

BARBARA J. KIVIAT

Department of Sociology, Columbia University
606 W. 122nd Street, New York, NY 10027
barbara.kiviat@columbia.edu | www.barbarakiviat.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Columbia University
Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2025-

Stanford University
Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2019-2025

EDUCATION

Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts
Ph.D., Sociology and Social Policy, May 2019
A.M., Sociology, November 2015 (thesis with distinction)

New York University, New York, New York
M.P.A., Public Policy concentration, May 2012

Columbia University, New York, New York
M.A., Journalism, Business and Economics concentration, May 2006 (best thesis prize)

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland
B.A., Writing Seminars, Psychology minor, May 2001 (university and departmental honors)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Kiviat, Barbara and Carly R. Knight (equal authorship). Forthcoming. "Seeing Like a Company or a Customer: Selective Empathy in Pricing." *American Sociological Review*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224251394724>

Kiviat, Barbara, Sara Sternberg Greene, and Hesu Yoon. Forthcoming. "Exceptions in the Algorithmic Age: Evidence from the Case of Tenant Screening." *American Journal of Sociology*.
<https://doi.org/10.1086/739108>

Kiviat, Barbara. 2023. "The Moral Affordances of Construing People as Cases: How Algorithms and the Data They Depend on Obscure Narrative and Noncomparative Justice." *Sociological Theory* 41(3):175-200.

- Theory Prize, Theory Section of the American Sociological Association
- Outstanding Published Article Award, Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association

- Honorable Mention, Best Paper Award, Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association

O'Brien, Rourke, Adam Hayes, and **Barbara Kiviat** (equal authorship). 2022. "Deciding Between Domains: How Borrowers Weigh Market and Interpersonal Options." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 85(4):327-350.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2021. "Which Data Fairly Differentiate? American Views on the Use of Personal Data in Two Market Settings." *Sociological Science* 8:26-47.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2019. "The Moral Limits of Predictive Practices: The Case of Credit-Based Insurance Scores." *American Sociological Review* 84(6):1134-1158.

- Outstanding Published Article Award, Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association
- Honorable Mention, Granovetter Award for Best Article, Economic Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association

Kiviat, Barbara. 2019. "The Art of Deciding with Data: Evidence from How Employers Translate Credit Reports into Hiring Decisions." *Socio-Economic Review* 17(2):283-309.

- Excerpted in *Working in America, 5th ed.*, edited by Amy S. Wharton
- Selected one of the 20 favorite *Socio-Economic Review* (SER) articles by the SER community
- Ronald Burt Outstanding Student Paper Award, Economic Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association
- Best Student Paper Award, Consumers and Consumption Section of the American Sociological Association
- Honorable Mention, Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section of the American Sociological Association

O'Brien, Rourke and **Barbara Kiviat**. 2018. "Disparate Impact? Race, Sex and the Use of Credit Reports in Hiring." *Socius* 4(1):1-20.

Desmond, Matthew, Carl Gershenson, and **Barbara Kiviat**. 2015. "Forced Relocation and Residential Instability among Urban Renters." *Social Service Review* 89(2): 227-262.

- Semifinalist, Frank R. Breul Memorial Prize for the best article in *Social Service Review*

BOOK REVIEWS, WHITE PAPERS, NEWSLETTER ARTICLES, OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Kiviat, Barbara. 2025. Review of *The Ordinal Society*, by Marion Fourcade and Kieran Healy. *Social Forces* 103(4):e18.

Greene, Sara Sternberg, **Barbara Kiviat**, and Hesu Yoon. 2024. "Getting to Home: Understanding the Collateral Consequences of Negative Records in the Rental Housing Market" *Duke Law Journal* 74:269-352.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2023. "The Moral Ramifications of How Algorithms 'See' People." Research findings brief for Work in Progress, November 23.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2022. Review of *Underwater: Loss, Flood Insurance, and the Moral Economy of Climate Change in the United States*, by Rebecca Elliott. *American Journal of Sociology* 127(4):1372-1373.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2021. Review of *Values at the End of Life: The Logic of Palliative Care*, by Roi Livne. *British Journal of Sociology* 72(2):472-474.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2019. "Credit Scoring in the United States." *Economic Sociology: The European Electronic Newsletter* 21(1):33-42.

