state capacity.” *World Development*. 173: 106415.
**Honorable Mention, Faculty Article Award, American Sociological Association — Sociology of Development Section*
**Cited in the IPCC Special Report on Cities and Climate Change*
- 2023 “The role of civil society organizations in the COVID-19 response across the Global South: A multinational, qualitative study,” with Adam Levine, Anna Park, Anindita Adhikari, Maria Carrines P. Alejandria, Maria F. Lopez Portillo, Salma Mutwafy, Ieva Zumbyte, Patrick Heller. *PLOS Global Public Health*. 3:9, e0002341.
- 2023 “Public Housing Spillovers: Evidence From South Africa.” with William Violette and Stefano Polloni. *Journal of Urban Economics*. 134: 103527.
- 2022 “Embeddedness and cohesion: regimes of urban public goods distribution.” *Theory and Society*. 51:1, 117-144.
**Winner, Faculty Article Award, American Sociological Association — Sociology of Development Section*
**Honorable Mention, Charles Tilly Best Article Award, American Sociological Association — Comparative Historical Sociology Section*
**Top 10 Finalist, Jane Addams Best Article Award, American Sociological Association — Community and Urban Sociology Section*
**Early Career Workshop Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics*
- 2021 “Weapons Of The Strong: Elite Resistance and the Neo-Apartheid City.” *City & Community*. 20:3, 191-211.
- 2020 “The Long March: Deep Democracy in Cross-National Perspective”, with Mohammad Ali Kadivar and Adaner Usmani. *Social Forces*. 98:3, 1311-1338.
- 2019 “Brazil’s Political Peripheries and the Authoritarian Style”, *Spotlight On “Political Geographies of Right-Wing Populism.” International Journal of Urban & Regional Research*. September.
- 2015 “City learning from below: urban poor federations and knowledge generation through transnational, horizontal exchange.” *International Development Planning Review*. 37:2, 129-142.

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- 2011 “Housing, Institutions, Money: The failure and promise of human settlements policy and practice in South Africa,” with Joel Bolnick and Clifford Shearing. *Environment & Urbanization*, 23:1, 267-76.
- 2011 “Out of the Garden of Eden: Beyond the Rights-Based Agenda in the Urban Sector” *Sustainable Development Law & Policy*, 11:1, 47-49.

Book chapters

- In Press “African cities, with a view from Johannesburg.” In Ryan Centner and Leonard Nevarez, eds. *Oxford Handbook of Urban Sociology*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- 2015 “Quiet Conflict: Institutional Change, Informal Settlement Upgrading, and Formalized Partnerships Between Local Authorities and Urban Social Movements in South Africa.” In Peter Herrle, Astrid Ley, and Josefine Fokdal, eds. *From Local Action to Global Networks: Housing the Urban Poor*. New York, NY: Routledge. Series on Global Urban Studies. 87-105.
- 2015 “A Democratic Infrastructure for Johannesburg”. In Toni L. Griffin, Ariella Cohen, and David Maddox, eds. *The Just City Essays: 26 Visions for Urban Equity, Inclusion and Opportunity*. New York, NY: The J. Max Bond Center on Design for the Just City at the Spitzer School of Architecture, City College of New York, Next City and The Nature of Cities. 63-66.
*Selected as one of three books for all incoming undergraduates at Stanford in 2019

Under review and under preparation

- “Energetic Affordances: Climate Projects and Industrial Transformation,”
revise and resubmit at *American Sociological Review*
- “Green Geopolitics from the Global South: Public Opinion and Foreign Direct Investment in Brazil’s Automobile Sector,” with Nicole Wu, pre-analysis plan registered and survey completed
- “Territories and Terraforming of Green Industrial Transitions,” under preparation
- “Carbon states and electrostates in Africa: Comparing South Africa and Morocco,” invited book chapter for eds. Lucio Baccaro, Daniel Driscoll, and Mark Blyth, *Greening Growth Models*, Oxford University Press, under revision
- “The Political Economy of Emergent Energy Transitions in the Global South,” special issue of *Global Environmental Politics*, co-editing with Navroz Dubash
- The Climate Hinge: Green Industrial Transitions in the Global South*, book manuscript under preparation

