

# KATHERINE JENSEN

Department of Sociology | University of Wisconsin-Madison  
7105 Sewell Social Sciences | 1180 Observatory Drive | Madison, WI 53706

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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2019- Assistant Professor, Sociology and International Studies  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

2018-9 Post-Doctoral Fellow, Center for Inter-American Policy & Research  
Tulane University

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. Sociology, The University of Texas at Austin, 2018

*Dissertation:* “Worthy of Safe Haven: The Politics of Asylum in Contemporary Brazil”

*Committee:* Javier Auyero (Chair), Ben Carrington, Nestor Rodriguez, Harel Shapira, Lorraine Leu Moore, Denise Gilman

*Specialization:* Race and Ethnicity, African and African Diaspora Studies Doctoral Portfolio

M.A. Sociology, The University of Texas at Austin, 2013

*Thesis:* “Framing Afrodescendants in a Country ‘*Donde No Hay Negros*’ (Where There Are No Blacks): A Critical Analysis of the 2010 Argentine Census Survey of African Descent”

Coursework in Social Sciences, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2009-2010

B.A. Latin American and Latino/a Studies, Vassar College, 2009

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Race and ethnicity, political sociology, forced migration, ethnography, Latin America

## BOOK PROJECT UNDER CONTRACT

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*The Color of Asylum: The Racial Politics of Safe Haven in Brazil* (Tentative title). Advance book contract at the University of Chicago Press.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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Katherine Jensen. Forthcoming 2021. “The Meanings of Refugee Status.” *Contexts*. Special Issue “Ethnographies of the Global South,” eds. Victoria Reyes and Marco Garrido.

Katherine Jensen and Javier Auyero. 2019. "Teaching and Learning the Craft: The Construction of Ethnographic Objects." *Research in Urban Sociology* (Special Issue, Urban Ethnography: Legacies and Challenges) 16:69-87.

Katherine Jensen. 2018. "The Epistemic Logic of Asylum Screening: (Dis)embodiment and the Production of Asylum Knowledge in Brazil." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 41(15):2615-2633.

\* Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention – Body and Embodiment Section, American Sociological Association

\* Best Social Sciences Article Award, Honorable Mention – Brazil Section, Latin American Studies Association

Shapira, Harel, Katherine Jensen, and Ken-Hou Lin. 2018. "Trends and Patterns of Concealed Handgun License Applications: A Multi-State Analysis." *Social Currents* 5(1):3-14.

Collins, Caitlyn, Katherine Jensen, and Javier Auyero. 2017. "A Proposal for Public Sociology as Localized Intervention and Collective Enterprise: The Makings and Impact of *Invisible in Austin*." *Qualitative Sociology* 40(2):191-214.

Auyero, Javier and Katherine Jensen. 2015. "For Political Ethnographies of Urban Marginality." *City & Community* 14(4):359-363.

Katherine Jensen. 2014. "Black Brazil Never Slept." *Contexts* 13(2):44-49.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

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Katherine Jensen. 2018. "El asilo pensado como un campo: percepciones, posturas y relaciones en el proceso de refugio en Brasil" (Asylum thought as a field: Perceptions, stances and relations in the asylum process in Brazil). Pp. 27-50 in *Pierre Bourdieu en la sociología latinoamericana: El uso de campo y habitus en la investigación* (Pierre Bourdieu in Latin American Sociology: The Use of Field and Habitus in Research), eds. R. Castro and H. J. Suárez. Mexico City, MX: UNAM Press.

Katherine Jensen. 2015. "Kumar: Driving in the Nighttime." Pp. 138-161 in *Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City* edited by J. Auyero. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

\* Top 20 Bestselling Books of the Decade, University of Texas Press

\* Press coverage and reviews in *Contemporary Sociology*, *The Guardian*, *Kirkus Reviews*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Austin American-Statesman*, *British Journal of Industrial Relations*, *Social Service Review*, *The Journal of Sociology & Social Welfare*, *Texas Observer*, *Bloomberg Business*, *Austin Monthly*, *Booklist*, *Street Roots News*, *Science Letter*, *The Daily Texan*

Brenda Pereyra, Nuria Pena, and Katherine Jensen. 2012. "Teaching to remember: Memorials of repression in Argentina and the impact on students." In *International Education and Global Justice: Rethinking the Politics of Sustainability*, edited by T. Belghazi and S. Graioud. Rabat, Morocco: Publications of the Faculty of Letters.

## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

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“Envisioning Refugee Status: The Production of Refugee Apathy.” Revise and resubmit at *Qualitative Sociology*.

“Racial Prenotions: Donald Pierson’s *Negroes in Brazil* as Cautionary Tale.” Invited chapter for *Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: The Enduring Relevance of the Chicago School of Sociology*, eds. Dennis Rodgers and Gareth A. Jones.

