

**Benjamin R. Weiss**

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**EMPLOYMENT**

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2020 - Assistant Professor of Sociology, Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA  
Faculty Affiliate, Gender, Women, and Sexuality Studies

**EDUCATION**

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Ph.D., Sociology, University of Southern California (2020)

*Dissertation*: “Barriers to Effective Social Service Provision in the Hybrid Welfare State: Street-Level Evidence from an Anti-Gender-Based Violence Organization”

*Committee*: Nina Eliasoph (chair), Krystale E. Littlejohn, Michael A. Messner, Camille Gear Rich

M.A., Sociology, University of Southern California (2019)

*Empirical Paper*: “‘Who Can We Tell Survivors to Call?’ The Institutionalization of Criminal-Legal Interventions in a Domestic Violence Organization”

*Qualifying Examinations*: Gender; Organizations and Economic Sociology

B.A., Sociology, Occidental College (2016)

Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, Senior thesis passed with distinction

*Senior Thesis*: “Patterns of Interaction in Webcam Sex Work: A Comparative Analysis of Female and Male Broadcasters”

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

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Gender; Crime, Law, and Deviance; Organizational Studies; Political Sociology; Non-Governmental Organizations; Qualitative Methods; Ethnography

**PUBLICATIONS** (\*denotes undergraduate or graduate student co-author)

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Weiss, Benjamin R. 2023. “To Empower or Safeguard? How Novice Rape and Domestic Violence Victim Advocates Render Institutional Complexity Visible.” *Qualitative Sociology* 46(4):603–24. doi: [10.1007/s11133-023-09544-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-023-09544-8).

Weiss, Benjamin R., and Mahala Shulman\*. 2022. “Organizational Bias in Gender-Based Violence Research.” *Social Currents* 9(6):511–25. doi: [10.1177/23294965221111339](https://doi.org/10.1177/23294965221111339).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2022. “‘I’m Sick of Doing Nothing:’ How Boredom Shapes Rape Crisis Center Volunteers’ Social Movement Participation.” *Social Movement Studies* 21(4):549–64. doi: [10.1080/14742837.2021.1928486](https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2021.1928486).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2022. “Carceral Lock-in: How Organizational Conditions Stymie the Development of Justice Alternatives in a Rape Crisis Center.” *Theoretical Criminology* 26(1):91–111. doi: [10.1177/1362480620971784](https://doi.org/10.1177/1362480620971784).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2021. “Rhetorical and Organizational Typification of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking as Discrete Forms of Violence.” *Social Problems* 68(3):625–41. doi: [10.1093/socpro/spaa007](https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spaa007).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2021. ““When You’re Here, You’re Not a Militant Feminist’: Volunteer Professionalization in a Rape Crisis Center.” *Theory and Society* 50(2):231–54. doi: [10.1007/s11186-020-09420-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-020-09420-2).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2020. ““Who Can We Tell Survivors to Call?’ The Institutionalization of Criminal-Legal Interventions in a Domestic Violence Organization.” *Social Problems* 67(2):270–85. doi: [10.1093/socpro/spz017](https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spz017).

Weiss, Benjamin R. 2018. “Patterns of Interaction in Webcam Sex Work: A Comparative Analysis of Female and Male Broadcasters.” *Deviant Behavior* 39(6):732–46. doi: [10.1080/01639625.2017.1304803](https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2017.1304803).

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**RESEARCH IN PROGRESS** (\*denotes undergraduate or graduate student co-author)

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BOOKS

Weiss, Benjamin R. *The Rape Racket: How the Pursuit of Profit Perverts Victims’ Access to Civil Justice*. University of California Press (Advance Contract).

ARTICLES

Weiss, Benjamin R. “Anticipatory Discrimination: How Attorneys’ Assumptions about Fact Triers’ Biases Sustain Race and Gender Inequality in the Civil Legal System.” Invitation to Revise and Resubmit.

Littlejohn, Krystale and Benjamin R. Weiss (equal authorship). “‘It definitely was consensual, but...’: Normative Heterosexuality, Social Location, and Young Women’s Mixed Feelings about Sex.” Invitation to Revise and Resubmit.

Weiss, Benjamin R. “Civil-Criminal Hybridization: Sexual Violence Plaintiffs’ Attorneys’ Efforts to Blur the Boundaries Between Civil and Criminal Law.” Invitation to Revise and Resubmit.

Weiss, Benjamin R. and Loreta Matačiūtė\*. “Copy-Paste Politics: Decontextualized Activism in Lithuania’s Queer Ballroom Scene.” Under Review.

## **OTHER WRITING**

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Book Review: “The Politics of Surviving: How Women Navigate Domestic Violence and Its Aftermath by Paige L. Sweet.” *American Journal of Sociology* 128(4):1279–81. doi: [10.1086/721744](https://doi.org/10.1086/721744).

