

# Kasey Zapatka

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## Academic Positions

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**University of California, Berkeley**, Postdoctoral Scholar, 2023-present  
Department of Sociology and the Urban Displacement Project

## Education

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**City University of New York, The Graduate Center**, 2023

PhD, Sociology

- Dissertation: *The Rent is Too Damn High: The Spatial and Longitudinal Dimensions of Housing Affordability*
- Committee: *Van Tran (chair), John Mollenkopf, Mary Clare Lennon, Leslie McCall*

**Fordham University**, 2014

Master of Arts, Sociology

**Point Loma Nazarene University**, 2010

Bachelor of Arts, Spanish Literature and Language

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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[Google Scholar](#)

**Zapatka, Kasey** and Van Tran. 2023. "New Frontiers of Integration: Immigrant Assimilation and Suburban Inequality in Metropolitan New York." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of Social Sciences*. 9(1): 52-83. <https://doi.org/10.7758/RSF.2023.9.1.03>

**Zapatka, Kasey** and Juliana De Castro Galvao. 2022. "Affordable Regulation: Rent Stabilization as Housing Affordability Policy." *City & Community*. 22(1):48-73. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15356841221123762>

**Zapatka, Kasey**, John Mollenkopf, and Steven Romalewski. 2021. "Occupation and Race in the Global City: The Dual Reordering of Metropolitan New York" in *Urban Socio-Economic Segregation and Income Inequality: A Global Perspective*, Edited by van Ham, M., Tammaru, T., Ubarevičienė, R., Janssen, H. Springer International Publishing: The Urban Book Series. 407–429. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-64569-4\\_21](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-64569-4_21)

**Zapatka, Kasey** and Brenden Beck. 2020. "Does Demand Lead Supply? Gentrifiers and Developers in the Sequence of Gentrification." *Urban Studies*. 58(11):2348-2368. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0042098020940596>

**Zapatka, Kasey.** 2017. "Review of Planetary Gentrification by Loretta Lees, Hyun Bang Shin, and Ernesto López-Morales." *City & Community*. 16(2):228–30.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/cico.12237>

## Manuscripts In Progress or Under Review

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**Kasey Zapatka.** "Spatial Contagion: Assessing Gentrification's Spillover Effects on Neighborhood Housing Affordability." *Under Review*.

**Kasey Zapatka.** "Trajectories of Affordability: Household Affordability Across the Life Course." *Planning to send to Journal of Urban Affairs*.

**Kasey Zapatka, Tim Thomas, and Hannah Moore.** "Preventing Eviction: State and Federal Interventions During the Pandemic."

Tim Thomas, **Kasey Zapatka**, and Angel Mendiola Ross. "Segregated Eviction: The Origin and Destination Neighborhoods of Evicted Tenants."

**Kasey Zapatka.** "Millennials and Boomers: A Comparison of Household Affordability Trajectories Across Generations and the Life Course."

Kimble, Cameron, Leanne Fan, Kevin Morris, and **Kasey Zapatka.** "Black Lives Matter Protests and Voter Turnout."

## Selected Honors and Scholarships

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**Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Fellow**, \$7,500, 2021-2022  
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy

**Altman Dissertation Fellowship**, \$25,000, 2021-2022  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Latino Data Project, Fellow**, \$5,500, Fall 2019  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Stone Center Junior Scholar**, \$5,000, Fall 2019  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Graduate Center Urban Studies Core Summer Dissertation Fellow**, \$10,000, Summer 2019  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Connect New York Fellowship**, \$4,000, Summer 2019  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Altfest Graduate Intern-Summer Fellow**, \$4,000, Summer 2019  
New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development

**Summer Institute in Computational Social Sciences, Hunter College, Summer 2019**  
City University of New York, Hunter College

**ARC Research Praxis Student Fellowship, Advanced Research Collaborative, \$4,000, 2019**  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Doctoral Student Research Grant, Sociology Department, \$1,500, 2018**  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**2018 Dr. Louise Lennihan Arts & Sciences Grantee, The Futures Initiative, \$500 2018**  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Graduate Center Digital Research Institute Fellow, GC Digital Research Initiatives, 2018**  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Digital Publics Fellow, Center for Humanities, \$54,000, 2017 - 2019**  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

**Graduate Center Tuition Fellowship, 2016 - 2021**  
City University of New York, The Graduate Center

## **Selected Presentations**

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“Gentrification’s Ripple Effect: Assessing Gentrification’s Spillover Effects on Neighborhood Housing Affordability,” Quantifying Gentrification and Displacement: Big Data and Other Data Boston University’s Conference on Gentrification and Displacement. Boston, MA. Presenter.

