Sam Lutzker
PhD Candidate, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Sociology
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Education

University of California, Los Angeles, CA: M.A., Sociology, 2021; C.Phil., Sociology, 2023 (PhD expected 2027)

- Dissertation: "Vehicle Living in Los Angeles: Homelessness, Home, and the Politics of Criminalization and Care"
- Committee: Chris Herring (chair), Ananya Roy, Chris Tilly, Kevan Harris

Columbia University: B.A., Sociology and East Asian Studies, *Magna Cum Laude*, 2015

Peer-Reviewed Scholarship

Lutzker, Sam, Ruth Tretter, Linda Barringer and Graham Pruss. 2026. "Considerations for Vehicle Residents Experiencing Homelessness: A Review of Western States Point-in-Time Counts." *Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness.*

Peters, Deike and Sam Lutzker. 2025. "A Crisis of Habitation in LA's Last Remaining Wetland." *Metropolitics*. https://metropolitics.org/A-Crisis-of-Habitation-in-LA-s-Last-Remaining-Wetland.html

Roy, Ananya, Annie Powers, Ashley Bennet, Sam Lutzker and Hilary Malson (on behalf of After Echo Park Lake Research Collective). 2022. "Continuum of Carcerality: How Liberal Urbanism Governs Homelessness." *Radical Housing Journal.* (https://radicalhousingjournal.org/2022/continuum-of-carcerality/)

Papers Under Review

Lutzker, Sam. "Governing Homelessness through Parking Enforcement: Debt, Dispossession, and Displacement in Los Angeles." Selected for special issue on debt and homelessness, slated for review at *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*.

Working Papers

Lutzker, Sam. "The RV Paradox: How Los Angeles Penalizes Vehicle Residency."

Policy Reports

Kennedy*, Peggy Lee, Sam Lutzker* and Chris Tilly*. 2026. *Very Large Expenditure, Very Little Care: Los Angeles's "CARE+" Homeless Services Program in Council District 11*. UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality & Democracy. https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/2026/01/20/cd11sweepsreport/
*Denotes equal co-authorship

- Report covered by *Planetizen* (link)

Kennedy, Peggy Lee, Sam Lutzker*, Pat Raphael, Nathan Clukey, Magan Wiles and Veronika Vucetic. 2025. *"Keep Moving": West LA Vehicle Residents Survey*. UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality & Democracy. https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/2025/06/25/keep-moving/
*Denotes equal co-first authorship

- Report covered by *LA Public Press* (link)

Pruss, Graham and Sam Lutzker (in collaboration with Lived Experience Advisory Board of Silicon Valley). 2023. *2023 San José Recreational Vehicle Resident Survey Final Report*. Internal report for the City of San José, CA.

After Echo Park Lake Research Collective. 2022. *Dis(Placement): The Fight for Housing and Community after Echo Park Lake*. UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy report. https://challengeinequality.luskin.ucla.edu/2022/03/23/displacement/

- Report covered by media internationally, including *The Guardian* (link)

Selected Public Writing

Roy, Ananya and Sam Lutzker. 2022. "How the brutal clearing of an L.A. homeless encampment can teach S.F. what not to do in the Tenderloin." *San Francisco Chronicle.* https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/How-the-brutal-clearing-of-an-L-A-homeless-17057211.php

Lutzker, Sam. 2021. "Op-Ed: Cancel parking fines for unhoused people who live in their cars." *Los Angeles Times.* https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2021-05-19/homeless-cars-parking-tickets-los-angeles

Lutzker, Sam. 2021. "Is Councilmember Mark Ridley-Thomas 'champion of the homeless population?' Depends who you ask." *Knock L.A.* https://knock-la.com/mark-ridley-thomas-anti-homeless-camping-laws/

Lutzker, Sam. 2021. "'Project No Key': How punitive policies hamper California's efforts to house the un-housed." *Knock LA.* https://knock-la.com/project-roomkey-punitive-policies-ce8d59c534fb/

Recent Media Coverage

New York Times (2026): "In Homeless Crisis, California 'Is Waging a War on R.V.s'" (link)

And Now Love podcast (2026): "The Human Story Behind LA's Vehicle Residents" (link)

Additional coverage by *Le Monde*, *Brasil de Fato*, *Planetizen*, *Los Angeles Times*, *San Francisco Standard*, *High Country News*, *Smart Cities Dive*, *Spectrum News*, *KCal News*, *LA Public Press*, *Invisible People, Hyperallergic, Daily Bruin* and other media outlets available upon request.

