

David Showalter

(pronouns: they/them)

Sociology Department
410 Social Sciences Building
Berkeley, CA 94720-1980

davidshowalter@berkeley.edu
www.davidshowalter.net

EDUCATION

- 2022 (exp) Ph.D. (Sociology), University of California, Berkeley
Dissertation: “Going Nowhere: Life with Opioids in Backcountry California.”
Committee: Loïc Wacquant (chair), Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Christopher Muller,
and Seth Holmes (Public Health)
Exam Fields: Social Theory; Deviance, Crime, and the Law; Political Sociology
- 2015 Master of Arts (Sociology), University of California, Berkeley
Thesis: “Social Crisis and Symbolic Power: Legalizing Syringe Exchange in
California.” *Committee*: Loïc Wacquant (chair) and Margaret Weir
- 2012 Bachelor of Arts (Tutorial Studies with Special Honors), University of Chicago
Thesis: “‘Safe and Useful Citizens’: The Legal Construction of the Sexual
Psychopath.” *Supervisors*: Bernard Harcourt (Law) and Kristen Schilt (Sociology)

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

I use the case of opioid use to investigate how the places in which people live affect their health and wellbeing. Using in-depth interviews and over two years of participant observation with 65 people who use drugs and 180 government officials and service providers across ten counties in California, I describe the dynamics of small-town drug scenes and official efforts to manage drug use. I contribute to debates in sociology of health, crime, and law by conceptualizing and documenting the “acquainted marginality,” “small-town habitus,” and “weak bureaucratic fields” found in small and isolated places.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Snell-Rood, Claire, Cathleen Willging, David Showalter, Hannah Peters, and Robin A. Pollini. Forthcoming. “System-Level Factors Shaping the Implementation of ‘Hub and Spoke’ Systems to Expand MOUD in Rural Areas.” *Substance Abuse*, epub ahead of print.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08897077.2020.1846149>

Showalter, David. 2020. “Steps Toward a Theory of Place Effects on Drug Use: Risk, Marginality, and Opportunity in Small and Remote California Towns.” *International Journal of Drug Policy* 85: 102269. Special issue on “Rural Risk Environments.”
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2019.102629>

Showalter, David. 2020. "Crisis and Policy Change: HIV/AIDS and Syringe Services in California." *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 25(1): 71–92.

<https://doi.org/10.17813/1086-671X-25-1-71>

Winner, 2016 Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award, Drugs and Society Section, American Sociological Association

Winner, 2016 Martin Levine Student Paper Award, Sociologists' AIDS Network

Wenger, Lynn, David Showalter, Barrot Lambdin, David Leiva, Eliza Wheeler, Peter Davidson, Phillip Coffin, Ingrid A. Binswanger, and Alex H. Kral. 2019. "Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution in the San Francisco County Jail." *Journal of Correctional Health Care* 25(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1078345819882771>

Showalter, David. 2019. "Misdiagnosing Medicalization: Penal Psychopathy and Psychiatric Practice." *Theory and Society* 48(1): 67–94. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-018-09336-y>

Showalter, David. 2018. "Federal Funding for Syringe Exchange: Explaining a Long-Term Policy Failure." *International Journal of Drug Policy* 55: 95-104.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2018.02.006>

WORK UNDER REVIEW

David Showalter, Lynn Wenger, Barrot Lambdin, Eliza Wheeler, Ingrid Binswanger, and Alex Kral. "Bridging Institutional Logics: Implementing Naloxone Distribution for People Exiting Jail in Three California Counties." Revise and resubmit at *Social Science & Medicine*.

WORK IN PROGRESS

David Showalter. "Acquainted Marginality: Social Structure and Inequality in Small Places."

Winner, 2020 Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award, Drugs and Society Section, American Sociological Association

David Showalter. "Place Effects on Health: Heroin Use in Backcountry California."

Honorable Mention, 2021 Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award, Drinking and Drugs Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Lynn D. Wenger, David Showalter, Eliza Wheeler, Jennie Harris, Ingrid Binswanger, Barrot H. Lambdin, and Alex H. Kral. 2019. *A Primer for Implementation of Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution in Jails and Prisons*. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International. (https://harmreduction.org/hrc/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Naloxone-Prison-Primer_v2.pdf)

David Showalter. 2017. "Donald Trump and the Political Aesthetics of Reality Television." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*. (berkeleyjournal.org/2017/06/donald-trump-and-the-political-aesthetics-of-reality-television/)

David Showalter. 2011. "Thinking *Jersey Shore*." *Midway Review* 7(1): 19-25.
(<http://midwayreview.uchicago.edu/a/7/1/showalter/>)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2021–22 *Dissertation Fellow*, Center for Engaged Scholarship
2021 *Summer Research Grant*, UC Berkeley
2020–21 *Duster Fellowship for Social Justice Research*, UC Berkeley
2019–20 *Graduate Fellow*, Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies, UC Berkeley
2019–20 *Dissertation Grant*, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy
2019 *Dissertation Completion Fellowship*, UC Berkeley
2014–18 *Graduate Research Fellowship*, National Science Foundation
2013–15 *Regents Fellowship*, UC Berkeley

