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Alexandra Brewer

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2023– Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California
2020–2023 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Wake Forest University

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Chicago, 2020
M.A. Sociology, University of Chicago, 2014
B.A. Sociology (with honors), Barnard College, 2011, *cum laude*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Medical sociology; work, organizations, and occupations; economic sociology; social inequalities; race, gender, and class; qualitative methods; sociological theory

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript

Brewer, Alexandra. Accepted. *Painful Solutions: How Corporatization Sustains Racial Inequality in Healthcare.* The University of Chicago Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Sunderrajan, Aashna, Risa Brudney, Aviva Klein, Alexandra Brewer, Christine Babcock, Tessa Balach, Alesia Coe, Stephenie Blossomgame, Jeanne M. Farnan, and Vineet Arora. "Learning in and from High-Performing Teams: Lessons from IGNITE." Accepted. *Academic Medicine.*

Brewer, Alexandra and Stefan Timmermans. Forthcoming. "Clinical Advocacy: How Physicians Fight Back Against Bureaucratic and Financial Pressures." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior.*

Brewer, Alexandra. 2024. "Flexible Austerity: Negotiating the Unequal Effects of Resource Shortages in Racialized Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 89(5): 820-48.

- Winner, Louise Johnson Scholar Award, ASA Section on Medical Sociology
- Winner, Best Graduate Student Paper Award, SSSP Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division

Brewer, Alexandra. 2023. "Painful Feelings: Opioids as Tools for Avoiding Emotional Labor in Hospital Work." *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 64(3): 386-400.

- Winner, Donald W. Light Award for Applied Medical Sociology

Brewer, Alexandra, Laura Nelson, Rebecca Ewert, Anna Mueller, Arjun Dayal, Daniel O'Connor, and Vineet Arora. 2023. "Gender and Inconsistent Evaluations: A Mixed Methods Analysis of Feedback for Emergency Medicine Residents." *The Western Journal of Emergency Medicine* 24(5): 847-854.

- Featured in the American Academy of Emergency Medicine Insights Newsletter

Nelson, Laura, Alexandra Brewer, Anna S. Mueller, Daniel O'Connor, Arjun Dayal, and Vineet Arora. 2023. "Taking the Time: The Implications of Workplace Assessment for Organizational Gender Inequality." *American Sociological Review* 88(4): 627-55.

Brewer, Alexandra, Melissa Osborne, Anna Mueller, Arjun Dayal, Daniel O'Connor, and Vineet Arora. 2020. "Who Gets the Benefit of the Doubt? Performance Evaluations, Medical Errors, and the Production of Gender Inequality in Emergency Medicine Resident Education." *American Sociological Review* 85(2): 247-70.

- Honorable Mention, Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award, ASA Section on Medical Sociology
- Finalist, Organization and Management Theory Best Published Paper Award, Academy of Management

Brewer, Alexandra. 2018. "'We Were on Our Own': Mothers' Experiences Navigating the Fragmented System of Professional Care for Autism." *Social Science & Medicine* 215: 61-8.

Manuscripts in Progress

Brewer, Alexandra. "Simple, Crappy Cases: Dismissing the Educational Value of Pain Patients on the Teaching Service"

Book Reviews

Brewer, Alexandra. 2024. Review of *Spaces on the Spectrum: How Autism Movements Resist Experts and Create Knowledge* by Catherine Tan. *Social Forces* 103(2).

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2022	Faculty Development Grant, Wake Forest University ($6,000)
2022	Summer Research Fund, Wake Forest University ($6,000)
2021	Academic and Community Engagement (ACE) Fellowship, Wake Forest University ($2,000)
2021	URECA Fund for Facilitating Faculty-Student Scholarship ($4,000)
2021	CRADLE VIII Initiative Fellowship, Wake Forest University ($5,000)
2021	Faculty Development Grant, Wake Forest University ($6,000)
2021	Center for Bioethics, Health, and Society Grant, Wake Forest University ($6,000)
2021	Classroom Speaker Grant, Humanities Institute, Wake Forest University ($500)
2020	Faculty Development Grant, Wake Forest University ($3,000)
2019	University of Chicago Social Science Division Dissertation Fellowship ($27,000)
2019	ASA Student Forum Travel Grant ($250)
2018	Charles R. Henderson Fund Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago ($3,000)

