

Rahim Kurwa

Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice

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Employment

Associate Professor, 2025-Present

Assistant Professor, 2018-Present

Department of Criminology, Law, and Justice

Faculty Affiliate, Department of Sociology

University of Illinois Chicago

Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles, 2018

M.A. in Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles, 2012

M.A. in Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences, Columbia University, 2010

B.A. in Political Science, University of California, Los Angeles, 2008

Publications

- Kurwa, Rahim. (2025). *Indefensible Spaces: Policing and the Struggle for Housing*. Oakland: University of California Press. <https://www.ucpress.edu/books/indefensible-spaces/paper>
- Reosti, Anna, Rahim Kurwa, and Robin Bartram. (2024). “[Rental Housing and the Continuum of Carcerality](#).” *Theoretical Criminology*, 0(0).
- Rocha Beardall, Theresa, Rahim Kurwa, and Demar F. Lewis IV. (2024) “[Mended Windows, Not Broken Windows: A Du Boisian Analysis of Urban Policing](#).” *City & Community*. 0(0).
- Kurwa, Rahim. 2023. “[Policing, Property, and the Production of Racial Segregation](#).” In E. Rosen and B. McCabe (Eds.), *The Sociology of Housing* (pp 291-304). Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Kurwa, Rahim, and Susila Gurusami. 2022. “[Carceral Migrations: Reframing Race, Space, and Punishment](#).” *Social Service Review* 96, no. 2: 353-388.
- Gurusami, Susila, and Rahim Kurwa. 2021. “[From Broken Windows to Broken Homes: Homebreaking as Racialized and Gendered Poverty Governance](#).” *Feminist Formations* 33, no. 1: 1-32.
 - Honorable Mention, ASA Sex and Gender Section’s Distinguished Article Award
- Kurwa, Rahim. 2020. “[Opposing and Policing Racial Integration: Evidence from the Housing Choice Voucher Program](#).” *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 17, no. 2: 363-387.
 - Graduate Student Paper Award, Racial and Ethnic Minorities Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems

- *Honorable Mention, Graduate Student Paper Award, Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association*
- Kurwa, Rahim. 2020. "[The New 'Man in the House' Rules: How the Regulation of Housing Vouchers Turns Personal Bonds into Eviction Liabilities.](#)" *Housing Policy Debate* 30, no. 6: 926-949.
- Kurwa, Rahim. 2019. "[Building the Digitally Gated Community: The Case of Nextdoor.](#)" *Surveillance & Society* 17, no. 1/2: 111-117.
- Kurwa, Rahim. 2015. "[Deconcentration without Integration: Examining the Social Outcomes of Housing Choice Voucher Movement in Los Angeles County.](#)" *City & Community* 14, no. 4: 364-391.
 - *Graduate Student Paper Award, Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems*

Book Reviews

- Kurwa, Rahim. 2023. "[Review: An Equal Place: Lawyers in the Struggle for Los Angeles.](#)" *Law and Society Review*. 57(3). 416-418.
- Kurwa, Rahim. 2021. "[Review: The Upper Limit: How Low-Wage Work Defines Punishment and Welfare.](#)" *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 50, no. 1: 33-35

Public Scholarship

- Op-Ed: [What LA's Antelope Valley Teaches Us About Fighting for Just Cities.](#) Counterpunch. 2025.
- Kurwa, Rahim. 2023. "[Policing Tenants in Rental Assistance Programs](#)" Gender Policy Report, Center on Women, Gender, and Public Policy. University of Minnesota.
- Op-ed: [We can't let policing become a new form of citizenship.](#) Chicago Tribune. 2022
- Guest Blog: [Policing's Role in Racial Segregation: 50 Years After the Fair Housing Act.](#) Los Angeles Social Science Forum. 2018.

Honors

- Honoring Our Professors' Excellence (HOPE) Teaching Award. UIC On-Campus Housing. 2022.
- Honoring Our Professors' Excellence (HOPE) Teaching Award. UIC On-Campus Housing. 2021.
- Early Career Researcher Award, Surveillance Studies Network. 2019.

Grants

- Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant. 2022.
- COVID-19 Relief Grant. 2022.

- Faculty Seed Grant and Grant Development Fund Award, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Committee on Social Science Research. 2021.
- Research Grant, Blum Initiative for Global and Regional Poverty Studies, University of California, Riverside. 2017

Fellowships

- UIC Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship. 2022-2023.
- Visiting Scholar, American Bar Foundation. 2021-2023.
- Faculty Fellowship, Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, University of Illinois Chicago. 2018-2019.
- California Poverty and Socioeconomic Inequality Fellow, Blum Initiative for Global and Regional Poverty Studies, University of California, Riverside. 2018
- Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles. 2017-2018.
- Hoffenberg Fellowship, Center for American Politics and Public Policy, University of California, Los Angeles. 2017-2018.
- Bunche Center for African American Studies Graduate Fellowship, University of California, Los Angeles. 2016-2017.