Reviews

- 2026 Review of *The Price Is Wrong: Why Capitalism Won’t Save the Planet*. By Brett Christophers. London, UK: Verso Books, 2024. *British Journal of Sociology*. 77(1): 170-172.
- 2025 Review of *Mobilizing at the Urban Margins: Citizenship and Patronage Politics in Post-Dictatorial Chile*. By Simón Escoffier. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2023. *Perspectives on Politics*. 23(3): 1178-1180.
- 2025 Review of *Distancing the Past: Racism as History in South African Schools*. By Chana Teegeer. New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2024. *Social Forces*. 104:1, e13.
- 2023 Review of *They Eat Our Sweat: Transport Labor, Corruption, and Everyday Survival in Urban Nigeria*. By Daniel E. Agbiboa. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 2022. *Journal of Law and Political Economy*. 4:1, 728-30.
- 2019 Review of *Democratizing Urban Development: Community Organizations for Housing Across the United States and Brazil*. By Maureen Donaghy. Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 2019. *International Journal of Urban & Regional Research*. 43:5, 1007-8.

Policy reports, case studies, and other academic writing

- 2025 “BRICS and the Green Industrialization of the Future”, with Alexandros Kentikelenis. Plataforma CIPÓ Policy Brief. 1:4, 1-31.
- 2025 “From Factory Floor to Climate Future: The Social Life of ‘Climate Projects’ in Brazil and South Africa”, *Environmental Sociology News* (ASA section on Environmental Sociology) Spring 2025.

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- 2022 “Public Action and the Pandemic: The Role of Civil Society in Shaping State Responses”, With Anindita Adhikari, Maria Carrines P. Alejandria, Patrick Heller, Adam C. Levine, Maria F. Lopez-Portillo, Salma Mutwafy, Seth Stulen, Ieva Zumbyte. Center for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University.
- 2020 “Controlling a Novel Coronavirus: Comparative Policymaking and An Uncertain World, South Africa,” with J.N. Ziegler. Masters in Public Policy Program Teaching Case, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University.
- 2019 “Whither A Global Wave Of Populism: A Conversation With Edwin Ackerman and Marco Garrido”, with Johnnie Anne Lotesta. *Global and Transnational Sociology Section Newsletter*, Fall 2019, 17-22.
- 2016 “A rightward shift, but not quite a shock: Municipal elections in Brazil and South Africa”. 28 October. *Policy Trajectories: Blog of the American Sociological Association’s Section on Comparative and Historical Sociology*
- 2017 “Grassroots Reform in the Global South,” with Anindita Adhikari, Patrick Heller, Rehan Rafay Jamil, Kristine Li, Chantel Pheiffer, Andrew Schrank, and Marcus Walton. USAID Research and Innovation Grants Working Paper Series.
- 2011 “Inclusion: A Sustainability Agenda for African City Growth”. *Perspectives: Political Analysis and Commentary from Africa*. Heinrich Boll Foundation. 3(12): 6-10.
- 2010 “Towards A Pro-Poor ‘Agenda for Change’: Opportunities and Experiences of Slum Policy and Practice in Freetown, Sierra Leone”. Y-Care International. London. 1-36.
* Includes a foreword by Bowenson F. Philips, Chief Administrator of Freetown City Council

