

MARY SHI

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Department of Sociology
University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
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EMPLOYMENT

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor — Ann Arbor, MI
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, 2026-*ongoing*
LSA Collegiate Fellow, Department of Sociology, 2024-2026

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley — Berkeley, CA
Ph.D. Sociology, August 2024
M.A. Sociology, May 2016
Dissertation: “Settlers’ Republic: Land, Infrastructure, and the Emergence of New Technologies of Government in the United States, 1789-1862,” advised by Mara Loveman (chair), John Lie, and Eric Schickler (Political Science)
Qualifying Exams: Social Theory (with Michael Burawoy, chair), Political Sociology (with Mara Loveman); and Science, Knowledge, and Technology (with John Lie)

Yale University — New Haven, CT
B.A. Political Science (*with distinction*) and Molecular Biophysics & Biochemistry, 2014
Thesis: “The Sinicization of Xinjiang: Efforts in China’s Northwest Frontier to Create a Nation from a State,” advised by James C. Scott
Visiting Student in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, University of Oxford, 2013

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political economy; land; state formation; social theory; historical sociology; political sociology; economic geography; empire and colonialism; science, knowledge, and technology; public sociology

BOOKS

Settlers’ Republic: Land, Infrastructure, and the Emergence of New Technologies of Government in the United States, 1789-1862 (book manuscript in preparation)

- *Winner*, American Sociological Association (ASA) Dissertation Award, 2025
- *Winner*, ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology (CHS) Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award, 2025

Anti-Eviction Mapping Project.¹ 2021. *Counterpoints: A San Francisco Bay Area Atlas of Displacement and Resistance*. Oakland, CA: PM Press.

- *Winner*, ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT) Section Award for Emancipatory Practice, 2022
- *Winner*, ASA Sociological Practice and Public Sociology (SPPS) Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement, 2022
- *Winner*, Alumni Prize for Public Sociology, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, 2019
- Review forum in *Environment and Planning D: Society & Space*, 2022
- Author Meets Critics at the Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, 2021
- Featured in the *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* vol. 63, 2022
- Reviewed in the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Reviews in Digital Humanities*, *American Association of Geographers Review of Books*

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

- 2025 Shi, Mary. "Until Indian title shall be... fairly extinguished:" The Public Lands, Indigenous Erasure, and the Origins of Government Promotion of Infrastructure in the United States." *Politics & Society* 53(4): 570-602.
- *Winner*, ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT) Section Hacker-Mullins Student Paper Award, 2022
 - *Honorable Mention*, ASA Theory Section Best Student Paper Award, 2022
 - *Honorable Mention*, ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology (CHS) Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, 2022
 - *Honorable Mention*, Leo Lowenthal Prize, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, 2024
 - Featured in *Phenomenal World*
- 2020 Graziani, Terra² and Mary Shi (equal co-authorship). "Data for Justice: Tensions and Lessons from the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project's Work Between Academia and Activism." *ACME: An International Journal for Critical Geographies* 19(1): 397-412.
- Invited presentation at the Ford Foundation "Obtaining, Organizing, and Opening Police Misconduct Data" conference, 16 November 2021
- 2012 Tycowski, Kazimierz; Mei-Di Shu, Sumit Borah, Mary Shi and Joan A. Steitz. "Conservation of a Triple-Helix-Forming RNA Stability Element in Noncoding and Genomic RNAs of Diverse Viruses." *Cell Reports* 2(1): 26-32.

Book Chapters

- 2021 Shi, Mary, ed. "Migrations/Relocations." *Counterpoints: A San Francisco Bay Area*

¹ Erin McElroy and I are co-project leads for the book as a whole. I am also an equal coauthor for the Introduction and editor and contributor for Chapter 6, "Migrations/Relocations."

² Practitioner co-author.

Atlas of Displacement and Resistance. Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, ed. Oakland: PM Press, CA: 285-324.

- 2018 The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project.³ “The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project Handbook.” *Creating Social Change Through Creativity: Anti-Oppressive Arts Based Research Methods*. Moshoula Capous-Desyllas and Karen Morgaine, eds. London: Palgrave Macmillan. 289-308.

Invited Essays and Book Review

- 2022 Shi, Mary. “Counterpoints as an Act of Public Sociology.” *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 63: 64-79.
- 2022 Maharawal, Manissa, Erin McElroy, and Mary Shi (equal co-authorship). “Counterpoints: A Response.” *Environment and Planning D: Society & Space*.
- 2021 Shi, Mary. “Bourdieu and Social Space: Mobilities, Trajectories, Emplacements.” *Contemporary Sociology* 50(3): 251-253.

