

David Showalter

(pronouns: they/them)

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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: Sociological 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 amid the overdose crisis to investigate how the places in which people live affect drug use, criminalization, and health. 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 drug use, crime, law, and health by conceptualizing and documenting the “acquainted marginality,” “small-town habitus,” and “weak bureaucratic fields” found in small and isolated places.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Showalter, David**, Lynn D. Wenger, Barrot H. Lambdin, Eliza Wheeler, Ingrid Binswanger, and Alex H. Kral. 2021. “Bridging Institutional Logics: Implementing Naloxone Distribution for People Exiting Jail in Three California Counties.” *Social Science & Medicine* 285: 114293. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2021.114293>
- Snell-Rood, Claire, Cathleen Willging, **David Showalter**, Hannah Peters, and Robin A. Pollini. 2020. “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 D., **David Showalter**, Barrot Lambdin, David Leiva, Eliza Wheeler, Peter J. Davidson, Phillip O. 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): 394–404. <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 IN PROGRESS

David Showalter. “Place Effects on Health: Heroin Use in Backcountry California.” *In preparation.*
Winner, 2021 Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award, Drugs and Society Section, American Sociological Association
Honorable Mention, 2021 Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award, Drinking and Drugs Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems

David Showalter. “‘We Live Amongst Each Other’: Acquainted Marginality and Small-Town Policing.” *In preparation.*
Winner, 2020 Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award, Drugs and Society Section, American Sociological Association

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://opioidresponsenetwork.org/ResourceMaterials/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 (\$25,000)
2021 *Summer Research Grant*, UC Berkeley (\$3,500)
2020–21 *Duster Fellowship for Social Justice Research*, UC Berkeley (\$24,000)
2019–20 *Graduate Fellow*, Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies, UC Berkeley (\$1,000)
2019–20 *Dissertation Grant*, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy (\$7,500)
2019 *Dissertation Completion Fellowship*, UC Berkeley (\$22,000)
2014–18 *Graduate Research Fellowship*, National Science Foundation (\$96,000)
2013–15 *Regents Fellowship*, UC Berkeley (\$52,000)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2021 *Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award*, Drugs and Society Section, American Sociological Association
2021 *Honorable Mention, Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award*, Drinking and Drugs Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems
2020 *Selected Participant*, Drug Policy Research Incubator, Drug Policy Alliance (withdrew due to scheduling conflict)
2020 *Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award*, Drugs and Society Section, American Sociological Association
2019 *Graduate Fellow*, Chicago Ethnography Incubator, University of Chicago
2016 *Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award*, Drugs and Society 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 Conference, October 3, 2018, Chico, CA
- Tools and Strategies for Rural Opioid Work Conference, 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, 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

Research Associate, RTI International

2015–2019 “Preventing Overdose Mortality Among People Exiting Incarceration” (PI: Alex H. Kral; NIDA grant number R34DA039101)

Graduate Student Researcher, University of California, Berkeley

2021–pres. Underground Scholars Initiative Research Cohort – Christopher Muller, Sociology

2014–pres. Loïc Wacquant, Sociology

2019 Andrew Barlow, Sociology (course development)

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 Black Youth Project – 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 (NEED) (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

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

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

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

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

Alex H. Kral, PhD (Collaborator and coauthor)
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