Internal Grants and Awards

- 2025-2028 “The Climate Change and Development Faculty Initiative,” Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, (\$75,000), PIs: Benjamin Bradlow and Navroz Dubash
- 2025-2026 “Green industrial transitions in the Global South: Insights from the auto sector in Brazil and South Africa,” University Committee on Research in the Humanities and Social Sciences, Princeton University, (\$7,400), PI: Benjamin Bradlow
- 2025-2026 “Green industrial transitions in the Global South: The case of the auto sector in Greater Chennai, Tamil Nadu,” M.S. Chadha Center for Global India, Princeton University, (\$75,000), PI: Benjamin Bradlow
- 2024-2026 “Towards equitable, climate-adaptive, and zero-carbon infrastructure transitions in metropolitan regions in India”, M.S. Chadha Center for Global India, Princeton University, (\$150,000), PIs: Elie Bou-Zeid, Benjamin Bradlow, Ning Lin, Gabriele Villarini
- 2021 Urban Research Grant, Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative
- 2019 “Research Matters!” speaker, Brown University Graduate School
- 2019 Teaching fellow, Brown University Department of Sociology
- 2017 Institute at Brown for Environment and Society, Summer Research Grant
- 2016 Brown University Office of Global Engagement Graduate Research Fellowship
- 2015-2017 National Science Foundation — Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship, Graduate Program in Development & Inequality
- 2015-2016 Convener, Watson Institute Graduate Program in Development Workshop in “Urban Inequalities in the Global South”
- 2012 Harold Horowitz Student Research Fellowship, awarded by MIT School of Architecture and Planning
- 2012 MIT Public Service Center Paul & Priscilla Gray Internship Funding
- 2011 MIT Public Service Center Grant
- 2011 Leedom Fellowship, awarded by Swarthmore College for graduate study
- 2008 Paul H. Beik Prize, awarded by Swarthmore College Department of History for best thesis completed by a history major
- 2008 Drew Pearson Prize, awarded by Swarthmore College for excellence in journalism
- 2007 Eugene M. Lang Summer Initiative Grant, awarded by Swarthmore College

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Public writing

- 2025 “Coordinating Tamil Nadu,” with Mausam Kumar and Vishnu Venugopalan. August 14. *Phenomenal World*.
- “The growing Brics divide between carbon nations and electrostates,” July 23. *Financial Times*.
- 2024 “Transfer and Transition: Technology transfer and green industrial transformation,” with Alexandros Kentikelenis. December 18. *Phenomenal World*.
- “Letter: How American industrial policy can avoid corporate capture,” March 20. *Financial Times*
- 2023 “Letter: Why US should take pride in Brazil’s democratic vote,” 26 June. *Financial Times*.
- “How Brazil Can Prevent an Authoritarian Resurgence,” with Mohammad Ali Kadivar. January 12. *Foreign Affairs*.
- 2022 “The party question: politics in South Africa’s urban informal settlements.” 21 April. *Africa Is A Country*.
- “Letter: South Africa’s leaders should learn from Tutu’s township struggle.” 11 January. *Financial Times*.
- 2021 “How Johannesburg’s suburban elites maintain apartheid inequities.” 17 October. *The Conversation*.
- “Letter: Give federal affordable housing fund a bigger role.” 14 September. *Financial Times*.
- “Why funding America’s local governments could have a global impact.” 26 January. *Atlantic Council*.
- 2020 “Brazilians firmly rejected many local candidates their president had backed.” 9 December. *The Monkey Cage (Washington Post)*.
- “Subsidies for minibus taxis in South Africa must prioritise what passengers need,” with Herrie Schalekamp. 12 November. *The Conversation*.
- “Why operational subsidies are key to reforming South Africa's minibus taxi sector.” 11 October. *The Conversation*.
- “Responding to global crises with low-carbon social housing”, *Focal Points* series on “Room Temperature: Housing in Crisis.” *Eurozine*.
- *Translated into Estonian in Vikerkaar, June 2020.*
- “Letter: Sanders has a broad appeal that crosses divides.” 13 January. *Financial Times*.
- 2019 “One Way to Make the Green New Deal Actually Happen: a Super-Ministry.” 26 June. *CityLab (Bloomberg)*.
- 2018 “Bolsonaro’s anger won over working-class Brazilians, but his presidency may betray them.” 21 December. *The Conversation*.
- “Letter: Self-styled defender of the Paris agreement is facing blowback.” 6 December. *Financial Times*.
- “Trickle-Down Authoritarianism.” 5 November. *Boston Review*.
- “Letter: Evidence against Lula was inadequate.” 9 April. *Financial Times*.
- “South Africa’s ruling party recalled President Zuma. But the ANC faces 3 big challenges.” 14 February. *The Monkey Cage (Washington Post)*.
- “‘Let them occupy!’ The struggle for housing in Brazil and South Africa.” 12 February. *Africa Is A Country*.
- 2017 “Somerville’s turn to ‘sewer socialism’” 18 November. *CommonWealth*.
- “Letter: Public sector must protect communities.” 25 October. *Financial Times*.
- “Letter: Danger of new localism driving urban inequality.” 25 July. *Financial Times*.
- “The threat to South Africa’s Democracy Goes Deeper than State Capture”. 20 June. *The Conversation*.
- 2016 “Letter: Growth and equality can be promoted together.” 10 August. *Financial Times*.
- “Letter: Hotline bling.” 16 July. *The Economist*.
- 2013 “Letter: Founding Myths.” 28 October. *The New Yorker*.
- 2003 “Letter: ‘Piercing whine’ of criticism set to follow Bush.” 1 May. *Financial Times*.

