

CARLY R KNIGHT

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APPOINTMENTS

New York University

2020 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

2018-2020 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, Harvard University, 2018

Dissertation: “Creatures of the State”: Metaphor and Personhood in Legitimizing the American Corporation

Advisors: Frank Dobbin (Chair), Jason Beckfield, Bart Bonikowski, Greta Krippner (University of Michigan)

M.A., Sociology, Harvard University, 2013

B.A., Economics, and B.A., Political Science, Duke University, 2007

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economic Sociology, Cultural Sociology, Organizations, Corporations, Sociology of Finance, Social Theory

PUBLICATIONS

*denotes equal authorship

- 2026 ***Knight, Carly R.**, and Adam Goldstein. “[Ambiguous Actorhood: Twenty-first Century Firms and the Evasion of Responsibility](#).” *Sociological Science* 13: 63-88.
- 2026 *Kiviat, Barbara and **Carly R. Knight**. “[Seeing Like a Company or a Customer: Selective Empathy in Pricing](#).” *American Sociological Review* 91(1):55-88.
- 2024 **Knight, Carly R.** “The Progressive Era’s Public Firm.” In [Democratizing the Corporation: The Bicameral Firm and Beyond](#). Isabelle Ferreras, Tom Malleson and Joel Rogers (eds). Verso.
- 2023 *Goldstein, Adam and **Carly R. Knight** “[Boom, Bust, Repeat: Financial Market Participation and Cycles of Speculation](#).” *American Journal of Sociology* 128(5): 1430–1471.
- Media Coverage: “The Investors Who Still Think Crypto Can Make Them Rich.” [Wall Street Journal](#).
- 2023 **Knight, Carly R.** “[Classifying the Corporation: The Role of Naturalizing Analogies in American Corporate Development, 1870- 1930](#)” *Socio-Economic Review* 21(3): 1629–1655

- *Honorable Mention* for Socio-Economic Review's *Best Article Prize*
- 2022 **Knight, Carly R.** "[When Corporations are People: Agent Talk and the Development of Organizational Actorhood, 1890-1934.](#)" *Sociological Methods & Research* 51(4): 1634-1680.
- 2022 **Knight, Carly R.,** Frank Dobbin, and Alexandra Kalev. "[Under the Radar: Visibility and the Effects of Discrimination Lawsuits in Small and Large Firms.](#)" *American Sociological Review* 87(2): 175-201.
- 2020 Carsten Schwemmer, **Carly R. Knight,** Jeffrey W. Lockhart, Emily Bello-Pardo, Stan Oklobdzija and Martijn Schoonvelde. "[Diagnosing Gender Bias in Image Recognition Systems.](#)" *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 6.
- Media coverage: "When AI Sees a Man, It Thinks 'Official.' A Woman? 'Smile!'" [Wired Magazine.](#)
- 2019 **Knight, Carly R.,** and Isaac Ariail Reed. "[Meaning and Modularity: The Multivalence of 'Mechanism' in Sociological Explanation.](#)" *Sociological Theory* 37(3): 234-256.
- Featured in ASA Theory Section's Newsletter, *Perspectives.*
- 2017 **Knight, Carly R.,** and Mary C Brinton. "[One Egalitarianism or Several? Two Decades of Gender-Role Attitude Change in Europe.](#)" *American Journal of Sociology* 122(5): 1485–1532.
- 2016 **Knight, Carly R.,** András Tilcsik, and Michel Anteby. "[The Geography of Stigma Management: The Relationship between Sexual Orientation, City Size, and Self-Monitoring.](#)" *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*, 2: 1-10.
- 2015 Tilcsik, András, Michel Anteby, and **Carly R. Knight.** "[Concealable Stigma and Occupational Segregation: Toward a Theory of Gay and Lesbian Occupations.](#)" *Administrative Science Quarterly* 60(3): 446–81.
- 2014 **Knight, Carly R.** "[Mechanism-Based Causal Analysis.](#)" In *The International Encyclopedia of Social and Behavioral Sciences*, edited by James D Wright, 2nd ed. Oxford, UK: Elsevier.
- 2013 Sampson, Robert, Christopher Winship, and **Carly R. Knight.** "[Translating Causal Claims: Principles for a Policy-Relevant Criminology.](#)" *Criminology & Public Policy* 12 (4): 587-616.
- 2013 **Knight, Carly R.** and Christopher Winship. 2013. "The Causal Implications of Mechanistic Thinking: Identification Using Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs)." Pp. 275-300 in *Handbook on Causal Analysis for Social Research*, edited by Stephen L. Morgan, Springer.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Knight, Carly and Di Zhou. "How to Manage the Market: The Construction of the Economic Actor in Business Self-Help Books, 1970-2020"

Knight, Carly. "The Legitimation of Big Business: Using Diachronic Word Embeddings to Examine Discursive Reclassification in Media, 1860-1930"

Knight, Carly and Jeff Guhin. "Agent talk in everyday life: The role of imagined interactions in the construction of social institutions."