“Hamid: In Search of a Future in Brazil.” Invited chapter for *Invisible in Latin America*, ed. Javier Auyero.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

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“Varied Racialization and Legal Inclusion: Haitian, Syrian, and Venezuelan Forced Migrants in Brazil,” with Lisa Maria de Sousa Dias (graduate student).

“Racializing Refugees: The Racial Logics of Asylum in Brazil.”

“The Cognitive Production of State Legibility: Frames of Perception and Evaluation in Refugee Status Determination.”

## BOOK REVIEWS

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Katherine Jensen. 2019. “Inside Asylum Bureaucracy: Organizing Refugee Status Determination in Austria by Julia Dahlvik.” *Contemporary Sociology* 49(1):39-41.

Katherine Jensen. 2019. “Asylum after Empire: Colonial Legacies in the Politics of Asylum Seeking by Lucy Mayblin.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 42(8):1380-1382.

Katherine Jensen. 2013. “Consent of the Damned: Ordinary Argentinians in the Dirty War by David M. K. Sheinin.” *The Latin Americanist* 57(3):106-108.

Jensen, Katherine and Javier Auyero. 2012. “Lives at the Urban Margins.” *Public Books*.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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Katherine Jensen. 2018. “Bolsonaro Marks a Xenophobic Turn for Brazil.” *States, Power, & Societies: ASA Political Sociology Section Newsletter*. Fall:10-12.

Katherine Jensen. 2015. “Stop calling it a ‘refugee crisis.’” *The Daily Texan*.

Auyero, Javier, Caitlyn Collins, and Katherine Jensen. 2015. “Exposing the Underbelly of Austin’s Economic Segregation.” June 24, *Austin American-Statesman*.

\*Reprinted in *Texas Perspectives*, *TODO Austin*, and *Life & Letters*

Collins, Caitlyn, Katherine Jensen, Kristine Kilanski, and Javier Auyero. 2015. “The Other Side of Austin, Texas.” *Metropolitics*.

Katherine Jensen. 2014. “Dismantling White Supremacy at Vassar.” *Racism Review*.

Katherine Jensen. 2013. "When the Bullets Aren't Rubber: Racism and Violence in Brazil's Protests." *Racism Review*.

## **AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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### *External Awards and Honors*

- 2018      Honorable Mention, Best Social Sciences Article Award, Brazil Section, Latin American Studies Association  
            Honorable Mention, Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Body and Embodiment Section, American Sociological Association  
            Travel Grant, Brazil Section of Latin American Studies Association
- 2016-17    P.E.O. Scholar Award, P.E.O. International (\$15,000)
- 2015-16    Fulbright Award, U.S. Department of State (\$16,200)
- 2015      Travel Grant, Latin American Studies Association
- 2012      Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education (\$15,000)  
            Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship

### *Internal Awards and Honors*

- 2020      Fall Research Competition Award, UW-Madison (\$34,409)
- 2018      Travel and Research Award, Stone Center for Latin American Studies, Tulane University  
            Graduate Student Assembly Travel Grant, UT-Austin
- 2017-18    University Graduate Continuing Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$30,185)
- 2017      Graduate Summer Fellowship, Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, UT-Austin (\$2,500 – *declined*)
- 2015      University of Texas at Austin Excellence Award (\$5,000)  
            Graduate Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Supplement Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$1,000)  
            Graduate Student Assembly Travel Award, UT-Austin  
            Anna Luiza Ozorio de Almeida Field Research Grant, Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies, UT-Austin  
            Urban Ethnography Lab Fellowship, UT-Austin
- 2014      Urban Ethnography Lab Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$1,000)
- 2013      Predoctoral Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$1,337)  
            Urban Ethnography Lab Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$1,500)
- 2012      Academic Scholarship, UT-Austin (\$1,236)

- Anthropology in Rio Scholarship, College of Liberal Arts, UT-Austin (\$1,375)
- International Education Fee Scholarship, UT-Austin (\$1,300)
- 2011 Sociology Department Fellowship, UT-Austin (\$5,000)
- University Tuition Grant, UT-Austin (\$1,500)
- 2009 Maguire Fellowship, Vassar College (\$17,715)
- General and Departmental Honors, Vassar College
- Student Life Recognition Award, Office of Religious and Spiritual Life, Vassar College
- 2008 Burnam Fellowship, Vassar College (\$2,500)

