

Kelsey D. Meagher

Curriculum Vitae

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY • UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS
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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis, (expected 2018).
M.A. Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis, 2012.
B.A. Department of Cognitive Science, University of California, Irvine, 2010
(*summa cum laude*).

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Environmental Sociology; Organizations and the Economy; Health and Social Welfare; Food and Agriculture Systems; Political Sociology; Risk and Disasters; Mixed Methods.

DISSERTATION

After the Outbreak: Organizing Food Safety in the U.S. and Europe

Abstract: Large-scale foodborne illness outbreaks over the past two decades have prompted growing public concerns over food safety. However, responses to these outbreaks have varied substantially across institutional and national contexts. My study investigates cross-national differences in risk perception and governance in the context of two major *E. coli* outbreaks in the last decade (California, 2006; and Germany, 2011). I employ mixed methods (including interviews, archival media, and nationally representative surveys) to trace how growers, regulators, and consumers in the U.S. and Germany defined and pursued food safety following the outbreaks. I argue that food safety is a “boundary object,” spanning the social worlds of agricultural and health experts, and that to understand the dynamics of outbreak response we must account for how power and authority are distributed across these professionalized spheres and the patterned relations between them. Food safety governance involves limited public participation in both cases, so foodborne outbreaks rarely disrupt the established dynamics of technocratic governance unless accompanied by sizable economic or political shocks.

Committee: Tom Beamish (chair), Nicole Woolsey Biggart, and Xiaoling Shu

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts Under Review

Shu, Xiaoling, and **Kelsey D. Meagher**. “Beyond the Stalled Gender Revolution: Historical and Cohort Dynamics in Gender Attitudes from 1977-2016.” Revise & resubmit, *Social Forces*.

Meagher, Kelsey D. “Public Perceptions of Food-Related Risks: A Cross-National Investigation of Individual and Contextual Influences.” Under review.

Finnigan, Ryan, and **Kelsey D. Meagher**. “Trade-Offs between Utility and Housing Hardship in the United States.” Under review.

Manuscripts In Preparation

Meagher, Kelsey D. “Contamination, Crisis, and Food Safety Culture: Evaluating an Industry-led Response to the Problem of Foodborne Risk.”

Shu, Xiaoling, and **Kelsey D. Meagher**. “Mapping Gender Ideologies Globally: Gender Attitudes in 47 Countries.”

Meagher, Kelsey D., and Nicole Woolsey Biggart. “Using Social Institutions to Promote Social Welfare: A Multi-Sectoral Approach to Social Problems and Solutions.”

Non-Refereed Publications

- 2014 Beamish, Thomas, Kristen Denninger Snyder, **Kelsey D. Meagher**, and Brett Milligan. White paper. “Farmworker Housing Assessment for the 2014 UC Davis Solar Decathlon Team: Social and Spatial Considerations.”
- 2013 Biscotti, Dina and **Kelsey D. Meagher**. “A Call for a Public Sociology of Energy and Climate Change: An Interview with Nicole Woolsey Biggart.” *Accounts: ASA Economic Sociology Newsletter* 12(3): 8-11.
- 2013 **Meagher, Kelsey D.** and Dina Biscotti. “Announcing the Launch of the Systems of Exchange Website: A New Resource for Researchers, Instructors, and Students of Economic Sociology.” *Accounts: ASA Economic Sociology Newsletter* 12(2): 10-12.
- 2013 **Meagher, Kelsey D.** Over forty case studies and blog posts for the website *Systems of Exchange*. <http://www.systemsofexchange.org>.
- 2011 Boulé, D., G. Hubert, A. Jensen, A. Kull, J. V. S. Kim, C. Marshall, **K. D. Meagher**, and T. Rittenhouse. White paper. “Context Matters: Visioning a Food Hub in Yolo and Solano Counties.” Prepared for the Yolo County Food and Agriculture Alliance in partnership with the Agricultural Sustainability Institute at UC Davis. <http://asi.ucdavis.edu/resources/publications>.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

- 2017, 2016, 2015 Summer Dissertation Research Grant; Institute for Social Sciences, UC Davis.
- 2017, 2015, 2014, 2010 UC Davis Graduate Fellowship; Department of Sociology.
- 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013 Graduate Student Travel Award; Department of Sociology, UC Davis.
- 2016 Provost's Dissertation Year Fellowship in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; UC Davis.
- 2016 Helen G. Shull Endowed P.E.O. Scholar Award; P.E.O. International.
- 2016, 2015 UC Davis & Humanities Graduate Research Award; Office of Graduate Studies, UC Davis.
- 2015, 2014, 2013 Small Research Grant; Department of Sociology, UC Davis.
- 2013 Graduate Student Travel Award; Office of Graduate Studies, UC Davis.
- 2013 Recipient, Leon Mayhew Award for Best Qualifying Paper; Department of Sociology, UC Davis.
- 2013 Finalist, People's Choice for Best Oral Presentation, Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Student Symposium; UC Davis.
- 2013 Consortium for Women and Research Graduate Research Award; UC Davis.

