

Katherine L. Copas

Northwestern University

Department of Sociology

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🌐 katherinecopas.com

EDUCATION

- 2026 PhD, Sociology, Northwestern University
(*expected*) Dissertation: “Banking on Main Street: How Credit Unions Shape the Financial Landscape”
Committee: Bruce Carruthers (chair), Brayden King, Lincoln Quillian
- 2026 MS, Applied Statistics, Northwestern University
- 2020 MA, Sociology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- 2015 BA, Economics & Sociology, Ohio University
Summa Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Economic sociology; stratification and inequality; credit and debt; political economy

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2025 **Copas, Katherine** and Teke Wiggin. “‘General interest’ group or ‘special interest group’? Understanding disproportionate support for unions among non-workers.” *Forthcoming at Sociological Forum*.
- 2019 VanHeuvelen, Tom, and **Katherine Copas**. “The Geography of Polarization, 1950–2015.” *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 5(4): 77–103.

Manuscripts Under Review & Available

- 2025 Copas, Katherine. “Land of the Free (Markets): US Banks’ Strategic Rhetoric in Response to the Financial Crisis.” *Revise & Resubmit at Critical Sociology*.
- 2025 Copas, Katherine. “What do people complain about when they complain about banks? Text Analysis of CFPB Consumer Complaints.” *Manuscript available*.

Book Chapters

- 2025 Carruthers, Bruce G., and **Katherine Copas**. “Financial Regulations.” In *Elgar Encyclopedia of Economic Sociology*, edited by D. Maman. Edward Elgar Publishing. *Forthcoming*.

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

2024	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor
2024	Comparative Historical Social Science Summer Archival Research Funding
2024	American Sociological Association Travel Grant
2023	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant
2022	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Honorable Mention
2020	Comparative Historical Social Science Cluster Scholarship
2020	Sociology Quantitative Fellowship
2019	Russell Sage Foundation Research Honorarium
2018	University of Illinois Student Travel Grant
2011-15	Ohio University Gateway Excellence Full Tuition Scholarship

TEACHING

Northwestern University

Instructor of Record

2024	Finance and Inequality Student Evaluation: 5.8/6.0, $n=12$
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Teaching Assistant

2024	Analysis and Interpretation of Social Data, with Lab Section, <i>Beth Redbird</i> Student Evaluation: 5.6/6.0, $n=22$
2023	Graduate Social Statistics, with Lab Section, <i>Lincoln Quillian</i> Student Evaluation: 6.0/6.0, $n=7$
2023	Environment and Society, <i>Rebecca Ewert</i> Student Evaluation: 5.6/6.0, $n=34$
2022	Population Dynamics, <i>Christine Percheski</i> Student Evaluation: 5.8/6.0, $n=14$
2022	Legal Studies Research Methods, <i>Robert Nelson</i> Student Evaluation: 5.9/6.0, $n=13$
2021	Global Capitalism, <i>Monica Prasad</i> Student Evaluation: 5.7/6.0, $n=26$

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant

2019-20	Introductory Statistics, with Lab Sections*, <i>Alana Akresh</i>
2018-19	Introduction to Sociology, with Discussion Sections*, <i>Kevin Leicht</i>
2018	Social Problems, <i>Alana Akresh</i>
2017	Sociology of Poverty, <i>Brian Dill</i>

* = Rated "Excellent" by students in sections

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “An Event History Analysis of Mortgage Payoffs” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- 2025 “Credit Unions vs. Banks: Understanding Consumer Satisfaction Outcomes,” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- 2024 “‘General Interest’ Group or ‘Special Interest’ Group? Understanding Disproportionate Support for Unions Among Non-Workers.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Canada.
- 2024 “What do people complain about when they complain about banks? Text Analysis of Consumer Complaints Submitted to the CFPB,” Doctoral Workshop Political Economy and Economic Sociology, Menton, France
- 2022 “The Post-Crisis Maintenance of Capitalism: An Analysis of JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo Annual Shareholder Letters 1996-2020,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA
- 2019 “Development Involvement: Citizens Influenced or Indifferent?” Development Conference, South Bend, IN

SERVICE

Academic

Reviewer: *Socio-Economic Review*, *Sociological Forum*

2024-25 Socio-Economic Review, Graduate Student Editorial Intern

Northwestern University

- 2025 Undergraduate Affairs Committee
- 2023-25 Coordinator for Graduate Student Writing Group
- 2023-24 Co-Coordinator for Comparative Historical Social Science Workshop
- 2022-24 Sociology Graduate Student Council
- 2021-24 Graduate Student Peer Mentor

University of Illinois

- 2019 Grievance Committee
- 2018 Graduate Student Conference Organizing Committee

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
 Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section
 Economic Sociology Section
 Comparative Historical Sociology Section
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
North Central Sociological Association

OTHER WORK

2015-17 Banking Operations Internal Auditor, JPMorgan Chase & Co.

SKILLS

R, Stata, SPSS, SQL, atlas.TI, \LaTeX
English (native), German (intermediate)

REFERENCES

Bruce G. Carruthers

John D. MacArthur Professor of Sociology
Department of Sociology
Northwestern University

Brayden G. King

Max McGraw Chair in Management and the Environment
Kellogg School of Management
Northwestern University

Lincoln Quillian

Gordon S. Fulcher Professor of Decision-Making
Department of Sociology
Northwestern University