2018	Research Travel Grant from the Orin Williams Fund, Division of Social Sciences, University of Chicago ($3,000)
2018	Lee Travel Grant, Society for the Study of Social Problems ($75)
2018	Center for the Study of Race, Culture, and Politics Graduate Research Grant, University of Chicago ($1,500)
2018	Society for Social Research Travel Grant ($200)
2018	Travel Grant, Impairment in the Social World, Columbia University ($150)
2017	American Journal of Sociology Dissertation Fellowship ($20,000)

HONORS

2024	Winner, Donald W. Light Award for Applied Medical Sociology, Medical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
2022	Honorable Mention, Roberta G. Simmons Outstanding Dissertation Award, Medical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
2021	Finalist, Organization and Management Theory Best Published Paper Award, Academy of Management
2021	Honorable Mention, Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award, Medical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association
2019	Louise Johnson Scholar Award, American Sociological Association, Medical Sociology Section
2019	Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Division
2019	Chicago Ethnography Incubator Graduate Student Fellow, University of Chicago
2018-9	Robert Park Lectureship, Department of Sociology, University of Chicago
2011	Graduation with Distinction (cum laude), Barnard College
2011	Honors in Sociology, Barnard College, 2011

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Painful Solutions: How Corporatization Sustains Racial Inequality in Healthcare"

- Indiana University, Sociology Colloquium, November 2026
- Gary Alan Fine Junior Keynote Address, Chicago Ethnography Conference, April 2025
- University of California Berkeley, Sociology Colloquium, March 2025

"The Impossibility of 'Good' Pain Medicine"

- Indiana University Medical Sociology Workshop, April 2025

"Convenient Disasters: Exogenous Shocks and Ambivalence Toward Professional Standards for the Management of Severe Pain with Opioids"

- Bard College, Faculty Colloquium, November 2023
- University of Southern California, Sociology Colloquium, October 2023
- University of Michigan, Organizational Studies Colloquium, October 2023
- Western Michigan University, Sociology Colloquium, November 2019
- University of Oklahoma, Sociology Colloquium, October 2019
- Wake Forest University, Sociology Colloquium, October 2019

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"The Usual Grind: How Patient Pain Becomes Resident Labor"
- American Sociological Association, Chicago, August 8, 2025

"The Impossibility of Providing 'Good' Pain Medicine"
- American Sociological Association, Montreal, August 10, 2024

"Uncovering the Race Behind 'Medical Waste': Cost-Cutting Pressures as Racialized Structures in U.S. Hospitals"
- Eastern Sociological Society Mini-Conference on Racialized and Gendered Organizations, Washington D.C., March 1, 2024

"'Simple, Crappy Cases': Dismissing the Educational Value of Pain Patients on the Teaching Service"
- Eastern Sociological Society Mini-Conference on Health Professions' Education, Baltimore, February 24, 2023

"Painful Feelings: Opioids as Tools for Avoiding Emotional Labor in Hospital Work"
- Sociological Research Jamboree, August 2, 2022
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, August 8, 2022

"From Resource Shortages to Austerity Policies: Opioids, Race, and Medical-Decision Making"
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 9, 2021

"Gender and Inconsistent Evaluations: A Mixed Methods Analysis of Feedback for Emergency Medicine Residents"
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 7, 2021
- Society for Social Studies of Science, Toronto, October 8, 2021

"Moralizing the Opioid Shortage: Race, Pain, and Resource Scarcity in an Urban Hospital"
- Inequality Working Group, University of Chicago, February 28, 2019
- Midwest Sociology Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 18, 2019
- Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, New York, August 9, 2019
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, August 12, 2019

"Errors, Blame, and the Benefit of the Doubt: Examining the Production of Gender Inequality in Emergency Medical Education"
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 13, 2018

"Dangerously Underconfident: Gender and the Cultivation of Professional Role Confidence in Emergency Medical Education"
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 13, 2018
- Gender and Sexualities Working Group, University of Chicago. May 8, 2018