HONORS AND AWARDS

2020 *Selected Participant*, Drug Policy Research Incubator, Drug Policy Alliance
(withdrew due to scheduling conflict)
2020 *Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award*, Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Section,
American Sociological Association
2019 *Graduate Fellow*, Chicago Ethnography Incubator, University of Chicago
2016 *Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award*, Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Section,
American Sociological Association
2016 *Martin Levine Student Paper Award*, Sociologists' AIDS Network
2011 *Student Marshal* (highest undergraduate honor), University of Chicago
2011 *Outstanding Social Sciences/Humanities Oral Presentation*, Chicago Area
Undergraduate Research Symposium

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Place Effects on Health: Heroin Use in Backcountry California"
• Pennsylvania State University, February 10, 2021
"Place Effects and Acquainted Marginality in Small-Town Heroin Scenes"
• Oklahoma State University, November 25, 2019
"Public Health and Medicalization: Promise or Peril?" (panelist)
• 2019 International Drug Policy Reform Conference, November 7, 2019, St. Louis, MO
"Bridging Urban and Rural Responses to Opioid Use and Overdose"
• Harm Reduction in Butte County, October 3, 2018, Chico, CA
• Tools and Strategies for Rural Opioid Work, August 28, 2018, Quincy, CA

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Place Effects on Health: Heroin Use in Backcountry California"
• 116th Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 10, 2021

“Bridging Institutional Logics: Implementing Naloxone Distribution for People Exiting Jail in Three California Counties”

- 116th Virtual Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 10, 2021
- Society for the Study of Social Problems 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting, August 5, 2021

“Acquainted Marginality: Social Structure and Inequality in Small Places”

- 115th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 11, 2020, San Francisco, CA (virtual due to COVID-19)
- Society for the Study of Social Problems 2020 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (cancelled due to COVID-19)

“Small-Town Heroin Use and the Pains of Place”

- 114th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 13, 2019, New York, NY

“Opioid Use and Informal Harm Reduction in a Remote California Town”

- 12th National Harm Reduction Conference, October 20, 2018, New Orleans, LA
- 113th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 12, 2018, Philadelphia, PA

“Volunteers, Collectives, and Outlaws: Supporting Informal Harm Reduction in a Period of Partial Mainstreaming”

- 11th National Harm Reduction Conference, November 5, 2016, San Diego, CA

“Psychopathy in the Penal System: A Case of Medicalization?”

- 111th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 20, 2016, Seattle, WA

“Penal Origins of the Psychopath in the United States: Bernard Glueck at Sing Sing, 1916-1918”

- Inaugural UC Conference on Social Science and Law, October 23, 2015, Irvine, CA

“Federal Funding for Syringe Exchange: The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same”

- 110th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 22, 2015, Chicago, IL

“Building Intergenerational Ties in the Harm Reduction Community” (with LJ Johnson and Ryan Wythe)

- 10th National Harm Reduction Conference, October 23, 2014, Baltimore, MD

“Syringe Exchange and the State: A Case of Insurgency in the Bureaucratic Field”

- 109th Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 18, 2014, San Francisco, CA

“Opening Remarks: *Jersey Shore* as a Model of Intellectual Life”

- UChicago Conference on Jersey Shore Studies, October 28, 2011, Chicago, IL (conference organizer)
 - Selected media coverage: *New York Times*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Huffington Post*, *Daily Mail (UK)*

“Drone Strikes and the Discourse of Ungovernability in Pakistan’s Tribal Regions”

- Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 2, 2011, Chicago, IL
Winner, Outstanding Social Sciences/Humanities Oral Presentation
- Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science, April 8, 2011, Normal, IL

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Instructor (Teaching Assistant), University of California, Berkeley
Spring 2020 “Sociological Theory I,” Sociology Department (Head Graduate Student Instructor)
Fall 2016 “Evaluation of Evidence,” Sociology Department

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher, University of California, Berkeley

2021–pres. Underground Scholars Research Cohort (Christopher Muller, Sociology)
2014–pres. Loïc Wacquant, Sociology
2019 Andrew Barlow, Sociology
2018 Claire Snell-Rood, Public Health
2013–2015 Margaret Weir, Sociology & Political Science

Research Assistant, University of Chicago

2012–2013 Jens Ludwig, Social Service Administration, Law, & Public Policy
2009–2012 Cathy Cohen, Political Science

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Reviewer: American Journal of Sociology, Harm Reduction Journal, Health Services Insights, International Journal of Drug Policy, Law and Policy, Public Health Reports, Social Forces, Social Problems, Substance Abuse, Substance Use and Misuse, Theory and Society

Consultancy: National Harm Reduction Coalition (2018), Presbyterian Church USA Drug Policy Task Force (2015)

Harm reduction: Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (Berkeley harm reduction services organization, 2013–present), Chicago Recovery Alliance (2009–2013)

AFFILIATIONS

2020–pres. Member, Society for the Study of Social Problems
2015–pres. President of the Board of Directors, Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution
2015–2019 Research Associate, RTI International
2014–pres. Member, American Sociological Association

REFERENCES

For letters from these references, please contact Carmen Privat-Gilman (privatg@berkeley.edu) in the UC Berkeley Sociology Department.

Loïc Wacquant (Committee chair)
Professor of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks (Committee member)
Professor of Sociology and Demography
University of California, Berkeley

Christopher Muller (Committee member)
Assistant Professor of Sociology
University of California, Berkeley