Blog Posts, Report, and Other Writing

- 2024 Shi, Mary. “To Understand China’s Global Development Strategy, Look to the United States’ Past.” *University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation*. Blog Post, 4 October 2024.
- 2016 Graziani, Terra, Erin McElroy, Mary Shi, and Leah Simon-Weinberg (equal co-authorship). “Counterpoints: Stories and Data for Resisting Displacement, 2016.” Joint report by the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project and Tenants Together. Oakland, CA: 9 September 2016 and [online](#).
- 2013 Shi, Mary. “Unstable Ground: The 1968 Mexico City Student Protests.” *Yale Review of International Studies* 3(2): 63-72 and [online](#).
- Acheson Prize for Outstanding Essays in International Studies, Third Place, Yale International Relations Association
- 2011 Shi, Mary. “Secularism in Suburbia.” *Fiat Lux: A Journal of Religious Life at Yale*. 3(1): 27-30.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

External Fellowships and Grants

- 2025 Native Peoples, American Colonialism, and the US Constitution Seminar, Institute for Constitutional History, New York Historical
- 2025 Political Economy of Finance Summer School, Watson Institute for International and

³ I served as the primary chapter editor and corresponding author for the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project.

- Public Affairs, Brown University
- 2023-2024 University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Dissertation Fellow (\$25,000)
- 2015-2020 National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship (\$138,000)
- 2020 San Francisco Arts Commission, Organizational Project Grant (\$10,100)
- 2019 Tobin Project, History of American Democracy Graduate Student Fellow (\$1,000)
- 2015-2017 Philosophy of Social Science and Critical Realism Summer Seminar and Graduate Workshop

Competitive Internal Fellowships and Grants

- 2025 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Humanities Collaboratory 5x5 Grant (\$500)
- 2023-2024 UC Berkeley, Network for a New Political Economy/Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative Research Grant (\$5,000)
- 2023-2024 UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, Blumer Teaching Fellow (\$7,500)
- 2022-2023 UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, Berkeley Connect Fellowship (\$30,000)
- 2021 UC Berkeley Global, International, and Area Studies, Reinhard Bendix and Allan Sharlin Fellowship, (\$2,500)
- 2021 UC Berkeley SURF-SMART (Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships-Student Mentoring and Research Teams) Graduate Fellow (\$5,000)
- 2021 UC Berkeley Institute of Governmental Studies, Mike Synar Graduate Research Fellowship (\$3,000)
- 2017 UC Berkeley Global Urban Humanities Initiative, Interdisciplinary Student Publications Grant (\$15,000)
- 2014 Owosso Fellowship, Cook Family Foundation, Owosso, MI (\$4,000)
- 2013 Yale College, Mellon Forum Research Grant (\$500)
- 2011 Yale College, Howard W. Hilgendorf Memorial Research Fellowship (\$4,250)
- 2011 Yale College, Richard U. Light Fellowship for Intensive East Asian Language Study (\$7,000)

Awards

- 2025 American Sociological Association (ASA) Dissertation Award
- 2025 ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology (CHS) Section Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award
- 2024 UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, Leo Lowenthal Prize, Honorable Mention
- 2022 ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT) Section Hacker-Mullins Student Paper Award
- 2022 ASA Comparative-Historical Sociology (CHS) Section Reinhard Bendix Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention
- 2022 ASA Theory Section Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention
- 2022 ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology (SKAT) Section Emancipatory Practice Award (as part of the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project collective)
- 2022 ASA Sociological Practice and Public Sociology (SPPS) Section Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement

- 2019 UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, Alumni Prize for Public Sociology
With the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project for the Counterpoints atlas project
- 2018 UC Berkeley Graduate Division, Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor
- 2017 Berkeley Undergraduate Sociological Association, Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor
- 2016 American Studies Association, Digital Humanities Caucus, Garfinkel Prize in Digital Humanities
- 2016 American Association of Geographers, Urban Geography Speciality Group, Alternative Geography Award
- 2015 UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, Alumni Prize for Public Sociology
For service in the Berkeley Journal of Sociology editorial collective
- 2013 Yale International Relations Association, Acheson Prize for Outstanding Essays in International Studies, Third Place

PRESENTATIONS, WORKSHOPS, AND LECTURES (*denotes invited events)