BOOK REVIEWS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2024 Knight, Carly R. [Review of Emily Erikson's *Trade and Nation*](#). *British Journal of Sociology*.
- 2022 Knight, Carly R. "[How the Corporation Lost its Image as a 'Creature of the State'](#)" *Law and Political Economy Project*.
- 2022 Knight, Carly R. "[External Authorities and Group Beliefs: Review of *Agents of God*](#)" *Syndicate*.
- 2019 Knight, Carly R. "[Beyond Moral Motivations, Review of Stefan Bargheer *Moral Entanglements: Conserving Birds in Britain and Germany*](#)." *European Journal of Sociology* 60(3): 425-28.

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- NYU Golden Dozen Teaching Award
- Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching
- National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (with Frank Dobbin), 2016
- US- Israel Binational Science Foundation (With Frank Dobbin and Alexandra Kalev), 2014 (\$144,000)
- Harvard Center for American Political Studies Term Time Research Fellowship, 2014
- SSRC Dissertation Proposal Development Fellowship in Fiscal Sociology, 2013
- Tobin Project in Democracy and Markets Graduate Student Fellowship 2013
- Political Sociology Graduate Student Paper Prize, 2012
- Reinhard Bendix Prize for Best Graduate Paper in Historical and Comparative Sociology, 2012
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2010

INVITED PRESENTATIONS: COLLOQUIA AND PANELS

- 2026 "How to Manage the Market: The Construction of the Economic Actor in Business Self-Help Books, 1970-2020" **University of Virginia Sociology Colloquium**, February 2026.
- 2026 "How to Manage the Market: The Construction of the Economic Actor in Business Self-Help Books, 1970-2020" **Duke Sociology General Seminar**, January 2026.
- 2025 "Seeing like a company or a customer: Moralized market perspectives on what's fair in pricing." **Northwestern Sociology Colloquium**, February 2025.
- 2024 "How to Manage the Market: The Construction of the Economic Actor in Business Self-Help Books, 1970-2020" **MIT Sloan Economic Sociology Seminar**, May 2024.
- 2024 "Classifying the Corporation: The Role of Naturalizing Analogies in American Corporate Development, 1870- 1930" ***Socio-Economic Review (SER) Café***, March 2024.
- 2023 "Building a Bubble: Repertoires of Financial Risk Taking" **UCSD Sociology Colloquium**.

- 2023 “How should an employee be?: The Literature of Business Self-Help and the Construction of Financialized Subjects.” **Institute for Analytical Sociology**, Sweden.
- 2023 “How should an employee be?: The Literature of Business Self-Help and the Construction of Financialized Subjects.” **Yale, Center for Cultural Sociology**.
- 2021 “Agent Talk: The Discourse of Institutional and Organizational Agency.” Invited Panelist. **Social Science History Association**. November 2021.
- 2020 “Good Work: Ideological Reorientation in the Transformation of Work.” Invited Panelist. **American Sociological Association**. August 2020.
- 2020 “The Personification of the American Business Corporation.” **University of Pennsylvania Sociology Colloquium**.
- 2019 “Building a Bubble: Repertoires of Financial Risk Taking” **Yale Center for Empirical Research on Stratification and Inequality**. March 2019.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 Author Meets Critic. *The Real Economy* by Jon Levy. Social Science History Association (SSHA).
- 2024 “Ambiguous Actorhood: 21st Century Firms and the Evasion of Responsibility” ASA 2024
- “Agent Talk in Everyday Life: The role of imagined interactions in the construction of social institutions” American Sociological Association. August 2024
- “How to Manage the Market.” SASE July 2024.
- 2023 “Seeing like a Company or a Customer: Moralized Perspectives on Pricing Institutions and the Role of Selective Empathy”, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 2023
- “How to Manage the Market.” American Sociological Association. August 2023.
- 2022 “Seeing like a company or a customer: Moralized market perspectives on pricing fairness.” SASE.
- 2020 “How to Build a Bubble.” American Sociological Association. August 2020.
- “Corporate Futures: Rhetorics of Managerial Expectations in Corporate Capitalism.” SASE 2020.
- 2019 Author Meets Critic Session for *American Bonds*, Sarah Quinn, SSHA 2019
- 2018 Author Meets Critic Session for *Moral Entanglements*, Stefan Bargheer, SSHA 2018
- 2016 “Corporation as Moral Agent.” American Sociological Association, Seattle, August 2016.
- “The Personification of the Corporation in American Law.” SASE, Berkeley, July 2016.
- 2015 “Stigma and Occupational Segregation.” ASA, Chicago, August 2015.
- 2014 “The Progressive Origins of Corporate Personification.” SSHA Toronto, November 2014.
- “When Modularity Fails: Causal Arguments for Cultural Explanations” SSHA, Toronto, 2014.