“New Frontiers of Integration: Immigrant Assimilation and Suburban Inequality in Metropolitan New York,” The Russell Sage Foundation Special Issue on Suburban Inequality in the United States. The Russell Sage Foundation. New York City, NY. Presenter.

“Affordable Regulation: Rent Stabilization as Housing Affordability Policy”. Rental Markets and Housing Mobility Session. American Sociological Association. Virtual. Presenter.

“Demand Lead Supply? Gentrifiers and Developers in the Sequence of Gentrification,” Kunz Research Summit: Quantitative Approaches to Studying Gentrification in the United States. University of Cincinnati, Kunz Center for Social Research. Cincinnati, OH. Participant.

“The Housing Crisis Generalized: Housing Affordability for the Middle Class,” CUSS 2019 Preconference on Inequalities and Social Justice in the 21st Century City. New York University. New York, NY. Participant.

“Housing Literacy: Understanding Your Lease, the Rent Law Fight, and Your Rent History,” Center for the Humanities invited Talk. The Graduate Center, NY. Panel Organizer and discussant.

“The Chicken or the Egg: Using Granger Causality to Arbitrate between Supply-side and Demand-side Explanations of Gentrification,” Society for the Study of Social Problems. Philadelphia, PA. Co-presenter.

“A Cultural Fortification: La Casa Azul Bookstore and its Role in El Barrio’s Gentrification,” Graduate Student Conference, Fordham University. New York, NY. Presenter.

## Research Experience

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### **Postdoctoral Researcher, UC Berkeley, Institute of Governmental Studies**

*July 2023-present*

- Lead cross-functional research team to develop, maintain, and analyze eviction database of over 150 million records using SQL
- Use R and Python to process and link administrative and big data (150 million+ records) from US Treasury and US Census with proprietary consumer data and public court records to build novel, longitudinal eviction database
- Apply machine learning, mixed effects regression, and causal inference techniques (augmented synthetic control with staggered adoption) to analyze impact of rental assistance on eviction filings
- Develop quality control mechanisms to validate database development and contribute to package utility development
- Create census tract harmonization process; design reproducible workflow for interactive map; and spatially join geospatial, administrative, and proprietary datasets
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary teams and research partners (e.g., data scientists, PhD students, and UPenn collaborators) to develop workflows, troubleshoot issues, plan analyses, manage GitHub codebases, validate survey measurement, and analyze survey experiments
- Develop Bayesian and machine learning models (BART) to predict neighborhood- and household-level factors driving eviction, displacement, and economic disparities
- Co-author peer-reviewed research papers on the impact of eviction moratoria and Emergency Rental Assistance in reducing eviction filings during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Present quarterly findings with strategic recommendations to non-technical federal housing policy stakeholders

### **City Research Scientist, New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development**

*September 2022-June 2023*

- Design, manage, and execute research project in consultation with other HPD research staff and partners primarily relying on US Census and NYC Housing and Vacancy Survey (NYCHVS) data
- Create Stata documentation of previous analyses to promote replication
- Develop internal (i.e., Neighborhood Typologies) and public-facing (i.e., 421-a report, NYCHVS) reports, data products, and research documentation
- Present and field questions on research findings to internal and external audiences
- Clean, process, and deliver data products to the US Census for developing the 2023 NYCHVS sample frame
- Update NYCHVS survey methodology documentation and develop post-stratification weights
- Developed methodology with survey weights to determine where to build affordable housing, presented methodology to non-technical stakeholders, and persuaded Commissioner to adopt methodology

### **Research Associate, Van Tran, The Graduate Center, CUNY**

*Spring 2021-Fall 2022*

- Build US Census dataset to study ethno-racial neighborhood integration in metro New York

- Fit multinomial logistic regression models and interpreted marginal effects plots in R for analyses
- Write methodological section, create descriptive plots in R, and manage project development on [GitHub](#)

**Lead Researcher, [Superdiversity in Metropolitan New York](#), Max Planck Institute**

*Spring 2020-Fall 2021*

- Managed end-to-end project development of interactive Superdiversity Website and Teaching Tool
- Built and analyzed 6 cross-sectional, longitudinal databases exploring changing diversity in Metro New York
- Identified key findings, wrote website narrative, and chose visualizations to best engage general/public audiences
- Supervised design team in development of interactive website and ensured project aligned with stakeholder vision

**Research Assistant, Paul Attewell, The Graduate Center**

*October 2018-Present*

- Assist in the development of various research projects that study the divergence of benefits for groups with different educational attainment
- Presented findings in weekly meetings and give feedback on other member's projects
- Managed 4 large national, longitudinal, and cross-sectional datasets used in analyses
- Used data mining, HLM, OLS, and logistic regression techniques to understand the impact of educational attainment on mid-life labor market earnings

