

Benjamin R. Weiss
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EMPLOYMENT

2020–present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA
Faculty Affiliate, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, University of Southern California (2020)
Dissertation: “Barriers to Effective Social Service Provision in the Hybrid Welfare State: Street-Level Evidence from an Anti-Gender-Based Violence Organization”
Committee: Nina Eliasoph (chair), Krystale E. Littlejohn, Michael A. Messner, Camille Gear Rich

M.A., Sociology, University of Southern California (2019)
Empirical Paper: “‘Who Can We Tell Survivors to Call?’ The Institutionalization of Criminal-Legal Interventions in a Domestic Violence Organization”
Qualifying Examinations: Gender; Organizations and Economic Sociology

B.A., Sociology, Occidental College (2016)
Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, Senior thesis passed with distinction
Senior Thesis: “Patterns of Interaction in Webcam Sex Work: A Comparative Analysis of Female and Male Broadcasters”

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender, Sex, and Sexualities; Crime, Law, and Deviance; Organizational Studies; Social Movement Studies; Qualitative Methods; Ethnography

PUBLICATIONS (*denotes undergraduate student co-author)

Littlejohn, Krystale E., and Benjamin R. Weiss. “‘It Definitely Was Consensual, But...’: Normative Tensions about Gendered Heterosexuality and Young Women’s Mixed Feelings about Sex.” Available online first at *Sexualities*. doi: [10.1177/13634607241298538](https://doi.org/10.1177/13634607241298538).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2025. “Bottom-up Hybridity: How Sexual Violence Plaintiffs’ Attorneys Blur the Boundaries between Civil and Criminal Law.” *Law & Society Review* 59(3):524–47. doi:[10.1017/lsr.2025.19](https://doi.org/10.1017/lsr.2025.19).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2025. "Anticipatory Discrimination: How Attorneys' Assumptions about Fact Triers' Biases Sustain Race and Gender Inequality in the Civil Legal System." *Criminology* 63(1):239–67. doi: [10.1111/1745-9125.12399](https://doi.org/10.1111/1745-9125.12399).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2023. "To Empower or Safeguard? How Novice Rape and Domestic Violence Victim Advocates Render Institutional Complexity Visible." *Qualitative Sociology* 46(4):603–24. doi: [10.1007/s11133-023-09544-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-023-09544-8).

Weiss, Benjamin R., and Mahala Shulman*. 2022. "Organizational Bias in Gender-Based Violence Research." *Social Currents* 9(6):511–25. doi: [10.1177/23294965221111339](https://doi.org/10.1177/23294965221111339).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2022. "'I'm Sick of Doing Nothing': How Boredom Shapes Rape Crisis Center Volunteers' Social Movement Participation." *Social Movement Studies* 21(4):549–64. doi: [10.1080/14742837.2021.1928486](https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2021.1928486).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2022. "Carceral Lock-in: How Organizational Conditions Stymie the Development of Justice Alternatives in a Rape Crisis Center." *Theoretical Criminology* 26(1):91–111. doi: [10.1177/1362480620971784](https://doi.org/10.1177/1362480620971784).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2021. "Rhetorical and Organizational Typification of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking as Discrete Forms of Violence." *Social Problems* 68(3):625–41. doi: [10.1093/socpro/spaa007](https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaa007).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2021. "'When You're Here, You're Not a Militant Feminist': Volunteer Professionalization in a Rape Crisis Center." *Theory and Society* 50(2):231–54. doi: [10.1007/s11186-020-09420-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-020-09420-2).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2020. "'Who Can We Tell Survivors to Call?' The Institutionalization of Criminal-Legal Interventions in a Domestic Violence Organization." *Social Problems* 67(2):270–85. doi: [10.1093/socpro/spz017](https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spz017).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2018. "Patterns of Interaction in Webcam Sex Work: A Comparative Analysis of Female and Male Broadcasters." *Deviant Behavior* 39(6):732–46. doi: [10.1080/01639625.2017.1304803](https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2017.1304803).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

BOOKS

Weiss, Benjamin R. Forthcoming (June 2026). *The Price of Justice: Money and the Limits of Sexual Violence Lawsuits*. University of California Press.

ARTICLES

Weiss, Benjamin R. "Fidelity Over Fit: Reverence for Movement Origins and Constraints on Adaptive Diffusion in Europe's Queer Ballroom Scene." In preparation.

Weiss, Benjamin R. “‘What’s Best for the Survivor’: Moral Polysemy and Civil Sexual Violence Attorneys’ Competitive Boundary Work.” In preparation.

OTHER WRITING

Book Review: “The Politics of Surviving: How Women Navigate Domestic Violence and Its Aftermath by Paige L. Sweet.” *American Journal of Sociology* 128(4):1279–81. doi: [10.1086/721744](https://doi.org/10.1086/721744).

