

Rebecca A. DiBennardo

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EDUCATION

- 2020 Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
From Pervert to Predator: Law, Medicine, Media, and the Construction of Contemporary Sexual Deviance
Committee: Abigail C. Saguy (Chair), Jessica Collett, John Heritage, Juliet Williams
- 2013 Graduate Certificate of Gender Studies, University of California, Los Angeles
- 2012 M.A. in Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles
Gay Families Count: Contact, Tolerance, and Voting on Gay Marriage Bans
Committee: Abigail C. Saguy, Megan Sweeney
Field Exams: Sociology of Family, Sociology of Gender
- 2010 M.P.A. in Health Policy, New York University Wagner School
- 2005 B.A. in International Studies and Hispanic Studies, Vassar College

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Sociology of Law, Sexualities, Gender, Cultural Sociology, Criminology, Public Policy, Health

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 **DiBennardo, Rebecca.** “Ideal Victims and Monstrous Offenders: News Media and the Rise of Sexual Predator Discourse.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*: 4 (2018): 1-20.
- 2018 **DiBennardo, Rebecca** and Abigail C. Saguy. “How Children of LGBTQ Parents Negotiate Courtesy Stigma Over the Life Course.” *Journal of International Women’s Studies* 19.6 (2018): 290-304.
- 2015 Angela M. Parcesepe, Aira Toivgoo, Mingway Chang, Marion Riedel, Catherine Carlson, **Rebecca DiBennardo**, and Susan S. Witte. “Physical and Sexual Violence, Childhood Sexual Abuse and HIV/STI Risk Behavior Among Alcohol-Using Women Engaged in Sex Work in Mongolia.” *Global Public Health* 10.1 (2015): 88-102.

- 2014 **DiBennardo, Rebecca**, and Gary Gates. “Research Note: US Census Same-Sex Couple Data: Adjustments to Reduce Measurement Error and Empirical Implications.” *Population Research and Policy Review* 33.4 (2014): 603-614.
- 2012 Raven, Maria, Colleen Gillespie, **Rebecca DiBennardo**, Kristin Van Busum, and Brian Elbel. “Vulnerable Patients’ Perceptions of Health Care Quality and Quality Data.” *Medical Decision Making*, 32.2 (2012): 311-326.

WORKING PAPERS

- (Under review) “Politics and Punishment: Emotions, Popular Democracy, and California’s Sexually Violent Predator Act.”
- (In progress) “Punitive Treatment: Law, Medicine, and Competing Logics in California’s Civil Commitment Program.”

OTHER PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

- 2017 **DiBennardo, Rebecca**, January 5, 2017. “Sex offenders are amongst the most harshly punished criminals in the state, but how often does the punishment fit the crime?” *UCLA Center for the Study of Women Blog*. <https://csw.ucla.edu/2017/01/05/sex-offenders-among-harshly-punished-criminals-state-often-punishment-fit-crime/>.
- 2008 Catino, Jennifer, **Rebecca DiBennardo**, and Heather Anderson. “Background Paper: Early Intervention for Effective Prevention: Timing is Everything!: Toward developing appropriately timed and targeted policies and programs for 10-14 year-olds in Ethiopia.” *EngenderHealth Publication*, March 2008.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2017-2018 Instructor at UCLA (1 course).
Course: Sociology of Deviance.
Designed syllabus and taught 65 students, integrated multimedia approaches and guest speakers from relevant topic areas, led large group discussions.
- 2013-2014 Instructor at Occidental College (1 course).
Course: Gender and Society
Designed syllabus and taught 25 students, integrated active learning techniques and intensive writing instruction/feedback.
- 2013-2019 Teaching Assistant at UCLA (14 courses).
Courses: Introductory Sociology, Introduction to Sociological Theory, Contemporary Sociological Theory, Gender and Society, Economy and Society, Black Communities, Entrepreneurship, Sociology of Crime

Planned lessons and assignments, led discussion sections, graded papers and exams, guided group projects and research assignments.

2009-2010 Adjunct Associate Lecturer at New York University (1 course)
Course: Managing Public Service Organizations
Led discussion sections for 40 students, guided semester-long group project.

