

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEES, ACADEMIC YEAR 2014-15:
CURRENTLY ENROLLED STUDENTS WHO ARE ABD
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CA, DAVIS**

All faculty are from UC Davis unless otherwise noted

Name: Ezekiel Baker

Dissertation Title: “Climate Knowledge as a Practice of Government: From Appropriation to Biopolitics”

Committee Chair: John R. Hall, Sociology

Committee Members: Stephanie Mudge, Sociology
Patrick Carroll, Sociology
Diana K. Davis, History

Abstract:

Using the case of the United States in three periods, the project seeks to understand the relationship between climate knowledge and government. It seeks to explain transformations in climate knowledge and expertise in reference to state-science relations. Analysis of each period utilizes archival, textual, and interview data, guided by a longitudinal comparative approach (Walton 1993), to explore the ways in which climate knowledge articulates with modern state-making. Analysis of results is conceptually organized around how scientific and state-making practices co-produce *government*. The project conceptualizes government in Foucault’s (1991) sense, as power ordered through knowledge and the formation of social categories, populations and territory amenable to security, management, and discipline.

Periods are chosen based on major shifts in the formation of climate knowledge and associated expertise. These shifts are conceptualized as *inflection points*, defined as periods of convergence between scientific knowledge, experts, and state-making. The first inflection point is early U.S. meteorology in relation to westward frontier expansion from 1800-1850. The second inflection point is the rise of numerical weather prediction and modeling from 1940-1960. In this period climate was constructed as a calculable, predictable system, possibly even manageable through direct geophysical interventions. The third point marks a recent shift in climate expertise and policy from 2000-2015, in which climate change is constructed as a risk best governed in its social effects. Through a document- and interview-based study of security and development experts and scientists, this component seeks to explain the radical shift from geophysical mastery of atmospheric dynamics to a biopolitical governing of (future) social action.

Name: Angela Carter

Dissertation Title: “The Consequences of Adolescent Offending for Adult Employment”

Committee Chair: Bill McCarthy, Sociology

Committee Members: Ryken Grattet, Sociology
Ryan Finnigan, Sociology
Kim Shauman, Sociology
Jonathan Simon, UC Berkeley School of Law

Abstract:

My dissertation examines the possibility that the sanctioning-employment relationship begins with behavior. It explores the extent to which relationships between institutional interventions, such as arrest or incarceration, and employment outcomes are a consequence of offending or variation in the propensity to offend. It also evaluates school discipline and criminal justice contact as potential mediators and moderators of the offending-employment relationship. Finally, it investigates the effect of a less formal mediator, job referrals by friends and family, by which delinquent behavior may affect employment outcomes. I use three data sets to study these issues: the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth 1997 ($n \approx 9,000$); the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent and Adult Health ($n \approx 15,000$); and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics Transition into Adulthood Study ($n \approx 2,000$). I analyze these data using inverse-probability-of-treatment weights and hierarchical linear models.

Name: Joanna Hale

Dissertation title: “A Cross-National Analysis of Cumulative Inequality and Alzheimer's Disease”

Committee Co-Chairs: Erin Hamilton, Sociology
Xiaoling Shu, Sociology

Committee Members: Ryan Finnigan, Sociology
Roberto de Vogli, Public Health

Abstract:

I use growth curve modeling within a life-course framework to analyze the U.S. Health and Retirement Survey (HRS), the Survey on Healthy Ageing in Europe (SHARE), and the Chinese Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS). I address the question if early-life socioeconomic disadvantage becomes late-life disparities in Alzheimer's disease because fetal/childhood hardship is: biologically embedded during the critical period of fetus/early childhood, accumulates with other disadvantages over the life course, and/or sets an individual on a social trajectory for later-life triggers of cognitive decline. SHARE in Europe links individual micro data with macro data on the welfare state, with the explicit goal of facilitating the study of welfare state interventions. Thus, I will incorporate detailed life histories taken in

2008-9, as well as clustering individuals into nations (Level-3), with country-level predictor variables of change in GDP, unemployment, and welfare state intervention. CHARLS includes Gansu and Zhejiang provinces, which I will model at Level-3 because Gansu was severely affected by the crisis, while Zhejiang was insulated. For the U.S. sample, I will also examine the gene by environment interaction using the clearest Alzheimer's genetic marker, ApoE-ε4. In sum, I capitalize on hardship-exposed (the Great Depression & Chinese Famine of 1928-30) cohorts' entry to Alzheimer's risk ages, three harmonized datasets covering three continents, and advances in life-course epidemiological modeling to examine the social determinants of Alzheimer's disease.

Name: Shaun Geer

Dissertation Title: Effects of Moral Politics and Bio-industrialization on the Development and Rollout of the HPV Vaccine.

