

ALIZA LUFT

Department of Sociology
University of California, Los Angeles
207 Haines Hall, 375 Portola Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Email: aluft@soc.ucla.edu
Homepage: www.alizaluft.com

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

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Sociology; War and Violence; Collective Action and Social Movements; Race, Ethnicity, Religion, Gender; Comparative-Historical Sociology; Qualitative Methods; Sociological Theory.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

- 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.

In Submission

- 2016 Luft, Aliza. "Explaining French Bishops' Support for the *Statut des Juifs*."
- 2014 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Association for the Study of Nationalities.
 - 2016 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, American Sociological Association.

- 2015 Luft, Aliza. "The Contribution of Social Movement Theory to Understanding the Rwandan Genocide." (Revise and Resubmit, *Social Movement Studies*.)
- 2015 Luft, Aliza and Erik Schneiderhan. "Dangerous Durkheim: Emil Durkheim and the Armenian Genocide." (Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Classical Sociology*.)

Book Chapters, Reviews, and Encyclopedia Entries

- 2016 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*.
- 2015 Luft, Aliza. "Feminist/Women's Movements, East Africa." *The Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Gender and Sexuality Studies*, eds: Nancy Naples, Renee C. Hoogland, Maithree Wickramasinghe, & Angela Wong. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.
- 2015 Luft, Aliza. "LGBTI Movements, East 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.

In Preparation

- Luft, Aliza. "A Bourdieusian Approach to Explaining the Rise of Religious Nationalism in France, 1940-1942."
- Luft, Aliza and Jocelyn Viterna. "The State of the Field of Women in War." (Working title.)
- Luft, Aliza. "Religion Also Matters: Considering Religion In Research on Intersectionality."
- Luft, Aliza and Evgeny Finkel. "Sexualized Violence during the Holocaust."
- Luft, Aliza and Mary-Helen Immordino-Yang. "Dehumanization during Genocides: A Cognitive Sociological Approach."

Public Sociology

- 2016 Luft, Aliza. "[What Vichy France Can Teach Us About the Normalization of State Violence.](#)" Blog post published on *Scatterplot*.
- 2015 Luft, Aliza. "[Once a killer, always a killer? Here are 4 lessons about stopping mass violence.](#)" Op-Ed published in *The Washington Post*.
- 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. "[Not Just Victims and Perpetrators: Understanding Rwanda's Genocide Twenty Years-On.](#)" Article published on *Political Violence at a Glance*.
- 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.

AWARDS

- 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
- 2012 Communication-B Teaching Assistant Fellowship, UW Madison (*declined*)
- 2010 Scott-Kloeck Jensen Global Studies Fellowship, UW Madison, \$3000

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

- 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

Conferences Organized

- 2016 Co-organizer, "Can Comparative-Historical Sociology Change the World?" American Sociological Association Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology Mini-Conference. August 21. Seattle, WA.

Panels Organized

- 2016 "Unpacking the Relationship between Social Boundaries and Political Violence: Four Approaches." States and Society Network, Social Science History Association. November 17-20. Chicago, IL.
- 2014 "Collective Action and Social Relations in Contexts of Violence." States and Society Network, Social Science History Association. November 6-9. Toronto, CA.
- 2014 "Shifts in Racial Classification: Self-identification and Ascription." Race and Ethnicity Network. Social Science History Association. November 6-9. Toronto, CA.

Invited Presentations

- 2017 *Title TBD*. Yale University. April 24. New Haven, CT.
- 2017 *Title TBD*. American Bar Foundation. March 1-2. Chicago, IL.
- 2017 *Title TBD*. 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.

Papers (Select)

- 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.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2012 Research Assistant for Monica Grant, Department of Sociology, UW Madison
- 2011 Research Assistant for Scott Straus, Department of Political Science, UW Madison
- 2010 Research Assistant, Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, United Nations, NY
- 2009 Transitional Justice Database Project, UW Madison
- 2008 Montreal Institute for Genocide Studies

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

External

Reviewer for the following journals: *American Sociological Review*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *Mobilization*; *Sociological Theory*; *Sociology Compass*; *Gender and Society*.

Internal

- 2016 — Co-organizer (with K. Harris): Theory & Research Seminar in Comparative Social Analysis
2016 — Member, Undergraduate Executive Committee
2016 — Reader, Political Sociology Field Exam
2016 — Reader, Sociology of Gender Field Exam

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 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.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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

LANGUAGES

English: Native.
French: Advanced reading, writing, speaking.
Hebrew: Intermediate reading, writing, speaking.
Yiddish: Intermediate reading; Beginner's writing, speaking.

REFERENCES

Upon Request.