

## Matty Lichtenstein

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### Education

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- PhD** (exp.) University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology (expected May 2021)  
*Dissertation:* “Punitive Protection: The Transformation of Child Welfare and Perinatal Regulation in the United States, 1950-2000”
- MA** Jewish Philosophy, Yeshiva University (2010)
- MA** Literature, Hebrew University, Jerusalem (2007), *Magna Cum Laude*
- BA** Literature and Communications, Touro College (2003), *Summa Cum Laude*

### Research Interests

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Political sociology, sociology of gender, medical sociology, sociological theory, welfare state and race, maternal and child welfare policy; large-scale qualitative research methods

*Dissertation synopsis:* My dissertation demonstrates how child welfare transformed from a sparsely staffed agency network focused on multiple children’s issues into a sprawling multi-billion-dollar system narrowly focused on child maltreatment. Integrating archival, legal, survey, and spatial data, I argue that growing acceptance of child welfare authority (1950-1980) enabled legislators to expand regulation of substance-using pregnant women through the threat of child removal (1980-2000). Existing scholarship links pregnancy surveillance to the criminalization of poverty or partisan anti-abortion advocacy, but by the early 1990s, widespread opposition doomed criminalization efforts. Instead, liberal and conservative legislators harnessed child welfare’s protective authority, a bipartisan framing that obscured the brute force of child removal underlying its power, to legislate coercive interventions in substance-using mothers. These findings contribute to political development and welfare state literatures, illuminating how shifts in governance reproduce gendered, racialized, and socioeconomic inequities, while shaping widespread assumptions about parenting, risk, and the boundaries of state interventions.

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

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Lichtenstein, Matty. 2019. “Younger People Want to Do It Themselves’ - Self-Actualization, Commitment, and the Reinvention of Community.” *Qualitative Sociology* 42(2):181–203.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-019-9414-6>

Lichtenstein, Matty and Rucks-Ahidiana, Zawadi. “Contextual Text Coding: A Mixed Methods Approach for Large-Scale Textual Data.” *Sociological Methods and Research*, forthcoming.

### Manuscript under Review

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Lichtenstein, Matty. “Legitimizing Discourses: Hasidic Schools, Non-Compliance, and the Politics of Deservingness.” *American Journal of Sociology*, revise and resubmit (second round).

## Manuscripts in Progress

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Matty Lichtenstein. "From Population to Problem: The Transformation of Child Welfare, 1950-1980." *In final preparation for submission.*

Matty Lichtenstein. "Regulating Mothers: Child Welfare and the Expansion of Perinatal Interventions (1980-2000)." *Working paper.*

## Other Publications

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Lichtenstein, Ruth (ed.), **Lichtenstein, Matty** (ed.), et al. *Witness to History*, (2009, 2010, 2011).

Project Witness, Brooklyn, New York

\**Witness to History is a Holocaust education textbook for college and advanced high school classes. As lead editor, I managed an international team of scholars, editors, and research assistants in writing and publishing three editions, accompanied by a Teacher's Guide and curricular materials.*

Lichtenstein, Matty. "[A Room of Our Own](#)." Op-ed, *Daily Californian*, April 22, 2014.

## Fellowships & Honors (Selected)

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- Duster Fellow, UC Berkeley, Fall 2019-Spring 2020
- Synar Graduate Research Fellow, UC Berkeley, Spring 2018
- Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellow, 2014-2015
- Paul and Daisy Soros Foundation Fellow, 2013-2015
- Fellow, UC Berkeley Institute of Jewish Law and Israeli Law, 2011-present
- Fellow, Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion, Fall 2012
- Chancellor's Fellow, UC Berkeley, 2011-2013
- E. Billy Ivry Fellow, Yeshiva University, 2006-2007
- Ruth Ann Perlmutter Scholar, Yeshiva University, 2006-2010
- Dean's List Scholar, Touro College, 2001-2003
- Academic Merit Scholar, Touro College, 2001-2003

## Teaching Experience

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Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education (one-year training), UC Berkeley, 2019

*Instructor of Record*, Regulating the American Family, UC Berkeley, Summer 2018

*Teaching Assistant*, Introduction to Sociology, UC Berkeley, Fall 2014-Spring 2015

*Instructor of Record*, Jewish studies (one course), Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, NY, Spring 2011

*Instructor of Record*, Jewish studies (five courses), Touro College, New York, NY, Fall 2008-Spring 2010

## Professional Experience

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- Consultant, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cornell University (expected 2020-2021).

