

## **Sam Lutzker**

PhD Candidate, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Sociology  
Email: [sal2176@ucla.edu](mailto:sal2176@ucla.edu); Phone: (917) 900-7966

## **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. "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/>)

## **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.*

## Under Review

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

## Working Papers

TBA

## 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

- 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-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

“Beyond ‘Vehicular Homelessness:’ Vehicle Residency, ‘Unsheltered Homelessness,’ and Critical Questions of State Policymaking” (Panel). International Conference on Urban Affairs, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo, CA.

PBS SoCal “Brain Trust” on the Environment, Housing Insecurity, and the Unhoused. September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. Virtual.

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

“Homelessness, Mental Illness, Substance Abuse” (Panel). HousingMV Live Forum, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (NSF-funded dissertation proposal workshop).

“Race Brokering: Developing Racial Awareness Across White Peer Networks.” Presented to the UCLA Race & Ethnicity Working Group, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

“Organizing *with* Un-Housed People in LA County.” Presented to Mar Vista Community Council, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 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)

**Technical Skills**

- Thematic coding (ATLAS.ti)
- Survey design (Qualtrics)
- Descriptive statistics (Excel)
- Basic conversational Mandarin and Spanish