- 2013 “The Long Road to Gender Equality.” ASA, New York, August 2013.
“A Voice but Not a Vote: The Case of Surrogate Representation and Social Welfare for Legal Immigrants.”

TEACHING

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

- Introduction to Sociology (Undergrad: Fall 2020)
Sociological Theory (Undergrad: Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2026)
The Sociology of Wall Street (Undergrad: Fall 2020, Fall 2026)
Just Markets: Morals, Markets, and Modern Capitalism (Undergrad: Fall 2021)
Sociology of Morality (Graduate: Spring 2021)
Research & Writing (Graduate: Fall 2021)
Methods of Sociological Research (Graduate: Spring 2023)
Culture and Markets (Graduate: Fall 2024)

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

- Philosophy and Methods of Social Science (Undergraduate, Certificate of Distinction for Teaching)
Intermediate Quantitative Research Methods (Graduate, Certificate of Distinction for Teaching)
Introductory Quantitative Research Methods (Graduate, Certificate of Distinction for Teaching)

ADVISING

GRADUATE DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

New York University (chair):

Claire Sieffert (2020-2026)

New York University (committee member)

Emma Mishel (2018-2020)

Yuchen Luo (2023-2026)

Safa Salim (2023-2026)

Sejin Um (2023-2025)

Belicia Teo (2024-present)

Terrence Chen (2024-present)

Avra Janz (2024-present)

New York University (reader):

Ned Crowley

Sonia Prelat

Kira Pratt

Oscar Stuhler

Di Zhou

External:

Raff Thompson (Stony Brook)

Nick Pang (Columbia)

GRADUATE PRELIMS EXAMS

2026 - Cultural Sociology Exam

2024 - Economic Sociology Exam

GRADUATE COMPS COMMITTEES

2023 – Reader for Xiyan Liu

2022 – Reader for Claire Sieffert

MASTERS COMMITTEES

Cella Masso-Rivetti (NYU, Experimental Humanities)

AQR THESIS ADVISEES

Lilya Pekdemir

UNDERGRADUATE SENIOR THESIS ADVISEES

New York University: Tytus Wilhelm (2020), Ran Wang (2020), Ainsley Dean (2024)

Harvard University: Siobhan McDonough, Harvard University, 2016-2017; Jesse Schulman, 2015-2016, Winner of Thesis Prize for Best Senior Thesis in Social Studies; William Montgomery, 2015-2016; Nima Hassan, 2014-2015

SERVICE

TO THE PROFESSION

Peer Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Theory*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Methods & Research*, *Critical Historical Studies*, *Mobilization*, *Social Problems*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Gender & Society*

2025-2027 Chair, Decision-Making, Social Networks, and Society Section, American Sociological Association

2025-2027 Member of Executive Council, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (SASE)

2024-2026 Editorial Board Member of *American Journal of Sociology*

2024 Organizer for Mentorship Program, Economic Sociology Section, ASA

2024 Organizer for Mentorship Program, Theory Section, ASA

2024 Committee for ASA Culture Section Award for Best Article

2024 Chair of Nominations Committee, Theory Section, ASA

2022-2024 Council Member, Theory Section, ASA

2019-2024 Editorial Board Member, *Sociological Theory*

2020-2023 Council Member, Economic Sociology Section, ASA

2021 Chair of Economic Sociology Membership and Mentoring Committee, ASA

2021 Panel Organizer, Economic Sociology Section, ASA

2020 Chair of Committee for ASA Culture Section Award for Best Student Article

2019 Committee for ASA Economic Sociology's Granovetter Award for Best Article

2019 Committee for ASA Theory Section's Junior Theorist's Award

2015-2017 Student Representative for Comparative-Historical Section of ASA

2015 Editor, Accounts: ASA Economic Sociology Section Newsletter

DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY

2024-2026 Elected to department's Executive Advisory Committee (EAC)

2023 Department Graduate Program Review Committee

2022 Department Graduate Admissions Committee

2021 Department Recruitment Committee Member

2021 Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund Reviewer

2020 Dean's Undergraduate Research Fund Reviewer