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Media interviews

- 2026 Podcast interview on *In Pursuit of Development*
- 2025 Podcast interview on *New Books Network*, Podcast interview on *Our Long Walk*, Podcast interview on *Aufhebung Bunga: The Global Politics Podcast at the End of the End of History*; Podcast interview on *The Annex*; Podcast interview on *Urban Affairs Review Remixed*; Quoted in *E&E News (Politico)*
- 2024 Quoted in *Heatmap News*
- 2023 Podcast interview on *Sur-Urbano*
- 2022 Quoted in the *Financial Times*
- 2021 Podcast interview on *Future Cities Africa*, Radio interview on *PowerFM* (South Africa)
- 2020 Radio interview on *PowerFM* (South Africa)
- 2019 Quoted in *The Boston Globe*, *Somerville Journal*
- 2018 Radio interview on *Radio Open Source* (WBUR-Boston), Podcast interview on *Aufhebung Bunga: The Global Politics Podcast at the End of the End of History*, TV interview on CGTN America
- 2017 Radio interview on *PowerFM* (South Africa), Radio interview on *CapeTalk* (South Africa)
- 2016 Quoted in *The Guardian*

Review activity

Editorial Board:

Theory and Social Inquiry, 2024-

Journals:

American Journal of Sociology; *American Sociological Review*; *British Journal of Political Science*; *Bulletin of Latin American Research*; *City & Community*; *CITY*; *Comparative Politics*; *Development Southern Africa*; *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space*; *Environment & Urbanization*; *Housing, Theory & Society*; *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*; *International Development Planning Review*; *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*; *Journal of Latin American Studies*; *Journal of Urban Affairs*; *Journal of Urbanism*; *Latin American Politics and Society*; *Latin American Research Review* (in Portuguese); *npj Urban Sustainability*; *Social Forces*; *Social Problems*; *Sociology of Development*; *Theory and Society*; *Theory and Social Inquiry*; *Urban Affairs Review*; *Urban Studies*; *World Politics*

Books:

University of California Press; Cambridge University Press; University of Chicago Press; Stanford University Press; University of Texas Press; Polity; Routledge

Grants and Awards:

Rockefeller Foundation 100 Resilient Cities; MIT Public Service Center; University of Johannesburg Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Awards

Curriculum Reviews:

Namibia University of Science and Technology — Integrated Land Management Institute

Policy Reports:

International Council on Clean Transportation; United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right To Housing

Invited Presentations

- 2026 Franklin & Marshall College, International Studies Seminar Series “Democracy Around The World”
Drexel University, Dornsife School of Public Health, Urban Health Collaborative Speaker Series
Dartmouth College, South Asian Studies, book discussant of Ijlal Naqvi, “Access To Power: Electricity and the Infrastructural State in Pakistan”
ASA Political Sociology Section, webinar panelist, “Lessons From Global Resistance Against Authoritarian Regimes”
- 2025 Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group, Calcutta, India, webinar series on “BRICS and the Challenge of Geopolitics in a Globalized World”
Urban Housing Practitioners Hub, webinar series on “Housing 2.0: New Perspectives for Latin America and the Caribbean”