- Social Theory and Evidence Workshop, University of Chicago. April 30, 2018

"The Deserving Pain? : Determining Legitimacy of Opioid Use in Sickle Cell Patients"
- Impairment and the Social World Conference, Columbia University. March 22, 2018
- Chicago Ethnography Conference, University of Chicago. March 17, 2018
- Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 11, 2018
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 12, 2018

"Decentralization of Medical Knowledge and the Cost of Coordinating Care"
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Graduate Courses
Medical Sociology (2024, 2026), University of Southern California
Qualitative Methods (2025), University of Southern California

Instructor of Record, Undergraduate Courses
Sociological Theory (2020-26), University of Southern California and Wake Forest University
Medical Sociology (2019, 2023-26), University of Southern California and University of Chicago
Principles of Sociology (2022-23), Wake Forest University
Opioids in American Society (2021-22), Wake Forest University
Money, Markets, and Medicine (2020-23), Wake Forest University
Sociology BA Thesis Seminar (research methods for thesis work) (2016-19), University of Chicago
Self, Culture, Society I (undergraduate social theory core sequence) (2015-16), University of Chicago

Teaching Assistant
Self, Culture, Society I, II, & III (UChicago undergraduate social theory core sequence) (2014-15)
English Teaching Assistant through the French Ministry of Education, Argenteuil, France (2011-12)

ACADEMIC SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

National Professional Service

2025	Session Organizer, "Exciting New Medical Sociology that Everyone Should Know About," Section on Medical Sociology, American Sociological Association 2025 Annual Conference, Chicago
2024-5	Nominations Committee Member (elected), Section on Medical Sociology, American Sociological Association
2023	Donald Light Award Committee Member, American Sociological Association
2023	Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award Committee Member, American Sociological Association
2023-5	Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*
2022	Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award Committee Member, American Sociological Association
2019-21	Student Representative, Medical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association

2018-19	Student Editor, Medical Sociology Newsletter, American Sociological Association
2015-16	Associate Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*
2014-16	Manuscript Assignment Board, *American Journal of Sociology*

University Service

2026-	Faculty Affiliate, Population, Health, and Place Program, University of Southern California
2022-23	Co-Organizer, Women Faculty Research Community, Wake Forest University
2021	Humanities Institute, Faculty Book Proposal Workshop, Wake Forest University
2021-23	Faculty Affiliate, Race, Inequality, and Policy Initiative, Wake Forest University
2020-21	New Faculty Writing Workshop, Wake Forest University
2018	Co-Organizer, Engendering Change Conference, University of Chicago

Department Service

2026-	Co-coordinator, Qualitative and Mixed Methods Workshop, University of Southern California
2025	Merit Review Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California
2025-6	Colloquium Committee Chair, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California
2024-	Colloquium Committee Member, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California
2021-3	Speaker Series Committee, Department of Sociology, Wake Forest University
2021-2022	Brown Bag Series Committee, Department of Sociology, Wake Forest University
2017-18	Undergraduate Events Coordinator (PRISM preceptor), University of Chicago
2017-18	Graduate Student Supervisor, *Chicago Journal of Sociology*, University of Chicago
2013-14	Vice President, University of Chicago Society for Social Research, University of Chicago
2014	Co-organizer, University of Chicago Spring Institute Conference, University of Chicago

Ad hoc reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Contexts*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Sociology of Health and Illness, Social Science & Medicine*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Imagination*, among other journals.

MENTORSHIP

Dissertation Committees

Kolten Conklen (Sociology)
Joel Ferral (Anthropology/Keck Medical School)
Sheena Umemura (Sociology)

Empirical Paper Committee, Chair

Katherine King (Sociology)
Kelli Jones (Sociology)
Marion Noble (Sociology)

Qualifying Exam Committees

Katherine King (Sociology)
Ximena Sanchez Martinez (Sociology)

Undergraduate Research Supervisor

Hannah Demaionewton, Honors Thesis and Wake Forest Research Fellowship
Tegan Morcott, Honors Thesis
Sidnee Moyer, Honors Thesis and Wake Forest Research Fellowship
Ben Westlund, Honors Thesis

LANGUAGES

English (native), French (advanced proficiency)