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

2019-2020 UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship (\$20,000 plus tuition)

2018-2019 Dorothy L. Meier Dissertation Year Fellowship (\$10,000 plus tuition)

2016, 2014 UCLA Center for the Study of Women Travel Grant (\$500)

2014, 2013 UCLA Department of Sociology Summer Fellowship (\$3,000)

2013-2018 UCLA Department of Sociology Excellence in Teaching Award

2012-2013 UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship (with Prof. Kim Crenshaw, \$20,000 plus tuition)

2012 UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (with Prof. Megan Sweeney, \$4,700)

2011 Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Grant-in-Aid (\$1,000)

2011 UCLA Williams Institute Small Grant (\$5,000)

2011 UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (with Prof. Abigail Saguy, \$4,700)

2010-2016 UCLA Department of Sociology Graduate Fellowship

2009-2010 NYU Dean's Scholarship (75% of tuition cost)

2008-2009 NYU Graduate Assistant Fellowship (\$16,000 plus tuition)

2008 Louise Van Loon Fellowship for Graduate Study (\$2,500)

2005-2006 National Compton Mentor Fellowship (\$36,000)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

09/10/2020 "Politics and Punishment: Emotions, Popular Democracy, an California's SVP Act." American Political Science Association Annual Conference Mini

Conference on the Politics of Criminal Justice Poster Session. San Francisco, CA.

- 05/28/2020 “From Treatment to Punishment: Law, Medicine, and Competing Logics in California’s Civil Commitment Program.” Law and Society Annual Conference Therapeutic/Punitive Intersection Section. Denver, CO (Cancelled).
- 08/11/2019 “Sexual Propositions: California’s Ballot Initiatives and the Regulation of Sexual Behavior.” American Sociology Association Annual Conference Open Refereed Roundtable Session. New York, NY.
- 07/18/2019 “Online Teaching: Pedagogy and Practice.” UCLA Summer Workshop in Online Teaching and Learning Panel Session. Los Angeles, CA.
- 06/01/2019 “Framing Contemporary Sexual Deviance: How Politics, Punishment, and Participatory Democracy Shaped California’s Sexually Violent Predator Law.” Law and Society Annual Conference Mobilization and Framing of Gender, Sexuality, and Gender Identity Section. Washington, DC.
- 08/11/2018 “Framing Contemporary Sexual Deviance: How Politics, Punishment, and Participatory Democracy Shaped California’s Sexually Violent Predator Law.” American Sociology Association Annual Conference Law and Society Regular Session. Philadelphia, PA.
- 08/10/2018 “From Pervert to Predator: Defining and Regulating the Sexual Predator in California.” Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference Sexuality, Social Policy, and Harm Session. Philadelphia, PA.
- 08/10/2018 “Is Everyone a Sexual Predator?: Meanings, Questions, and Implications of the Evolving Sexual Predator Discourse.” American Sociology Association Sexualities Preconference Roundtable Session. Philadelphia, PA.
- 08/10/2018 “Creating Monsters: How Media Discourse Frames Sexual Predators and Their Victims” American Sociology Association Media Preconference Paper Session. Philadelphia, PA (Declined due to scheduling conflicts).
- 03/31/2018 “Creating Monsters: How Media Discourse Shapes Understandings of Sexual Predators and their Victims.” New School for Social Research Annual Sociology Conference. New York, NY.
- 08/15/2017 “Creating Monsters: How Media Shape Understandings of Sexual Predators and their Victims.” American Sociology Association Annual Conference Thematic Section (Media and Group Boundaries). Montreal, QC, Canada.

