

JOSH SEIM

Boston College
Department of Sociology
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Chestnut Hill, MA 02467-3807
seimj@bc.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Sociology, Boston College (2025-present)

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Boston College (2022-2025)

Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Southern California (2018-2022)

EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology, University of California, Berkeley (2018)

MS, Sociology, Portland State University (2011)

BA, Sociology, Gonzaga University (2009)

BOOKS

Seim, Josh. Forthcoming (Spring 2026). *The Welfare Assembly Line: Public Servants in the Suffering City*. University of California Press.

Seim, Josh. 2020. *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle: Ambulance Crews on the Front Lines of Urban Suffering*. University of California Press.

- 2024 SSSP Division of Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Scholarship Award, Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2023 Max Weber Award for Distinguished Scholarship, American Sociological Association's Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work
- Honorable Mention: 2022 Distinguished Scholarly Book Award, American Sociological Association's Section on Labor and Labor Movements
- Reviewed in: *Social Forces*, *Symbolic Interaction*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Medical Humanities*, *Relations Industrielles / Industrial Relations*, *Cleveland Review of Books*

- Featured in: *The Nation*, *This is Hell!*, *The Annex Sociology Podcast*, *Down the Research Rabbit Hole*, *New Books in Sociology*, *The Everyday Sociology Blog*, *USC Dornsife News*, *UC Press Virtual Fireside*, *The Page 99 Test*

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

* denotes graduate student co-author

Seim, Josh, Jamie Adams*, Jiayu Huang*, Gabi Celia Ortiz*, Tiago Franco de Paula*, and Jier Yang*. 2025. "Taking Ethnography to Court: Pedagogical Reflections on a Collective Field Study." *Teaching Sociology* 53(1): 3-15. (online first 2024)

Levenson, Zachary and **Josh Seim** (equal authors). 2024. "Cracking the Iron Ceiling: On Ethnography as Theory." *Critical Sociology* 50(6): 991-1004

Seim, Josh. 2024. "Working Diagnosis: The Medical Labour Process and the Classification of Suffering." *Sociology of Health and Illness* 46(S1): 208-224. (online first 2022)

- 2023 Mildred Blaxter New Writers Prize, *Sociology of Health and Illness* Editorial Board.

Seim, Josh. 2024. "Participant Observation, Observant Participation, and Hybrid Ethnography." *Sociological Methods and Research* 53(1):121-52. (online first 2021)

- Honorable Mention: 2022 Outstanding Publication Award, American Sociological Association's Methodology Section.

Seim, Josh and Anthony DiMario*. 2023. "City of Gauze: The Medical Governance of Urban Poverty." *Social Problems*. (online first)

Seim, Josh and Michael McCarthy. 2023. "Classes Without Labor: Three Critiques of Bourdieu." *Critical Sociology*. (online first)

Seim, Josh. 2023. "Social Theory: What, Who, How." Pp. 85-95 in *Handbook of Teaching and Learning in Sociology*, edited by S.A. Cabrera and S. Sweet. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Seim, Josh, Michael Corman, and Leo McCann. 2022. "Producing Paramedicine: Case Studies in the Medical Labor Process." *Social Science and Medicine* 309: 115231.

Estefan, Michel and **Josh Seim** (equal authors). 2022. "Teaching Social Theory as Cartography: Toward a Pedagogy of Radical Accessibility." *Teaching Sociology* 50(3):205-304.

- Featured in: *Teaching Sociology* Podcast (July 2022)

Gibson-Light, Michael and **Josh Seim** (equal authors). 2020. "Punishing Fieldwork: Penal Domination and Prison Ethnography." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 49(5):666-690.

Seim, Josh and David J. Harding. 2020. "Parolefare: Post-prison Supervision and Low Wage Work." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 6(1):173-195.

Seim, Josh, Melody Glenn, Joshua English, and Karl Sporer. 2018. "Neighborhood Poverty and 9-1-1 Ambulance Response Times." *Prehospital Emergency Care* 22(4):436-444

Seim, Josh. 2017. "The Ambulance: Toward a Labor Theory of Poverty Governance." *American Sociological Review* 82(3):451-475.

- 2017 James D. Thompson Award, American Sociological Association's Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work

Seim, Josh, Joshua English, and Karl Sporer. 2017. "Neighborhood Poverty and 9-1-1 Ambulance Contacts." *Prehospital Emergency Care* 21(6):722-728.

Seim, Josh. 2016. "Short-Timing: The Carceral Experience of Soon-to-be-Released Prisoners." *Punishment & Society* 18(4):442-458.

