Ricarda Hammer

Department of Sociology
University of California - Berkeley
410 Social Sciences Building
Berkeley, CA 94720

E-mail: ricarda.hammer@berkeley.edu
Website: www.ricardahammer.com

Academic Positions

2023-present	Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
2021-2023	Postdoctoral Fellow, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor

Education

2021	**Brown University** Ph.D. in Sociology Dissertation: "Citizenship and Colonial Difference: The Racial Politics of Rights and Rule across the Black Atlantic" **Winner 2022 American Sociological Association Best Dissertation Award*
2014	**Brown University** M.A. in Sociology
2011	**School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London** Graduate Diploma in Economics, *Distinction*
2010	**University of Cambridge** B.A. in Social & Political Sciences

Research & teaching interests

Global and Transnational Sociology, Sociology of Race & Ethnicity, Political Sociology, Historical Sociology, Cultural Sociology, Colonialism & Postcolonialism, Social Theory

Selected Publications & Papers

Peer-reviewed Articles

2026	**Hammer, Ricarda.** "Atlantic Reconstruction: Democracy, Abolition, and the Making of Political Personhood," *American Journal of Sociology* 132(1): 38-90.
2024	**Hammer, Ricarda** and José Itzigsohn. "Rethinking Historical Sociology: Learning from W.E.B. Du Bois and the Black Radical Tradition," *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*. 22(1): 171-189.
2022	**Hammer, Ricarda** and Tina M. Park. "The Ghost in the Algorithm: Racial Colonial Capitalism and the Digital Age," *Political Power and Social Theory* 38: 221-249.

** 2022 Honorable Mention American Sociological Association Science, Knowledge & Technology Section Star-Nelkin Best Paper Award*

2020 **Hammer, Ricarda**. "Decolonizing the Civil Sphere: The Politics of Difference, Imperial Erasures, and Theorizing from History," *Sociological Theory* 38(2): 101-121

2019 **Hammer, Ricarda** and Alexandre I.R. White. "Towards a Sociology of Colonial Subjectivity: Political Agency in Haiti and Liberia," *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 5(2): 215-228.
** 2018 American Sociological Association Political Economy and the World-System Terence K. Hopkins Best Graduate Student Paper Award*
** 2018 American Sociological Association Peace, War and Social Conflict Section Elise Boulding Best Graduate Student Paper Award*

2018 **Hammer, Ricarda**. "Bringing the Global Home: Students Research Local Areas through Postcolonial Perspectives," *Teaching Sociology* 46(2): 135-147.

2017 **Hammer, Ricarda**. "Epistemic Ruptures: History, Practice and the Anticolonial Imagination," *Political Power and Social Theory* 32: 153-180.

Edited Books

2027 José Itzigsohn, **Ricarda Hammer**, and Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz, editors. *The Du Boisian Challenge: Rethinking Sociological Methodology.* Durham: Duke University Press. (forthcoming)

Essays, Book Chapters & Book Reviews

Hammer, Ricarda and José Itzigsohn. "Colonial Modernity in Historical Sociology," in *The Racial Structure of Sociological Thought*, edited by Jennifer Mueller and Victor Ray. Temple University Press. (forthcoming)

Hammer, Ricarda. "Postcolonialism," *Routledge Resources Online: Race and Racism.* (forthcoming)

Hammer, Ricarda. "Commodifying Freedom: The Haitian Indemnity, Financialization, and the Limits of Black Sovereignty," in *Political Economy Rebooted*, edited by Greta Krippner, Marion Fourcade and Sarah Quinn. Duke University Press. (forthcoming)

2025 **Hammer, Ricarda.** "Von Inklusion zu Dekolonisierung: Die Politik der Differenz und imperialen Verdrängung." *Mittelweg 36,* 1: 82-100.

2023 **Hammer, Ricarda.** Book review for "Rituals, Runaways, and the Haitian Revolution: Collective Action in the African Diaspora," *British Journal of Sociology,* 6 April 2023.

