

**BLAIR SACKETT**

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs  
111 Thayer St, Providence, RI 02912  
blair\_sackett@brown.edu

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

---

**Post-doctoral Fellow**, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs  
Brown University 2022-present

**EDUCATION**

---

**Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania, Sociology, *Distinction*** May 2022

Dissertation Title: "It's only fellow refugees who assist:" Social Capital, Social Institutions, and Self-Reliance in a Refugee Camp in Kenya.

Committee: Annette Lareau (co-chair), Randall Collins (co-chair), Mauro Guillen, Chenoa Flippen

Exams: Work and Organizations (*distinction*); Globalization and Migration

**M.A. University of Pennsylvania, Sociology** 2015

**B.A. Washington University in St. Louis, *Summa Cum Laude*** 2012

Urban Studies and African and African American Studies

University of Cape Town, South Africa (exchange student) 2011

Kenya Semester Program, St. Lawrence University (exchange student) 2010

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

---

Social inequality; international migration; work and organizations; economic sociology; organizational errors; race and ethnicity; global and transnational sociology; sociology of development; sociology of the family; qualitative research methods, ethnography

## PUBLICATIONS

---

Sackett, Blair and Annette Lareau. 2023. *We Thought It Would Be Heaven: Refugees in an Unequal America*. University of California Press.

- Covered on: NPR's The Indicator from Planet Money; Trending Globally: Politics and Policy; WBAI Radio's Leonard Lopate at Large
- Reviewed in: *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; Process North

Sackett, Blair and Annette Lareau. 2023. "Institutional Entanglements: How Institutional Knots and Reverberating Consequences Burden Refugee Families." *RSF: The Russell Sage Journal of the Social Sciences*.

Sackett, Blair. 2022. "A Uniform Front?: Power and Front-line Worker Variation in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya." *Ethnography*.

*Revise and Resubmit:*

Sackett, Blair. "Ghosted: Disappearance in Qualitative Research in the Digital Era." Revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*.

- *Clifford Clogg Student Paper Award, Methodology Section, American Sociological Association*

Sackett, Blair. "Barriers and Backslides: How Economic Instability Impedes Refugee Self-Reliance." Revise and Resubmit at the *Journal of Refugee Studies*.

## EDITED JOURNAL

---

Arar, Rawan, Molly Fee, Heba Gowayed, and Blair Sackett, (eds). Forthcoming (expected 2025). Resettlement as an Institution [Special Issue]. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

---

Sackett, Blair. 2021. "Institutional Roadblocks: Refugee Reception and The Case Against Means Testing." *Conflict(ed): Peace, War, and Social Conflict ASA Section Blog*.

Sackett, Blair. 2021. "Neoliberal Refugees? Budget Cuts and Business Hurdles." *Conflict(ed): Peace, War, and Social Conflict ASA Section Blog*.

Sackett, Blair. 2021. "The Paradox of Self-Reliance: Humanitarian Assistance in Kakuma Refugee Camp." *Conflict(ed): Peace, War, and Social Conflict ASA Section Blog*.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

---

Sackett, Blair. *Dreams Derailed: Protracted Displacement and Barriers to Getting Ahead in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya*. (Book manuscript).

Sackett, Blair. "Racialized Resettlement: Race and the Role of Institutions in the Context of Reception."

Sackett, Blair. "Circuit Breakers in Social Networks: Rejection, Reciprocity, and the Temporal Context of Exchange in a Refugee Camp."

- *Elise Boulding Student Paper Award, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, American Sociological Association*

## **AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

---

Clifford Clogg Student Paper Award, Methodology Section, American Sociological Association, 2021

Elise Boulding Student Paper Award, Peace, War, and Social Conflict Section, American Sociological Association, 2020

Gertrude and Otto Pollak Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2014, 2015, 2018-2021, \$20,500 total

Teece Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences, 2018, \$2,000

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad (DDRA) Fellowship Award, 2016-present, \$36,598

Social Science Research Council, International Dissertation Research Fellowship, Finalist, 2016

Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2014-2016

Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, 2014-2016, \$66,000

Nominated for Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students, Fall 2014

Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, 2014, \$5,000

Dunning Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, 2013-2014

Julius Nyerere Essay Prize in African and African American Studies, Washington University in St. Louis, 2012

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

### *Instructor*

Instructor, Displaced: How Global Systems Shape Refugee Families, Brown University, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Fall 2023

Instructor, Displaced: How Global Systems Shape Refugee Families, Brown University, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Spring 2023

Instructor, Introduction to Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Sociology, Spring 2022

Instructor, Refugee Families: Global Systems in Crisis?, Bryn Mawr College, Department of Sociology, Spring 2020

### *Teaching Assistance*

Teaching Assistance for Penn in Kenya, Instructor: Peter Decherney, University of Pennsylvania, Summer 2022

Teaching Assistance for Epidemics, Natural Disasters, and Geopolitics: Managing Global Business and Financial Uncertainty, Wharton Business School, Instructor: Mauro Guillen, University of Pennsylvania, Spring 2020

Teaching Assistance for Leadership and Intercultural Learning, Wharton Business School, Instructor: Mauro Guillen, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant for Medical Sociology, Instructor: Jason Schnittker, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2015

Teaching Assistant for American Culture and Society, Instructor: Chuck Bosk, University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2014

## **INVITED TALKS**

---

Sackett, Blair and Annette Lareau. "We Thought It Would Be Heaven: Refugees in an Unequal America."