Herring, Chris, Manuel Rosaldo, **Josh Seim**, and Benjamin Shestakofsky (equal authors). 2016. "Living Theory: Principles and Practices for Teaching Social Theory Ethnographically." *Teaching Sociology* 44(3):188-199.

ESSAYS, REVIEWS, AND OTHER WRITING

Seim, Josh. 2025. "Thick Construction as a Variant of Theory-Driven Ethnography." *Qualitative Sociology* (online first) (invited symposium).

Seim, Josh. 2022. Review of James Doucet-Battle's "Sweetness in the Blood: Race, Risk, and Type 2 Diabetes." *American Journal of Sociology* 127(6):1924-5

Seim, Josh. 2020. "COVID-19 as Social Murder: Putting Capitalism on Trial." *Spectre*.

- Featured on *LeftHooked*

Seim, Josh. 2021. "A Constrained Photo-Ethnography of Urban Ambulance Operations in California." *Ethnographic Café*.

Seim, Josh. 2020. "Ambulance Crews on the Front Lines of Urban Suffering." *The Equity Research Institute*.

- Reposted by *The University of California Press Blog*

Seim, Josh. 2020. “How a ‘Calm Before the Storm’ Is Changing Ambulance Operations for Workers and Patients.” *USC Dornsife News*.

- Reposed by *Medical Xpress* and *The University of California Press Blog*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

* denotes graduate student co-author

Seim, Josh and Zachary Levenson (equal authors). *Driven by Theory: Keeping Qualitative Data in the Passenger Seat*. (book manuscript).

Chiarello, Liz, Kelley Fong, and **Josh Seim** (equal authors). “Working the Fragmented State: Practical Problems and Imagined Remedies.”

Seim, Josh, Alexa Damaska*, Lan Huang*, Lexi Blair*, Eric Chan*, Duygun Ruben*, Yifeng Zhang*. “Melting Consent: Changes in the Labor Process Under Liquid Modernity.”

Seim, Josh, Tiago Franco de Paula*, and Jier Yang*. “From Social Murder to Structural Violence: Theorizing Insecurity in Health and Medicine.”

HONORS

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| 2024 | SSSP Division of Health, Health Policy, and Health Services Scholarship Award
Society for the Study of Social Problems. |
| 2023 | Max Weber Award for Distinguished Scholarship
American Sociological Association’s Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work |
| 2023 | Mildred Blaxter New Writer’s Prize
<i>Sociology of Health and Illness</i> Editorial Board |
| 2022 | Honorable Mention: Distinguished Scholarly Book Award
American Sociological Association’s Section on Labor and Labor Movements |
| 2022 | Honorable Mention: Outstanding Publication Award
American Sociological Association’s Methodology Section. |
| 2019 | Honorable Mention: ASA Dissertation Award
American Sociological Association |
| 2019 | Honorable Mention: Roberta G. Simmons Outstanding Dissertation Award
American Sociological Association’s Section on Medical Sociology |

- 2017 James D. Thompson Award
American Sociological Association's Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work
- 2014 Favorite Graduate Student Instructor (1st Place)
Berkeley Undergraduate Sociology Association

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2023 The Institute for the Liberal Arts, Minor Grant (\$2,350)
Boston College
- 2022 The Institute for the Liberal Arts, Minor Grant (\$2,350)
Boston College
- 2021 Undergraduate Research Associates Program (\$6,000)
University of Southern California
- 2020 Undergraduate Research Associates Program (\$3,250)
University of Southern California
- 2019 Undergraduate Research Associates Program (\$4,675)
University of Southern California
- 2018 Blum Initiative on Global and Regional Poverty Graduate Fellowship (\$500)
School of Public Policy, UC Riverside
- 2017 University of California Dissertation-Year Fellowship (\$23,500)
Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2016 Doctoral Completion Fellowship (\$18,000)
Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2015 Leo Lowenthal Fellowship (\$10,000)
Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley
- 2015 Summer Research Grant (\$5,000)
Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2014 Mentored Research Award (\$16,000)
Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2014 Small Research Grant (\$2,000)
Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley

- 2014 Graduate Dean's Summer Research Grant (\$4,000)
Graduate Division, UC Berkeley
- 2013 Small Research Grant (\$2,000)
Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley
- 2012 Berkeley Social Justice Fellowship (\$2,000)
Department of Sociology, UC Berkeley

TEACHING

Boston College (2022-present)