- Harvard University and CIFAR, “New Territorialities of Governance in the Anthropocene” Conference, Panelist, “Spatializing the Political Economy of Climate-Energy Transitions”
- University of Vienna, The Challenge of Urban Futures, “Hot Off The Press” Webinar
- Princeton University, Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment, David Bradford Energy and Environmental Policy Seminar
- University of Wisconsin, Madison, Keynote Speaker, “Wisconsin School of Economic Sociology” Annual Meeting
- University of São Paulo, Department of Political Science, Department of Sociology, and Center for Metropolitan Studies
- The New School, African Studies Initiative Workshop
- Colby College, Department of Sociology Colloquium
- Boston College, Department of Sociology Colloquium
- 2024 Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Workshop on the Political Economy of the Climate Crisis
- Tufts University, Department of Sociology Colloquium
- Boston University, Initiative On Cities, Urban Salon
- First Publics, Panelist, “Engaging Elections: The Politics of Teaching as Public Sociology”
- University of Witwatersrand, “Faces of the City” Seminar, Gauteng City-Region Observatory, SARCHI Chair in Spatial Analysis & City Planning, Wits City Institute, Center on Urban and Built Environment Studies, and Public Affairs Research Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa
- University of Witwatersrand, Southern Center for Inequality Studies, Johannesburg, South Africa
- University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Sociology, Seminar for Comparative Social Analysis
- Swarthmore College, International Relations Club (co-sponsored by Departments of Environmental Studies, History, Sociology and Anthropology, and Political Science)
- Northwestern University, Comparative & Historical Social Sciences Workshop
- Northwestern University, Department of Sociology Colloquium
- Brown University, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Panelist, “Three Decades of South African Democracy: Promises, Perils, Potential”
- Johns Hopkins University, Problem Solving Sociology Initiative, Panelist, “The 2nd Annual Solving Climate Change Panel”
- Princeton University, Department of Sociology, Panelist, “Long-Term Social Change and Today’s Sociological Agenda”
- Princeton University, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Panelist, “Global Existential Challenges: Environmental Challenges and Innovations”
- 2023 Yale Law School, Center for Private Law, Seminar in Private Law
- Princeton University, Fung Global Fellows Seminar
- Harvard University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Climate in the Curriculum Faculty Retreat on Environmental Justice
- University of São Paulo, Department of Sociology, Panelist, “New Directions in Economic Sociology”
- Princeton University, School of Public and International Affairs
- University of California, Berkeley, Program in Political Economy
- 2022 Princeton University, Brazil LAB
- Princeton University, Princeton-São Paulo Partnership, “Economy, Justice, and Society” Workshop
- Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Loeb Fellows Forum
- Brown University, Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance, Panelist, “BRICS Neoliberalism: Past and Future?”
- Northwestern University, Problem Solving Sociology Initiative
- Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Guest lecture to course on “Urban

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- 2021 Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Developing World”
University of Toronto, Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy
University of São Paulo, Center for Metropolitan Studies, discussant (*in Portuguese*) for public seminar on ed. Eduardo Marques, *The Politics of Incremental Progressivism: Governments, Governances and Urban Policy Changes in São Paulo*
National Treasury of South Africa, Southern African Transportation Conference
Johns Hopkins University, Department of Sociology
Queen’s College, City University of New York, Guest lecture to course on “Global Poverty and Inequality”
Barnard College, Columbia University, Guest lecture to course on “Urban Politics in Latin America”
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Latin America Working Group
Harvard University, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Brazil Studies Program (co-sponsored by Center for African Studies)
- 2020 Boston University, Department of Sociology
Harvard University, Graduate School of Design, Guest lecture to course on “Urban Governance and the Politics of Planning in the Developing World”
Harvard University, Weatherhead Forum, Panelist, “Pandemics Past and Present: Assessing the Economic, Political, and Social Implications”
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies & Planning
Guest lecture to course on “Forms Of Urban Informality”
- 2019 Cornell University, Department of Sociology and Center for the Study of Inequality
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies & Planning, City Infrastructure Equity Lab
Columbia University, Columbia World Projects Workshop on “Urban Ethics: Definitions and Design”
Harvard University, Politics and Social Change Workshop
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies & Planning
Guest lecture to course on “Forms Of Urban Informality”
- 2018 University of Witwatersrand, Gauteng City-Region Observatory and Public Affairs Research Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies & Planning, PhD Workshop in International Development
- 2017 University of Witwatersrand, Gauteng City-Region Observatory and Public Affairs Research Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa
University of Witwatersrand, SARCHI Chair in Spatial Analysis & City Planning, Johannesburg, South Africa
University of São Paulo, Center for Metropolitan Studies, Brazil (*in Portuguese*)
- 2015 Public Affairs Research Institute, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011 Smithsonian Cooper-Hewitt National Museum of Design, Design Exchange Panel, United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY
- 2010 Opening address to Ford Foundation Housing Convening, Johannesburg, South Africa
Africa University of Western Cape, Cape Town, South Africa

