

# Aliza Luft

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, 2016\* —  
Department of Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles  
*\*parental leave AY 2019-20; COVID pause AY 2020-21*

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2016  
Minor: Political Science  
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

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## 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 & Shai Dromi. (Eds.) "Handbook of The Sociology of Morality." Under contract with Springer Publishing.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

2021 Luft, Aliza & Sue Thomson. 2021. "[Race, Nation, and Resistance to State Symbolic Power in Rwanda Since the 1994 Genocide](#)." *Global Historical Sociology of Race and Racism, Political Power and Social Theory*. 38: 105-134.  
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, ASA 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.
- Essay summarizing argument published in ASA Footnotes Special Issue on COVID-19.
  - Op-Ed summarizing findings published in *SSRC Ideas*; featured in *The New York Times: What We're Reading Now*.
- 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.
- 2022 Luft, Aliza & Jelena Subotic. "[Ethics and Archival Research on Violence.](#)" *Broadstreet*.
- 2021 Luft, Aliza. 2021. "[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*, 39(2): 280-286.
- 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*.
- 2013 Luft, Aliza with Senka Filipović. [Western Balkans LGBTI Landscape Analysis of Political, Economic & Social Conditions](#). Policy Report. USAID, Global Development Fund, and Astraea Lesbian Foundation for Justice.
- 2011 Sikumba-Dils, Muchimba, with Valencia K.D. Mogegeh, Aliza Luft, & Inkeri Von Hase. An analysis of political parties' constitutions/policy documents/manifestos in the SADC region from a gender perspective. SADC Parliamentary Forum.
- 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.)

[“Recreating a Family’s Lost Holocaust History, Step by Step.”](#) *New York Times*, 03/01/2022.

[“Scholars Issue Statement Objecting to Russia’s Use of “Denazification” to Justify Ukraine Invasion.”](#) *Jewish Journal*, 02/26/22.

[“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 Jocelyn Viterna. "The State of the Field of Women in War." (Working title.)

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

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## AWARDS & FUNDING

### Awards

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

- 2021 Distinguished Article Award, Honorable Mention, ASA Sociology of Religion Section
- 2018 Hellman Award, UCLA
- 2018 Faculty Career Development Award, UCLA
- 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section
- 2015 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention, ASA Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section.
- 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**

- 2022 French Institutes for Advanced Study Fellowship Programme, IAS Paris (declined)
- 2020 Bedari Research Fellowship, UCLA
- 2016 Visiting Fellow, Jack, Joseph & Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (declined)
- 2015 Kagan Fellow, Saul Kagan Claims Conference
- 2014 CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Sociology, Visiting Research Fellow
- 2012 Chateaubriand/Fulbright Fellowship, French Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 2010 Scott-Kloeck Jensen Global Studies Fellowship, UW Madison
- 2006 Rodney F. Jhonnot Graduate Fellowship
- 2005 Mulford Service-Learning and Research Fellowship
- 2004 Study Abroad Research Fellowship

### **Grants & Scholarships**

- 2020 Research Enabling Grant (with Jessica Collett), UCLA
- 2020 Sharon Abramson 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
- 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**

### **Invited Presentations**

- 2022 Harvard University, Culture Workshop. April 12.

- 2022 Universitaet Leipzig, Institut fuer Soziologie. March 31.
- 2022 University of Minnesota, Sociology. March 28.
- 2022 Sciences Po, Observatoire sociologique du changement. March 25.
- 2021 New York University, Sociology Culture Workshop. November 12.
- 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.
- 2020 University of Southern California, Sociology. February 3.
- 2019 Colby College, Sociology. September 10.
- 2018 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.
- 2017 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, Sociology. March 3.
- 2017 American Bar Foundation. March 1-2.
- 2016 CUNY Graduate Center, Politics and Protest Workshop. April 7.
- 2015 Illinois College, History. March 16.
- 2015 United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. June 22-25.
- 2015 Columbia University, CJS. April 15.
- 2014 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.
- 2012 Columbia University, XS Sociology Workshop. February 26.
- 2012 3rd annual 'Ouisconsin' Alumni Association dinner. November 13. Paris, FR.

### Conference Presentations (Select)

- 2021 Author-Meets-Critics, "Breaching the Civil Order: Radicalism and the Civil Sphere," edited by Jeffrey Alexander, Trevor Stack and Farhad Khosrokhava. Social Science History Association. November 9-12. Philadelphia, PA.
- 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.
- 2018 Author-Meets-Critics, "The Limits of Whiteness: Iranian Americans & the Everyday Politics of Race," Neda Maghbouleh. Social Science History Association. November 8-11. Phoenix, AZ.

- 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

- 2022 Processual Perspectives in Research on Political Violence and Collective Action Workshop (Invited), Scuola Normale Superiore. October 14-15. Florence, Italy.
- 2021 Archives, Power, and Truth-Telling: Catholic Archives and Holocaust Memory Workshop (Invited), Boston College, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and Yad Vashem World Center for Holocaust Research. October 17-19. Washington, DC.
- 2021 Social Movements and Strengthening Democracy Convening (Invited), SNF Agora at Johns Hopkins University and More in Common. August 4. (Online due to COVID-19)
- 2021 Dehumanization Workshop (Invited), University of Bristol. September 20. (Online due to COVID-19)
- 2018 US-UK American Academy of Arts & Sciences/British Academy of Arts & Sciences violence symposium and workshop. February 10-11. Cambridge, MA.

## 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*; *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*; *Journal of Politics*; *Sociologica*; *PS: Political Science & Politics*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *Qualitative Sociology*.



## 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-chair (with K. Hairs): Political Sociology Field Exam
- 2020- Chair, Co-organizer (with O. Lizardo, D. Longbear-Rodriguez, M. Gaddis, D. Chowdhury): 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
- 2016-2018 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, 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)
- Joelle Rosenberg (MA, Chair)
- MJ Hill (Dissertation, Committee)
- Jessica Huerta (Dissertation, Committee)
- Antwann Simpkins (Dissertation, Committee)
- Corey O'Malley (Dissertation, Committee)
- Mallory Rees (Dissertation, Committee)
- Julia Goldman-Hasbun (UBC, Dissertation Committee)

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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.

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## LANGUAGES

English: Native.

French: Advanced reading, writing, speaking.

Hebrew: Intermediate reading, writing, speaking.

Yiddish: Intermediate reading, writing, speaking.

Italian: Working.