

Clay Davis

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Education

- expected June 2026* **Ph.D. in Sociology**, Northwestern University; Evanston, IL
- Dissertation title: “P-value politics: How meta-analysis is used to resolve conflict in hospitals, global health NGOs, and US courts”
 - Committee: Steven Epstein (*chair*), Wendy Espeland, Carol Heimer
- 2022 **M.A. in Sociology**, Northwestern University; Evanston, IL
- 2018 **B.S. in Biology and Society**, Cornell University; Ithaca, New York
- Honors thesis committee: Michael Lynch (*chair*), Christopher Roebuck, Suman Seth
 - *cum laude* with distinction in research

Peer-reviewed Publications

- 2025 **Davis, Clay.** “The moral force of guidelines: How surgeons use evidence-based medicine to curb their interventionism.” *Sociology of Health & Illness*. 47, 8.
- 2023 **Davis, Clay.** “The routinization of lay expertise: A diachronic account of the invention and stabilization of an open-source artificial pancreas.” *Social Studies of Science*. 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.” *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*. 18: 1–26.
- 2020 **Davis, Clay.** “Homo adhaerens: Risk and adherence in biomedical HIV prevention research.” *Social Studies of Science*. 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 *Handbook on Knowledge Politics*, edited by Daniel Barben, Anja Bauer, and Erik Aarden. Edward Elgar.

Manuscripts in Progress

- Avail. upon request* **Davis, Clay** and Christine Percheski.* “Unequal access to HIV PrEP in rural U.S. counties: Introducing and validating a new version of PrEP-to-need ratio (PnR) that better captures regions with sparse data.” Target journal: *SSM - Population Health*.

Essays

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

*Equal co-authors

Invited Talks

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
2024	“The routinization of lay expertise: A diachronic account of the invention and stabilization of an open-source artificial pancreas” <i>Experiential knowledge in the making: Lessons and perspectives from the DIY-AIDS movement</i> <i>Department of Philosophy, Université de Montréal</i>	Montréal, Québec; Canada
2024	“The life cycles of health social movements: How a group of patients with type 1 diabetes routinized their lay expertise” <i>Colloquium, Northwestern University Department of Sociology</i>	Evanston, Illinois

Conference Presentations

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

2020	“Solving the problem of regulatory stagnation: the open-source artificial pancreas as a model for patient-led innovation” <i>Problem Solving Sociology Workshop</i>	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

Grants & Fellowships

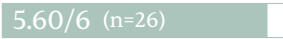
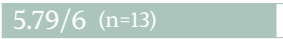
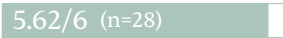
2025	Dissertation Fellowship <i>Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University</i>	
2023	Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant <i>National Science Foundation</i>	\$25,000
2023	Anonymous Midwest University Bioethics Institute (with Wayne Rivera)	\$10,000
2020	Graduate Fellowship 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>	 5.93/6 (n=17)	* Northwestern University
F '21, W '22, F '22, W '25	Sociological Theory <i>Co-instructor with Wendy Espeland</i>	 5.72/6 (n=58)	Northwestern University

F '24	Health, Biomedicine, Culture & Society <i>Teaching assistant for Santiago Molina</i>	5.60/6 (n=26) 	Northwestern University
S '21	Medical Sociology <i>Teaching assistant for Carol Heimer</i>	5.79/6 (n=13) 	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>	5.62/6 (n=28) 	Northwestern University

*Each depicted score represents an aggregate of responses across evaluation questions and terms. A comprehensive record of my teaching evaluations, including qualitative feedback, is available on [my website](#).

Professional Service

—	Peer reviewer for <i>Social Studies of Science</i> and <i>American Sociological Review</i>
2023–present	Chronic Illness Alliance (Northwestern University Undergraduate Student Organization) <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, Northwestern University</i>	s-epstein@northwestern.edu
Wendy Espeland <i>Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	wne741@northwestern.edu
Carol Heimer <i>Professor of Sociology Emerita, Northwestern University</i>	c-heimer@northwestern.edu
Christine Percheski <i>Associate Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	c-percheski@northwestern.edu
Ken Alder <i>Milton H. Wilson Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University</i>	k-alder@northwestern.edu
Michael Lynch <i>Professor of Science & Technology Studies Emeritus, Cornell University</i>	mel27@cornell.edu