Invited Talks

- "Falloon's Descendants: Policing, Property, and the Production of Racial Segregation." Department of Criminology, Law and Society, University of Washington Department of Law Societies and Justice. 2023.
- "Falloon's Descendants: Policing, Property, and the Production of Racial Segregation." Department of Criminology, Law and Society, UC Irvine Department of Criminology, Law and Society. 2023.
- "How Policing Became Property, and How People are Fighting Back." UIC Institute for the Humanities. 2023.
- "Falloon's Descendants: Policing, Property, and the Production of Racial Segregation." American Bar Foundation. 2023.
- "Falloon's Descendants: Policing, Property, and the Production of Racial Segregation." York University Department of Criminology. 2023.
- "Indefensible Spaces: Policing and the Remaking of Racial Segregation." New York University. Urban Initiative. 2022
- "Subsidized Housing within a Welfare Rights Framework." University of Wisconsin, Madison. Institute for Research on Poverty. 2022
- "Redeeming the Right to Discriminate," Race Workshop, Duke University. 2021.
- Panelist, "Radical Reimagining: The Carceral State and Abolitionist Responses." Northwestern Journal of Law and Social Policy Symposium. 2021.

- “Civil Rights in the Militarized Desert.” UCLA Urban Sociology Working Group. 2021.
- “Policing at the Frontier of Fair Housing.” UIC Law School. (cancelled due to COVID-19). 2020
- “The New ‘Man in the House’ Rules: How the Regulation of Housing Vouchers turns Personal Bonds into Eviction Liabilities.” Newberry Library Gender and Sexuality Seminar (cancelled due to COVID-19). 2020
- (with Susila Gurusami) “Carceral Migration as Theory and Method: The Sociologies of Race, Space, and Legal Punishment.” Newberry Library Borderlands Seminar. 2020.
- “The New ‘Man in the House’ Rules: How the Regulation of Housing Vouchers turns Personal Bonds into Eviction Liabilities.” Sociology of Housing Conference, Georgetown University. 2019.
- “The New ‘Man in the House’ Rules: How the Regulation of Housing Vouchers turns Personal Bonds into Eviction Liabilities.” Housing Justice in Unequal Cities Conference, Los Angeles. 2019.
- “Policing to Segregate: Sketching the Contours of an Eviction Regime in Suburban Los Angeles.” Blum Initiative for Global and Regional Poverty Studies.” University of California, Riverside. 2017.

Guest Lectures

- “Policing’s Role in Racial Segregation.” American Bar Foundation Summer Fellows Program, 2023
- “Los Angeles’ Spatial Fix.” UCLA. Urban Sociology. 2023
- “Policing as Property.” Drake University. Law, Politics, and Society. 2023
- “Policing as Property.” Crime, Law and the City. Department of Sociology, University of Colorado, Denver. 2022.
- “Policing as Property.” Introduction to Sociology. Department of Anthropology and Sociology. Williams College. 2021.
- “The New Man in the House Rules” Social Welfare Policy and the Safety Net. Lafayette College, Department of Anthropology and Sociology. 2020.
- “Policing and Racial Segregation” UIC Law School Fair Housing and Fair Lending Seminar. 2020.

Conference Activity

- “The Process is the Eviction: How Tenant Serving Organizations Describe the Landscape of Eviction Risk for Tenants in the Chicago Housing Authority” Law and Society Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois. 2025
- Panelist, UIC College of Social Work Symposium on Civil Liberties, Citizenship, & the Carceral State, 2024.

