

# Clay Davis

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## Education

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expected	Ph.D. in Sociology	Northwestern University
June 2026	Dissertation title: “ <i>P</i> -value politics: How hospitals, courts, and global health NGOs subdue uncertainty” Committee: Steven Epstein ( <i>chair</i> ), Wendy Espeland, Carol Heimer	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

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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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Winner of the ASA Section on Knowledge and Technology Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award</li> <li>• Winner of the Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Published Paper</li> </ul>
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

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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

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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

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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	“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

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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 P-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
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## Grants & Fellowships

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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

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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

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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**

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| 2023–present   | Chronic Illness Alliance (Northwestern University Undergraduate Student Organization)<br><i>Advisor</i> |
| 2020–2021  | Doctoral Colloquium, Science in Human Culture Program<br><i>Coordinator</i>                             |
| 2020–2021  | Graduates Mentoring Undergraduates<br><i>Graduate Mentor</i>  |
| 2020–2021  | Graduate Student Association<br><i>Fellowships and Grants Volunteer</i>                                 |
| Peer reviewer for <i>Social Studies of Science</i> and <i>American Sociological Review</i> . |   |

## References

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| Steven Epstein<br><i>Professor of Sociology and John C. Shaffer Professor in the Humanities,<br/>Northwestern University</i> | <a href="mailto:s-epstein@northwestern.edu">s-epstein@northwestern.edu</a> |
| Wendy Espeland<br><i>Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>   | <a href="mailto:wne741@northwestern.edu">wne741@northwestern.edu</a>       |
| Carol Heimer<br><i>Professor of Sociology Emerita, Northwestern University</i>   | <a href="mailto:c-heimer@northwestern.edu">c-heimer@northwestern.edu</a>   |
| Ken Alder<br><i>Milton H. Wilson Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University</i>                                    | <a href="mailto:k-alder@northwestern.edu">k-alder@northwestern.edu</a>     |
| Michael Lynch<br><i>Professor of Science &amp; Technology Studies Emeritus, Cornell University</i>                           | <a href="mailto:mel27@cornell.edu">mel27@cornell.edu</a>                   |