2023 **Hammer, Ricarda.** "Between Stuart Hall and Cedric Robinson: Capturing Imaginaries of Racial Capitalism," Review Symposium for Jordanna Matlon "A Man among Other Men," *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 9(2): 225-250.

2022 **Hammer, Ricarda.** "Occlusions of Racecraft: Capitalism, Empire, and the Democracy Debate Revisited," *Democracy and Autocracy,* 20(3):21-25, Published by Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies (WCED), University of Michigan, December 2022.

2021 **Hammer, Ricarda.** "Rethinking the Political Community: Violence and the Colonial Making of the Modern Nation State," Review for Mahmood Mamdani "Neither Settler nor Native: The Making and Unmaking of Permanent Minorities," *European Journal of Sociology*, 62(3): 536-544.

Public Writing

2020 **Hammer, Ricarda.** "Decolonizing Theory: An Interview," *Perspectives: Theory Section Newsletter*, 42(2): 15-17.

2020 **Hammer, Ricarda.** "Thinking with Stuart Hall," *Give Theory a Chance Podcast,* Spring 2020.

2019 **Hammer, Ricarda**. "We who? Colonialism, Silences in our Narrative of Self and the Anticolonial Imagination," *PEWS Newsletter,* 2(Spring): 11-18.

2017 **Hammer, Ricarda** and Alexandre White. "Decolonizing the Social: A Junior Scholars' Workshop", *Perspectives: Theory Section Newsletter*, 39(1): 24-27.

2015 Bustos, Camila, **Ricarda Hammer**, Chris Kelly, Michael Murphy, Apollonya Porcelli. "Raising the Curtain on Pseudoscientific Racism", *Brown Daily Herald*, 30 October 2015.

Book-in-Progress

Hammer, Ricarda. "Citizenship and Colonial Difference: Rights and Race across the Black Atlantic"

Awards & Recognitions

2026 Faculty Award for Outstanding Mentorship of Graduate Student Instructors, University of California

2022 American Sociological Association Best Dissertation Award

2022 Honorable Mention American Sociological Association Science, Knowledge & Technology Section Star-Nelkin Best Paper Award

2018 American Sociological Association PEWS Section Terence K. Hopkins Best Graduate Student Paper Award

2018 American Sociological Association Peace, War and Social Conflict Section Elise Boulding Best Graduate Student Paper Award

2011 SOAS Graduate Diploma in Economics Prize for Outstanding Performance

Fellowships

2024 Matrix Faculty Fellowship, UC Berkeley

2021 University of Michigan Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies Postdoctoral Fellowship

2017 Brown University Interdisciplinary Opportunity Fellowship, Center for the Study of Slavery and Justice (CSSJ)

2016 Brown University Dissertation Fellowship

2013 Brown University Graduate Program in Development Fellowship

2013 Brown University Pembroke Center Graduate Fellowship

Grants

2025 "Echoes of Empire," Society of Hellman Fellows, University of California, $57,026

2024 "Anticolonial Lab," Global Democracy Commons, UC Berkeley, $50,000 (with Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz and Tianna Paschel)

2023 University of Michigan Postdoctoral Association Travel Fund, $500

2020 Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency Travel Grant, $1,100

2017 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Award, $11,997

2016 Brown University International Humanities Travel Award, $5,000

2016 Joukowsky Summer Grant, $1,500

2015 Mellon Graduate Student Workshop, $5,500

2015 Joukowsky Summer Grant, $2,000

2012 Joukowsky Summer Grant, $2,500

2012 GPD Fieldwork Grant, $2,500

2007 Cambridge European Trust Scholarship

Invited Talks & Workshops

2026 Postcolonial Thought and Social Theory - 10 years on, British Journal of Sociology Conference, London, UK

2025 Atlantic Reconstruction, Kadish Workshop Berkeley Law, University of California, Berkeley

2024 Catalysts of Decolonization Panel Discussion, University of Cambridge, UK

2024 Learning from the Black Radical Tradition: Rethinking Historical Sociology's Theories, Methodologies and Archives, Comparative Historical Social Science Workshop, Northwestern University