- Graduate Student Researcher, with Cybelle Fox, UC Berkeley (2018-2019)
- Lead Editor, *Witness to History* research team, Project Witness, New York (2005-2011)

## Academic Service

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- Lead Organizer, Scholars Writing Group, UC Berkeley, 2018-present
- Mentor, Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, UC Berkeley, 2017-present
- Fellow, Graduate Student Assessment Fellowship Program, Spring 2018
- Sociology Department delegate, UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly, 2014-2015.
- Ad Hoc reviewer – American Sociological Review, 2018-2019

## Presentations

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\* - *Denotes invited talk.*

“Regulating Risk: Child Welfare and Perinatal Protection.” ASA Virtual Engagement Conference, August 2020.

\*“Transforming Child Welfare: From Population to Issue Focus, 1935-1980.” *Invited panelist*, Eastern Sociological Society Conference, Philadelphia, PA, February 2020.

“Professionalizing Protection: The Regulation of Child Welfare 1950-1990.” American Sociology Association Conference, New York, NY, August 2019.

“Institutionalizing Personhood: Child Welfare Agencies and the Regulation of Perinatal Care.” Social Science History Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ, November 2018.

\*“Theorizing State Power: The Uneven Path of Regulatory Legitimation.” *Invited panelist (competitive application)*. Junior Theorist Symposium, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018.

“Regulating the Family: The Institutionalization of Child Welfare 1966-1986.” American Sociology Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018.

“Regulatory Frameworks: Child Welfare Agencies and the Politics of Perinatal Care.” American Sociological Association Conference, Montreal, Canada, August 2017.

“The Organizational Politics of Religious Education.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, Atlanta, GA, October 2016

\*“Accommodating Ideological Deviance: Hasidic Schools and the Institutional Politics of Education in New York State.” *Invited panelist*. Conference on Ultra-Orthodoxy, Baruch College, New York, NY, April 2016

“The Ambivalence of State Power: Hasidic Education in New York State.” Association for Jewish Studies Conference, San Diego, CA, December 2015

“Contested Identities, Contested Rights: Education, Religion, and the Politics of Governance.”  
American Sociological Association Conference, San Francisco, CA, August 2014.

“Emerging Adults and the Religious Encounter: Community Building and the Individual-Expressive Quest.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, Boston, MA, November 2013.

## **Professional Skills**

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### *Legal Research skills:*

Audited class on legal research at UC Berkeley law school; conducted extensive historical and contemporary legal research on American federal and state laws using online databases, legal archives, and other legal resources.

### *Software:*

MAXQDA (superior), Excel (superior), ARCGIS (intermediate), R (basic), Stata (basic)

### *Languages:*

Hebrew (fluent), Yiddish (intermediate)

## **References**

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Dr. Cybelle Fox (committee chair), UC Berkeley, Sociology, Class of 1944 Professor:  
[cfox@berkeley.edu](mailto:cfox@berkeley.edu)

Dr. Calvin Morrill, UC Berkeley, UC Berkeley, Sociology and Law, Stefan A. Riesenfeld Professor of Law and Sociology: [cmorrill@law.berkeley.edu](mailto:cmorrill@law.berkeley.edu)

Dr. Ann Swidler, UC Berkeley, Sociology, Professor of the Graduate School: [swidler@berkeley.edu](mailto:swidler@berkeley.edu)