- Sociology 7622: Craft of Ethnography (graduate, Morrissey College)
- Sociology 7715: Classical Sociological Theory (graduate, Morrissey College)
- Sociology 7716: Contemporary Sociological Theory (graduate, Morrissey College)
- Sociology 1078: Sociology of Health and Illness (undergraduate, Morrissey College)
- Sociology 1001: Introduction to Sociology (undergraduate, Morrissey College)
- Sociology ADSO2501: Sociological Theory (undergraduate, Woods College)
- Sociology ADSO1701: Work and Inequality (undergraduate, Woods College)
- Crim. & Soc. Just. ADCJ2001: Crime and Punishment (undergraduate, Woods College)

University of Southern California (2018-2022)

- Sociology 510: Sociological Theory I (graduate)
- Sociology 511: Sociological Theory II (graduate)
- Sociology 658: Sociology of Health and Medicine (graduate)
- Sociology 475: Medical Sociology (undergraduate)
- Sociology 270: Sociological Theory (undergraduate)
- PhD Comprehensive Exam Committee
 - Sociology of Health and Medicine (2020-2021, 2021-2022)

University of California, Berkeley (2016-2017)

- Sociology 115: Sociology of Health and Medicine (undergraduate)
- Sociology 190: Sociology of Crime and Punishment (undergraduate)
- Center for Ethnographic Research Workshop (co-instructor, undergraduate/graduate)

MENTORSHIP

PhD-Level Mentor

- Jier Yang (in progress, Sociology, BC)
- Alexa Damaska (in progress, Sociology, Boston College)
- Anthony DiMario (2024, Sociology, co-chair, USC)

MA-Level Mentor

- Alexa Blair (2025, Sociology, Boston College)

- Alexa Damaska (2024, Sociology, Boston College)
- Anthony DiMario (2020, Sociology, USC)
- Shea Gilliam (2024, Sociology, USC)

Undergraduate Thesis Mentor

- Elizabeth Anderson (2025, Sociology, BC)
- Sarah Mansky (2023, Sociology, BC)
- Sophie Wennemann (2020, Global Studies, USC)
- Heidi Yun (2024, Sociology, BC)

PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

“Book Talks” for *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*

- 02/24 Boston University, Department of Sociology, Boston, MA
- 10/22 University of Chicago, The Crown Family School, Chicago, IL
- 04/21 University of Maryland Baltimore County, Emergency Health Services (remote)
- 03/21 University of Minnesota, Department of Sociology (remote)
- 10/20 NYU, Department of Sociology, Ethnography Workshop (remote)
- 04/20 *Canceled (COVID): Los Angeles Times Festival of Books, Los Angeles, CA*
- 03/20 *Canceled (COVID): On Contact with Chris Hedges, New York, NY*
- 02/20 USC, Spatial Sciences Institute, Los Angeles, CA
- 01/20 UC Irvine, Department of Sociology, Irvine, CA
- 11/19 UCLA, Department of Sociology, Los Angeles, CA
- 10/19 University of Arizona, School of Sociology, Tucson, AZ
- 05/19 UC Riverside, Blum Initiative: The Politics of Poverty, Riverside, CA

Additional Presentations and Events for *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*

- 08/22 American Sociological Association Book Forum, with comments from Ashley Mears (Boston University), Jeffrey Sallaz (University of Arizona), and Forrest Stuart (Stanford University). Moderated by Catherine Sirois (Stanford University). Organized by Ann Owens (USC).

- 05/21 Virtual Conversation: *Redistributing the Poor* (Lara-Millán 2021) + *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle* (Seim 2020), with comments from Michael Burawoy (UC Berkeley) and Jennifer James (UC San Francisco). Moderated by Ann Owens (USC)
- 09/20 Virtual Book Launch, with comments from David Brady (UC Riverside), Neil Gong (UC San Diego), and Tania Jenkins (UNC Chapel Hill). Moderated by Ann Owens (USC)

