

Rachel Kahn Best

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POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Michigan	2014 -
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research, University of Michigan	2012-2014

EDUCATION

PhD in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley	2012
MA in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley	2007
BA in Sociology and Anthropology, Swarthmore College	2004

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Linda Hamilton Krieger, Rachel Kahn Best, and Lauren B. Edelman. 2015. "When 'Best Practices' Win, Employees Lose: Symbolic Compliance and Judicial Inference in Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Cases." Forthcoming, *Law and Social Inquiry*.

Rachel Kahn Best. 2012. "Disease Politics and Medical Research Funding: Three Ways Advocacy Shapes Policy." *American Sociological Review* 77(5):780-803.

- Winner, Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award, Medical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association.

Rachel Kahn Best, Lauren B. Edelman, Linda Hamilton Krieger, and Scott R. Eliason. 2011. "Multiple Disadvantages: An Empirical Test of Intersectionality Theory in EEO Litigation." *Law and Society Review* 45(4):991-1025.

Rachel Best. 2010. "Situation or Social Problem: The Influence of Events on Media Coverage of Homelessness." *Social Problems* 57(1):74-91.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Rachel Kahn Best. 2013. "Review of *Contested Illnesses: Citizens, Science, and Health Social Movements* by Phil Brown, Rachel Morello-Frosch, Stephen Zavestoski, and the Contested Illnesses Research Group." *Contemporary Sociology* 42(2):226-227.

David L. Kirp and Rachel Best. 2007. "Life Way After Preschool." Pp. 50-75 in *The Sandbox Investment: The Preschool Movement and Kids-First Politics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

WRITING IN PROGRESS

Illness Identity Politics: How Disease Groups Transformed American Health Policy (book manuscript)

"When Missions and Lobbying Diverge: Self-Censored Advocacy and the Health Policy Agenda."

"Devolution, Inequality, and Social Citizenship: State Variation in the Children's Health Insurance Program." (with Hana Brown).

"Studying Regulation, Neglecting Distribution: Why Socio-Legal Scholarship Ignores 'Policy.'" (with Sandra R. Levitsky and Jessica Garrick)

PRESENTATIONS

"When Missions and Lobbying Diverge: Self-Censored Advocacy and the Health Policy Agenda."

- Jensen Speaker Series. Department of Sociology, Duke University, 2014 (Invited).
- Annual Meeting of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research Program. Indianapolis, IN, 2014.

"The Rise of Disease Advocacy: How Illness Identities Became Interest Groups." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, NY, 2013.

"Symbolic Compliance and Judicial Inference in Federal EEO Cases: How 'Best Practices' Win and Employees Lose." (with Linda Krieger and Lauren Edelman).

- Annual Conference of the Research Group on Legal Diversity, American Bar Foundation. Chicago, IL, 2013.
- Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association. Boston, MA, 2013.

"The Interdependence of Social Movements: Disease Advocacy as Zero-Sum Game or Synergy."

- Interdisciplinary Consortium on Organizational Studies. University of Michigan, 2013 (Invited).
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Denver, CO, 2012.

“Politicization and Politics: Disease Advocacy and Political Metrics, Beneficiaries, and Worthiness.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Las Vegas, NV, 2011.

“Health Social Movement Disparities: Race, Gender, and Medical Research Funding.” Annual Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Social Mobility of the International Sociological Association (RC28). Iowa City, IA, 2011.

“Devolution, Inequality, and Social Citizenship: State Variation in the Children’s Health Insurance Program.” (with Hana Brown). Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association. San Francisco, CA, 2011.

“Disease Politics: Health Social Movements and Federal Medical Research Funding.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Atlanta, GA, 2010.

“Deserving Patients: Perceived Beneficiaries, Politics, and Culture.” Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association. Chicago, IL, 2010.

“Multiple Disadvantages: An Empirical Test of Intersectionality Theory in EEO Litigation.” (lead author; with Lauren Edelman, Linda Krieger, and Scott R. Eliason).

