

## BARBARA J. KIVIAT

Department of Sociology, Stanford University  
450 Jane Stanford Way, Building 120, Stanford, CA 94305  
bkiviat@stanford.edu | www.barbarakiviat.com

### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

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Stanford University  
Assistant Professor of Sociology, 2019-

### EDUCATION

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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

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**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.

- 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 IN PROGRESS**

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*The Moral Economy of Predictive Practices: Credit Scores, Car Insurance, and the Struggle to Make a Fair Market.*

- This book leverages the case of credit scores in car insurance pricing, an early and controversial use of algorithmic prediction in the U.S. consumer economy, to reveal the cultural infrastructure that justifies—and can be used to contest—companies treating people differently based on personal data. Sample chapters available on request.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

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“Seeing like a Company or a Consumer: Moralized Perspectives on Pricing Institutions and the Role of Selective Empathy” (with Carly Knight). Revise and resubmit. Draft available on request.

“Going Against the Record: How Algorithms Change the Way Landlords Make Exceptions for Bad Background Checks” (with Sara Greene and Hesu Yoon). Revise and resubmit. Draft available on request.

“Getting to Home: Collateral Consequences in the Rental Housing Market” (with Sara Greene and Hesu Yoon). In revision. Draft available on request.

## **BOOK REVIEWS, WHITE PAPERS, & INVITED NEWSLETTER ARTICLES AND POSTS**

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**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**

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**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](http://www.barbarakiviat.com).*

## **SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

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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**

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“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 School of Public Service, Research Seminar, 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 podcast,  
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**

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“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**

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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**

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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,  
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**

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*Stanford Sociology PhD students, unless otherwise noted*

Dissertation committee member/reader

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  
Tianhao Hou  
Angela He  
Jan Voelkel

Co-terminal master's degree thesis advisor  
Ryan Cieslikowski (best sociology MA thesis award)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Occasional reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *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 Theory*, *Socius*, *Theory & Society*, among others

Executive Council Member, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2024-2027

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

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**

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Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality (since 2019)

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (since 2014)

American Sociological Association (since 2013)