

Ben Merriman

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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, School of Public Affairs & Administration, University of Kansas 2016 - present
(Department of Sociology by Courtesy)

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Chicago

2010 A.M., Sociology, University of Chicago

2008 B.A., Sociology, James Madison University, *magna cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2019 *Conservative Innovators: How States are Challenging Federal Power*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Articles

2017 "Testing the Great Lakes Compact: Administrative Politics and the Challenge of Environmental Adaptation," *Politics & Society* 45(3): 441-466.

2017 "The Editorial Meeting at a Little Magazine: An Ethnography of Group Judgment," *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 46(4): 440-463.

2015 "Variable Conceptions of Population in Community Resource Genetic Projects: A Challenge for Governance," *New Genetics & Society* 34(3): 294-318. (equal authorship w/ Santiago J. Molina)

2015 "Duels in the European Novel: Honor, Reputation, and the Limits of a Bourgeois Form," *Cultural Sociology* 9(2): 203-219.

2015 "Three Conceptions of Spatial Locality in Chicago School Sociology (and Their Significance Today)," *American Sociologist* 46(2): 269-287.

2014 "Ethical Issues in the Employment of User-generated Content as Experimental Stimulus: Defining the Interests of Creators," *Research Ethics* 10(4): 196-207.

2010 “Gender Differences in Family and Peer Reactions to the Adoption of a Vegetarian Diet,” *Feminism and Psychology* 20(3): 420-427.

Book Chapters

2018 “Modern State-Federal Conflict: The Central Role of Administration and Administrative Law.” Pp. 67-80 in *Handbook of American Public Administration*, Frederickson & Stazyk, eds.

2015 “A Social Aesthetics as a General Cultural Sociology?” Pp. 132-148 in *International Handbook of the Sociology of Art and Culture*, Hanquinet & Savage, eds. (2nd author w/ John Levi Martin)

Reviews and Comments

2018 Review of *Under the Cover: The Creation, Production, and Reception of a Novel*, by Clayton Childress. *American Journal of Sociology* 126(1): 253-255.

2016 “A Duty to Explain.” *Management Matters* 14(2): 4-5.

2015 “‘Editing’: A Productive Metaphor for Regulating CRISPR.” *American Journal of Bioethics* 15(12): 62-64.

General Readership

2017 “Rewriting the Rules of Art: Pierre Bourdieu’s *Manet: A Symbolic Revolution*.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

2017 “The Great Lakes Compact: How Political Divisions Shape Environmental Decisions.” American Sociological Association *Work in Progress* blog.

2017 “Learning from Mistakes: Howard S. Becker’s *Evidence*.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

2016 “Caught in the Middle.” *Chronicle of Higher Education* 63(14): B14-B15.

2015 “A Science of Literature.” *Boston Review* 40(4): 49-54.

2015 “Lessons of the Arkansas.” Pp. 141-156 in *City by City: Dispatches from the American Metropolis*, Keith Gessen and Stephen Squibb, eds. New York: Faber and Faber.

2015 “A New Deal for the Colorado River.” *Boston Review* online, March 9, 2015.

2014 “Genetic Code.” *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas* 34: 73-85.

2014 “Why Doubt is a Scientific Virtue Worth Supporting.” *Chronicle of Higher Education* online, June 30, 2014.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Book:

The Last Generalists: The Persistence and Uses of Judicial Power in an Expert America (manuscript in progress).

Articles and Chapters:

“Field Theory without the Unfounded Assumption of Autonomy as a Stable Ideal Type” (with John Levi Martin) [Revise & Resubmit, *Sociological Theory*]

“Establishing the Conservative Phenomenon” [Revise & Resubmit, *Sociological Quarterly*]

“The Great Interstate Divergence: Partisan Bureaucracies in the Contemporary United States” (with Josh Pacewicz) [Under Review]

“Habit and Creativity in Judges’ Definition and Framing of Legal Questions” (with B. Robert Owens) [Invited for *Sociology and Pragmatism: Renewing the Conversation*; revised chapter submitted]