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2021 *Scheduled.* Invited panelist, “Migration as Displacement” Thematic Session. American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- “Racializing Refugees: The Racial Logics of Asylum in Brazil.” International Sociological Association (ISA) Forum of Sociology. Porto Alegre, Brazil. (\*Covid-19 postponed until February 2021\*)
- 2020 “Varied Racialization and Political Inclusion: Haitian, Syrian, and Venezuelan Forced Migrants in Brazil.” Racialization and Immigration Conference. North Carolina State University. (\*Covid-19 remote\*)
- “Racializing Refugees: The Racial Logics of Asylum in Brazil.” American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. (\*Covid-19 remote\*)
- 2019 “Racializing Refugees: The Racial Logics of Asylum in Brazil”
- Social Science History Association (SSHA) Meeting, Chicago, IL
  - Development in Dialogue Conference, University of Notre Dame, Indiana
  - Junior Theorists Symposium, New York, New York
- 2018 “Racializing Refugees: The Racial Logics of Asylum in Brazil.” Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium (PRIEC) Meeting. Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC.
- “From the Asylum Officials’ Point of View: Schemes of Perception and Evaluation in Refugee Status Determination”
- American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
  - The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology: Cultural, Pragmatist, and Psychosocial Approaches Conference, Philadelphia, PA
- “Racial Prenotions: Donald Pierson’s *Negroes in Brazil* as Cautionary Tale.” Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Conference. Barcelona, Spain.
- “The Racial Logics of Determining Refugee Status: A View from Brazil.” Divided We Stand? Race and Immigration in the Trump Era Conference. Austin, Texas.

- 2017 “The Epistemic Logic of Asylum Screening: (Dis)embodiment and Knowledge Production in Brazil”
- American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada
  - Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada
- “Against the *Illusio*: Troubling Refugee Status.” Graduate Student Affiliate Workshop, Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice. Austin, Texas.
- “Racial Prenotions: Donald Pierson’s *Negroes in Brazil* as Cautionary Tale.” The Enduring Relevance of the Chicago School for Contemporary Urban Studies Workshop. Centre for Urban Studies, University of Amsterdam. Amsterdam, Netherlands.
- 2016 “El asilo pensado como un *campo*: percepciones, posturas y relaciones en el proceso de refugio en Brasil.” “Haciendo Trabajar a Pierre Bourdieu Desde America Latina: Habitus y Campo en la Investigación Social” Colloquium. Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2015 “Through a White Logic: Screening Asylum Seekers in Brazil.” Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Conference. San Juan, Puerto Rico.
- 2014 “Do You Really Believe He Escaped That House? Racist Epistemologies in the Brazilian Asylum-Screening Process.” Southern Sociological Society (SSS) Annual Meeting. Charlotte, North Carolina.
- 2013 “A Critique of Credibility: The Asylum-Screening Process in Brazil.” American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting. New York, New York.
- “‘We Afrodescendants Are Products of the Slave Trade’: Exclusionary Framings of the Argentine 2010 Census Question on African Descent.” ILASSA Conference. Austin, Texas.
- 2012 “Framings of the 2010 Argentine Census Survey of African Descent: African Migrant Communities and the Boundaries of Inclusion.” UT Department of Spanish and Portuguese 20th Colloquium. Austin, Texas.
- “Continuities of State Repression and Social Injustice: Lessons from the Spatial Margins in Argentine Memory-Making.” LAGO Conference. New Orleans, Louisiana.

## INVITED TALKS

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- 2020 “The Racial Logics of the Refugee Regime in Brazil”
- University of Chicago, Center for Latin American Studies
- “Teaching and Learning Ethnography,” University of Wisconsin, Department of Sociology, Research in Qualitative Methodology Workshop Series
- Invited Discussant, Chicago Ethnography Conference, Depaul University (\*Covid-19 cancelled\*)
- “Hamid: In Search of a Future in Brazil,” Invisible in Latin America Book Workshop, UT-Austin (\*Covid-19 postponed\*)

- 2019 “The Cognitive Production of State Legibility: Frames of Perception and Evaluation in Refugee Status Determination,” University of Wisconsin, Sociology of Economic Change and Development Workshop Series
- “Teaching and Learning Ethnography,” Tulane University, Department of Sociology
- 2018 “The Racial Logics of the Refugee Regime in Brazil”
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Sociology
  - London School of Economics, Department of Sociology
  - University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Department of Sociology
  - Florida Atlantic University, Department of Sociology
  - Sam Houston State University, Department of Sociology
- Invited moderator, “Migration and Precarious Citizenship: Identity and Memory in the 20th Century,” LAGO Conference, Tulane University
- “Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City”*
- KUT Book of the Month Club, BookPeople
  - “Politics of Poverty” Undergraduate Course, Government, UT-Austin
- 2017 “The Racial Logics of the Refugee Regime in Brazil”
- University of Toronto, Department of Sociology
  - Washington and Lee University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
- “Seeking Refuge in Our Current Era,” P.E.O. International, Austin Chapter
- “Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City”*
- AP Macroeconomics Course, McCallum High School
  - “Politics of Poverty” Undergraduate Course, Government, UT-Austin
  - “Social Scientific Imagination” Undergraduate Course, Sociology, UT-Austin
- 2016 “Diaspora como conceito (Diaspora as a concept),” “Diaspora e problemática racial” Panel, Solar dos Abacaxis: Freedom/Territory, in partnership with UNHCR Brazil
- “Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City”*
- Institute for Urban Policy and Research
  - Sociology Course, Dripping Springs High School
  - “Sociology in Action” Student Organization, UT-Austin
- 2015 “Introduction to Ethnography,” Fundamentals of Research Methods Graduate Course, Sociology, UT-Austin
- “Local Implementation,” Amnesty International Texas State Conference
- “Invisible in Austin: Life and Labor in an American City”*
- BookPeople
  - Texas Book Festival
  - Humanities Texas Book Fair
  - Moody College of Communication