Freeman, Allison, Mat Despard, **Barbara Kiviat**, Jennifer Fox, and Carly Hoffmann. 2018. *Employers' Use of Credit Reports in Hiring and Employment: What are the Disparate Impacts on the Economically Vulnerable and How Can They Be Addressed?* White paper for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation (Battle Creek, MI).

Kiviat, Barbara. 2018. "How Do Employers Use Credit Reports in Hiring Decisions—and How Can the Process Be Improved." Research brief for Scholars Strategy Network, July 9.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2012. Review of *Beyond Our Means: Why America Spends While the World Saves*, by Sheldon Garon. *Public Administration Review*. 72(5): 772-775.

Kiviat, Barbara and Jonathan Morduch. 2012. *From Financial Literacy to Financial Action*. White paper for the McGraw-Hill Research Foundation (New York).

Kiviat, Barbara. 2012. "U.S. Unemployment Insurance: Explaining Welfare State Expansion in an Era of Retrenchment." *The Wagner Review* 19:25-34.

SELECTED POPULAR ARTICLES

Kiviat, Barbara, and Sara Sternberg Greene. 2021. "Stop Evictions from Ruining Lives." *New York Times*, Jan. 8, A23.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2017. "How the Equifax Hack Could Hurt Anyone Applying for a Job." *The Atlantic.com*, Oct. 4.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2017. "The CFPB Is Making Government More Accountable. The GOP Wants to Stop It." *Washington Monthly.com*, June 8.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2015. Afterword to *American Realities*, by Joakim Eskildsen.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2012. "The Big Jobs Myth: American Workers Aren't Ready for American Jobs." *The Atlantic.com*. July 25.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2011. "Below the Line: For a decade, the ranks of the poor have been rising. Debunking myths about poverty in America could help change that." *Time*. Nov. 28.

Kiviat, Barbara. 2010. “The Case Against Homeownership: Buying a house is supposed to make us better citizens, better investors and better off. But that American dream may well be a fantasy.” *Time*, cover story. Sept. 8.

In my prior career as a journalist, I wrote hundreds of articles for Time magazine, as well as articles for other outlets, including Fortune, Money, The Miami Herald, The Arizona Republic, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Reuters, Fast Company, Consumer Reports, The Baltimore City Paper, and Harvard Business Review. Selected articles are posted at www.barbarakiviat.com.

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar, 2023-2024

Alden H. and Winifred Brown Faculty Fellow, Stanford University, 2023-2024

UPS Endowment Grant, Stanford University, \$41,300, for “Landlords, Personal Data, and The New Tenant Screening,” July 2020

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award, 2018

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Early Career Workshop, 2018

Washington Center for Equitable Growth, doctoral fellow, 2017-2018

Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics Graduate Fellowship, full-year fellowship, 2016-2017

Tobin Project Graduate Student Fellow, 2015-2016

Center for American Political Study, Harvard University, graduate research seed grant, 2014

Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy (Harvard), doctoral fellowship, awarded 2013

Presidential Scholar Fellowship, Harvard University, 2012

Sterling D. Spero Prize for Writing, New York University, 2012

David Bohnett Public Service Fellowship, New York University, full scholarship, 2010-2012

Columbia Journalism School, Best Thesis Prize, May 2006

Bollinger Scholarship, Columbia University Office of the President, full scholarship, 2005-2006

Phi Beta Kappa, 2001

Jacob H. Hollander Prize for outstanding achievement in The Writing Seminars, 2001

Provost’s Undergraduate Research Award, research grant, Spring 2000

Louis Azrael Fellowship in Communications, Spring 2000

Golden Key National Honor Society, December 1999

Hodson Trust Scholarship (Johns Hopkins), merit-based scholarship, May 1997

Maryland Distinguished Scholar, May 1997

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

“The Cultural Infrastructure of Actuarial Fairness”

University of Connecticut, Insurance Law Workshop, December 2025

“Moral Desert in the Market: Asymmetric Fairness in Algorithmic Pricing”

New York University, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, December 2024

