

LAURA HALCOMB

University of California, Santa Barbara
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, Sociology, expected 2024
Dissertation: *Pricing life: money and morality in healthcare*
- M.A. University of Houston, Sociology, Summer 2015
Thesis: *Creating parents: the gendered recruitment of sperm and egg donors in the reproductive market*
- B.A. Boston University, Philosophy, Spring 2012 (*cum laude*)
Minor in Sociology with distinction
Thesis: *The privilege of choice: a feminist analysis of single motherhood by choice*

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Economic sociology, medical sociology, gender, culture, qualitative methods, science & technology

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Halcomb, Laura** (2023). "Crowdfunding a life: how relationships shape requests for financial assistance." *Socio-Economic Review*, 21(2): 721–740.
*2022 ASA Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award
*2022 UCSB Sociology Department John Mohr Best Graduate Student Paper Award
*2021 ASA Consumers and Consumption Section Best Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention
- Halcomb, Laura** (2020). Who Counts as Family? Gamete donation and the construction of family forms in medical markets. *Journal of Family Issues*, 41(6): 831-852.
- Thébaud, Sarah and **Laura Halcomb** (2019), "One Step Forward? Recent Advances and Setbacks on the Path Toward Gender Equity in Families and Work." *Sociology Compass*, e12700.
- Harthorn, Barbara, **Laura Halcomb**, Tristan H Partridge, Merryn J Thomas, Nick F Pidgeon, Catherine Enders, and Ingrid E Feeney (2019), "Beyond Toxicity: Health Risk Perceptions of Fracking for Shale Development in Pre-Impact US and UK." *Health, Risk & Society*, 21(1-2), 35-56.
- Halcomb, Laura** (2018). Men and infertility: Insights from the sociology of gender. *Sociology Compass*, 12(10), e12624.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Rodriguez, José A., John Mohr, and **Laura Halcomb** (2017). "Becoming a Buddhist: The Duality of Ritual and Belief." *Research in the Sociology of Organizations*, 53.

WORKING PAPERS

Halcomb, Laura. “Charity patients: the shifting categorization of patients amid increasingly unaffordable prescription drugs.” Under review.

Halcomb, Laura. “Moral money, moral problems: how physicians’ moral identities are squeezed from above and below.” Working paper.

Halcomb, Laura, Barbara Harthorn, and Jason Budge. “Craving something new: how US publics make sense of the risks and benefits of upstream synthetic cell technologies.” Working paper.

Thébaud, Sarah, **Laura Halcomb,** and Maria Charles. “Biased self-assessments of enjoyment: How stereotypes about gendered affinities contribute to segregation.” Working paper.

BOOK REVIEWS

2020 *Romancing the Sperm: Shifting Biopolitics and the Making of Modern Families*, by Diane Tober. *Social Forces* 99(1): e21

2023 *Living Worth: Value and Values in Global Pharmaceutical Markets*, by Stefan Ecks. *Contemporary Sociology* 52 (4): 335-337.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2022 National Science Foundation/American Sociological Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (\$8,909)

2022 Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Completion Fellowship in Religion and Ethics (\$30,000), from The Institute for Citizens & Scholars (formerly the Woodrow Wilson Foundation)

2020 Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, University of California Santa Barbara (\$2,571)

2020 Seed Grant, Department of Sociology, University of California Santa Barbara (\$1,000)

2016 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation Center for Nanotechnology and Society, University of California Santa Barbara

2016 Graduate Student Fellowship, Department of Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara

2014 Department of Sociology Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Houston

2014 Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston

2013 Joseph S. and Rosella H. Werlin Memorial Graduate Travel Grant

2011 Undergraduate Research Grant, Department of Sociology, Boston University

AWARDS AND HONORS:

2022 ASA Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

- 2022 University of California at Santa Barbara, Sociology Department John Mohr Best Graduate Student Paper Award
- 2021 ASA Consumers and Consumption Section Best Student Paper Award, Honorable mention.
- 2021 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Early Career Workshop Award
- 2012 Nomination, BU Alumni Association award for writing excellence
- 2012 Departmental Honors in Sociology, Boston University
- 2012 University Honors Scholar, Boston University

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS:

- Apr. 2023 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Texas at Arlington
- Mar. 2023 Department of Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

- Aug. 2023 American Sociological Association annual meeting, Philadelphia, PA. “Charity patients: the shifting categorization of patients amid increasingly unaffordable prescription drugs.”
- Aug. 2022 American Sociological Association annual meeting, Los Angeles, CA. Paper presentation, “From Affordable to Accessible: Valuation and Corporate Charity in Pharmaceutical Company Justifications of Prescription Drug Prices.”
- Jul. 2021 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2020 Virtual Event, “Crowdfunding a Life: Relational work in campaigns for cancer patients.”
- Aug. 2020 Junior Theorist Symposium, American Sociological Association Pre-Conference. Virtual event due to COVID-19 pandemic. Paper presentation, “The Innovation Story: Profits, prices, and legitimacy in the pharmaceutical market.”
- Aug. 2020 American Sociological Association annual meeting, Virtual event due to COVID-19 pandemic. Round Table presentation, “‘Fighting cancer was never in the budget:’ Relational analysis of GoFundMe campaigns for colorectal cancer.”
- Aug. 2019 American Sociological Association annual meeting, New York, NY. Paper presentation, “Practicing Pricing: Evaluating the morality of pharmaceutical companies through US Congressional hearings.”
- Apr. 2018 Pacific Sociology Association annual meeting, Long Beach, CA. Paper presentation, “Reproducing Heteronormativity: How families are portrayed in the reproductive market.”
- Dec. 2017 History of science graduate student workshop, Santa Barbara, CA. “Banking on Difference: Inequality, technology, and gender among gamete donors.”
- Apr. 2014 Southwestern Social Science Association, Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX), “The Privilege of Choice: A feminist analysis of single motherhood by choice.”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2022- Project manager, NSF: Synthetic Neuron, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Barbara Harthorn.
- 2019-2022 Graduate Student Researcher, NSF: Synthetic Neuron, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Barbara Harthorn.

- 2016-20 Lab Assistant and Graduate Student Researcher, MURI Project, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Noah Friedkin.
- 2016-19 Research Assistant, Department of Anthropology, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Barbara Harthorn.
- 2016-18 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Sarah Thébaud.
- 2014 Summer Research Assistant, Department of Sociology University of Houston, PI Dr. Xavia T. Karner.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019 Instructor of Record, University of California at Santa Barbara
Methods of Cultural Analysis (SOC 108c), developed original syllabus
- 2015-2016 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California at Santa Barbara
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101), Special Topics in Research Methods: Ethnography (SOC 208st), Research Traditions (SOC 108b)
- 2013-2015 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Houston
Introduction to Demography, Racial and Ethnic Relations in the U.S., Cinema, Sex, and Sanctimony, Introduction to Social Statistics, Introduction to Sociological Theory, Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of Marriage and Family, Mexican American Family.
- 2014-2015 Statistics Lab Instructor, University of Houston.

SERVICE

- 2022- ASA Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section Student Representative to Council
- 2020-21 Co-Organizer, Junior Theorists Symposium, 2020 ASA Virtual Event (In-person event canceled due to COVID-19)
- 2019-20 Member, Colloquium and Professional Development Committee, UCSB Department of Sociology
- 2018-19 Member, Colloquium and Professional Development Committee, UCSB Department of Sociology
- 2016-17 Member, Sociology Graduate Student Association, UCSB Department of Sociology

Peer Reviewer: *Sociology Compass*, *Social Currents*, *Health and Social Behavior*, *Men and Masculinities*, *Body & Society*

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
Pacific Sociological Society
Society for Women in Sociology

REFERENCES

Sarah Thébaud, Dissertation Chair
Associate Professor
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