- 06/02/2016 “The Language of Deviance: Defining Sexual Predators in Contemporary Media Discourse.” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting Punitive State Regular Session. New Orleans, LA.
- 04/08/2016 “The Language of Deviance: Defining Sexual Predators in Contemporary Media Discourse.” Annual Thinking Gender Conference Sexual Topographies Regular Session. Los Angeles, CA.
- 08/16/2014 “Children of Queer Parents: Negotiating Identity, Stigma, and Community throughout the Lifespan,” American Sociology Association Annual Conference Family Regular Session. San Francisco, CA (with Abigail C. Saguy).
- 06/28/2014 “Understanding Racial and Ethnic Differentials in Contraceptive Use Patterns in the Contemporary United States,” European Population Annual Conference Contraception Regular Session. Budapest, Hungary (accepted and did not attend, Megan Sweeney attended and presented).
- 04/11/2013 Accurate Measurement of Same-Sex Couples: Empirical Implications,” Population Association of American Annual Conference Poster Session. New Orleans, LA (with Gary Gates).
- 02/01/2013 “Forced Out of the Closet? Coming Out as the Child of Gay Parents,” Thinking Gender Annual Conference Kinship Regular Session. Los Angeles, CA.
- 08/19/2012 “Gay Families Count: Contact, Tolerance, and Voting on Gay Marriage Bans,” American Sociology Association Annual Conference Sexualities Regular Session. Denver, CO.
- 08/18/2012 “Gay Families Count: Contact, Tolerance, and Voting on Gay Marriage Bans,” Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference Queer Families Regular Session. Denver, CO.
- 02/26/2012 “Gay Families Count: Contact, Tolerance, and Voting on Gay Marriage Bans,” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference Same-Sex Marriage Section. New York, NY.

INVITED LECTURES

- 08/31/2017 “What is Sexual Deviance?” UCLA Sociology of Deviance guest lecture, Lecturer Nicole Iturriaga.
- 03/11/2017 “Does the Punishment Fit the Crime? The Legal, Ethical, and Social Implications of Sexually Violent Predator Laws.” *Alliance for Constitutional Sex Offense Laws* monthly meeting.

- 01/27/2017 “Differential Media Framing of Sexual Deviance: the Case of Sexually Violent Predators.” *California Coalition on Sexual Offending* Los Angeles chapter meeting.
- 02/11/2013 “Coming Out as the Child of Gay Parents.” UCLA Fiat Lux lecture, Professor Abigail Saguy.
- 02/27/2012 “Coming Out as the Child of Gay Parents.” UCLA Fiat Lux lecture, Professor Abigail Saguy.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

- 2011-2012 Research Assistant to Professor Megan Sweeney, UCLA Sociology Department. Analyzed racial and education-based differences in contraceptive use using the National Survey of Family Growth. Recoded and cleaned data, ran statistical tests, and documented findings for eventual publication.
- 2009-2010 Research Data Associate to Professor Brian Elbel, NYU Medical Center and NYU Wagner School of Public Service. Surveyed, compiled, and analyzed data for papers on health care quality of vulnerable populations and results of calorie-labeling policy in New York City.
- 2009-2010 Research Assistant to Professor Judith Stacey, NYU Sociology Department. Edited and collaborated on book draft, *Unhitched: Love, Marriage, and Family Values from West Hollywood to Western China*. Also interviewed participants on study of arranged marriage and completed interview field notes.
- Summer 2009 Research Assistant to Professor Susan Witte, Social Intervention Group of Columbia University. Analyzed data on and drafted baseline analysis paper of sexual abuse and risk survey among Mongolian sex workers.

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2018-2019 Mentor, UCLA Sociology Undergraduate Honors Program
- 2017-2018 Panel Organizer and Moderator, “Reconceptualizing Rights.” American Sociological Association Annual Conference Sociology of Law Session. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2013-2014 Graduate Student Representative, Sociology Undergraduate Association
- 2012-2013 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Hiring Search
- 2012-2013 Volunteer GED Tutor, Homeboy Industries, Los Angeles

2011-2012 Co-President, UCLA Sociology Graduate Student Association

2010-Present Member: UCLA Gender and Family Working Groups

AFFILIATIONS/MEMBERSHIPS

2015-2016 Selected Member, University of California Criminal Justice & Health Consortium

2015- Present Law and Society Association

2012- Present Population Association of America

2011-Present Society for the Study of Social Problems

2011-Present Eastern Sociological Association

2011-Present Sociologists for Women in Society

2010-Present American Sociological Association (Crime, Law, and Deviance; Law; Sex and Gender; Sexualities; and Body and Embodiment Sections)

2010-Present California Center for Population Research, UCLA

REFERENCES

Abigail Saguy (chair, advisor)
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