Committee Chair: Patrick Carroll, Sociology

Committee Members: Drew Halfmann, Sociology
Ming-Cheng Lo, Sociology

Abstract:

My dissertation looks at the development and rollout of the HPV vaccine, Gardasil. I am using Gardasil as a case study to examine two major inquiries of study in the field of medical sociology. The first line of inquiry examines the increase of corporate interests on the production of modern medicine and public health. This is an important, as the logic of creating profit and biovalue (i.e. commoditized biological products, see Waldby, 2002) has become more and more important in how we perform public health as a country. The second line of inquiry is the control of the body by state actors. I argue that the body, particularly the female body, is of central importance in the debate around the HPV vaccine. On one hand, we have those wishing to encourage or mandate that teenagers have the vaccine in order to protect the public good (Blume 2006). On the other hand, we have those who want to protect the right to choose whether parents can opt out of having their children take the vaccine, either for moral and religious reasons (Salmon 2001), or to protect civil liberties (Bean 2011). Thus, the battle over mandatory vaccination of HPV is over who has control of a body, usually a woman's body. Understanding the HPV vaccine thus provides insights into various matters in public health and biomedicine, including the creation and marketing of reproductive medicine, the social construction of abortion, and the role of corporate actors in public health. Relatively little research has been done on the sociology of development and rollout of vaccines. Several papers have been written about the anti-vaccine movement (see Dube 2015 for a review), but the history of vaccine development from an STS/sociology of science perspective has been relatively unexplored.

Name: Phyllis Jeffrey

Dissertation Title: “Setting the Stage for the Neoliberal Islamists”

Committee Co-Chairs: Stephanie Mudge, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology

David McCourt, Sociology

Ayse Zarakol (Department of Politics and International Studies,
Cambridge University)

Abstract:

My dissertation's puzzle concerns the relationship between political leftism, political Islam, and market-friendliness in Turkey. Although we may think that the basis of political opposition in democracies is stable and universal (i.e., left vs. right), this is not the case. In Turkey during two periods of free political competition in the 1970s and the 1990s, Islamism looked economically left-wing. During the 1970s the shared economic aims of Islamists and the secular center-left even helped bring the two parties together briefly in a coalition government. Yet during two intervening periods of intense economic reform, Islam was synthesized with neoliberalism-- a synthesis that post-2001 took the particularly puzzling form of the democratic rise of a pro-market party whose leaders had come up through the ranks of anti-market Islamism.

Using historical methods, my research will examine party programs, election manifestos, publications by and about key political figures, and similar materials from the 1970s and 1990s based on the conviction that to understand the reshuffling achieved in the "on" periods of neoliberal reform (the 1980s and post-2001), we must first gain a picture of what Islamism on the one hand and the center-left on the other, actually looked like. My project draws on Bourdieu's model of political fields and the insight contained therein that politics is about oppositions rather than essences. My working assumption is that in Turkey, political oppositions are conditioned by elements that go beyond Western democracies' "right" and "left" to involve international concerns and the role of the state. I hope that my project may further an understanding not only of the Turkish case but of the circumstances of political competition in other semi-peripheral countries.

Name: Robin Savinar

Dissertation Title: “H-1B Workers in Silicon Valley: The Occupational Experiences of Skilled Migrant Labor”

Committee Co-chairs: Vicki Smith, Sociology and Erin Hamilton, Sociology

Committee Member: Giovanni Peri, Economics

Abstract:

In recent decades the globalization of production processes has accelerated. Countries specialize in particular tasks, claiming areas of expertise in the international division of labor. Individuals with special knowledge travel across borders in search of professional challenges and to maximize their earnings. Governments develop migration policies to attract foreign nationals whose talent they hope to harness. Given these powerful global trends, it is essential to explore how they shape skilled migrants’ experiences on the ground. In 1990, the United States established the H-1B non-immigrant visa category for skilled workers such as computer programmers and engineers. The H-1B visa allows employers to hire foreign workers for up to six years in ‘specialty occupations.’

My project will build more accounts of the experiences of H-1B workers and how they respond to their positions in the labor market. I will achieve this by bridging extant research on the general population of contingent high-skilled workers (native professional freelancers) and on an important subgroup, the H-1B workforce (temporary migrant professional freelancers), in order to better understand both. Specifically, I will explore how the visa program affects the terms of H-1B workers’ employment and their longer-term career trajectories. My project will describe the strategies that H-1B workers use to improve their employment circumstances. This will allow me to depict the lived experiences of H-1B migrants and their responses to the challenges of working in the new economy.

Name: Jennifer Tryree-Hageman

Dissertation Title: “Zero Emission Vehicles and Consumer Preference: Toward an Understanding of Consumer Practices and Valuation Processes in the Plug-in Hybrid and Electric Vehicle Market”

Committee Chair: Vicki Smith, Sociology

Committee Members: Fred Block, Sociology
Nicole Woolsey-Biggart, Graduate School of Management

Abstract: This dissertation looks at the emerging plug-in electric vehicle market to examine how the meanings attached to products are negotiated individually and collectively by consumers. As a response to economic theory centering on markets, economic sociology has largely been a

study of markets with a focus on production, and economic sociologists have for the most part ignored consumption. A production-focused sociology of markets fails to consider consumers and consumer marketing and, in doing so, misses an important aspect of where markets come from. This research uses sociological work on valuation and preference formation and a practice theory framework articulated by sociology of consumption scholars to examine how consumers assign value to PEVs and how PEVs are directly implicated in the conduct and reproduction of daily life. Looking at how market actors evaluate PEVs along different dimensions of economic value: use value, investment value, individualistic value, relational value, functional value, and symbolic value will shed light on the ways in which consumers resolve issues of value and price. The focus on the elements of practice present in PEV purchase and use frames consumption as part of a larger practice and will help explain how drivers are actively and creatively reproducing these practices as well as their associated images and ideologies that feed back into the PEV market.