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Education

Ph.D. (2011) Sociology, University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
M.A. (2005) Sociology, University of California, San Diego (UCSD)
B.A. (2001) Sociology, University of Wisconsin- Madison

Research Training and Teaching Interests

Primary: Medical Sociology, Law and Society, Social Theory, Cultural Sociology
Secondary: Research Methods, Science and Technology Studies, Sociology of Risk

Doctoral Research

Dissertation Title: “The Challenge of Patient Safety and
the Remaking of American Medicine”

Committee in charge: Professor Jeffrey Haydu (UCSD Sociology), Chair,
Professor Steven Epstein (Northwestern University Sociology),
Professor Edwin Hutchins (UCSD Cognitive Science),
Professor Andrew Lakoff (USC Sociology and Anthropology),
Professor Charles Thorpe (UCSD Sociology and Science Studies)

Dissertation Brief Abstract:

The dissertation accounts for the ‘patient safety challenge,’ which developed over the course of 1990s, gained prominence in the early 2000s, and now occupies a significant place in health care reform. Positioning medical error as a significant, wide-ranging, and entrenched problem in need of urgent attention, the patient safety challenge (and associated quality movement) has been instrumental in setting the foundation for contemporary comprehensive reform legislation. In seeking to advance an ethos of shared responsibility and collective improvement, patient safety advocates attempt to remake American medicine by redefining aspects of its traditional culture and conduct. The dissertation traces the recent history of patient safety reform, explaining how such efforts construct medical error as a preventable risk, assert patients as partners in error prevention, and make safety culture a central organizational goal. Calling for a major transformation in the structure of health care delivery, the patient safety and quality movement stands at the forefront of efforts toward remaking American medicine.

Work in Progress

“Risk and Reform: Changing the Concept of Medical Error”

“From Adversary to Advocate: Stories of Transformation in Medical Error Narratives”

“Patient Safety Goes Global: The WHO’s Transnational Patient Safety Advocacy”

“Comparing Pilots and Doctors: Aviation as a Model for Governing Risk in Health Care”

Conference Presentations

- 2011 Law and Society Association Annual Conference, San Francisco
Paper Presentation: "From Adversary to Activist: Stories of Transformation"
- 2011 West Coast Law and Society Retreat, Los Angeles
Grad Student Workshop Presentation on Dissertation Research
- 2010 Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Chicago
Paper Presentation: "The Power of a Number? Counting Medical Error and Redefining Risk in Health Care"
- 2010 Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, Oakland
Paper Presentation: "Between Risk and Reform: Medical Error and the Politics of Prevention in Health Care"
- 2009 Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Denver
Paper Presentation: "Aviation as a Model for Managing Risk in Health Care"
- 2009 Pacific Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Diego
Paper Presentation: "Safety Culture from the Flight Deck to the Hospital"
- 2008 American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Boston
Science, Knowledge and Technology Roundtable: "Patient Safety Goes Global"
- 2008 Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada
Paper presentation: "Risk, Regulation and Patient Safety"
Session Organizer: "The Politics of Regulating Risk" (with Professor Jonathan Simon, University of California-Berkeley, as discussant)
- 2008 Culture and Society Workshop, UCSD Sociology Department, San Diego
Paper presentation: "Patient Safety Goes Global"
- 2007 Law and Society Association Annual Conference, Berlin, Germany
Paper presentation: "Standardizing Safety in Global Health Care"
- 2007 Social Science History Association Annual Conference, Chicago
Paper presentation: "A Role for Patients in Global Health Care Initiatives?"
- 2006 Risk Regulation Student Research Conference, London School of Economics
Presentation: "Tracing the Emergence of 20th Century Safety Discourses"
- 2006 Sociology Department Annual Student Research Conference, UCSD, San Diego
Presentation: "Comparing Historical and Contemporary Safety Discourses"

Research Assistance and Relevant Work Experience

Summer 2005 - Research Assistant for Professor Isaac Martin, UCSD Sociology
Data collection of media reports on tax protests in Europe, 1960-2001.

Summer 2004 - Research Assistant for Professor Jeffrey Haydu, UCSD Sociology
Retrieval and analysis of articles on US business citizenship, 1880-1920.

November 2001 thru September 2003 - Library Assistant II & III, UCSD Libraries
Full-time employment in a research library (circulation desk and course reserves).

Fellowships and Grants

2008	UCSD Sociology Department Summer Research Grant Program
2007 & 2008	The Dean's Social Sciences Research Travel Grant, UCSD
2007-08	Labor and Employment Research Fund, UC Office of the President
2007-10	UCSD Sociology Department Graduate Student Grant Program
2006	Center for German and European Studies/ Institute of European Studies Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, UC-Berkeley
2003-04	Regents Fellowship, University of California, San Diego

Professional, University, and Departmental Service

2010-11	UCSD Academic Internship Program Faculty Mentor
2008-09	Senior Teaching Assistant, UCSD Sociology Department
2008	Graduate Student Reviewer, Society for the Social Study of Science Journal - <i>Science, Technology and Human Values</i>
2008	Panelist, UCSD Sociology Department Teaching Workshop
2007	Panelist, UCSD Sociology Department Grantwriting Workshop
2005	Organizer, UCSD Sociology Department Mentor Program
2004-07	Organizer, UCSD Sociology Graduate Student Meetings
2005-06	Steward, UAW Local 2865, Academic Student Employees
2005-06	Sociology Representative, UCSD Graduate Student Association

Memberships in Professional Associations

American Sociological Association (ASA)	- 2008-2011
Law and Society Association (LSA)	- 2007-2011
Pacific Sociological Association (PSA)	- 2009-2011
Social Science History Association (SSHA)	- 2008-2011

