

Katherine L. Copas

Franklin College
Department of Sociology
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2026 **Franklin College**
Assistant Professor of Sociology

EDUCATION

2026 PhD, Sociology, Northwestern University
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

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

Copas, Katherine. “Consumer Voice and Expectations: Text Analysis of Consumer Complaints Submitted to the CFPB.” *Under review*.

Copas, Katherine. “An Event History Analysis of Mortgage Foreclosures.” *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

Teaching Assistant

- 2024 Analysis and Interpretation of Social Data, with Lab Section, *Beth Redbird*
2023 Graduate Social Statistics, with Lab Section, *Lincoln Quillian*
2023 Environment and Society, *Rebecca Ewert*
2022 Population Dynamics, *Christine Percheski*
2022 Legal Studies Research Methods, *Robert Nelson*
2021 Global Capitalism, *Monica Prasad*

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant

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

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “What do people complain about when they complain about banks? Text Analysis of Consumer Complaints Submitted to the CFPB” *Invited*. Bard College, Annandale-On-Hudson, NY
- 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*, *Social Science Research*
- 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
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
Midwest Sociological Society
North Central Sociological Association

OTHER WORK

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

SKILLS

R, Stata, SPSS, SQL, atlas.TI, L^AT_EX
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

Christine Percheski

Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Northwestern University

Lincoln Quillian

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