2024 From Tutelage to Suppression: A Du Boisian Theory of Self-Government, Northwestern University

2023 Une Colonie Commercial…: Thinking Political Economy from Haiti, Political Economy Rebooted, University of California, Berkeley

2023 A Conversation on Freedom with Orlando Patterson, Social Science Matrix, University of California, Berkeley

2023 From Tutelage to Suppression: A Du Boisian Theory of Democratization, Culture & Politics Workshop, UNC-Chapel Hill

2023 The Racial Politics of Citizenship, WCED Lecture Series, University of Michigan

2021 Recognition and Redistribution: Departmentalization and Anticolonial Imaginaries from Martinique, University of Chicago

2021 Discipline and Tutelage: How Liberal Democratization Reconstituted Race, UT Social Research Workshop, University of Tennessee-Knoxville [online]

2021 Predicaments of Citizenship: Racecraft, Colonialism, and the Making of Political Modernity, University of Chicago [online]

2021 The Unthinkable Revolution: Haiti and the Struggle against Racialized Modernity, American University [online]

2019 Thinking against Empire and Cultivating an Anticolonial Imagination, Du Boisian Scholar National Convening, Brown University

2018 How to Mentor the Next Generation of Du Boisian Sociologists, Du Boisian Scholar Network Conference, Northwestern University

2018 Liberalism and the Colonial Construction of Difference in the British Empire: The Jamaican Morant Bay Rebellion Debate and its Implications, Harvard University

2018 Local-Global Afterlives: Thinking through the Legacies of the Slave Trade in Rhode Island, Providence College

2017 Civil Construction: Colonial Histories and the Civil Sphere in France, Constellations of Empire, Nationalism and Revolution in 1917 and 2017, Brown University

2017 Global Rhode Island: How Rhode Island became involved in the Business of Slavery, Providence College

Conference Presentations

2025 The History of the Present: Historical Sociologists Imagine a Different Path Forward, Social Science History Association, Chicago

2025 Commodifying Freedom: The Haitian Revolution, Financialization, and the Persistence of Commodification, American Sociological Association, Chicago

2025 Conditioning Freedom under Duress: The Citizen, Labor, and the Afterlives of Plantation Logics in (post-)Revolutionary Haiti, American Sociological Association, Chicago

2025 Imperial Afterlives and the Racial State: Claudia Jones and the Reimagining of Citizenship during the British 1962 Commonwealth Immigrants Act, International Sociological Association Conference, Rabat

2025 Sociology Hesitant: Exploring the Methodological Implications of Contemporary Du Boisian Sociology, International Sociological Association Conference, Rabat (with Michael Rodríguez-Muñiz)

2024 Abolition Democracy: Towards an Anticolonial Democratic Imagination, Social Science History Association Conference, Toronto

2024 Rethinking Historical Sociology: Learning from W.E.B. Du Bois and the Black Radical Tradition, Social Science History Association Conference, Toronto (with José Itzigsohn)

2023 Debt as Racialized Punishment, Social Science History Association Conference, Washington D.C.

2023 The Racial Politics of Citizenship, Anticolonial Imaginaries and the Struggle for the Human, Social Science History Association Conference, Washington D.C.

2023 Global Approaches to Race: Dialogues on Racism and Colonialism, American Sociological Association Conference, Philadelphia

2023 Anticolonial and Abolitionist Sociologies, American Sociological Association Conference, Philadelphia

2023 The Racial Politics of Citizenship, Anticolonial Imaginaries and the Struggle for the Human, British Sociological Association Conference, Manchester, UK

2023 Thinking from Haiti: Second Sight and Knowing the World from the Margins, Eastern Sociological Society Conference, Baltimore

2022 Thinking from Haiti: Second Sight and Knowing the World from the Margins, Social Science History Association Conference, Chicago

2022 The Haitian Revolution and the Struggle for the Human in Racial Capitalism, American Sociological Association Conference, Los Angeles