““Until Indian title shall be... fairly extinguished:” The Public Lands, Indigenous Erasure, and the Origins of Government Promotion of Infrastructure in the United States”

- *2026 Living With Treaties Conference, “Universities and Indigenous Dispossession,” Inclusive History Project, Ann Arbor, MI
- *2025 Tufts University, Research Design and Interpretation, Guest Speaker, online
2025 Business History Conference, “Building and Financing Colonial Infrastructure,” Atlanta, GA
- *2025 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, ORGSTUDY 490: Rethinking Governance Public and Private Organizations, Guest Speaker, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2024 Social Science History Association, “Production of Knowledge Regimes” Critical Studies Panel, Toronto, CA
- 2024 Stanford University, Bay Area Economic History Workshop, Palo Alto, CA
- *2022 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Sociologists in Action Workshop, online
2020 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Decolonizing “Development” Mini-Conference, online
- 2020 Durham University, Democratising Infrastructures Workshop, Durham, UK

“Settlers’ Republic: Land, Infrastructure, and the Emergence of New Technologies of Government in the United States, 1789-1862”

- *2026 Plenary Sorokin Lecture, Pacific Sociological Association, Long Beach, CA
- *2025 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Department of Economics, Economic History Workshop, Ann Arbor, MI
- *2024 U.S. Political Economy Lab (UPEL), online

“Notes from the Before Time: On YIMBYism, Real Utopias, and Repressed Alternatives,” “Zoning Up, Feeling Down: Densification and its Discontents” Panel, Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA, 2026

“Bringing Empire Back In: Territoriality, Difference, and State Formation after the Imperial Turn”
2025 Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL

“An Empire for Liberty: How Federalism Territorialized Sovereignty and Complicated Territorial Expansion and Development”

2024 American Sociological Association, “Colonial Legacies and Contemporary Politics”
Comparative-Historical Sociology Section Panel, Montreal, Canada

2023 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Decolonizing “Development”
Mini-Conference, Rio de Janeiro

“Empire in Transition: Theorizing the Centrality of Land in Early American State Formation, 1789-1862”
2023 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Decolonizing “Development”
Mini-Conference, Amsterdam, the Netherlands

*2023 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, Department of Sociology, Ann Arbor, MI

2022 Social Science History Association, “Conceptualizing State-Making” Panel, online

2022 American Sociological Association, “Theorizing the United States” Theory Section
Panel, Association, Los Angeles

“Constructing the National Interest: The Erie Canal, the Transcontinental Railroads, and the Hoover Dam,” Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL, 2019

“Reflexive Action as an Object of Sociological Inquiry: Bourdieu and Beyond,” American Sociological Association, “Trespassing, Poaching, Raiding, Transcending” Theory Section Panel, Philadelphia, PA, 2018

“Against Instrumental Rationality: The Ethical Unity of the Post-Positivists,” Beyond Positivism, Montreal, Canada, 2017

“The Restructured Urban Political Economy of the Knowledge Economy: Evidence from the San Francisco Bay Area”

2018 American Sociological Association, Community and Urban Sociology Section
Roundtable, Montreal, Canada

2017 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, “State Transformations, Spatial Austerity and the Globalization of Urban Decline” Mini-Conference, Kyoto, Japan

2016 Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, Finance and Society Panel
Berkeley, CA

“The Sinicization of Xinjiang: Efforts in China's Northwest Frontier to Create a Nation from a State,” Trumbull College Mellon Forum, Yale College

With the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project

“Counterpoints: A San Francisco Bay Area Atlas of Displacement and Resistance”

*2024, *2022 UC Berkeley, CYPLAN 255: Urban Informatics and Visualization, Guest Lecture

