

David Showalter  
(pronouns: they/them)

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EDUCATION

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- 2021 (exp) Ph.D. (Sociology), University of California, Berkeley  
*Dissertation*: “Going Nowhere: Life with Opioids in Backcountry California.”  
*Committee*: Loïc Wacquant (chair), Jennifer Johnson-Hanks, Christopher Muller,  
and Seth Holmes (Public Health)  
*Exam Fields*: Social Theory; Deviance, Crime, and the Law; Political Sociology
- 2015 Master of Arts (Sociology), University of California, Berkeley  
*Thesis*: “Social Crisis and Symbolic Power: Legalizing Syringe Exchange in  
California.” *Committee*: Loïc Wacquant (chair) and Margaret Weir
- 2012 Bachelor of Arts (Tutorial Studies with Special Honors), University of Chicago  
*Thesis*: “‘Safe and Useful Citizens’: The Legal Construction of the Sexual  
Psychopath.” *Supervisors*: Bernard Harcourt (Law) and Kristen Schilt (Sociology)

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

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I use the case of opioid use to investigate how the places in which people live affect their health and wellbeing. Using in-depth interviews and over two years of participant observation with 65 people who use drugs and 180 government officials and service providers across ten counties in California, I describe the dynamics of small-town drug scenes and official efforts to manage drug use. I contribute to debates in sociology of health, crime, and law by developing a general theory of “place effects” and defining the “acquainted marginality” found in small and isolated places.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Snell-Rood, Claire, David Showalter, Hannah Peters, Cathleen Willging, and Robin A. Pollini. Forthcoming. “System-Level Factors Shaping Hub and Spoke Implementation in Rural California.” *Substance Abuse*.

Showalter, David. 2020. “Crisis and Policy Change: HIV/AIDS and Syringe Services in California.” *Mobilization: An International Quarterly* 25(1): 71–92.

<https://doi.org/10.17813/1086-671X-25-1-71>

*Winner*, 2016 Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award, Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Section, American Sociological Association

*Winner*, 2016 Martin Levine Student Paper Award, Sociologists’ AIDS Network

Showalter, David. 2020. “Steps Toward a Theory of Place Effects on Drug Use: Risk, Marginality, and Opportunity in Small and Remote California Towns.” *International Journal of*

*Drug Policy*, 102269. Special issue on “Rural Risk Environments.”  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2019.102629>

Wenger, Lynn, David Showalter, Barrot Lambdin, David Leiva, Eliza Wheeler, Peter Davidson, Phillip Coffin, Ingrid A. Binswanger, and Alex H. Kral. 2019. “Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution in the San Francisco County Jail.” *Journal of Correctional Health Care* 25(4). <https://doi.org/10.1177/1078345819882771>

Showalter, David. 2019. “Misdiagnosing Medicalization: Penal Psychopathy and Psychiatric Practice.” *Theory and Society* 48(1): 67–94. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11186-018-09336-y>

Showalter, David. 2018. “Federal Funding for Syringe Exchange: Explaining a Long-Term Policy Failure.” *International Journal of Drug Policy* 55: 95-104.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.drugpo.2018.02.006>

#### WORK UNDER REVIEW

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David Showalter. “Place Effects on Health: Heroin Use in Backcountry California.” Under review.

David Showalter, Lynn Wenger, Barrot Lambdin, Eliza Wheeler, Ingrid Binswanger, and Alex Kral. “Bridging Institutional Logics: Implementing Naloxone Distribution for People Exiting Jail in Three California Counties.” Under review.

Claire Snell-Rood, Robin A. Pollini, David Showalter, and Cathleen Willging. “‘The Upshot Is, Psych Is the One Big Gap in Dealing with Addiction’: Barriers to Integrated MOUD for Rural Patients with Co-Occurring Disorders.” Under Review.

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

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David Showalter. “Acquainted Marginality: Social Structure and Inequality in Small Places.”  
*Winner*, 2020 Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award, Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco  
Section, American Sociological Association

#### OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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Lynn D. Wenger, David Showalter, Eliza Wheeler, Jennie Harris, Ingrid Binswanger, Barrot H. Lambdin, and Alex H. Kral. 2019. *A Primer for Implementation of Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution in Jails and Prisons*. Research Triangle Park, NC: RTI International. ([https://harmreduction.org/hrc/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Naloxone-Prison-Primer\\_v2.pdf](https://harmreduction.org/hrc/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Naloxone-Prison-Primer_v2.pdf))

David Showalter. 2017. “Donald Trump and the Political Aesthetics of Reality Television.” *Berkeley Journal of Sociology*. ([berkeleyjournal.org/2017/06/donald-trump-and-the-political-aesthetics-of-reality-television/](http://berkeleyjournal.org/2017/06/donald-trump-and-the-political-aesthetics-of-reality-television/))

David Showalter. 2011. "Thinking *Jersey Shore*." *Midway Review* 7(1): 19-25.  
(<http://midwayreview.uchicago.edu/a/7/1/showalter/>)

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

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2020–21 *Duster Fellowship for Social Justice Research*, UC Berkeley  
2019–20 *Graduate Fellow*, Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies, UC Berkeley  
2019–20 *Dissertation Grant*, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy  
2019 *Dissertation Completion Fellowship*, UC Berkeley  
2014–18 *Graduate Research Fellowship*, National Science Foundation  
2013–15 *Regents Fellowship*, UC Berkeley

