

LAURA HALCOMB

University of California, Santa Barbara
Department of Sociology, Santa Barbara, CA 93106
714-609-3051 • lhalcomb@ucsb.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, Sociology, Expected 2022
Dissertation: *Negotiating the Costs of Cancer Care*
- M.A. University of Houston, Sociology, Summer 2015
Thesis: *Creating Parents: The Gendered Recruitment of Sperm and Egg Donors in the Reproductive Market*
- B.A. Boston University, Philosophy, Spring 2012 (*cum laude*)
Minor in Sociology with distinction
Thesis: *The Privilege of Choice: A Feminist Analysis of Single Motherhood by Choice*

RESEARCH AREAS

Medical sociology, Health Disparities, Organizations, Economic Sociology, Gender, Family

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- Halcomb, Laura** (2020). Who Counts as Family? Gamete donation and the construction of family forms in medical markets. *Journal of Family Issues*, 41(6): 831-852.
- Thébaud, Sarah and **Laura Halcomb** (2019), “One Step Forward? Recent Advances and Setbacks on the Path Toward Gender Equity in Families and Work.” *Sociology Compass*, e12700.
- Harthorn, Barbara, **Laura Halcomb**, Tristan H Partridge, Merryn J Thomas, Nick F Pidgeon, Catherine Enders, and Ingrid E Feeney (2019), “Beyond Toxicity: Health Risk Perceptions of Fracking for Shale Development in Pre-Impact US and UK.” *Health, Risk & Society*, 21(1-2), 35-56.
- Halcomb, Laura** (2018). Men and infertility: Insights from the sociology of gender. *Sociology Compass*, 12(10), e12624.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- Rodriguez, José A., John Mohr, and **Laura Halcomb** (2017). “Becoming a Buddhist: The Duality of Ritual and Belief.” *Research in the Sociology of Organizations*, 53.

WORKING PAPERS

Halcomb, Laura. "Crowdfunding a Life: How relationships shape cultural narratives of the patient" Under review.

Halcomb, Laura. "Practicing Pricing: Evaluating the morality of pharmaceutical companies through US Congressional hearings." Under review.

Thébaud, Sarah, Laura Halcomb, and Katelynn Bishop. "Unpacking gender-biased self-assessments: How status, self-expression, and class privilege matter." Working paper.

BOOK REVIEWS

2020 *Romancing the Sperm: Shifting Biopolitics and the Making of Modern Families*, by Diane Tober. *Social Forces* 99(1): e21

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

2020 Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant, University of California Santa Barbara
2020 Seed Grant, Department of Sociology, University of California Santa Barbara
2016 Graduate Research Fellowship, Center for Nanotechnology and Society, University of California Santa Barbara
2016 Graduate Student Fellowship, Department of Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara
2014 Department of Sociology Graduate Student Research Grant, University of Houston
2014 Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston
2013 Joseph S. and Rosella H. Werlin Memorial Graduate Travel Grant
2013 Doctoral Student Tuition Fellowship, University of Houston
2012 Nomination, BU Alumni Association award for writing excellence
2012 Departmental Honors in Sociology, Boston University
2012 University Honors Scholar, Boston University
2011 Undergraduate Research Grant, Department of Sociology, Boston University

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

Aug. 2020 Junior Theorist Symposium, American Sociological Association Pre-Conference. Virtual event due to COVID-19 pandemic. Paper presentation, "The Innovation Story: Profits, prices, and legitimacy in the pharmaceutical market."
Aug. 2020 American Sociological Association annual meeting, Virtual event due to COVID-19 pandemic. Round Table presentation, "Fighting cancer was never in the budget: Relational analysis of GoFundMe campaigns for colorectal cancer."

- Aug. 2019 American Sociological Association annual meeting, New York, NY. Paper presentation, “Practicing Pricing: Evaluating the morality of pharmaceutical companies through US Congressional hearings.”
- April 2018 Pacific Sociology Association annual meeting, Long Beach, CA. Paper presentation, “Reproducing Heteronormativity: How families are portrayed in the reproductive market.”
- Dec. 2017 History of science graduate student workshop, Santa Barbara, CA. “Banking on Difference: Inequality, technology, and gender among gamete donors.”
- April 2014 Southwestern Social Science Association, Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX), “The Privilege of Choice: A feminist analysis of single motherhood by choice.”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019- Graduate Student Researcher, NSF: Synthetic Neuron, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Barbara Harthorn.
- 2016-20 Lab Assistant and Graduate Student Researcher, MURI Project, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Noah Friedkin.
- 2016-19 Research Assistant, Department of Anthropology, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Barbara Harthorn.
- 2016-18 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of California at Santa Barbara, PI Dr. Sarah Thébaud.
- 2014 Summer Research Assistant, Department of Sociology University of Houston, PI Dr. Xavia T. Karner.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019 Instructor of Record, University of California at Santa Barbara
Methods of Cultural Analysis (SOC 108c), developed original syllabus
- 2015-2016 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of California at Santa Barbara
Introduction to Sociology (SOC 101), Special Topics in Research Methods: Ethnography (SOC 208st), Research Traditions (SOC 108b)
- 2013-2015 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Houston
Introduction to Demography, Racial and Ethnic Relations in the U.S., Cinema, Sex, and Sanctimony, Introduction to Social Statistics, Introduction to Sociological Theory, Introduction to Sociology, Sociology of Marriage and Family, Mexican American Family.
- 2014-2015 Statistics Lab Instructor, University of Houston.

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENT-LEVEL SERVICE

- 2018-20 Member, Colloquium and Professional Development Committee, UCSB Department of Sociology

2016-2017 Member, Sociology Graduate Student Association, UCSB Department of Sociology

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics

American Society of Clinical Oncology

Pacific Sociological Society

Society for Women in Sociology