

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 2026)

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

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

Peer-Reviewed Scholarship

Peters, Deike and **Sam Lutzker**. 2025 (forthcoming). "A Crisis of Habitation in LA's Last Remaining Wetland." *Metropolitics*.

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/>)

Policy Reports

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 has been covered by international media, including *The Guardian*: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2022/mar/23/los-angeles-echo-park-unhoused-residents-homelessness>

Public Writing

Lutzker, Sam. 2024. "Did the City Know About the Home Depot Anti-Homeless Planters?" *Mar Vista Voice Dispatch*. (<https://www.marvistavoices.org/news/home-depot-planters>)

Roy, Ananya and **Sam Lutzker** (on behalf of After Echo Park Lake Research Collective). 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 unhoused." *Knock L.A.* (<https://knock-la.com/project-roomkey-punitive-policies-ce8d59c534fb/>).

Legal Declarations

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

Working Papers

Lutzker, Sam. 2025. "The Vehicle Dwelling as Homeless Problem or Housing Solution? Towards a Framework of 'Vehicle Residency.'"

Teaching

- Teaching Fellow, UCLA, 2024: Urban Sociology
- Teaching Assistant, UCLA, 2021-2023: Contemporary Sociological Theory; Global China; Self and Society; Intro to Sociology; Urban Sociology (taught twice); Economy and Society; White Nationalism and Right-Wing Populism.
 - Excellence in Teaching Award, UCLA, 2021-2023
- Sociology honors undergraduate thesis mentor, UCLA, 2022-2025
- 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

- 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-Present
- 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

"Human and Nonhuman Interactions at Ballona" (Invited Panel). Presented with Deike Peters. 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 (NSF-funded dissertation proposal workshop).

“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

- Coordinator and founding member, Urban Sociology Working Group, UCLA, 2022-2025
- Coordinator, Soc-237: Seminar for Comparative Social Analysis, UCLA, 2022-2023
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee member, American Sociological Association Community & Urban Sociology Section, 2022-2023
- Reviewer for following journals: *Socius*; *Social Science and Medicine — Qualitative Research in Health*; *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*; *Radical Housing Journal*; *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* (2022-23 external board member).

Professional Memberships

- American Sociological Association
- Urban Affairs Association

Organizing Experience

- National Vehicle Residency Collective, 2023-Present
- After Echo Park Lake Research Collective, 2021-2022
- Palms Unhoused Mutual Aid (cofounder), 2020-2021
- Local coalition of housed and unhoused residents, 2023-Present (anonymized for research purposes)

Other Skills

- Languages (basic conversational): Mandarin Chinese, Spanish
- Software: ATLAS.ti, Qualtrics, STATA, Excel, R, Dedoose, Adobe Illustrator