Columbia University, Department of Sociology, November 2024

“Prediction and the Moral Economy: Credit Scores, Car Insurance, and the Struggle to Make a Fair Market”

Yale University Sociology Department, Comparative Research Workshop, April 2024

New York University, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, February 2024

Russell Sage Foundation, February 2024

“Going Against the Record: How Algorithms Shape the Way Landlords Make Exceptions for Bad Background Checks”

Columbia University, Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality Seminar, April 2024

New York University, Furman Center, April 2024

University of California-Berkeley Sociology Colloquium, January 2023

SCANCOR Seminar, Stanford University, October 2021 (“When is Data Destiny?”)

“The Invention of Credit-Based Insurance Scores”

New York University Sociology of Culture Workshop, November 2023

“The Evolution of Actuarial Fairness”

SCANCOR Seminar, Stanford University, May 2023

“The Making of ‘Going Against the Record’”

Boston University, Precarity Lab, September 2022

“The Visible Hand II: The State, Finance, and Displacement from a US Perspective”

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Invited Session panelist, August 2022

Plenary Session on “What is Trustworthy AI?”

FinRegLab financial services nonprofit, panelist, June 2022

“Morality of Credit Scoring in Insurance and Hiring Practices”

Franke Global Leadership Initiative (University of Montana) Credit Score Panel, March 2022

“Which Data Fairly Differentiate?”

Society of Insurance Research, Journal Club, featured speaker, January 2022

“What Makes a Rating Factor Fair? Perspectives of Everyday Americans”

TransUnion 2021 Virtual Insurance Summit, keynote speaker, May 2021

National Association of Insurance Commissioner’s Center for Insurance Policy and Research and The Institutes Griffith Foundation, insurance pricing webinar, May 2021

American Family Insurance Enterprise Data Conference, October 2021

“The Moral Legibility of Narrative and Case Comparison”

Australian National University, HMI Data, AI, and Society public seminar, August 2020

“Consumer Views on the Fair Use of Personal Data”

National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Predictive Analytics Book Club, June 2019

Fair + Responsible AI in Finance Symposium, New York City, May 2019

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Seeing like a Company or a Customer: Moralized Perspectives on Pricing Institutions and the Role of Selective Empathy” (with Carly Knight)

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 2023

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, Amsterdam, July 2022

“From Record to Rental: How Landlords Evaluate Credit Reports, Criminal Records, and Eviction Histories” (with Sara Greene and Hesu Yoon)

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2021

“Good Prices for the Well-Behaved: Americans’ Class-Based Views on Who Should Pay More for Insurance and Credit” (with Carly Knight)

Insurance and Society Workshop, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, June 2021

“Credit Reports in Hiring”

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Special Session on Credit, Debt, and Inequality at Work, August 2020

“Corporate Futures: Rhetorics of Managerial Expectations in Corporate Capitalism, 1900-2000” (with Carly Knight)

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, July 2020

“The Role of Narrative in Decisions Based on Personal Data and the Moral Issues That Follow”

Radcliffe Institute conference, The Ethics of Technology: Beyond Privacy and Safety, Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass., January 2020

“Consumer Views on the Fair Use of Personal Data”

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York City, August 2019

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, New York City, June 2019

MIT-NYU Morals and Markets Workshop, Cambridge, Mass., March 2019

“The Moral Limits of Predictive Practices: The Case of Credit-Based Insurance Scores”

American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 2018

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, Kyoto, June 2018

“Disparate Impact? Race, Sex and the Use of Credit Reports in Hiring”

Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Mexico City, June 2017

“The Moral Order of Unpaid Debt: Evidence from a National Survey Experiment”
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, Berkeley, June 2016
Harvard-MIT Economic Sociology Seminar, Cambridge, Mass., November 2015

“Borrowing History: How Employers Use Credit Reports in Hiring”
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 2015
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, May 2015
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, Chicago, July 2014

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

Financial Access Initiative (New York University), Research Associate, 2010-2012
Office of the Mayor of New York City, Bohnett Fellow, 2011
Time magazine, Staff Writer, 2003-2010
Mutual Funds magazine, Reporter, 2002-2003
The Arizona Republic, Pulliam Fellow, 2001-2002