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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2020 *Selected Participant*, Drug Policy Research Incubator, Drug Policy Alliance  
2020 *Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award*, Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Section, American Sociological Association  
2019 *Graduate Fellow*, Chicago Ethnography Incubator, University of Chicago  
2016 *Bruce D. Johnson Student Paper Award*, Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco Section, American Sociological Association  
2016 *Martin Levine Student Paper Award*, Sociologists' AIDS Network  
2011 *Student Marshal* (highest undergraduate honor), University of Chicago  
2011 *Outstanding Social Sciences/Humanities Oral Presentation*, Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

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"Public Health and Medicalization: Promise or Peril?"

- 2019 International Drug Policy Reform Conference, November 7, 2019, St. Louis, MO

"Bridging Urban and Rural Responses to Opioid Use and Overdose"

- Harm Reduction in Butte County, October 3, 2018, Chico, CA
- Tools and Strategies for Rural Opioid Work, August 28, 2018, Quincy, CA

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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"Acquainted Marginality: Social Structure and Inequality in Small Places"

- 115<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 11, 2020, San Francisco, CA (virtual due to COVID-19)
- Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (cancelled due to COVID-19)

"Small-Town Heroin Use and the Pains of Place"

- 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 13, 2019, New York, NY

"Opioid Use and Informal Harm Reduction in a Remote California Town"

- 12th National Harm Reduction Conference, October 20, 2018, New Orleans, LA

- 113<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 12, 2018, Philadelphia, PA
- “Volunteers, Collectives, and Outlaws: Supporting Informal Harm Reduction in a Period of Partial Mainstreaming”
- 11<sup>th</sup> National Harm Reduction Conference, November 5, 2016, San Diego, CA
- “Psychopathy in the Penal System: A Case of Medicalization?”
- 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 20, 2016, Seattle, WA
- “Penal Origins of the Psychopath in the United States: Bernard Glueck at Sing Sing, 1916-1918”
- Inaugural UC Conference on Social Science and Law, October 23, 2015, Irvine, CA
- “Federal Funding for Syringe Exchange: The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same”
- 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 22, 2015, Chicago, IL
- “Building Intergenerational Ties in the Harm Reduction Community” (with LJ Johnson and Ryan Wythe)
- 10<sup>th</sup> National Harm Reduction Conference, October 23, 2014, Baltimore, MD
- “Syringe Exchange and the State: A Case of Insurgency in the Bureaucratic Field”
- 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 18, 2014, San Francisco, CA
- “Opening Remarks: *Jersey Shore* as a Model of Intellectual Life”
- UChicago Conference on Jersey Shore Studies, October 28, 2011, Chicago, IL (conference organizer)
    - Selected media coverage: *New York Times*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Inside Higher Ed*, *Huffington Post*, *Daily Mail (UK)*
    - Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WBHQXaOmJj8>
- “Drone Strikes and the Discourse of Ungovernability in Pakistan’s Tribal Regions”
- Chicago Area Undergraduate Research Symposium, April 2, 2011, Chicago, IL
    - Winner, Outstanding Social Sciences/Humanities Oral Presentation
  - Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science, April 8, 2011, Normal, IL

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*Graduate Student Instructor (Teaching Assistant), University of California, Berkeley*  
 Spring 2020 “Sociological Theory I,” Sociology Department (Head Graduate Student Instructor)  
 Fall 2016 “Evaluation of Evidence,” Sociology Department

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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*Graduate Student Researcher, University of California, Berkeley*  
 2019 Andrew Barlow, Sociology  
 2018 Claire Snell-Rood, Public Health  
 2014–pres. Loïc Wacquant, Sociology  
 2013–2015 Margaret Weir, Sociology & Political Science

*Research Assistant, University of Chicago*

2012–2013 Jens Ludwig, Social Service Administration, Law, & Public Policy

2009–2012 Cathy Cohen, Political Science

## SERVICE EXPERIENCE

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*Occasional reviewer:* American Journal of Sociology, Harm Reduction Journal, International Journal of Drug Policy, Law and Policy, Public Health Reports, Social Forces, Social Problems, Substance Use and Misuse, Theory and Society

*Consultancy:* Harm Reduction Coalition (2018), Presbyterian Church USA Drug Policy Task Force (2015)

*Harm reduction:* Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution (Berkeley harm reduction services organization, 2013–present), Chicago Recovery Alliance (2009–2013)

## AFFILIATIONS

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2015–pres. President of the Board of Directors, *Needle Exchange Emergency Distribution*

2015–2019 Research Associate, *RTI International*

2014–pres. *American Sociological Association*

## REFERENCES

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For letters from these references, please contact Carmen Privat-Gilman ([privatg@berkeley.edu](mailto:privatg@berkeley.edu)) in the UC Berkeley Sociology Department.

Loïc Wacquant (Committee chair)  
Professor of Sociology  
University of California, Berkeley

Jennifer Johnson-Hanks (Committee member)  
Professor of Sociology and Demography  
University of California, Berkeley

Christopher Muller (Committee member)  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
University of California, Berkeley