- UT Press Advisory Council
- Abriendo Brecha Activist Scholarship Conference
- “Doing Public Scholarship” Graduate Course, American Studies, UT-Austin
- “Fictions of the Real” Graduate Course, Spanish and Portuguese, UT-Austin
- “Social Scientific Imagination” Undergraduate Course, Sociology, UT-Austin

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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- 2019- Assistant Professor, Sociology and International Studies, UW-Madison  
*Courses:* Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality  
 Refugees in Global Context  
 Introduction to International Studies  
 Asylum and Refugees  
 Fellow, Madison Teaching and Learning Excellence, UW-Madison
- 2020 Faculty Research Mentor, McNair Scholars Program, University of Wisconsin
- 2018-19 Instructor, Department of Sociology, Tulane University  
*Course:* Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality
- 2015-17 Instructor, Department of Sociology, UT-Austin  
*Courses:* Race, Class, Gender, and Sexuality in American Society  
 Urban Sociology (Co-taught with Prof. Javier Auyero)
- 2015 Inclusive Classrooms Teaching Certificate, Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, UT-Austin
- 2013 Teaching Certificate in First-Year Interdisciplinary Instruction, School of Undergraduate Studies, UT-Austin
- 2010-11 Program Assistant, “Argentina: Social Movements and Human Rights,” SIT Study Abroad, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- 2008-09 ESL Teaching Assistant, Poughkeepsie High School, Poughkeepsie, New York
- 2006-09 Educational Assistant, Rural and Migrant Ministry, Poughkeepsie, New York

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND AFFILIATIONS**

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- 2020- Diversity Scholars Network, National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan
- 2019- Faculty Affiliate, Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Studies, University of Wisconsin
- 2012-18 Graduate Fellow, Urban Ethnography Lab, UT-Austin
- 2015-18 Graduate Student Affiliate, Rapoport Center for Human Rights and Justice, UT-Austin



- 2014-17 Research Assistant, Prof. Harel Shapira, “Concealed Carry Permits in the US,”  
Department of Sociology, UT-Austin
- 2017 Qualitative Research Analyst, Research and Analytical Services Department, Trellis

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## LANGUAGES

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English, native; Portuguese, fluent; Spanish, fluent

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## SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE AND ACADEMY

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- 2014- Reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Sociological Theory*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Sociology of Race & Ethnicity*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *American Political Science Review*, Routledge, Springer, and Rowman and Littlefield
- 2013-14 Student Editorial Board Member, *Law and Human Behavior*

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## SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT AND UNIVERSITY

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- 2020- Faculty Advisor, Research in Qualitative Methodology Graduate Workshop
- 2019- Senator, Sociology Department Representative, Faculty Senate, University of Wisconsin  
Member, “Race and Ethnic Studies” Standing Committee for Preliminary Exams,  
Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin  
Member, Web and Online Outreach Committee, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin
- 2020 Faculty Research Mentor, McNair Scholars Program, University of Wisconsin  
Review Committee, Newman Family Scholarship Award
- 2018-19 Coordinator, Confronting the Challenges of Poverty and Inequality Workshop, Tulane University
- 2015-18 Co-Organizer, “Ethnographic Approaches” Speaker Series, Urban Ethnography Lab, UT-Austin
- 2014-17 Graduate Student Mentor, Sociology Undergraduate Honors Theses, UT-Austin
- 2012-16 Graduate Student Coordinator, Urban Ethnography Lab, UT-Austin
- 2015 Graduate Student Representative, Student Government, UT-Austin
- 2014 Mentor, Intellectual Entrepreneurship Program, UT-Austin
- 2013 LGBTQ Ally Certification, Gender and Sexuality Center, UT-Austin

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## SERVICE TO COMMUNITY

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- 2019- Expert Witness and Consultant on Brazil Country Conditions for U.S. Asylum Claims
- University of Texas School of Law Immigration Clinic
  - University of Connecticut School of Law Legal Clinic

- University of Chicago Law School Immigrants' Rights Clinic

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Sociological Association; Latin American Studies Association; Social Science History Association; Southern Sociological Society; Society for the Study of Social Problems