“The Politics of Professional Knowledge: The United States Supreme Court’s Resistance to Social Science in the Age of Expertise” (with B. Robert Owens)

“How do Agencies Lose? Quasi-Administrative Reasoning and the Fiction of Deference in Judicial Review of Agency Actions” (with Kevin Campbell)

“Sociological Theory From the Aesthetic to Art and Back Again.” [Invited for *Handbook of Classical Sociological Theory*; extended chapter outline approved by editors]

AWARDS AND HONORS

2016 Finalist, British Sociological Association/SAGE Prize for Innovation & Excellence

2015 Park Lectureship, University of Chicago, Dept. of Sociology

2015 Robert Dentler Award, ASA Sociological Practice & Public Sociology Section

2014 Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA History of Sociology Section

2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, ASA Animals & Society Section

2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, ASA Animals & Society Section

2008 Junior Fellow, American Academy of Political and Social Sciences

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2017 New Faculty Research Grant, University of Kansas

2014 Henderson Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago, Dept. of Sociology

2014 Summer Research Grant, University of Chicago, Social Sciences Division

2014 Overseas Travel Grant, University of Chicago, GSA

2014 Bidwell Fund Travel Grant, University of Chicago, Dept. of Sociology

2013 Urban Doctoral Fellow, University of Chicago, Urban Network
2013 *American Journal of Sociology* Editorial Fellowship
2011 Archive Research Fellowship, Dole Institute of Politics, U. of Kansas
2011 ASA Student Forum Travel Award
2008 Social Sciences Doctoral Fellowship, University of Chicago

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

2018 “Establishing the Conservative Phenomenon.” 20th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference, Chicago, IL (March 2018).

2017 “After the EPA: Preparing for the Subnational Future of American Environmental Policy,” Department of Science and Mathematics, MidAmerica Nazarene University, Olathe, KS.

2016 “Water Governance and Prospective Environmental Justice in the Great Lakes Region: The Case of Waukesha, WI,” Urban Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

Conference Presentations

Upcoming. “Unrepresentative Institutions and the Fortunes of Popular Nationalism: Timing Matters.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

Upcoming. “Federal Judicial Aversion to Statistics: A Contributing Cause to Weakening Rights Protections in the United States.” Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.

2018 “Why Does the U.S. Supreme Court Cite so Little Economics?” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Phoenix, Arizona. (w/ B. Robert Owens)

2018 “The Great Divergence: How Advocacy Organizations, Attorneys and Bureaucrats Use State Government to Disarticulate Federal Policy,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. (w/ John Pacewicz)

2018 “A Divergence, not a Rupture: State Political Ecologies and the Disarticulation of Federal Policy,” Comparative & Historical Sociology Mini-Conference, Philadelphia, PA. (w/ Josh Pacewicz)

2018 “How can an Agency Lose? A Study of U.S. Federal Appellate Reasoning about Administrative Discretion,” Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada. (w/ Kevin Campbell)

2017 “The Persistent Importance of Librarianship in the Digital Age of Knowledge.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.

2017 “Field Theory and the Assumption of Autonomy,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada. (w/ John Levi Martin)