- with Erin McElroy
- *2023 ASA Section on Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Seminar Series, online
 - *2022, *2021 American University, ANTH 642: Public Anthropology, Guest Speaker
 - *2022 University of Texas-Austin, AMS 390: Feminist And Antiracist Tech, Guest Speaker, online
 - *2021 MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, Urban Science Lecture Series with Erin McElroy, online
 - 2021 Virtual Launch Event hosted by the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, 27 June 2021
 - *2020 LivingMaps Network, online
 - *2020 UC Berkeley, ENVDES 4A: Design and Activism, Guest Lecture and Erin McElroy and Isa Knafo, online
 - *2019 Sonoma State University, Feminist Lecture Series, Rohnert Park, CA
 - *2019 Minnesota Street Project, SYSTEM FAILURE, San Francisco, CA with Erin McElroy and Adrienne Hall
 - 2019 UC Santa Cruz, Feminist Studies Book Talk with Erin McElroy, Austin Ehrhardt, Adrienne Hall, and Chris Henrick
 - *2019 ZERO1 American Arts Incubator, Impact Exchange, Workshop in San Francisco, CA with Adrienne Hall and Carla Wojczuk
 - *2018 UC Berkeley Global Urban Humanities Fall Symposium, Poster Presentation
- * “Data For Justice: Tensions and Lessons from the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project’s Work Between Activism and Academia,” presented with Terra Graziani at the Obtaining, Organizing, and Opening Police Misconduct Data conference hosted by the Ford Foundation, online, 2021.
- * Economic Futures Retreat, Economic Security Project, Fremont, CA, 2019
- * “Pictures of a Gone City: Tech, Displacement, and Resistance in the San Francisco Bay Area,” panel discussion with Richard Walker, Co-Panelist with Erin McElroy, Howard Zinn Book Fair, City College of San Francisco, Mission Campus, in San Francisco, CA, 2018
- * “Abolition & Gentrification: Anti-Eviction Mapping Project Presentation & Discussion,” collectively presented talk and panel discussion at the Museum of Capitalism, Oakland, CA, 2017
- “Counterpoints: Stories and Data for Resisting Displacement,” report with Tenants Together presented with Terra Graziani and Erin McElroy, Eastside Arts Alliance, Oakland, CA, 2016
- * “Engaging Data with Action: The Work of the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, Eviction Free SF and the San Francisco Tenants Union,” collectively presented talk at SOMArts Cultural Center, San Francisco, CA, 2016
- “Narrating Displacement: Lived Experiences of Urban Social and Spatial Exclusion,” paper presented with Florian Opillard, Association of American Geographers in San Francisco, CA, 2016

“Oral History, Radical Mapping and Direct Action. The Anti-Eviction Mapping Project,” collectively presented workshop at Association of American Geographers, San Francisco, CA, 2016

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Teaching

- 2027 SOC 305: Sociological Theory
- 2026 SOC 102: Introduction to Sociology - Social Dislocations
- 2025-2027 SOC 384/STS 384: Technology and Social Change

Workshop Coordinator

- Social Theory — Fall 2027
- CHiP (Culture, History, and Politics) — Winter 2026

Formal Mentorship

Graduate Committee Membership

- Christian Castro-Martinez (Ph.D.)
- Eunice Yau (Special Field Exam)

Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), and the Sociology Undergraduate Research Opportunities (SURO) Programs, 2025-Present

- Summer Housenbold (Sociology '28)
- Samantha Malcolm (Public Policy '26)

Sociology Opportunities for Undergraduate Leaders (SOUL), 2024-2025, with Abigail Browne

University of California, Berkeley

Teaching

- 2023 SOC 375: Pedagogy with Professor Marion Fourcade
- 2022 SOC 190: American State Formation in Critical Perspective (*self-designed seminar*)
- 2021 PLSC 111AC: The Politics of Displacement with Lecturer Nadesan Permaul
- 2019 SOC 190: Intro to Political Economy - Society, Space, and Transformation in the San Francisco Bay Area (*self-designed seminar*)
- 2017 SOC 102: Sociological Theory II with Associate Professor Cihan Tuğal
- 2016 SOC 101: Classical Social Theory with Associate Professor Dylan Riley

Reading — Course support and grading without classroom teaching

- 2018 SOC 148: Social Policy for Professor Cybelle Fox

Community-Engaged Courses

- 2018 Community Collaborator from the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, Urban Studies (Stanford) 164: Sustainable Cities with Instructor Deland Chan, Stanford University
- 2017 Community Collaborator from the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, Anthropology 121AC: American Material Cultures with Lecturer Kim Christensen-Schwarz
- 2016 Community Collaborator from the Anti-Eviction Mapping Project, Anthropology X2AC: Intro to Archaeology with Lecturer Kim Christensen-Schwarz

