

Clay Davis

📍 1808 Chicago Avenue; Evanston, IL 60201
 📩 cdavis@u.northwestern.edu 🌐 claydav.is

Education

expected June 2026	Ph.D. in Sociology Dissertation title: “P-value politics: how hospitals, courts, and global health NGOs subdue uncertainty” Committee: Steven Epstein (<i>chair</i>), Wendy Espeland, Carol Heimer	Northwestern University Evanston, Illinois
2022	M.A. in Sociology	Northwestern University Evanston, Illinois
2018	B.S. in Biology and Society Honors thesis committee: Michael Lynch (<i>chair</i>), Christopher Roebuck, Suman Seth <i>cum laude</i> with distinction in research	Cornell University Ithaca, New York

Peer-reviewed Publications

In press	Davis, Clay. “The moral force of guidelines: How surgeons use evidence-based medicine to curb their interventionism.” <i>Sociology of Health and Illness</i> .
2023	Davis, Clay. “The routinization of lay expertise: A diachronic account of the invention and stabilization of an open-source artificial pancreas.” <i>Social Studies of Science</i> . 54, 4: 626–652. *Winner of the ASA Section on Knowledge and Technology Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award *Winner of the Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Published Paper
2022	Heimer, Carol, and Clay Davis. “Good law to fight bad bugs: Legal responses to epidemics.” <i>Annual Review of Law and Social Science</i> . 18: 1–26.
2020	Davis, Clay. “ <i>Homo adhaerens</i> : Risk and adherence in biomedical HIV prevention research.” <i>Social Studies of Science</i> . 50, 6: 860–880.

Book Chapters

Forthcoming	Davis, Clay. “The knowledge politics of evidence-based global health: knowledge brokers, meta-analysis, and ‘mass deworming’ beyond the World Health Organization.” In <i>Handbook on Knowledge Politics</i> , edited by Daniel Barben, Anja Bauer, and Erik Aarden. Edward Elgar.
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Essays

2020	Davis, Clay. “Beyond investment in research: What COVID-19 policymakers can learn from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.” <i>NULR Of Note</i> .
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Invited Talks

exp. 2025	“Experts in exile: How populist mistrust empowers ‘knowledge brokers’ at the margins of health governance” <i>Science Knowledge and Technology Workshop, Columbia University Department of Sociology</i>	New York, New York
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2024	<p>“The routinization of lay expertise: A diachronic account of the invention and stabilization of an open-source artificial pancreas”</p> <p><i>Experiential knowledge in the making: Lessons and perspectives from the DIY-AIDS movement</i></p> <p><i>Department of Philosophy, Université de Montréal</i></p>	Montréal, Québec; Canada
2024	<p>“The life cycles of health social movements: How a group of patients with type 1 diabetes routinized their lay expertise”</p> <p><i>Colloquium, Northwestern University Department of Sociology</i></p>	Evanston, Illinois

Conference Presentations

exp. 2025	Discussant for “Lay Expertise: Empirical Studies of Lay Social Knowledge” workshop at Copenhagen Business School	Copenhagen, Denmark
2025	<p>“Too close for credibility: how the epistemology of meta-analysis challenges US federal courts”</p> <p><i>Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting</i></p>	Seattle, Washington
2025	<p>“Knowledge brokers in the gaps of deglobalization: The P-value politics of global health beyond the World Health Organization”</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association</i></p>	Chicago, Illinois
2025	<p>“Platinum standard or partisan ploy? A mixed-methods study of how actors in the US federal district courts construct, codify, and contest the epistemic authority of meta-analysis”</p> <p><i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i></p>	Chicago, Illinois
2024	<p>“Evidence-based medicine as a moral and organizational tool for surgeons”</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association</i></p>	Montréal, Québec; Canada
2023	<p>“Meta-analysis as a tool for the global circulation of uncertainty and expertise”</p> <p><i>Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting</i></p>	Honolulu, Hawaii
2023	<p>“Unequal access to PrEP in rural U.S. counties: Focus on health infrastructure and population characteristics”</p> <p><i>Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Conference</i></p>	Baltimore, Maryland
2022	<p>“Making expertise legitimate: ‘Biohackers’ as a morally ambiguous case for analyzing battles over expert authority”</p> <p><i>Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting</i></p>	Cholula, Puebla; Mexico
2020	<p>“Lay expertise in ‘knowledge commons’: How the open-source artificial pancreas community innovates ‘outside of’ IP law and regulation”</p> <p><i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i></p>	Chicago, Illinois
2020	<p>“Patient-led research: Is the open-source artificial pancreas project a new paradigm?”</p> <p><i>Comparative and Historical Social Science Workshop</i></p>	Evanston, Illinois
2020	<p>“Solving the problem of regulatory stagnation: the open-source artificial pancreas as a model for patient-led innovation”</p> <p><i>Problem Solving Sociology Workshop</i></p>	Evanston, Illinois

2019	"Participant subjectivity, adherence, and risk in biomedical HIV prevention research" <i>Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting</i>	New Orleans, Louisiana
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Grants & Fellowships

2025	Dissertation Fellowship <i>Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University</i>	
2023	Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant <i>National Science Foundation</i>	\$25,000
2023	Anonymous Midwest University Bioethics Institute (with Wayne Rivera)	\$10,000
2020	Graduate Fellowship in Legal Studies <i>Center for Legal Studies, Northwestern University</i>	
2020	MacArthur Summer Research Grant <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	\$1,000
2020	Second-year Paper Alumni Fund Grant <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	\$400
2019	Mellon Cluster Fellowship in Science Studies <i>Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern University</i>	\$2,500
2017	Emily Murray Student Fellowship Award <i>The Hastings Center</i>	\$375

Awards

2025	Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award <i>Weinberg College of Arts and Science, Northwestern University</i>	
2024	Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award <i>Section on Knowledge and Technology, American Sociological Association</i>	
2024	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	
2024	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Published Paper <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	
2023	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	

Teaching Experience

W '23, S '25	Science in crisis? <i>Instructor of record</i>	Northwestern University
F '21, W '22, F '22, W '25	Sociological Theory <i>Co-instructor with Wendy Espeland</i>	Northwestern University
F '24	Health, Biomedicine, Culture and Society <i>Teaching assistant for Santiago Molina</i>	Northwestern University
S '21	Medical Sociology <i>Teaching assistant for Carol Heimer</i>	Northwestern University

W '21	Sexuality, Technoscience, and the Law <i>Teaching assistant for Renee Shelby</i>	Northwestern University
F '20	Numbers, Identity, and Modernity <i>Co-instructor with Wendy Espeland</i>	Northwestern University

Professional Service

2023–present	Chronic Illness Alliance <i>Advisor</i>	
2020–2021	Doctoral Colloquium, Science in Human Culture Program <i>Coordinator</i>	
2020–2021	Graduates Mentoring Undergraduates <i>Graduate Mentor</i>	
2020–2021	Graduate Student Association <i>Fellowships and Grants Volunteer</i>	

References

Steven Epstein <i>Professor of Sociology and John C. Shaffer Professor in the Humanities</i>	s-epstein@northwestern.edu
Wendy Espeland <i>Professor of Sociology</i>	wne741@northwestern.edu
Carol Heimer <i>Professor of Sociology Emerita</i>	c-heimer@northwestern.edu
Ken Alder <i>Milton H. Wilson Professor in the Humanities</i>	k-alder@northwestern.edu
Michael Lynch <i>Professor of Science & Technology Studies Emeritus</i>	mel27@cornell.edu