Conference Presentations

- 08/24 “Working the Fragmented State: Discretion and Horizontality in the Frontline Governance of Suffering Populations” w/ Elizabeth Chiarello (Saint Louis University) and Kelley Fong (University of California, Irvine). American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC.
- 08/24 “A Manifesto for Theory-Driven Ethnography” w/ Zachary Levenson (Florida International University). American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC.
- 08/23 “Toward a Sociology of Medical Labor and Pedagogy.” The Social Transformation of the Social Transformation of the Sociology of Health Professions Education, American Sociological Association Preconference (invited panel), Philadelphia, PA.
- 06/23 “Referralfare: Welfare Workers and the Fragmented State.” Law and Society Association (invited panel), San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 04/23 “Responsibilizing and Proletarianizing Welfare Workers in Los Angeles.” International Labor Process Conference, Glasgow, Scotland.
- 11/22 “The Limits of Bourdieusian Class Analysis” w/ Michael McCarthy (Marquette University). Bourdieu, Work, Inequalities Conference, Paris, France.
- 11/22 “Connective Labor and Street-Level Bureaucracy.” American Anthropological Association (invited panel), Seattle, WA.
- 08/21 “City of Gauze: Medicine and the Governance of Urban Suffering” w/ Anthony DiMario (USC). American Sociological Association (remote).
- 03/21 “Medicine and the Governance of Urban Suffering” w/ Anthony DiMario. Pacific Sociological Association (remote).
- 03/21 “Theory as Cartography: Teaching with Theory Maps” w/ Michel Estefan (UC San Diego). Pacific Sociological Association (remote).
- 02/20 “Hybrid Ethnography: Mixing Participant Observation and Observant Participation.” Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA.

- 08/19 “Hybrid Ethnography: Mixing Participant Observation and Observant Participation.” American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
- 03/19 “Ambulance Work in the Suffering City.” Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA.
- 04/18 “The Ambulance: On the Front Lines of Poverty Governance.” Pacific Sociological Association, Long Beach, CA.
- 08/18 Discussant. Regular Session: New Directions for Urban Sociology. American Sociological Association, Montreal, QC.
- 04/17 “Losing Soul: An Embodied Ethnography of Ambulance Work.” Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR.
- 04/17 “Parolefare: Post-Prison Supervision and the Low-Wage Labor Market.” Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR.
- 03/14 “Aspirations and Strategies of Soon-to-be-Released Prisoners.” Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, OR.
- 03/11 “Investment Strategies: Securing (Re)Integrative Resources Behind Bars.” Pacific Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.

Invited Talks to Classrooms, Research Centers, and Webinars

- 05/25 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Undergraduate course: Poverty and Public Policy (Professor Casey Stockstill). Dartmouth College. (remote)
- 02/25 Author Q&A on Miscellaneous Methods Articles. Graduate Ethnography Seminar (Professor Matthew Desmond). Princeton University. (remote)
- 01/25 Author Q&A: (with Zachary Levenson): “Cracking the Iron Ceiling.” Ethnography Workshop at Northwestern University, Evanston, IL.
- 03/24 Panelist: Book Launch for *Conservatorship: Inside California’s System of Coercion and Care for Mental Illness* (by Alex Barnard). New York University, New York, New York.
- 02/24 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Graduate course: Sociology of Health and the Body (Professor Joanna Kempner). Rutgers University. (remote)
- 12/23 “Participant Observation, Observant Participation, and Hybrid Ethnography.” Spark Talk Series. McMaster University (remote)
- 12/23 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Undergraduate course: Introduction to Sociology (Professor Robert Francis). Whitworth University (remote)

- 11/23 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Undergraduate course: Sociology of Health and Illness (Professor Amanda Gengler). Wake Forrest University (remote)
- 09/23 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Undergraduate course: Qualitative Research Methods (Professor Elise Herrala). Haverford College (remote)
- 06/23 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Undergraduate course: Sociology of Medical Practice (Cassidy Boe). University of New Mexico (remote)
- 05/23 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Undergraduate course: Working in America (Cary Beckwith). Green Haven Correctional Facility, Bard Prison Initiative, Stormville, New York.
- 03/23 “Observant Participation: Roles, Risks, Rewards.” w/ Ashley Mears (Boston University) and Pat Reilly (University of British Columbia). Ethnography Atelier (remote)
- 02/23 “Punishing Fieldwork: Penal Domination and Prison Ethnography.” Graduate course: Crime, Punishment, and Inequality (Professor Sarah Brayne). University of Texas, Austin (remote).
- 07/22 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Undergraduate course: Sociology of Health and Illness (Professor April Hovav). Occidental College, Department of Sociology (remote).
- 06/22 “Teaching Social Theory as Cartography: Toward a Pedagogy of Radical Accessibility.” w/ Michel Estefan (UC San Diego). Teaching Sociology Webinar.
- 03/22 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Graduate course: Ethnographic Methods (Professor Zachary Levenson). University of North Carolina, Greensboro (remote).
- 03/22 Author Q&A: *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*. Undergraduate course: Health Professions (Professor Kelly Underman). Drexel University (remote).
- 07/21 “Social Murder and the Ambulance: Putting Friedrich Engels in Conversation with *Bandage, Sort, and Hustle*.” Undergraduate course: Introduction to Sociology for Pre-Health Majors (Meghna Mukherjee). University of California, Berkeley (remote).
- 04/21 “The Vertical Relations of Production in a Private 911 Ambulance Firm.” Graduate course: Questioning Power and Reimagining Societies (Professor Katherine Chen). The Graduate Center, City University of New York (remote).
- 03/21 “Participant Observation, Observant Participation, and Hybrid Ethnography.” The University of Sheffield. Centre for Decent Work (remote).
- 02/21 “Participant Observation, Observant Participation, and Hybrid Ethnography.” Graduate course: Ethnography as Embedded and Embodied Social Inquiry (Professor Loïc Wacquant). University of California, Berkeley (remote).