HONORS AND AWARDS

External

2023 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award, Vilnius University, Lithuania (\$28,720)
2022 Haynes Foundation Faculty Fellowship (\$16,000)

Internal

2025 Young Initiative Faculty Grant, Occidental College (\$5,000)
2025 Humanities for Just Communities Summer Fellows Program, Mellon Foundation
Humanities for All Initiative, Occidental College (\$10,000)
2023 MacArthur International Grant, Occidental College (\$3,000)
2023 Ford Research Mentor’s Endowment Award, Occidental College (\$750)
2022 Ford Research Mentor’s Endowment Award, Occidental College (\$750)
2022 Faculty Enrichment Grant (Teaching), Occidental College (\$350)
2022 Center for Research and Scholarship Flash Grant, Occidental College (\$500)
2021 Faculty Enrichment Grant (Research), Occidental College (\$3,700)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

2017 Research Assistant for Camille Gear Rich, Sociology and Law, University of Southern California

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND ADVISING

Occidental College

Deviance (F’20, S’22)
Gender and Society (S’21, S’22, F’22, S’25)
Introduction to Sociology (F’20, S’21, F’21, F’22, F’24)
Power and Sexuality (F’21, S’23)
Senior Seminar in Sociology (F’24)
Sociology of Social Welfare (S’23, S’25)

Vilnius University

Gender and Sexuality in Criminology (S’24)

University of Southern California

Teaching Assistant, Changing Family Forms

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology
Teaching Assistant, Sociology, Demography, and Health
Teaching Assistant, Sociology of Health and the Body

Undergraduate Independent Research Advisor

Jackson Lewellen, Summer Research Program Fellowship, Occidental College (2025)
Koko Butcher, Summer Research Program Fellowship, Occidental College (2024)
Kate Potvin, Young Student Grant, Occidental College (2023)
Mahala Shulman, Summer Research Program Fellowship, Occidental College (2022)
Britney Aboagye, Summer Research Program Fellowship, Occidental College (2021)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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| 2025 | Weiss, Benjamin R. "Private Practice Attorneys' Mobilization of Tort Law to Combat Sexual Violence." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Chicago, IL, August 2025. |
| 2023 | Weiss, Benjamin R. "To Empower or Safeguard? How Novice Rape and Domestic Violence Victim Advocates Render Institutional Complexity Visible." Paper presented at the Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference (ERQ), Trento, IT, June 2023. |
| 2022 | Weiss, Benjamin R. "How Volunteer and Staff Turnover Neutralizes Goal Conflict in a Rape Crisis Center." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Los Angeles, CA, August 2022. |
| 2022 | Krystale E. Littlejohn and Benjamin R. Weiss. "It definitely was consensual, but...': Normative Tensions about Gendered Heterosexuality and Women's Mixed Feelings about Sex." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Los Angeles, CA, August 2022. |
| 2022 | Weiss, Benjamin R. and Mahala Shulman. "Organizational Bias in Gender-Based Violence Research." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), Los Angeles, CA, August 2022. |
| 2020 | Weiss, Benjamin R. "How Organizational Architecture Stymies Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence from an Anti-Gender-Based Violence Organization." Accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), San Francisco, CA, August 2020 (meeting cancelled due to COVID-19). |
| 2019 | Weiss, Benjamin R. "Who Can We Tell Survivors to Call? The Institutionalization of Criminal-Legal Interventions in an Anti-Domestic Violence Organization." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), New York, NY, August 2019. |
| 2018 | Weiss, Benjamin R. "Volunteer Disruption of Nonprofits' Organizational Fields." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Philadelphia, PA, August 2018. |
| 2018 | Weiss, Benjamin R. "Who Can We Tell Survivors to Call? The Institutionalization of Criminal-Legal Interventions in an Anti-Domestic Violence Organization." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA), Long Beach, CA, March 2018. |

- 2017 Weiss, Benjamin R. "Patterns of Interaction in Webcam Sex Work: A Comparative Analysis of Female and Male Broadcasters." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA), Portland, OR, April 2017.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2025–present Assistant Editor, *Sex & Sexualities*
2021–2023 Member, Student Paper Award Committee, Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance, American Sociological Association (ASA)
2021–2022 Member, Local Arrangements Committee, Section on Sex & Gender, American Sociological Association (ASA)
2021–2022 Member, Local Arrangements Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)
2019 Presider and Discussant, Roundtable on Politics, Law, and Society at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), New York, NY, August 2019.

Ad hoc Reviewer

American Sociological Review; Bulletin of Applied Transgender Studies; Gender & Society; Journal of Family Violence; Journal of Gender-Based Violence; Law & Society Review; Mobilization: An International Quarterly; Social Movement Studies; Social Problems; Sociological Perspectives; Symbolic Interaction; The Journal of Sex Research; Violence Against Women; VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- 2024–2025 Member, Fellowships Committee, Occidental College
2024 Member, Faculty Search Committee, Sociology Department, Occidental College
2024 Member, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies Faculty Learning Community, Occidental College
2021–2023 Member, Undergraduate Research Committee, Occidental College
2021–2022 Member, Search Committee, Project SAFE (Project for a Sexual Assault-Free Environment) Prevention Education Coordinator, Occidental College
2019–2020 Co-Founder, Graduate Student Peer Mentorship Program, University of Southern California
2016–17 Representative, First Year Cohort, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California