Conference Presentations

- American Sociological Association: 2026, 2025, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016
Sociology of Climate Change Pre-Conference: 2025
Comparative Historical Sociology Section Mini-Conference: 2025, 2018, 2016
Sociology of Development Section Mini-Conference: 2024
Community & Urban Sociology Section Mini-Conference: 2019
- Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics: 2025; 2024, 2023; 2020
- Social Science History Association: 2024, 2023, 2021, 2020 (cancelled due to covid), 2019, 2016, 2015
- American Political Science Association: 2022, 2018
Short Course: “Building Sustainable Cities” 2024
Short Course: “Political Mobilization in 21st Century Cities” 2022
- Yale University Climate Justice Workshop: 2025

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Brazilian Studies Association: 2022

Network for Latin American Political Economy (REPAL): 2021

Latin American Studies Association: 2020, 2019

Comparative Urbanism: Global Perspectives, Georgia State University: 2019 (*received travel grant*)

Mistra Urban Futures: Realising Just Cities Annual Conference: 2018 (discussant)

Academic Service

- 2024-2027 Elected Council Member, ASA Global and Transnational Sociology Section
- Committee Chair, Best Graduate Student Article Award, 2026
 - Committee Chair, Best Faculty Article Award, 2025
 - Organizer, panel on “Global and Transnational Sociology of Climate Change,” ASA annual meeting section session, 2025
- Elected Council Member, ASA Sociology of Development Section
- Committee Chair, Best Faculty Article Award, 2026
 - Committee Chair, Best Graduate Student Article Award, 2025
- 2024 Organizer, regular session on “Urban Issues,” ASA annual meeting, Program Committee
- 2023 Co-Organizer, panel on “Climate Change, Urban Inequality and the Future of Cities,” ASA annual meeting, Community and Urban Sociology Section
- 2022 Selection Committee, ASA Sociology of Development Section Best Book Award
- Selection Committee, ASA Comparative-Historical Section Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award
- Selection Committee, ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Dissertation Award
- Selection Committee, LASA Brazil Section Sérgio Buarque de Holanda Prize for Best Dissertation in the Social Sciences
- 2018-2019 Board Member, Mistra Urban Futures, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
- 2019 Co-Organizer, panel on “Urban Development in Comparative and Historical Perspective,” ASA annual meeting, Comparative-Historical Sociology Section
- 2018 Organizer, Roundtable sessions for ASA Section on Sociology of Development,
- 2015-2016 Elected Graduate Representative, Department of Sociology, Brown University
- 2013 MCP admissions committee, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning
- 2011-2013 Elected representative, MCP Program Committee, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning
- 2011-2013 Treasurer of UrbanAfrica interest group, MIT Department of Urban Studies & Planning
- 2005-2008 Writing Associate, Swarthmore College Writing Center

Courses Taught as Instructor of Record

Princeton University

- Sociology of Climate Change (undergraduate)
- Global Urbanization (undergraduate)
- Cities and Climate Change (graduate)
- Green Industrial Policy (graduate)

Harvard University

- Climate Change, Power and Global Inequality (undergraduate)
- Comparative Urban Political Economy (undergraduate)
- Sociology of Poverty (undergraduate)
- Sociology of Development (undergraduate)

Brown University

- Comparative Urban Political Economy (undergraduate)

Advising at Princeton University

Postdoctoral Fellows

- In Progress Mausam Kumar (Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment, SPIA)
- Yao Lu (Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow, Sociology)

Last updated: May 1, 2026

PhD Committees

In Progress Mohammed Rifqi Febrian (Science, Technology and Environmental Policy, SPIA), co-chair
Jack Markowitz (Science, Technology and Environmental Policy, SPIA), co-chair
Sebastián Rojas Cabral (Sociology)
Veronica Clevenstine (Sociology)
Yasemin Savas (Sociology)
Yunhan Wen (Sociology)
Neha Agarwal (Civil and Environmental Engineering, HMEI-STEP Fellow)
Godwin Obi (Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, HMEI-STEP Fellow)
Anita Zhang (Civil and Environmental Engineering, HMEI-STEP Fellow)
2024 Paul Nix (Science, Technology and Environmental Policy, SPIA), “The Emergence, Role, and Potential of U.S. Quasi-Governmental Organizations for Climate Governance”