- Stanford Law School, 2011 (Invited).
- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Atlanta, GA, 2010
- UCLA School of Law Critical Race Studies Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, 2010.
- Berkeley Law Faculty Workshop, 2010 (Invited).
- Center for the Study of Law and Society Speaker Series, 2009 (Invited).

“Health Social Movement Disparities: Race, Gender, and Disease Non-profits.”

- Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. San Francisco, CA, 2009.
- Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. San Francisco, CA, 2009.

“Measuring Intersectional Disadvantages in Equal Employment Opportunity Litigation” (lead author; with Lauren Edelman, Linda Krieger, and Scott R. Eliason). Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association. Denver, CO, 2009.

Discussant, Children in Crisis Conference, UC Berkeley, 2009.

“Shaky Footholds: The Effects of Social Origins on Employment Stability.” Annual Meeting of the Research Committee on Social Stratification and Social Mobility of the International Sociological Association (RC-28). Stanford, CA, 2008.

“The Academy and the Press: Reflecting on Tensions and Tradeoffs.” Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association. (with Laura Mangels). Portland, OR, 2008.

“The Production of Doctrinal Capital in Employment Discrimination Litigation” (lead author; with Lauren Edelman, Scott Eliason, and Linda Krieger). Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association. Montreal, Canada, 2008.

"Situation or Social Problem: The Influence of Events on Media Coverage of Homelessness." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. New York, NY, 2007.

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research Fellowship. University of Michigan, 2012-2014.

Eliot Freidson Outstanding Publication Award, Medical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association. For “Disease Politics and Medical Research Funding: Three Ways Advocacy Shapes Policy.” 2013.

Leo Lowenthal Fellowship. Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, 2011.

Honorable Mention, Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section of the American Sociological Association. For “Politicization and Politics: The Direct, Distributive, and Systemic Effects of Advocacy Organizations on Medical Research Funding.” 2011.

Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellowship. Center for the Study of Law and Society, University of California, Berkeley, 2010.

Gertrude Jaeger Prize for best paper by a female graduate student in Sociology at UC Berkeley. For "Situation or Social Problem: The Influence of Events on Media Coverage of Homelessness," 2009.

Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, 2009.

John J. Pisano Travel Grant. National Institutes of Health, 2008.

Graduate Summer Research Grant. Science, Technology, and Society Center, University of California, Berkeley, 2008.

Regents' Intern Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, 2004-2006.

Phi Beta Kappa, Swarthmore College, 2004.

Highest Honors, Swarthmore College, 2004.

Bramson Prize, awarded to a graduating senior for outstanding academic achievement in Sociology and Anthropology at Swarthmore College, 2004.

Sarah Kaighn Cooper Scholarship, awarded to the member of the junior class at Swarthmore College with the best record for scholarship, character, and influence, 2003.

TEACHING

Teaching Honors

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award. UC Berkeley, 2009.

Teagle/Spencer Teaching Fellow. UC Berkeley, Spring 2010.

Teaching Experience

Sociology 310: Research Methods. University of Michigan, Winter 2015

Sociology 595: Science and Politics. University of Michigan, Winter 2015

Sociology 800: Social Movements Workshop. University of Michigan, Winter 2015.

Sociology 94: Sociology of Mass Communication. Mills College, Spring 2011

Sociology 155: Sociology of Illness and Medicine. UC Berkeley, Summer 2009

Sociology 5: Evaluation of Evidence. UC Berkeley, Fall 2008.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Nominations Committee Chair, Medical Sociology Section, American Sociological Association. 2014-2016.

Nominations Committee Member, Theory Section, American Sociological Association. 2014.

Council Member, Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association. 2012-2014.

Editorial Board, *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*. 2004-2005.

Reviewer

American Sociological Review

Law and Policy

Mobilization

Social Problems

Sociological Forum

Sociology of Education

Memberships

American Sociological Association

Law and Society Association