Legal Declarations

2024. *LA Forward Institute et. al. v. City of Los Angeles et. al.*

Teaching

- Instructor, UCLA, 2025: Intro to Sociology
- Learning Lab Facilitator, UCLA, 2025: Public Leadership Impact Program
- Teaching Fellow, UCLA, 2024-2026: Urban Sociology; Introduction to Sociological Research Methods.
- Teaching Assistant, UCLA, 2021-2023: Contemporary Sociological Theory; Global China; Self and Society; Intro to Sociology; Urban Sociology (twice); Economy and Society; White Nationalism and Right-Wing Populism.
    - Excellence in Teaching Award, UCLA, 2021-2023
- Sociology honors undergraduate thesis mentor, UCLA, 2022-2026
- Lead instructor, Columbia University Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics, Social Science Fall Fellows Program, 2018
- Princeton in Asia Teaching Fellow, Wuhan University of Technology, People's Republic of China, 2015-2016

Honors & Awards

- Russel Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant, 2025-2026 ($15,000)
- American Sociological Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2025 ($14,852)
- Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, 2023-2024 ($26,000)
- Mellon Foundation Scholar-in-Community Seed Grant, 2023 ($6,000, half to community organization)
- National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 2021
- UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (GSRM), 2021 ($6,000)

- UCLA Graduate Research Mentorship (GRM), 2020-2021 ($20,000)
- UCLA Graduate Summer Research Mentorship (GSRM), 2020 ($6,000)
- UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy Graduate Student Working Group Funding Awardee: Housing Justice Public Scholarship Series, 2021-2022 ($1,000); Informal Tenancy Working Group, 2021-2022 ($1,000); Palms Unhoused Mutual Aid, 2020-2021 ($1,000).

Other Research Experience

- Research Fellow, Safe Parking LA, 2024-2026
- Graduate Student Researcher, UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy, 2021-2023
    - Projects: *After Echo Park Lake* (PI: Ananya Roy); *Displaceability by Design* (PI: Ananya Roy)
- Project Coordinator, Columbia University Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics (INCITE), 2017-2019
    - Project: *Facing Whiteness* (PI: Peter Bearman, co-created with documentarian Whitney Dow), published as online archive: https://www.facingwhiteness.incite.columbia.edu
    - Research assistant for *Grocery Delivery Workers Project* (PI: Adam Reich), published as "Algorithmic Control in Platform Delivery Work" (*Socius*).
- Organizing and Research Intern, Columbia University INCITE & United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW), 2014
    - Project: *Summer for Respect: Organizing and Oral History* (PI: Adam Reich), published as *Working for Respect: Community and Conflict at Walmart* (Columbia University Press).

Presentations, Panels and Workshops

"Considerations for Vehicle Residents Experiencing Homelessness: A Review of Western States Point-in-Time Counts" (Panel). International Conference on Urban Affairs 2026. Chicago.

"Very Large Expenditure, Very Little Care: Los Angeles' 'CARE+' Homeless Services Program in Council District 11" (Invited Poster). USC Homelessness Policy Research Institute and Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research convening on unsheltered homelessness. 2026. Los Angeles.

"Debt, Displacement, and Dispossession: Governing Vehicle Residents in Los Angeles" (Panel). Association of American Geographers Annual Conference 2026. San Francisco.

"Core & Periphery, Housed & Unhoused: Housing Justice Struggles Across LA" (Invited Panel). Bunche Center for African American Studies at UCLA. 2025.

"'Keep Moving': West LA Vehicle Residents Survey." Presented to ACLU's Equal Rights for Every Neighbor group, National Vehicle Residency Collective, LA Public Press, LASHOUT coalition, members of the Colorado Safe Parking Initiative, and the general public. 2025.

"Beyond 'Vehicular Homelessness:' Vehicle Residency, 'Unsheltered Homelessness,' and Critical Questions of State Policymaking" (Panel). International Conference on Urban Affairs, April 18th, 2025. Vancouver, Canada.