Formal Mentorship

Undergraduate Research Assistantship Program (URAP), UC Berkeley, 2020-2024

Ayden Chi (Economics '25)	Sasha Kozlov (Economics '24)
Isabel Cholbi (Political Economy '22)	Taylor Lang (Sociology '26)
Osmond Bates (Pol. Sci. and Film '24)	Alexandra Langar (History '20)
Jason Seymour De Haaff (History '26)	Marc Makornwattana (Poli. Econ. '25)
Cassandra De La Pena (Sociology '25)	Andres Marquez (Political Science '25)
Arelia Diaz (Sociology '23)	Jonathan Ngai (Political Science '25)
Aoife Dwan (Political Economy '26)	Irene Pang (Soc. and Media Studies '24)
Aaron Hill (History '23)	Eva Polina (Psych. and Legal Studies '25)
Murtaza Hiraj (Comp. Sci. and Hist. '25)	Hippolyte Roland (Political Economy '23)
Christopher Hoeft (Political Science '23)	Aayush Singh (Economics '24)
Sabariesh Ilankathir (Pol. Economy '23)	Ryan Stewart (Sociology '24)
Erik Jun Cui (Sociology '24)	Jacob Thompson (Hist. and Pol. Sci. '25)
Danae Kawamoto-Duran (Economics '22)	Alexis Wood (Geography '21)

Berkeley Connect Graduate Fellow, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology, 2022-2024

Pathways to Social Science Research Program, Institute of Research on Labor and Employment, UC Berkeley, 2021-2023

Norma Garcia (Business, Sociology '24)	Salvador Uribe (American Studies '22)
Bryan Ramos (History '24)	Mark Yoo (Political Science '23)
Luis Ramirez (History '24)	

SURF-SMART Graduate Fellow, Summer 2021, with Audrey McClish (Political Economy '23)

Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarships, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowships (SURF) Program, Graduate Student Advisor, Spring 2021-Summer 2021

Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis Mentor, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology

Bernadette Blashill, “‘Our Military Is Waiting for You!’ American Policy Towards Central American Asylum Seekers,” 2018-2019 (current Sociology PhD student at Harvard)

Michelle Cera, “‘The Berkeley Bubble.’ Constructing a Political Echo Chamber in UC Berkeley Memes for Edgy Teens,” 2017-2018 (current Sociology PhD student at NYU)

Other Teaching Experience

2018-2021	Discipline-Cluster Leader, UC Berkeley, GSI Teaching & Resource Center Teaching Conference for First-Time Graduate Student Instructors
2012- 2017	Instructor, Splash!, Yale University & UC Berkeley
2011	Instructor, Building Bridges at Yale, Sichuan, China

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE**University of California, Berkeley**

2020-2022 Anti-Racism Working Group, Department of Sociology

- 2020-2022 Historical Social Science Workshop Coordinator (with Robert Braun, Martha Wilfahrt, and Otto Kienitz), Departments of Sociology and Political Science
- 2021 Faculty Search Committee, Department of Sociology
- 2014-2021 Delegate, Sociology Department, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly
- 2016-2021 Graduate Council, UC Berkeley Academic Senate (by election of the Graduate Assembly delegate body)
- 2018-2019 Search Committee for Vice Provost of Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division, UC Berkeley Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (by appointment of the executive committee of the Graduate Assembly)
- 2017-2019 Campus Affairs Committee, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly
- 2017-2019 Committee on Teaching, UC Berkeley Academic Senate
- 2015-2017 Departmental Union Steward, UAW 2865
- 2015-2016 Graduate Student Coordinator, Berkeley Sociology Departmental Colloquium Series (with Marion Fourcade as Faculty Coordinator)
- 2014-2016 Faculty Mentoring Award Committee, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND SERVICE

Service to the Profession

ASA CHS Section Council (incl. 2026 Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award Committee), 2025-2028

ASA SKAT Section Council, Student Representative, 2025-2026

ASA SKAT Anti-racism Committee (incl. Emancipatory Practice and Ida B. Wells-Troy Duster Awards Committees), 2025

ASA Theory Section, Best Student Paper Award Committee, 2023

Berkeley Journal of Sociology Editorial Collective, 2014-2016, 2021-2022

ASA CHS/GATS Joint Mentorship Program Organizer, 2020-2022

Conference Session Organizer

ASA SKAT Section Panel on “The Geopolitics of Technology and Innovation,” New York, NY, 2026

ASA CHS Mini-Conference Organizer, “Third Wave, Fourth Wave, Critical Turn?,” Chicago, IL, 2025

Book Workshop Discussant

Jeffrey Weng, *Out of Many Voices, One: Language in the Reinvention of the Chinese Nation*, National Taiwan University (hosted at Stanford University), August 2024

Occasional Reviewer

American Sociological Review, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*

RELEVANT SKILLS

English (native), Mandarin (advanced spoken/written)

Archival research, legislative research, in-depth interviewing, oral history, R, STATA, ArcGIS