- 10/20 “Punishing Fieldwork: Penal Domination and Prison Ethnography” w/ Michael Gibson-Light. Graduate course: Crime, Punishment, and Inequality (Professor Sarah Brayne). University of Texas, Austin (remote).
- 10/20 “COVID-19 as Social Murder.” Undergraduate course: Pandemics and Disasters (Professor Michael Corman). The University of the Fraser Valley, Department of Sociology (remote).
- 04/19 “Reflections on Ethnography.” Graduate course: Ethnographic Methods (Professor Ching Kwan Lee). University of California, Los Angeles, CA.

Additional Presentations, Talks, and Guest Lectures

- 03/21 “Medicine and the Governance of Urban Suffering” w/ Anthony DiMario. University of Southern California, Department of Sociology (remote).
- 03/19 “Hybrid Ethnography: Mixing Participant Observation and Observant Participation.” USC, Department of Sociology, Los Angeles, CA.
- 02/19 “Parolefare: Post-Prison Supervision and Low Wage Work.” The Russell Sage Foundation, New York, NY.
- 10/17 “Rethinking the Ambulance, Rethinking Poverty Governance.” Blum Initiative on Global and Regional Poverty, Riverside, CA.

SERVICE

Service to the Discipline

- Journal Boards:
 - Editorial Advisory Board: *Social Problems* (2024-present)
 - Editorial Board: *Teaching Sociology* (2024-present)
 - Associate Editor: *Sociological Perspectives* (2020-2022)
- American Sociological Association:
 - Max Weber Distinguished Scholarship Award Committee, Organizations, Occupations, and Work (2024)
 - Session Organizer, TBD Session on Organizations, Occupations, and Work (2024)
 - Distinguished Scholarly Book Award Committee, Labor and Labor Movements (2023)
 - Nominations Committee, Theory Section (2022-2023)
 - Session Organizer and President, “Work and the Workplace” (2021)
 - Nominations Committee, Theory Section (2021-2022)
 - Student Representative, Organizations, Occupations, and Work (2017-2018)

- Ad Hoc Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *American Sociologist*, *City & Community*, *Columbia University Press*, *Critical Sociology*, *Ethnography*, *Fordham University Press*, *Frontiers in Sociology*, *Health Affairs*, *Healthcare*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Oxford University Press*, *Prehospital Emergency Care*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Social Currents*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Science and Medicine*, *Sociology Compass*, *Sociological Methodology*, *Sociological Methods and Research*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Socius*, *Teaching Sociology*, *Tijdschrift voor Economische en Sociale Geografie*, *Time and Society*, *University of California Press*, *University of Chicago Press*, *Work and Occupations*

Service to the Department of Sociology, Boston College (2022-present)

- Graduate Admissions Committee (2022-2024)
- Scholarly Events Committee (2022-2024)
- Introduction to Sociology Revamp Committee (2023-2025)
- Undergraduate Studies Committee (2024-2025)

Service to the University, Boston College (2022-present)

- Voting Member, IRB (2024-2027)
- Faculty Participant, Halftime Retreat, Center for Student Formation (2023)
- Medical Humanities Minor Admissions Committee (2023-2024)

Service to the Department of Sociology, University of Southern California (2018-2022)

- Sponsoring Faculty, The USC Social Theory Book Club (2020-present)
- Colloquium Committee (2018-present, Co-Chair 2021-2022)
- Organizer/Moderator, Panel on Teaching Sociology in Community Colleges (2021)
- Faculty Search Committee (2020)
- *(Canceled, COVID) Co-Organizer, South/South Critical Ethnographies Workshop*
- Faculty Merit Review Committee (2018)