"The Vehicle Dwelling as Homeless Problem or Housing Solution? Towards a Framework of 'Vehicle Residency'" (Invited talk). Theory and Research in Comparative Social Analysis ("Soc-237"). March 13th, 2025. UCLA Sociology, Los Angeles, CA.

"Understanding LA County's 'Pathway Home' Program: Opaque Data, Critical Questions, and Art Against Erasure." (Invited panel). Part of "Artists Against Art-Washing: Aiding and Abetting Unhoused Communities." March 1st, 2025. Skid Row History Museum and Archive, Los Angeles, CA.

"Housing Justice as Disability Justice: Westside Mutual Aid Efforts to Support Collective Access for Unhoused Neighbors" (Panel). Presented with Peggy Lee Kennedy. Part of "A Neighborly Conversation: Disability Studies in Los Angeles." February 21st, 2025. Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA.

"Human and Nonhuman Interactions at Ballona" (Invited panel). Part of "Listening to Ballona: A Conservatory Event Dedicated to LA's Last Wetland." February 7th, 2025. Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, CA.

PBS SoCal "Brain Trust" on the Environment, Housing Insecurity, and the Unhoused. September 23rd, 2024. Los Angeles, CA.

"The Vehicle Dwelling as Homeless Problem or Housing Solution? Towards a Framework of 'Vehicle Residency'" (Panel). American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 13th, 2024. Montréal, Canada.

"Conducting research with vehicle residents." Presented with Graham Pruss, Peggy Lee Kennedy, Thomas Knight, and Gabriela Gabrian. National Vehicle Residency Collective Annual Summit, June 23rd, 2024. Virtual.

"The Vehicle Residence as Housing Solution or Homeless Problem: Divergent Discourses and Policy Formations" (Panel). International Conference on Urban Affairs, April 25th, 2024. New York, NY.

"Homelessness, Mental Illness, Substance Abuse" (Panel). HousingMV Live Forum, October 23rd, 2022. Los Angeles, CA.

"(Dis)Placement: The Fight for Housing and Community After Echo Park Lake." Presented with the After Echo Park Lake Research Collective to such audiences as *Los Angeles Times* editorial board, local press, local politicians, Venice Community Housing and Coalition on Homelessness San Francisco. 2022.

"Ticketed, Seized, Held and Sold: Organizational Practices of Municipal Vehicle Enforcement and Reform." Presented at Northwestern University Problem-Solving Sociology Workshop, May 26th, 2022.

"Race Brokering: Developing Racial Awareness Across White Peer Networks." Presented to the UCLA Race & Ethnicity Working Group, June 4th, 2021.

"Organizing *with* Un-Housed People in LA County." Presented to Mar Vista Community Council, January 19th, 2021. Los Angeles, CA.

Academic Service

- Member, UCLA Activist-in-Residence Review Committee, 2026
- Coordinator and founding member, UCLA Urban Sociology Working Group, 2022-2026
- Faculty liaison, Sociology Graduate Students Association, UCLA, 2025-2026
- Coordinator, Soc-237: Seminar for Comparative Social Analysis, UCLA, 2022-2023
- Member, American Sociological Association Community & Urban Sociology Section – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, 2022-2023
- External board member, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*, 2022-2023
- Reviewer for following journals: *Social Forces*; *Socius*; *Social Science and Medicine — Qualitative Research in Health*; *Sociological Forum*; *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*; *Radical Housing Journal*; *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*

Professional Memberships

- American Sociological Association
- Urban Affairs Association

- Association of American Geographers

Organizing Partnerships (2020-Present)

- National Vehicle Residency Coalition, 2023-Present
- Los Angeles Tenants Union, 2024-Present
- Venice Justice Committee, 2023-2026
- CD11 Coalition for Human Rights, 2023-2026
- After Echo Park Lake Research Collective, 2021-2022
- Palms Unhoused Mutual Aid (cofounder), 2020-2021

Technical Skills

- Thematic coding (ATLAS.ti)
- Survey design (Qualtrics)
- Data cleaning and descriptive statistics (Excel and R)
- Basic conversational Mandarin and Spanish

References (letters available upon request)

Chris Herring
Assistant Professor of Sociology (UCLA)
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