**Summer Research Assistant, New York City Department of Housing Preservation & Development**

*Summer 2019*

- Entered survey data into Excel and wrote Stata code to clean and process to ensure reproducibility
- Participated in department wide trainings on behalf of the Research and Evaluation department
- Managed confidential survey data, ensuring chain of custody was not broken
- Researched New York City affordable housing and development projects

**GC Digital Publics Fellow, Center for the Humanities, The Graduate Center**

*January 2017-Spring 2019*

- Researched New York City rent regulations to develop [Housing Literacy](#), an online tool that annotates legal documents for rent-stabilized tenants to promote awareness of renter rights.
- Develop useful resources for housing advocates to better educate New York City tenants about their rights and responsibilities
- Reviewed and commented on Housing Preservation and Development (HPD), Furman Center, Rent Guidelines Board (RGB), and Department of Housing and Community Renewal (HDCR) decisions and reports
- Used GitHub, Python, QGIS, and Stata for website development, spatial analysis, and statistical analysis

**Research Associate, Center for Urban Research, The Graduate Center**

*September 2016-January 2019*

- Interpreted labor market information data and online job adds using proprietary software
- Analyzed the growth in various job market sectors, industries, and skill-sets and contextualized using state labor market data

- Conducted strategic research to define client needs and evaluative research to clarify employee barriers to employment
- Designed, executed, and led focus group research to identify key labor market trends across 10 different projects
- Interacted with participants, synthesized findings into actionable insights, and presented strategic recommendations to clients

#### **Research Assistant**, Professor Elena Vesselinov, Queens College

*January 2017-June 2017*

- Conducted review of academic literature on mixed income neighborhoods
- Built longitudinal databases for three large metropolitan areas using Stata
- Harmonized census tract changes in Stata using the *Longitudinal Tract Database* program to create longitudinal databases.
- Filed FOIL requests and secured data from governmental agencies using FTP

## **Courses Taught**

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#### **University of California, Berkeley**

*Postdoctoral Researcher and Scholar*

- Computational Social Science (year-long sequence)

I teach a year-long graduate course in *Computational Social Science* to PhD students across the social sciences. The course surveys machine learning, causal inference, and natural language processing and teaches students the principles of reproducible social science by helping them develop programming skills in R, Python, the command line, and GitHub. I give 32 weekly lectures covering key concepts and run 32 weekly labs that training researchers to use key R and Python libraries (e.g., tidyverse, sklearn, TensorFlow) to implement what we learn in lecture. I also lead 8 cross-functional projects throughout the year to teach students to build, tune, and interpret predictive models to optimize decision-making. The course repository is publicly available on [GitHub](#).

#### **CUNY, The Graduate Center**

*Graduate Student Instructor*

- Sociological Statistics 1, Sociological Statistics 2:

Graduate Student Instructor for year-long graduate course for Quantitative Methods in Social Science Master's Program focusing on introduction to machine learning, causal inference, and the various flavors of regression analysis.

#### **Hunter College, City University of New York**

*Adjunct Professor*

- Sociological Statistics

Undergraduate course in introductory statistics: Sociological Statistics.

## **External Service**

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#### **Jane Addams Article Award Committee** (best journal article in Urban Sociology)

City & Community, 2025-present

**Graduate Student Editor**  
City & Community, 2020-2022

**Peer Reviewer**  
Urban Affairs Review

**Graduate Student Editor**  
[\*Accounts\*](#): Economic Sociology Newsletter, 2016-2017

## Departmental Service

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**Dissertation Proposal Support Representative**, Sociology Student Association (SSA)  
*Fall 2019-Fall 2021*

**Faculty Membership Committee**, Sociology Student Association (SSA)  
*Fall 2019-Spring 2020*

**Executive Committee**, Sociology Student Association (SSA), Website Maintenance  
*September 2017-present*

**Graduate Student Co-Editor**, *Accounts*, Quarterly newsletter for Economic Sociology of ASA *Fall 2016-Summer 2017*

## Methodological Training

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### Software

- Advanced in R, Stata, GitHub, and Latex. Proficient in Python, SQL, JMP Pro, and SPSS. Familiar with Linux OS.

### Quantitative methods

- General linear regression techniques, spatial econometrics, casual inference, and machine learning.

### Qualitative methods

- Ethnography, Focus Groups, Interviewing

## Languages

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**Spanish**, fluent in reading, writing, and speaking