2022 Decolonization Beyond Political Independence: Departmentalization, the Politics of Articulation, and Anticolonial Imaginaries from Martinique, ASA Comparative-Historical Mini-Conference, Los Angeles

2021 Producing Racial Difference: Liberal Democracy and the question of "Black Freedom" after Racial Slavery, Social Science History Association Conference [online]

2021 Thinking from the Caribbean: Racialized Modernity, Historicity, Relationality," Social Science History Association Conference [online]

2021 Sylvia Wynter and Sociology: On Colonial Modernity, Race, and the Overrepresentation of Man, American Sociological Association Conference [online]

2021 The Haitian Revolution, Black Freedom, and the Pitfalls of National Independence, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands [online]

2020 Discipline and Tutelage: How Modern Rights Made Race, American Sociological Association Conference [online]

2020 Thinking with W.E.B. Du Bois: Commodifying Labor and the Global Veil from Slavery to the Digital Age, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics [online] (with Tina Park)

2020 From Colonial Subject to Immigrant: Nation-Making, Claudia Jones and the Coloniality of Rights, Racism, Immigration and Citizenship Conference, Johns Hopkins University, USA [cancelled]

2019 Decolonizing Citizenship, Decolonizing Political Concepts Conference, University of Aberdeen, UK

2019 The Coloniality of Rights: The Cultural Politics of the Rights-bearing Individual, the Citizen and Colonial Technologies of Rule, American Sociological Association Conference, New York

2019 Rethinking Subjectivity, Complicity and Sociology through Stuart Hall and James Baldwin, American Sociological Association Conference, New York

2018 Seeing like a Colonial State and Failures of Recognition, Social Science History Association Conference, Phoenix

2018 Decolonizing the Civil Sphere, Social Science History Association Conference, Phoenix

2018 Decolonizing the Nation: Race, Twoness, and Re-Imagining the Community, American Sociological Association Conference, Philadelphia

2018 Racializing Welfare: Constructing the Black Worker in Colonial Jamaica, American Sociological Association Conference, Philadelphia

2017 Temporality, Tutelage and the Politics of Difference, Social Science History Association Conference, Montreal

2017 Black Revolutions, Black Republics: Global Political Imaginaries, Social Science History Association Conference, Montreal (with Alexandre White)

2017 Decolonizing the Civil Sphere: Race, Colonial Difference and Claims for Inclusion in France, ASA Junior Theorists Symposium, Montreal

2017 Displacement and Race-Making in the British West Indies, American Sociological Association Conference, Montreal

2017 Black Revolutions, Black Republics: Inventing the Political in Haiti and Liberia, American Sociological Association Conference, Montreal (with Alexandre White)

2017 Revolutions of Colonial Subjects: Struggles for Freedom in Haiti and Liberia, Decolonizing the Social Conference, Boston University, Boston (with Alexandre White)

2017 Black Revolutions, Black Republics: Resistance in Haiti and Liberia, Social Theory Forum, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston (with Alexandre White)

2016 The Public Sphere in Global Context: Civil Codes and Encounters with Empire, Workshop on The International Origins of Theory, London School of Economics, London, UK

2016 Civil Codes, Encounters with Empire and the Possibilities of Connected Sociologies, Eastern Sociological Society Conference, Boston

2016 Establishing Sovereignty: Dispossession, Slavery and Plantation Labor in the Americas, Eastern Sociological Society Conference, Boston (with Michael Murphy)

2015 Global Sociology and the Challenge of Difference: Empire, Nation and the Colonial Difference, Social Science History Association Conference, Baltimore

2015 Learning to Listen: Colonial Modernity and its Epistemic Effects, Decolonizing Europe Summer School, Amsterdam, Netherlands (group presentation)

2015 Silences in History: A Cosmopolitan Genealogy of Political Modernity, ASA Comparative-Historical Mini-Conference, Chicago