- 2017 “The Violence of Party: On the Role of Honor Culture in the Genesis of Political Fields,” Junior Theorists Symposium, Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 “The Use of Social Science in U.S. Supreme Court Decisions, 1947-2013: Findings and New Questions from a Comprehensive Dataset,” (with B. Robert Owens) Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Mexico City, Mexico.
- 2016 “Administrative Centralization and the Progressive Era Origins of Contemporary Restrictive Voting Laws,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2016 “Conservatives as Innovators: The Use of Novel Administrative Forms to Achieve Policy Goals in Kansas,” Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “How to Become a Public Sociologist: A Semi-practical Guide,” Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “The Styrofoam Statehouse: The Creation of Pseudo-Public Spheres in US State Government,” Media Sociology Preconference, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 “The Office of the Repealer: Citizen and Legislative Engagement with a Novel Political Agency,” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2014 “A Social Aesthetics as a General Cultural Sociology?” (with John Levi Martin) ASA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 “Explaining Early Career Gender Inequality in Literary Publishing,” CITASA Symposium, Berkeley, CA.
- 2014 “New Answers to Old Questions? Conservative Activism and the Economic Crisis,” Annual Seminar, Bielefeld Graduate School in History and Sociology, Bielefeld, Germany.
- 2014 “Unmaking the Anticommons: Copyright for Donor Protection and Scientific Openness in Human Genetic Research,” Infrastructures of Creativity, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL.
- 2013 “Spatial Scales as Social Processes: Propositions for an Ecology of Scales,” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2013 “When Anti-statists Govern: Kansas, 2010-2013,” Graduate Student Conference on Conservative and Center Right Politics, Center for European Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.
- 2013 “Duels in the European Novel: Class, Status, and the Limits of Bourgeois Sensibility,” Workshop on the Media of Time-specific Cultural Patterns, Center for Interdisciplinary Research (ZiF), Bielefeld, Germany.
- 2013 “The Dilemma of Openness: Risk to Populations in the International HapMap and 1000 Genomes Projects,” (with Santiago J. Molina), ASA Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

- 2013 “Three Conceptions of Spatial Locality in Chicago School Sociology (and Their Significance Today),” Reenvisioning the History of Sociology Symposium, New York, NY.
- 2013 “Epistemic Orphans and the Construction of Risk in Studies of Human Population Genetics: The Case of the International HapMap Project,” (with Santiago J. Molina), Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2012 “Toward a World-Systems Explanation of Demographic and Economic Decline on the Central Plains,” ASA Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2011 “The Editorial Board Meeting at a Literary Magazine: A Preliminary Report on Literary Judgment.” ASA Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV.

Workshop Presentations

- 2016 “Contemporary American Conservatism: An Analogue of the Progressive Era,” Department of Sociology, University of Kansas.
- 2014 “Explaining With Space,” Urban Doctoral Fellows Research Colloquium, Urban Network, University of Chicago.
- 2014 “Causes of Early Career Gender Inequality in Literary Publishing: Hypotheses from Scientific Fields,” Gender and Sexualities Working Group, University of Chicago.
- 2014 “Duels and Democratization: European Novels and the Limits of a Bourgeois Form,” Social Theory Workshop, University of Chicago.
- 2013 “What is a Spatial Scale?: A Contribution to the Theorization of Space and Region,” Workshop on City, Society, and Space, University of Chicago.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Research Seminar in Democratic Theory, University of Kansas	Spring 2019
The Pursuit of Rights: Law, Democracy & Power, University of Kansas	Spring 2017, '18, '19
Theoretical Foundations of Law & Society, University of Kansas	Fall 2017, '18
Introduction to Law & Society, University of Kansas	Fall 2016 to present
Methods in Law & Society, University of Kansas	Fall 2016, '17, '18
Opposing the State, University of Chicago	Winter 2016
Technology and Social Change, Illinois Institute of Technology	Fall 2011 & 2012
Self, Culture and Society 1, University of Chicago	Fall 2011

Teaching Assistant

Political Sociology, University of Chicago	Spring 2014 & 2016
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SERVICE

University and Professional Service

2018 Travel Grant Peer Review Committee, Hall Center for the Humanities, University of Kansas
2017- Undergraduate Committee, School of Public Affairs & Administration, University of Kansas
2012 Associate Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*
2011 Associate Editor, Book Review, *American Journal of Sociology*
2010 Manuscript Board, *American Journal of Sociology*
2009 Social Science Representative, Library Student Resource Group
2009 President, Society for Social Research
2008 Representative to Graduate Students United, Society for Social Research

Reviewer

<i>American Journal of Sociology</i>	<i>American Sociological Review</i>	<i>Environmental Sociology</i>
<i>Medical Humanities</i>	<i>Philosophy of the Social Sciences</i>	<i>Poetics</i>
<i>Publius: The Journal of Federalism</i>	<i>Social Currents</i>	<i>Sociological Theory</i>
<i>Sociology</i>		

Languages Read

German, Spanish, Portuguese, French