TEACHING

Columbia University, Department of Sociology
Markets and Morality, Spring 2026
MPhil Thesis Writing Seminar II (PhD), Fall 2025

Stanford University, Department of Sociology
Qualitative Methods (PhD), Spring 2025
Culture and Markets (PhD), Fall 2022
Foundations of Social Research, Fall 2020, Winter 2022, Fall 2022, Winter 2025
Economic Sociology and Organizations Workshop (PhD), Fall 2020-Winter 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Winter 2025-
Ethics, Morality, and Markets, Winter 2020, Fall 2021
Capstone Research Seminar, Spring 2021

Harvard University, Department of Sociology
Models of Social Science Research, Head Teaching Fellow and Guest Lecturer, Fall 2015
Money, Work, and Social Life, Teaching Fellow, Spring 2015 and Spring 2016
Economic Sociology: Global Perspectives, Teaching Fellow, Fall 2014

New York University, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
Introduction to Public Policy, Teaching Assistant, Fall 2011
Statistical Methods, Tutor, Summer 2011

GRADUATE ADVISING

Stanford Sociology PhD students, unless otherwise noted

Dissertation committee member/reader

Tessa Holtzman
Angela He
Priyam Saraf (Graduate School of Business)
Sasha Johfre
Julia Melin
Katariina Mueller-Gastell
Joshua Hurwitz (Graduate School of Business)
Livia Baer-Bositis
Aaron Horvath
Scott Westenberger
Anna Boch

Dissertation oral exam chair

Natasha Overmeyer (Graduate School of Business)

Qualifying exam paper reader

Leon Marbach
Brenden Prins-McKinney
Tessa Holtzman
Isabel Iturrios-Fourzan
Tianhao Hou
Angela He
Jan Voelkel

Co-terminal master's degree thesis advisor

Ryan Cieslikowski (best sociology MA thesis award)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Occasional reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *European Journal of Sociology*, *European Sociological Review*, *Journal of Cultural Economy*, *Management Science*, *Organization Science*, *Review of Social Economy*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociological Science*, *Sociological Theory*, *Socius*, *Theory & Society*, among others

Editorial Board Member, *American Sociological Review*, 2026-

Panel Organizer, "Artificial Intelligence in the Workplace," ASA Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 2025

Selection Committee Member, ASA Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section Outstanding Published Article Award, 2025

Executive Council Member, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2024-2027
Graduate Studies Committee, Stanford Department of Sociology, 2024-2025
Faculty Advisory Board Member, Digital Civil Society Lab, Stanford University, 2023-
Selection Committee Member, ASA Organizations, Occupations, and Work Section W. Richard Scott
Award for Distinguished Scholarship, 2023
Section Committee Member, ASA Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Section Distinguished
Career Award, 2023
Mentor, ASA Sociology of Culture Section Mentorship Program, 2022-23
Council Member, ASA Economic Sociology Section, 2021-24
Panel organizer, ASA Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, August 2022
Membership Chair, 2023-2024
Membership Committee Member, ASA Sociology of Culture Section, 2021-2022
Ethics Review Board panelist, Stanford University, 2020-2023, 2024-
Graduate Placement Chair, Stanford Department of Sociology, 2020-2023
Selection Committee Member, ASA Theory Section Edward Shils-James Coleman Memorial Award
for Best Student Paper, 2020
Selection Committee Member, ASA Consumers and Consumption Section Student Paper Award, 2019
Editor, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics newsletter, 2019
Junior Faculty Search Committee Member, Harvard Department of Sociology, 2017-2018
Editor, *Accounts*, ASA Economic Sociology Section newsletter, 2015-2016
Graduate Student Mentor, Harvard Department of Sociology, 2015-2017
Graduate Student Coordinator, Harvard-MIT Economic Sociology Seminar, 2014-2015
Graduate Admissions Committee Representative, Harvard Department of Sociology, 2014-2015
Social Policy Representative, Harvard Graduate Student Council, 2013-2014
Review Board Member, *The Wagner Review*, 2010-2012

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (since 2014)
American Sociological Association (since 2013)