PRESENTATIONS

Conference Presentations

- 2017 "Trade-Offs between Meeting Utility and Housing Expenses in the United States." American Sociological Association: Montreal, QC. August 12-15.
- 2017 "Cross-National Differences in Food Safety Governance." Pacific Sociological Association: Portland, OR. April 6-9.
- 2016 "Cross-National Differences in Food Safety Governance." American Sociological Association: Seattle, WA. August 20-23.
- 2016 "Trade-Offs between Meeting Utility and Housing Expenses in the United States." Population Association of America: Washington, D.C. March 31-April 2.
- 2014 "Using Social Institutions to Promote Social Welfare: A Multi-Sectoral

- Approach to Social Problems and Solutions.” American Sociological Association: San Francisco, CA. August 16-19.
- 2014 “Micro- and Macro-level Dynamics in Gender Attitudes in 1977-2012: An Age-Cohort-Period Analysis.” American Sociological Association: San Francisco, CA. August 16-19.
- 2013 “Attitudes About Welfare and Participation in Food Assistance Programs.” American Sociological Association; New York, NY. August 10-13.

Campus Talks

- 2017 “Trade-Offs between Meeting Utility and Housing Expenses in the United States.” Center for Poverty Research, UC Davis. September 25.
- 2016 “Micro- and Macro-level Dynamics in Gender Attitudes in 1977-2014: An Age-Cohort-Period Analysis.” Quantitative Psychology Brown Bag Series. Department of Psychology, UC Davis, CA. April 12.
- 2013 “Attitudes About Welfare and Participation in Food Assistance Programs.” Power and Inequalities Workshop. Department of Sociology, UC Davis, CA. April 26.
- 2013 “Attitudes About Welfare and Participation in Food Assistance Programs.” Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Student Symposium. UC Davis, CA. April 5.
- 2012 “Attitudes About Welfare and Participation in Food Assistance Programs.” Sociology Graduate Student Research and Development Conference. UC Davis, CA. September 26.

Community Presentations

- 2011 “Context Matters: Visioning a Food Hub in Yolo and Solano Counties.” Quarterly Meeting of the Yolo County Food and Agriculture Alliance. Woodland, CA. June 7.

RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS

- 2015 - 2017 **Graduate Student Researcher:** “Trade-Offs between Meeting Utility and Housing Expenses in the United States.” Principal Investigator: Ryan Finnigan. Studying the prevalence and distribution of trade-offs between housing and utility costs among low-income renters in the U.S. using data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP).

- 2014 - 2015 **Graduate Student Researcher:** “Energy Poverty in the Sacramento Region.” UC Davis. Principal Investigator: Nicole Woolsey Biggart. Studied energy consumption and use of energy assistance programs among low-income residents in Sacramento, CA. Funded by the Center for Poverty Research at UC Davis.
- 2014 **Graduate Student Researcher:** Solar Decathlon. UC Davis. Principal Investigator: Thomas Beamish. Interviewed farmworker advocates about community needs to inform the design of farmworker housing for a national collegiate energy efficiency design competition.
- 2013 - 2017 **Graduate Student Researcher:** “Age, Period, & Cohort Effects and State-Level Influences on Gender Attitudes in the U.S.” UC Davis. Principal Investigator: Xiaoling Shu. Conducted statistical analysis using Stata and HLM on data from the General Social Survey, 1977-2016.
- 2013 - 2014 **Graduate Student Researcher:** “Systems of Exchange.” UC Davis. Principal Investigator: Nicole Woolsey Biggart. Developed content for a website promoting Biggart’s theoretical framework about systems of exchange to academics and students of economic sociology:
www.systemsofexchange.org.
- 2012 **Graduate Student Researcher:** “BioSafety or Bio-Hazard? Organizational Pursuit and Community Response to a Safety and Preparedness Initiative.” UC Davis. Principal Investigator: Thomas Beamish. Conducted statistical analysis using Stata with Beamish’s data on community reactions to proposed bio-containment laboratories.
- 2011 **Graduate Student Researcher:** “Context Matters: Visioning a Food Hub in Yolo and Solano Counties.” UC Davis. Principal Investigators: Thomas Tomich and Gail Feenstra. Conducted historical research on agricultural, food security, and health trends in the Yolo/Solano region for a feasibility study on food hubs.

TEACHING APPOINTMENTS

Associate Instructor (Instructor of Record), Department of Sociology, UC Davis.

Introduction to Social Research (Summer 2015, Summer 2016)

Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, UC Davis.

Introduction to Social Research (Fall 2011)

Intermediate Social Statistics (Spring 2012, Fall 2012)

Environmental Sociology (Winter 2012, Spring 2014)

Political Sociology (Spring 2016)

Reader, Department of Sociology, UC Davis.
Deviance (Summer 2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Power and Inequalities Workshop Committee, Department of Sociology, UC Davis.
2017-2018.

Discussant, Environments and Societies Colloquium; UC Davis Mellon Research
Initiative. 2014.

Mentor, Graduate-Undergraduate Research Training and Mentorship Program; Undergraduate
Research Center, UC Davis. 2014.

Editorial Associate, *Theory and Society: Renewal and Critique in Social Theory*; UC Davis.
2013-2018.

Coordinator, Food Systems Discussion Group; UC Davis. 2012-2018.

Discussant, Graduate Student Research and Development Conference; Department of Sociology,
UC Davis. 2012, 2016.

Course organizer, Alternatives in Agriculture; Department of International Agriculture Devel-
opment, UC Davis. 2010, 2012.

Committee member, Food Systems Speaker Selection Committee for the annual
California Higher Education Sustainability Conference. 2010-2013.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Agriculture, Food & Human Values Society

American Sociological Association

Pacific Sociological Association

REFERENCES

Thomas D. Beamish

Professor
Department of Sociology
University of California, Davis
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Nicole Woolsey Biggart

Research Professor and Professor Emerita
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