

RACHEL MEYER

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Northeastern University

2025-present Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Harvard University

- 2018-2025 Lecturer on Sociology, Department of Sociology (& 2009-10)
- 2023-2025 Pre-Concentration Academic Advisor, Advising Programs Office
- 2025 Instructor, Extension School, Division of Continuing Education (& 2019-22)
- 2021-2024 Head Preceptor in Expository Writing, Harvard College Writing Program
- 2018-2024 Preceptor in Expository Writing, Harvard College Writing Program (& 2008-09)
- 2012-2018 Associate Director of Undergraduate Studies and Lecturer on Sociology, Department of Sociology
- 2011-2012 Fellow in Sociology, Department of Sociology
- 2010-2011 College Fellow, Department of Sociology
- 2009-2010 Lecturer on Social Studies, Committee on Degrees in Social Studies

EDUCATION

- 2008 Ph.D., Sociology University of Michigan
Dissertation: *Perpetual Struggle: Sources of Working-Class Identity and Activism in Collective Action*
- 2002 M.A., Sociology University of Michigan
- 1994 M.S.W., Community Organization University of Michigan
- 1992 A.B., Anthropology, with High Distinction University of Michigan

TEACHING AWARDS

Favorite Professor Harvard College Class of 2022 (voted), Harvard University - 2022

Certificate of Teaching Excellence – 18 semesters, Harvard University – 2009-2022
(award discontinued)

Dean’s Letter of Commendation for Distinguished Teaching, Harvard Extension School - 2020

ARTICLE AND PAPER AWARDS

2013 ***Distinguished Scholarly Article Award, Honorable Mention***, for “Transforming Citizenship: The Subjective Consequences of Local Political Mobilization,” Labor and Labor Movements Section, American Sociological Association

2006 ***Outstanding Student Paper Award*** for “Constituency and Emotion in Collective Action: Sources of Working-Class Identity and Activism,” Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, American Sociological Association

2006 ***Best Graduate Student Paper Award*** for “Constituency and Emotion in Collective Action: Sources of Working-Class Identity and Activism,” Department of Sociology, University of Michigan

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Work and Labor, Social Class, Political Sociology, Cultural Sociology, Social Change, Social Movements, Labor Movements, Globalization, U.S. Labor History, Qualitative Methods

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

2017 “Precarious Workers and Collective Efficacy.” *Critical Sociology* 43(7-8): 1125-1141.

2017 “Grassroots Citizenship at Multiple Scales: Rethinking Immigrant Civic Participation.” *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society* 30(4): 323-348. (co-authored with Janice Fine)
Lead article.

2016 “Precarious Workers’ Movements and the Neoliberal State.” *Working USA: The Journal of Labor & Society* 19(1): 37-55.

2015 “Eventful Subjectivity: The Experiential Sources of Solidarity.” *Journal of Historical Sociology* 28(4): 429-457. (first author, co-authored with Howard Kimeldorf)
Lead article.

- 2012 "Transforming Citizenship: The Subjective Consequences of Local Political Mobilization." *Political Power and Social Theory* 23: 147-188.
- Distinguished Scholarly Article Award, Honorable Mention, Labor and Labor Movements Section, American Sociological Association, 2013.***
- 2006 "Consumers with a Conscience: Will They Pay More?" *Contexts* 5(1): 24-29. (co-authored with Howard Kimeldorf, Monica Prasad, and Ian Robinson)
- Reprinted in: *The Contexts Reader*, edited by Jeff Goodwin and James F. Jasper. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 2007. (Pp. 207-214)
- 2004 "Consumers of the World Unite: A Market-based Response to Sweatshops." *Labor Studies Journal* 29(3): 57-79. (co-authored with Monica Prasad, Howard Kimeldorf, and Ian Robinson)

Edited Collections

- 2014 "The Strength of Weak Commitments: Market Contexts and Ethical Consumption." Pp. 140-163 in *Workers' Rights and Labor Compliance in Global Supply Chains: Is a Social Label the Answer?*, edited by Jennifer Bair, Marsha Dickson, and Doug Miller. New York: Routledge. (co-authored with Ian Robinson and Howard Kimeldorf)
- 2009 "The Rise and Fall of the Sit-Down Strike." In *The Encyclopedia of Strikes in American History*, edited by Aaron Brenner, Benjamin Day, and Immanuel Ness. Armonk, N.Y.: M.E. Sharpe.

