

# ALIZA LUFT

Department of Sociology  
University of California, Los Angeles  
Los Angeles, CA 90095

Email: [aluft@soc.ucla.edu](mailto:aluft@soc.ucla.edu)  
Homepage: [www.alizaluft.com](http://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*."
- 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.

- 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*.)

### **Essays, Book Chapters, Reviews, and Encyclopedia Entries**

- 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.
- 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

2010 Scott-Kloeck Jensen Global Studies Fellowship, UW Madison, \$3000

## **GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS**

2017 Faculty Research Grant, Center for the Study of Women, UCLA

2017 Dean's Faculty Opportunity Fund, UCLA \$1500

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**

2017 Co-organizer, Social Science History Association, States and Society Network Representative. November 2-5. Montreal, QC.

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 “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.

## Papers (Select)

- 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.

## **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**

Editorial Board: *Sociological Theory*

Reviewer: *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.