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

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### *External*

2023 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Award, Vilnius University, Lithuania  
 2022 Haynes Foundation Faculty Fellowship, \$16,000  
 2019 Lee Student Support Travel Grant, Society for the Study of Social Problems

### *Internal*

2023 MacArthur International Grant, Occidental College, \$3,000  
 2023 Ford Research Mentor’s Endowment Award, Occidental College, \$750  
 2022 Ford Research Mentor’s Endowment Award, Occidental College, \$750  
 2022 Faculty Enrichment Grant (Teaching), Occidental College, \$350  
 2022 Center for Research and Scholarship Flash Grant, Occidental College, \$500  
 2021 Faculty Enrichment Grant (Research), Occidental College, \$3,700  
 2019 Bessie McClenahan Research Collaboration Grant, USC  
 2019 Emory Bogardus Research Enhancement Grant, USC  
 2018 Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant, USC  
 2017 Emory Bogardus Research Enhancement Grant, USC

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING**

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2017 Research Assistant for Camille Gear Rich, Sociology and Law, University of Southern California

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND ADVISING**

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### *Occidental College*

Introduction to Sociology  
 Gender and Society  
 Deviance  
 Power and Sexuality  
 Sociology of Social Welfare  
 Senior Seminar in Sociology

### *University of Southern California*

Teaching Assistant, Changing Family Forms  
 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology  
 Teaching Assistant, Sociology, Demography, and Health  
 Teaching Assistant, Sociology of Health and the Body

*Undergraduate Independent Research Advisor*

Koko Butcher, Summer Research Program Fellowship, Occidental College (2024)

Kate Potvin, Young Student Grant, Occidental College (2023)

Mahala Shulman, Summer Research Program Fellowship, Occidental College (2022)

Britney Aboagye, Summer Research Program Fellowship, Occidental College (2021)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- 2023 Weiss, Benjamin R. "To Empower or Safeguard? How Novice Rape and Domestic Violence Victim Advocates Render Institutional Complexity Visible." Paper presented at the Ethnography and Qualitative Research Conference (ERQ), Trento, IT, June 2023.
- 2022 Weiss, Benjamin R. "How Volunteer and Staff Turnover Neutralizes Goal Conflict in a Rape Crisis Center." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Los Angeles, CA, August 2022.
- 2022 Krystale E. Littlejohn and Benjamin R. Weiss. "'It definitely was consensual, but...': Normative Tensions about Gendered Heterosexuality and Women's Mixed Feelings about Sex." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Los Angeles, CA, August 2022.
- 2022 Weiss, Benjamin R. and Mahala Shulman. "Organizational Bias in Gender-Based Violence Research." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), Los Angeles, CA, August 2022.
- 2020 Weiss, Benjamin R. "How Organizational Architecture Stymies Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence from an Anti-Gender-Based Violence Organization." Paper accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), San Francisco, CA, August 2020 (meeting cancelled due to COVID-19).
- 2019 Weiss, Benjamin. "'Who Can We Tell Survivors to Call?' The Institutionalization of Criminal-Legal Interventions in an Anti-Domestic Violence Organization." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), New York, NY, August 2019.
- 2018 Weiss, Benjamin. "Volunteer Disruption of Nonprofits' Organizational Fields." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA), Philadelphia, PA, August 2018.
- 2018 Weiss, Benjamin. "'Who Can We Tell Survivors to Call?' The Institutionalization of Criminal-Legal Interventions in an Anti-Domestic Violence Organization." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA), Long Beach, CA, March 2018.
- 2017 Weiss, Benjamin. "Patterns of Interaction in Webcam Sex Work: A Comparative Analysis of Female and Male Broadcasters." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association (PSA), Portland, OR, April 2017.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- 2021-2023 Member, Student Paper Award Committee, Section on Crime, Law, and Deviance, American Sociological Association (ASA)
- 2021-2022 Member, Local Arrangements Committee, Section on Sex & Gender, American Sociological Association (ASA)
- 2021-2022 Member, Local Arrangements Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)
- 2019 Presider and Discussant, Roundtable on Politics, Law, and Society at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), New York, NY, August 2019.

*Ad hoc Reviewer*

Bulletin of Applied Transgender Studies; Gender & Society; Journal of Gender-Based Violence; Law & Society Review; Mobilization: An International Quarterly; Social Movement Studies; Social Problems; Symbolic Interaction; The Journal of Sex Research; Violence Against Women; VOLUNTAS: International Journal of Voluntary and Nonprofit Organizations

**INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

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- 2024 Member, Faculty Search Committee, Sociology Department, Occidental College
- 2021-2023 Member, Undergraduate Research Committee, Occidental College
- 2021-2022 Member, Search Committee, Project SAFE (Project for a Sexual Assault-Free Environment) Prevention Education Coordinator, Occidental College
- 2019-2020 Co-founder of Graduate Student Peer Mentorship Program, University of Southern California
- 2016-17 Representative, First Year Cohort, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California
- 2015 Student Co-Chair, Faculty Search Committee, Sociology Department, Occidental College