Book Reviews

- 2021 Review of *Disrupting Deportability: Transnational Workers Organize*, by Leah F. Vosko. *Work and Occupations* 48(3): 386-393.
- 2018 Review of *Hard Sell: Work and Resistance in Retail Chains*, by Peter Ikeler. *Contemporary Sociology* 47(2): 192-193.
- 2011 Review of *Coethnicity: Diversity and the Dilemmas of Collective Action*, by James Habyarimana, Macartan Humphreys, Daniel N. Posner, and Jeremy M. Weinstein. *Social Forces* 89(4): 1448-1450.
- 2008 Review of *Citizen Employers: Business Communities and Labor in Cincinnati and San Francisco, 1870-1916*, by Jeffrey Haydu. *Mobilization* 13(4): 455-457.
- 2005 Review of *Hard Work: Remaking the American Labor Movement*, by Rick Fantasia and Kim Voss. *Contemporary Sociology* 34(6): 656-658.

WORK IN PROGRESS – Article Manuscripts

“Flexible Work and Social Change” (*review essay*)

“Beyond Bread-and-Butter: Mid-20th Century Labor-Community Activism”

“Oral History and Social Science”

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

- 2025 “Contemporary Working-Class Politics in the U.S.” Sociology and Anthropology Student Association, Northeastern University.
- 2025 “Workers’ Precarity and Its Consequences.” SHINE Summit, The Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University.
- 2025 “Are We All Gig Workers Now?” Office of the Vice Provost for Advances in Learning, Harvard University.
- 2022 “Social Class.” Introduction to Sociology, Harvard University.
- 2021 “Researching Class Consciousness.” Pre-College Research Institute.
- 2017 “Classism.” Harvard Hillel, Harvard University.
- 2013 “Experiential Sources of Solidarity: Events and Subjective Transformation.” Culture and Social Analysis Workshop, Department of Sociology, Harvard University. (with Howard Kimeldorf)
- 2012 “Transforming Citizenship: The Subjective Consequences of Local Political Mobilization.” Department of Sociology, Harvard University.
- 2011 “Transforming Citizenship: The Subjective Consequences of Local Political Mobilization.” Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations.
- 2009 “Globalization and Local Politics: Political Mobilization and the Transformation of the American Labor Movement.” Political Psychology & Behavior Workshop, Department of Government, Harvard University.

Conferences

- 2018 “From Sit-Down to Sit-In: Tactical Diffusion from Labor to the Civil Rights Movement.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Phoenix.

- 2015 "Beyond Bread-and-Butter: Mid-20th Century Labor-Community Activism." Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore.
- 2015 "Precarious Workers and Collective Efficacy." Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York.
- 2013 "Eventful Subjectivity: The Experiential Sources of Solidarity." Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago. (with Howard Kimeldorf)
- 2013 "Grassroots Citizenship: Rethinking Immigrant Civic Participation." Labor and Global Solidarity Conference, New York. (with Janice Fine)
- 2010 "Transforming Citizenship: Globalization and Local Politics in the American Labor Movement." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta.
- 2009 "Globalization and Local Politics: Community-Based Responses to Neoliberalism." The Social and Natural Limits of Globalization Conference, San Francisco.
- 2008 "From Economic to Political Mobilization: Working-Class Organizing Targets The State." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Boston.
- 2007 "Understanding Solidarity: The Subjective Consequences of Collective Action." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York. (with Howard Kimeldorf)
- 2006 "The Sustainability of Social Movements: Emotion and Instrumentality in Two Logics of Collective Action." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, Quebec.
- 2005 "Ethical Consumerism and Workers' Rights." Second Conference of the Centre de Recherche Interuniversitaire sur la Mondialisation et le Travail (CRIMT), Magog, Quebec. (with Howard Kimeldorf and Ian Robinson)
- 2005 "The Irony of Power: Efficacy and Collective Action in Working-Class Struggle." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
- 2005 "Perpetual Struggle: Constituencies and Collective Action in the Labor Movement." Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.
- 2004 "Conscientious Consumption." Decision Consortium, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (with Howard Kimeldorf and Ian Robinson)
- 2004 "Mobilizing for the Minority: The Graduate Employees Organization Fights for Those 'Left Behind'." United Association for Labor Education Conference, Chicago.
- 2002 "Consumer Preferences and International Labor Standards: Results of a Field Experiment." Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations, Labor and Global Change Program, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (with Howard Kimeldorf, Monica Prasad, and Ian Robinson)

