

Matty Lichtenstein, PhD

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Education

- PhD** University of California, Berkeley, Department of Sociology (August 2021)
Dissertation: “Punitive Protection: Child Welfare and Perinatal Regulation in the United States, 1935–2000”
- 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*

Academic Employment

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Brown University, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, 2021–present.

Research Interests

Political sociology, culture, inequality, race and gender, social policy, organizations, maternal and child welfare, research methods

Dissertation synopsis: My dissertation focuses on gender, class, and racial inequality linked to maternal and child welfare policies. Integrating archival, legal, and survey data, I show how cultural, administrative, and professional shifts transformed American child welfare agents into the primary professionals authorized to intervene in cases of substance-exposed infants, disproportionately affecting poor and minority women. My findings illuminate how the evolving surveillance powers of professional authorities reinforce inequalities in the daily lives of American families, while shaping our assumptions about parenting norms, risk, and the boundaries of intervention.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Lichtenstein, Matty. “Legitimizing Discourses: Hasidic Schools, Non-Compliance, and the Politics of Deservingness.” *American Journal of Sociology*, forthcoming March 2022 (127:5), ****Best Graduate Student Paper Award**, Political Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2021.

Lichtenstein, Matty and Zawadi Rucks-Ahidiana. “Contextual Text Coding: A Mixed Methods Approach for Large-Scale Textual Data.” *Sociological Methods and Research*, February 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0049124120986191>

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>

Manuscripts under Review

Matty Lichtenstein. “From Population to Problem: The Transformation of American Child Welfare, 1935-1980.”

Manuscripts in Progress

Matty Lichtenstein. “Un-seeing Poverty: The Historical Roots of Poverty Governance in American Child Welfare.” Book chapter proposal accepted for inclusion in *Policing or Providing?: The Child Welfare System as Poverty Governance*, an edited volume under review at NYU Press. Eds. Jennifer Randles and Kerry Woodward.

Edwards, Frank, Kelley Fong, Kathleen Kenny, Matty Lichtenstein, Mical Raz, Sarah Roberts, Mishka Terplan. “Racial Inequality in Medical Professional Reporting of Suspected Infant Substance Exposure.” *Working paper*.

Matty Lichtenstein. “Regulating Mothers: Child Welfare and the Expansion of Perinatal Interventions, 1980-2000.” *Working paper*.

Other Publications

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 and writers in publishing three editions.

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

Fellowships & Honors (Selected)

Duster Fellow, UC Berkeley, \$19,250	2019–2020
Synar Graduate Research Fellow, UC Berkeley, \$3,000	Spring 2018
Berkeley Empirical Legal Studies Fellow, \$1,000	2014–2015
Paul and Daisy Soros Foundation Fellow, \$50,000	2013–2015
Fellow, UC Berkeley Institute of Jewish and Israeli Law	2011–2021
Fellow, Princeton University Center for the Study of Religion	Fall 2012
Chancellor’s Fellow, UC Berkeley, \$52,000	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

Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education, UC Berkeley	2019
Instructor of Record, Regulating the American Family, UC Berkeley	Summer 2018
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology, UC Berkeley	Spring 2015
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology, UC Berkeley	Fall 2014
Instructor of Record, Jewish studies (one course), Brooklyn College, New York	Spring 2011
Instructor of Record, Jewish studies (five courses), Touro College, New York	2008–2010

Professional Experience

Consultant, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN), Cornell University	2020-2021
Graduate Student Researcher, with Professor Cybelle Fox, UC Berkeley	2018-2019
Lead Editor, <i>Witness to History</i> research team, Project Witness, New York	2005-2011

Academic Service

- Lead Organizer, Scholars Writing Group, UC Berkeley, 2018–2021
- Mentor, Undergraduate Research Apprentice Program, UC Berkeley, 2017–2021
- 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

* *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

Legal Research skills:

Audited legal research class at UC Berkeley Law School; conducted extensive legal research on American federal and state laws using online databases, legal archives, and library resources.

Software:

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

Languages:

Hebrew (fluent), Yiddish (intermediate)

References

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

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

Dr. Ann Swidler, UC Berkeley, Sociology, Professor of the Graduate School: swidler@berkeley.edu

Dr. Jill Duerr Berrick, UC Berkeley, Social Welfare, Zellerbach Family Foundation Professor:
dberrick@berkeley.edu