- “How a Tenant Social Movement Confronted the Policing of Housing.” The Mechanisms of Racial Hierarchy. Ethnic and Racial Studies Mini-Conference. Duke University. 2024
- “The Californian Order: Wesley Swift, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Rise of Policing on Los Angeles’ Frontier.” The California Ideology Conference. Santa Cruz, California. 2024
- “Policing as Property.” American Society of Criminology Annual Conference. 2023
- “The Process is the Eviction: How Tenant Serving Organizations Describe the Landscape of Eviction Risk for Tenants in the Chicago Housing Authority” Russell Sage Foundation. Pipeline Grantees Conference. Ann Arbor, Michigan. 2023
- Digital Humanities Works-In-Progress at UIC - Sun Village Digital History Exhibit. 2023
- “The Sun Village Digital History Exhibit.” UIC Digital Humanities Conference: Recovery & Community: Multiethnic Digital Humanities. 2022
- Presider, “Geographies of Legal Displacement: Spatial Analyses of the Criminal Legal System.” American Sociological Association. 2022
- Organizer, “The Welfare State and COVID-19.” Society for the Study of Social Problems. 2022.
- “Falloon’s Descendants: Policing, Property, and the Production of Racial Segregation.” Society for the Study of Social Problems. Los Angeles. 2022.
- Author Meets Critics Panelist. *Stacked Decks: Building Inspectors and the Reproduction of Urban Inequality*. Social Science History Association. 2022
- “Residential Segregation and Muslims in the United States.” Law and Society Association. Chicago. 2021.
- “Carceral Migration as Theory and Method.” Society for the Study of Social Problems. New York. 2019.
- “The New ‘Man in the House’ Rules: How the Regulation of Housing Vouchers turns Personal Bonds into Eviction Liabilities.” American Sociological Association, New York. 2019.
- “The New ‘Man in the House’ Rules: How the Regulation of Housing Vouchers turns Personal Bonds into Eviction Liabilities.” Law and Society Association, Washington D.C. 2019.
- “The New ‘Man in the House’ Rules: How the Regulation of Housing Vouchers turns Personal Bonds into Eviction Liabilities.” Urban Affairs Association, Los Angeles. 2019.
- “Policing to Segregate: Sketching the Contours of an Eviction Regime in Suburban Los Angeles.” Society for the Study of Social Problems, Philadelphia. 2018.
- “How Race and Poverty Have Driven Changes in Housing Voucher Distributions Since the Great Recession.” American Sociological Association, Montreal. 2017.
- “From Racial Resentment to Racial Rejection: How Local Residents Veto Voucher Movement to their Neighborhoods.” Urban Affairs Association, Minneapolis. 2017.

- “Geographic Mobility and the Persistence of Racial Residential Inequality.” Society for the Study of Social Problems, Seattle. 2016.
- “Housing Vouchers and the Re-Concentration of Poverty in Suburbs.” Society for the Study of Social Problems, Chicago. 2015.
- “The Social Experiences of Tenants in the New Age of Public Housing: Comparing Outcomes in the Voucher Program to Findings in Mixed-Income Developments.” Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco. 2014.
- “Desegregation and the Persistence of Inequality.” Critical Ethnic Studies Association, Chicago. 2013.
- “Barriers to Integration for Section 8 Voucher Users in Los Angeles County.” American Sociological Association, New York. 2013.

Courses Taught

Undergraduate

- Race, Class, Gender, and the Law; Law and Society; Introduction to Poverty Law; Criminology, Law, and Justice in American Cities; Race and Ethnicity in American Life; Social Stratification

Graduate

- Mapping Policing and Punishment; Processes and Institutions

Service to the Department

- CLJ/MEMS Hiring Committee, 2024-2025
- Department Programming Committee, 2024-2025
- Speaker, Faculty Conversations on Race, Housing, and Policing. 2023.
- Organizer, Book Talk: Kelley Fong, *Investigating Families: Motherhood in the Shadow of Child Protective Services*.
- Speaker, CLJ Presents: Dr. Michael Walker's "Indefinite" 2023
- Department Curriculum Committee, 2021-2024
- Department Hiring Committee, 2021
- Department Social Media Committee, 2019-2021
- Panelist, Abolition Teach-In, 2020
- Department Graduate Committee, 2018-2021

Service to the University

- Honors College Mentor, 2020-2023
- Faculty Guide, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences “First at LAS” Program, 2021-2022
- Rue Bucher Award Committee, 2019-2020

Service to the Profession

- Chair, Graduate Student Paper Award, Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association, 2025

- Editorial Board, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 2023-2025
- Grant Reviewer, National Science Foundation, 2023-2025
- Chair, Graduate Student Paper Award, Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2023
- Chair, Poverty, Class and Inequality Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2021-2023
- Mentor, Surveillance Studies Network
- Mentor, AI Accountability Network, Pulitzer Center for Crisis Reporting, 2022-2023
- Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Poverty, Class and Inequality Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2020
- Harrington Award Committee, Poverty, Class and Inequality Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2019
- Reviewed for: *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Antipode*, *City & Community*, *Du Bois Review*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *Frontiers in Public Health*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Journal of Information, Communication and Society*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Sociology Compass*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Surveillance and Society*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Urban Affairs Review*