

# Katherine L. Copas

Northwestern University

Department of Sociology

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🌐 katherinecopas.com

## EDUCATION

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- 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

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

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- 2026 Copas, Katherine. “Land of the Free (Markets): US Banks’ Strategic Rhetoric in Response to the Financial Crisis.” *Forthcoming at Critical Sociology*.
- 2025 **Copas, Katherine** and Teke Wiggin. “‘General interest’ group or ‘special interest group’? Understanding Nonworker Support for Unions.” *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. “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

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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

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### 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

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- 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

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### 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

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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

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

## SKILLS

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R, Stata, SPSS, SQL, atlas.TI, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
English (native), German (intermediate)

## REFERENCES

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**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