Teaching Experience

University of California, Berkeley

Contemporary Social Theory (SOC 102) (undergraduate)
Advanced Contemporary Social Theory (SOC202B) (graduate)
Classical Sociological Theory (SOC 201A) (graduate)
Decolonizing Citizenship (SOC 190) (undergraduate)

Brown University

Global Sociology: Colonialism and the Making of the Modern World (undergraduate)
Thinking Globally: Colonialism and the Making of the Modern World (pre-college)
Social Theory: Understanding Everyday Life, Brown University (pre-college)

Professional Service

Editorial Boards & Managing Editorships

Sociological Theory (2024-present)

British Journal of Sociology (2024-present)

Studies in Comparative International Development (SCID), Managing Editor, Brown University (2019-2021)

Professional Association Offices & Committees

ASA GATS Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Committee Chair (2024)

Social Science History Association Executive Committee (2023-present)

Social Science History Association Program Committee (2022)

ASA GATS Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Committee Chair (2022)

ASA GATS Council Member (2021-2024)

ASA GATS Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Committee Member (2020)

ASA GATS Council Student Member (2019)

Conferences, Workshops & Symposia Organized

"The Du Boisian Challenge and the Future of the Social Sciences," University of California, Berkeley (2023)

"Making Space: Thinking Against the Grain in Historical Sociology," ASA Comparative Historical Sociology Section Mini-Conference, American Sociological Association Conference (2023)

"Empire and its Legacies," Research Cluster Organizer, ASA GATS Section (2019-2023)

"Second National Convening of Du Boisian Scholar Network," Brown University (2019)

"The Transatlantic Slave Trade and the Making of the Modern World," Film Workshops with Director Stanley Nelson, Brown University (2018)

"Comparative Historical and Global Sociology Mentoring Event," American Sociological Association Conference (2018)

"Decolonizing the Social: A Junior Scholar Conference," Boston University (2017)

ASA Sociology of Development Section Conference, Brown University (2015)

Brown International Advanced Research Institutes (BIARI), Brown University (2013- 2018)

"Silences in History: Modernity, Empire and the Colonial Difference," Mellon Graduate Student Workshop, Brown University (2015)

Panels Organized

Book Launch, "Freedom Train: Black Politics and The Story of Interracial Labor Solidarity," Cedric de Leon, University of California-Berkeley (2025)

Book Launch, "Global Battlefields: Memoir of a Legendary Public Intellectual from the Global South," Walden Bello, University of California-Berkeley (2025)

Author Meets Critics, Alexandre White "Epidemic Orientalism," Social Science History Association Conference (2023)

"Racial Capitalism and Emancipation," American Sociological Association Conference (2023)

"Solidarity: Diaspora Activism & Struggles Across Borders," GATS Virtual Conversations (2023)

"Anticolonial Imaginaries and the Politics of Decolonization," Social Science History Association Conference (2022)

"Empire, Colonialism, and Anticolonial Struggles," American Sociological Association Conference (2022)

"Thinking with Stuart Hall: Worldmaking and the Afterlives of Empire, Social Science History Association Conference (2019)

"The Wretched of the Earth: Revolution, Resistance and Social Change from a Postcolonial Perspective," Social Science History Association Conference (2017)

"What is to be Done? The State of Development Research," ASA Sociology of Development Section Conference, Brown University (2015)

Panel Discussant

"Human Rights and Coloniality," Gender/Power/Theory Workshop, New York University (2026)

"Movements, Rebellions, Revolutions," Gender/Power/Theory Workshop, University of California, Berkeley (2025)

"New Research in Comparative Historical Sociology," American Sociological Association Conference (2022)

"Democratic Ceilings" Roundtable, Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor (2021)

"Nations and Nationalism," American Sociological Association Conference (2020)

Membership in Professional Organisations

American Sociological Association (ASA)
Social Science History Association (SSHA)
International Sociological Association (ISA)
Latin American Studies Association (LASA)
Caribbean Philosophical Association (CPA)

Language Proficiency

English (Fluent), German (Native), French (Intermediate), Spanish (Intermediate), Farsi (Beginner)