- 2002 "Collective Action and the Making of Interracial Solidarity." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.
- 2002 "Strikes and Sit-Ins: Class Struggle and the Making of Interracial Unionism." How Class Works Conference, SUNY Stony Brook.
- 2002 "Collective Action and the Making of Solidarity: Race and Working-Class Formation in Two Detroit UAW Locals." Sociology Student Brown Bag Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Sociology of Work	Flexible Labor
Social Class	Cultural Sociology
Occupations and Professions	Capitalism
Social Movements and Social Change	Globalization
Political Sociology	Social Theory
Political Economy	Qualitative Methods
Labor and Labor Movements	Comparative and Historical Sociology

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Northeastern University

Introduction to Sociology
Social Theory
Research Methods in Sociology

Harvard College

Department of Sociology:

Social Class
Work and Culture
Global Social Change
Political Sociology
Social Theory (Course Head)
Globalization
Labor, Power, and the Professions

Harvard College Writing Program:

Work: Culture, Power, and Control

Freshman Seminar Program:

White Collar Blues? Work in the Age of Flexible Capitalism

Committee on Degrees in Social Studies:

Social Movements and Social Change

Harvard Extension School

Work and Culture
Work, Power, and Flexible Capitalism

University of Michigan

Contemporary Social Issues: American Working-Class Life
Principles of Sociology (Teaching Assistant)

RESEARCH ADVISING AND RELATED EXPERIENCE

Harvard College

Junior Research Tutorial Instructor (2009-2025)
Research and Thesis Program Administration, Department of Sociology (2012-2018)
developed research lab courses
oversaw senior thesis program - advising, grading, senior tutorial, awards, events
coordinated undergraduate Research Assistant opportunities
Senior Thesis Advising (2009-10, 2015-16, 2016-17)

Harvard Extension School

Master of Liberal Arts Thesis Director (2022-23, 2024-25)

University of Michigan

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Reviewer for: *American Journal of Sociology* *Qualitative Sociology*
American Sociological Review *Social Forces*
Critical Sociology *Social Problems*
Current Sociology *Sociological Forum*
Ethnography *Sociology Compass*
Mobilization *Work and Occupations*
Poetics *Working USA: The Journal of Labor & Society*

Book Proposal Reviewer - Sociology
Polity Press (2020)

Reviewer - Research Grant Application
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (2010, 2020)

Co-organizer (with Rina Agarwala) and Presider –“Precarity and Polanyi: Transforming Labor, Citizenship and the Neoliberal State”
Invited Thematic Session, American Sociological Association Meeting (2016)

Discussant – “Coercion, Labor, and the State” Panel
Social Science History Association Meeting (2015)

Discussant - "Labor in a Neoliberal Age" Panel
Social Science History Association Meeting (2013)

Co-organizer - Labor and Labor Movements Section Roundtables
American Sociological Association Meeting (2009)

Presider - "Labor Organizing" Roundtable
American Sociological Association Meeting (2009)

Nominations Committee - Labor and Labor Movements Section
American Sociological Association (2008-2009)

Organizer, Discussant - "Beyond Union Organizing: Mobilizing around Race and Labor" Panel
Race, Labor, and Empire Conference (2008)

Program Committee Member - *Race, Labor, and Empire* Conference
ASA Labor and Labor Movements Section & Association of Black Sociologists (2007-2008)
Membership Committee Chair - Labor and Labor Movements Section Council
American Sociological Association (2007-2008)

Student Member (elected) - Labor and Labor Movements Section Council
American Sociological Association (2006-2008)

Outstanding Student Paper Award Committee Member
Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, American Sociological Association (2007)

Social Movement Scholars Network
University of Michigan (2004)

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology (2025-2026)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Syllabus and Course Development Workshop, Department of Sociology (2014, 2016, 2019)
Curriculum Committee, Department of Sociology (2012-2018)
Committee on Undergraduate Degrees, Department of Sociology (2012-2018)
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship Selection Committee (2014, 2016, 2018)
Harvard College Research Program Reviewer (2018)
Hoopes Prize Social Science Committee (2013)
Board of Academic Advisors Member, Committee on Degrees in Social Studies (2009-2010)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

External

2006 Student Forum Travel Award, American Sociological Association
2004-2006 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation
2001-2006 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation

University of Michigan

2006-2007 Margaret Dow Towsley Scholar, Center for the Education of Women
2004-2005 Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship
2004 Doctoral Dissertation Grant, Department of Sociology
2002-2003 Multiple small research grants
1999-2000 Rackham Regents' Fellowship