- Columbia University, Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality (CWI), October 2023
- Harvard University, Contemporary Ethnography and Inequality Workshop, September 2023.

- University of Pennsylvania, *Reproduction of Inequality: A Conference in Honor of Annette Lareau*, April 2023.

Sackett, Blair and Annette Lareau. "The Educational Obstacle Course: Refugees in an Unequal America." Princeton University, Education Research Section (ERS), September 2023.

Sackett, Blair. "We Come Together: Social Capital Mobilization in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya." Conference on International Forced Migration, UCLA's Center for the Study of International Migration, April 2023.

Sackett, Blair and Annette Lareau. "Seeking Refuge, Finding Inequality: Refugees Navigating Institutional Barriers." UCSD's Center for Comparative Immigration Studies and UCLA's Center for the Study of International Migration, April 2022.

Sackett, Blair. "It's About Time: The Temporal Dimensions of Social Capital in a Refugee Camp." Science, Knowledge, and Technology Workshop, Department of Sociology, Columbia University, November 2021.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

---

Sackett, Blair. "Racialized Resettlement: Race and the Role of Institutions in the Context of Reception." Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2023.

Sackett, Blair and Annette Lareau. "Refugees in an Unequal America: Institutional Entanglements in the Context of Reception." Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2022.

Lareau, Annette and Blair Sackett. "Families, Institutional Errors, and the Web of Navigation: The Case of Refugees." The Russell Sage Foundation Conference on Administrative Burdens as a Mechanism of Inequality in Policy Implementation, February 2022.

Sackett, Blair. "It's About Time: The Temporal Dimensions of Social Capital in a Refugee Camp." Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2021.

Sackett, Blair. "Circuit Breakers in Social Networks: Rejection, Reciprocity, and the Temporal Context of Exchange in a Refugee Camp." Junior Theorists Symposium, August 2021.

Sackett, Blair. "Poor Times, Rich Times: Resource Fluctuations and Episodic Precarity in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya." Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2020.

Sackett, Blair. "Poor Times, Rich Times: Resource Fluctuations and Episodic Precarity in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya." Center for Africana Studies' 2020 Scholar for a Day Conference, University of Pennsylvania, February 2020.

Sackett, Blair. "Routine and Unexpected Emergencies in a Refugee Camp." Culture, Interaction and Ethnography Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania, November 2019.

Sackett, Blair. "'You End Up Becoming the Problem': Informal Practices, Censure, and Corruption among Refugee Camp Workers." Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2019.

Sackett, Blair. "More Than Just Prayer: The role of religious institutions the distribution of resources in a refugee camp." Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society. Section: Politics, Religion, and Exclusion, March 2019.

Lareau, Annette and Blair Sackett. "Not As Much Help As You Would Think: Recruitment and Field Site Access in the Digital Era." Ethnography Conference: Observing and Representing Everyday Life at Yale University, October 2018.

Sackett, Blair and Annette Lareau. "Speed Matters: Cultural Capital and the Accumulation of Resources by Congolese Refugees." Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2018.

Sackett, Blair. "'Not Much We Can Do:' Humanitarianism and the Organization of the Refugee Camp." Culture and Interaction Workshop at the University of Pennsylvania, April 2016.

Sackett, Blair. "'Not Much We Can Do:' Humanitarianism and the Organization of the Refugee Camp." Annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2015.

Sackett, Blair. "Limiting Chaos: Humanitarianism and the Organization of Refugee Crises." Annual meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, February 2015.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

---

American Sociological Association  
 Eastern Sociological Society  
 International Studies Association  
 International Association for the Study of Forced Migration

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

---

Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *European Journal of Education*, *Journal of Refugee Studies (JRS)*, *Social Problems*

Editorial Board, Conflict(ed): Peace, War, and Social Conflict ASA Section Blog, 2020-2022

Award Selection Committee, Elise Boulding Student Paper Award, Peace, War, and Social

Conflict Section, American Sociological Association, 2021

Conference Organizing Committee, "Social Interaction and Theory: A Conference in Honor of Randall Collins," University of Pennsylvania, April 2016

Advising:

Isabel Cox, Brown University (senior thesis)

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

---

English (native), Kiswahili (advanced conversational)

**REFERENCES**

---

**Prof. Annette Lareau**

Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology  
277 McNeil Building  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
alareau@sas.upenn.edu

**Prof. Randall Collins**

Dorothy Swaine Thomas Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology  
353 McNeil Building  
University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
collinsr@sas.upenn.edu

**Prof. Mauro Guillen**

Wurster Professor  
The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania  
255 S. 38th St. Suite 108  
Philadelphia, PA 19104  
guillen@wharton.upenn.edu

**Prof. Chenoa Flippen**

Professor of Sociology  
Department of Sociology and Population Studies Center  
University of Pennsylvania  
231 McNeil Building  
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6299  
chenoa@sas.upenn.edu