Senior Theses

2027 Hannah Riggins (Public Affairs)
Rachael Wilson (Public Affairs)
2025 Gustavo Blanco Quiroga (Sociology), “Why Bolivia is Late to the Lithium Race”
Paola Moncada (Public Affairs), “From Pushback to Powerlines: Unpacking the Anatomy of Successful Stakeholder Collaboration in Energy Transmission Planning”
Paola Padilla (Public Affairs), “The Paradox of Meritocracy: Education, Human Capital Development, and Social Inequality in Singapore”
2024 Keelan Good (Sociology), “Artificial Unintelligence: The Persistent Investment in Autonomous Vehicles Despite Frequent Public Disasters”
Fiona Max (Sociology), “Ugler I Mosen: Demand-Side Climate Initiatives in a Petro-state”
Mark Rosario (Public Affairs), “A Tale of Two Towns: A Comparative Study of Affordable Housing Policy in Princeton and Montclair, New Jersey”
2023 Sloan Huebner (Sociology), “Show Me the Green: A Comparative Study of the Value Ascribed to Philadelphia Neighborhood Pocket Parks”
Angelica Qin (Sociology), “Chinatown Divided: A Relational Account of Asian Co-ethnic Gentrification in Flushing, Queens”
**Winner, Isidore Brown Thesis Prize (Best Senior Thesis in the Department of Sociology)*

Junior Paper

2025 Charley Rossi
2024 Gustavo Blanco
2023 Fiona Max; Delainey Whelan

External PhD Advising / Examination

In Progress Yuanhang Zhu (Sociology), Yale University
2024 Dhibhora Mufandaedza (Economics), School of Economics and Finance, University of Witwatersrand (South Africa), “The Political Economy of Political Regimes and Trade Flows: A Case of Zimbabwe, 2005-2020”

Service at Princeton University

2024-25 Chair, Urban Policy Certificate, MPA program, SPIA
Senior Thesis Prize and Honors Committee, SPIA
Sophomore advising, SPIA
Admissions Committee, MPA program, SPIA
Admissions Committee, STEP PhD program, SPIA
2023-24 Undergraduate Committee, Sociology
Senior Thesis Prize and Honors Committee, SPIA
Admissions Committee, MPP program, SPIA
Admissions Committee, Students In The Nation’s Service Initiative, SPIA
Field Advisor in International Development, MPA program, SPIA

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Additional Training

2024 Faculty Success Program, National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
2017 “Urban Institutions, Urban Inequalities” Summer University, Berlin, Germany
Convened by Humboldt University, Princeton University, University of São Paulo
2015 Sheridan Center Teaching Certificate, Brown University, Providence, RI
2015 Geographic Information Systems Institute, Brown University, Providence, RI

Professional Experience (Non-academic)

2009-2014 Deputy Manager (last position held), Secretariat, Shack/Slum Dwellers International,
Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa
2009 Multimedia Journalist, The Times (SA), Johannesburg, South Africa
2008 Get-Out-The-Vote Organizer, Barack Obama for America, South Philadelphia, PA
2008 Online Journalist, WHYY-NPR, Philadelphia, USA

Community Service

2024- Appointed Member, Participatory Budgeting Advisory Board, Civic Engagement
Commission, New York City, NY
2021-2022 Appointed Founding Trustee, Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Town of Arlington, MA
2020-2021 Appointed Member, Housing Plan Implementation Committee, Town of Arlington, MA
2017-2020 Elected Board Member (2x) and Appointed Negotiating Team Member for a Community
Benefits Agreement, Union Square Neighborhood Council, Somerville, MA

Public testimony

2022 Boston City Council, Committee on Ways and Means, hearing on municipal bonds,
affordable housing and community investment (at the invitation of the office of
Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune)
2021 Boston City Council, Committee on Post Audit and Oversight, hearing on green and social
bonds (at the invitation of the office of Councilor Michelle Wu)

Languages

Portuguese: fluent — C1 CEFR equivalent
Spanish: intermediate — B2 CEFR equivalent
French: beginner — B1 CEFR equivalent

Citizenship

Republic of South Africa, United States of America