

Julia Thomas

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Center for Demography and Ecology
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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, WI)

Ph.D. Candidate, ABD, Department of Sociology (Summer 2025)

Preliminary Exams: Crime, Law, and Deviance, Demography

M.S., Sociology, University of Wisconsin – Madison (2021)

Thesis: “The Legacy of Lynching: Historic Lynching Practices and Individuals’ Risk of Being Sentenced to Death in Texas Counties, 1976-2017”

Committee: Michael Massoglia (Chair), John Eason, and Michael Light

Harvard University (Cambridge, MA)

Bachelor of Arts with Concentration in Sociology (2017)

Graduated Magna Cum Laude

Honors Thesis: “The Impact of Race on the Mobility Patterns and Duration of Activity of Serial Homicide Offenders in the United States”

Advisor: Christopher Winship

CURRENT AREAS OF INTEREST

Deviance, Law, and Social Control; Law and Society; Social Stratification; Race and Ethnic Studies; Demography and Ecology

HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Population Association of America’s Poster Award: “Legacy of the ‘Forgotten Dead’: Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death” (2024)

Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award for Outstanding Research in the Social Sciences (Honorable Mention): “The Legacy of Lynching: Historic Lynching Practices and Individuals’ Risk of Being Sentenced to Death” (2024)

American Sociological Association Distinguished Student Paper Award in the area of Crime, Law, and Deviance: “The Legacy of Lynching: Historic Lynching Practices and Individuals’ Risk of Being Sentenced to Death” (2022)

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellow (2019-2024)

NICHD Traineeship, Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2018)

Center for American Political Studies Summer Research Fellowship, Harvard University (2016)

Harvard College Research Program Grant, Harvard University (2016)

Harvard Global Health Institute Global Health Fund Grant, Harvard University (2015)

Harvard College Research Program Grant, Harvard University (2014)

PUBLICATIONS

Light, Michael T., and Julia T. Thomas. 2019. "Segregation and Violence Reconsidered: Do Whites Benefit from Residential Segregation?" *American Sociological Review* 84(4):690–725. doi: 10.1177/0003122419858731.

Light, Michael T., and Julia T. Thomas. 2021. "Undocumented Immigration and Terrorism: Is There a Connection?" *Social Science Research* 94:102512. doi: 10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102512.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"The Legacy of Lynching: The Relationship between Lynching and Post-Furman Capital Punishment."

"Refugees from the Land of Cotton: Southern Lethal Punishment and the Great Migration".

RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

**Center for Demography and Ecology and the Center for Demography of Health and Aging,
University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, WI)**

Research Assistant (January 2024-May 2024)

PI: Christine Schwartz

Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, WI)

Research Assistant (August 2017-September 2018)

PI: Michael T. Light

Harvard University Institute for Quantitative Social Science (Cambridge, MA)

Research Assistant (part time employee December 2015 – May 2016)

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Thomas, Julia. "Legacy of the 'Forgotten Dead': Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death" Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Columbus, OH. 2024.

Thomas, Julia. "Legacy of the 'Forgotten Dead': Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death" Paper presented at Roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. 2023.

Thomas, Julia. "Legacy of the 'Forgotten Dead': Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, PA. 2023.

Thomas, Julia. "The Legacy of Lynching: Historic Lynching Practices and Individuals' Risk of Being Sentenced to Death" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Los Angeles, CA. 2022.

Thomas, Julia and Massoglia, Michael. "Southern Lethal Punishment and the Great Migration" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Chicago, IL. 2021.

Thomas, Julia and Massoglia, Michael. “Refugees from the Land of Cotton: Lynching and the Great Migration” Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Virtual. 2021.

Light, Michael and **Thomas, Julia**. “Undocumented Immigration, Terrorism, and Hate Crime” Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Virtual. 2020.

Thomas, Julia. “Capital Punishment and the Legacy of Lynching” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA. 2019.

Light, Michael and **Thomas, Julia**. “Segregation and Violence Reconsidered: Do Whites Benefit from Residential Segregation?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Austin, TX. 2019.

Light, Michael and **Thomas, Julia**. “Segregation and Violence Reconsidered: Do Whites Benefit from Residential Segregation?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA. 2018.

Light, Michael and Thomas, Julia. “Undocumented Immigration, Terrorism, and Hate Crime” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA. 2018.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin-Madison:

Criminal Justice in America, Lecturer (Summer 2024); Teaching Assistant (Fall 2021)

Population Problems, Lecturer (Fall 2023)

Juvenile Delinquency, Lecturer (Spring 2022)

Research Practicum in Sociology, Principal Instructor (Multiple Terms)