

CHRISTINA SIMKO

Williams College
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2021- Associate Professor of Sociology, Williams College
2015-2021 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Williams College
2014-2015 Postdoctoral Fellow, Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh
2013-2014 Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia

EDUCATION

2013 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Virginia
2007 M.A., Sociology, University of Virginia
2005 B.A., Sociology, Bridgewater College, *summa cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2015 Simko, Christina. *The Politics of Consolation: Memory and the Meaning of September 11*. New York: Oxford University Press.

- Honorable Mention, Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book in the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association, 2016
- Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*, and *Teaching Sociology*

Journal Articles

2023 Cunningham, David, and Christina Simko. "Montgomery's Monumental Truths." *Contexts* 22: 24-31.

- Featured on the American Sociological Association's [podcast](#)

2022 Simko, Christina, David Cunningham, and Nicole S. Fox. "Contesting Commemorative Landscapes: Confederate Monuments and Trajectories of Change." *Social Problems* 69: 591-611.

2021 Simko, Christina, and Jeffrey K. Olick. "What We Talk about When We Talk about Culture: A Multi-Facet Approach." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 9: 431-459.

2021 Simko, Christina. "Mourning and Memory in the Age of COVID-19." *Sociologica* 15, <https://sociologica.unibo.it/article/view/11736>.

- 2021 Simko, Christina. "From Legacy to Memory: Reckoning with Racial Violence at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice." *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 693.
- 2020 Simko, Christina, and Jeffrey K. Olick. "Between Trauma and Tragedy." *Social Research: An International Quarterly*, 87: 651–676
- 2020 Simko, Christina. "Marking Time in Memorials and Museums of Terror: Temporality and Cultural Trauma." *Sociological Theory* 38: 51–77.
- Honorable Mention, Junior Theorist Award, American Sociological Association, 2021
- 2019 Simko, Christina. "Oprah and the Politics of Consolation." *Society* 56: 273–281.
- 2018 Simko, Christina. "From Difficult Past to Imagined Future: Projective Reversal and the Transformation of Ground Zero." *Poetics* 67: 39–52.
- 2012 Simko, Christina. "Rhetorics of Suffering: September 11 Commemorations as Theodicy." *American Sociological Review* 77: 880–902.
- Richard A. Peterson Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper in the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association, 2012

Book Chapters and Essays

- 2022 Simko, Christina. "Finding a Way Forward: Memory and the Future in American National Narratives." In *Constructing National Identity: Conflicting Memories and Narratives*, edited by Henry L. Roediger III and James V. Wertsch, 65–86. New York: Oxford University Press.
- 2022 Cunningham, David, Nicole Fox, and Christina Simko. "Memorials on the Move: Union and Confederate Relocations in St. Louis." In *The Common Reader: A Journal of the Essay*, <https://commonreader.wustl.edu/c/memorials-on-the-move/>.
- 2021 Simko, Christina. "Memoir and the Sociological Imagination." *Sociological Forum* 36: 271–276.
- 2019 Simko, Christina. "Collective Memory." *Oxford Bibliographies Online*.
- 2016 Simko, Christina. "Forgetting to Remember: The Present Neglect and Future Prospects of Collective Memory in Sociological Theory." In *The Handbook of Contemporary Sociological Theory*, edited by Seth Abrutyn, 457–476. Cham: Springer.
- 2016 Simko, Christina. "The Problem of Suffering in the Age of Prozac." In *To Fix or to Heal: Patient Care, Public Health, and the Limits of Biomedicine*, edited by Joseph E. Davis and Ana Marta Gonzáles. New York: New York University Press.

Book Reviews

- 2023 John Bodnar, *Divided by Terror: American Patriotism after 9/11*. *American Historical Review* 128(3).
- 2020 Patrick H. Hutton, *The Memory Phenomenon in Contemporary Historical Writing*. *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* 7(4).
- 2018 Bernhard Forchtner, *Lessons from the Past? Memory, Narrativity and Subjectivity*. *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* 5(3).
- 2017 Amy Corning and Howard Schuman, *Generations and Collective Memory*. *Contemporary Sociology* 46(2).
- 2012 Cheryl Mattingly, *The Paradox of Hope: Journeys Through a Clinical Borderland*. *The Hedgehog Review* 14(1).
- 2011 Didier Fassin and Richard Rechtman, *Empire of Trauma: An Inquiry into the Condition of Victimhood*. *Memory Studies* 4(1).

WORK IN PROGRESS AND UNDER REVIEW

Simko, Christina. *Terrorism and Trauma Culture: Marking Time in American Memorials and Museums*. Book manuscript in progress. Draft chapters available upon request.

AWARDS

- 2021 Honorable Mention, Junior Theorist Award, American Sociological Association
- 2016 Honorable Mention, Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book in the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association
- 2012 Suzanne Langer Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper in the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association
- 2012 Bierstedt Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia
- 2010 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, Teaching Resource Center, University of Virginia
- 2009 Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia
- 2009 Bierstedt Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024-2025 McDonnell Collaborative Grant (with David Cunningham and Geoff Ward; \$25,000 in collaborative funds)

- 2018-2019 Short-Term Fellowship, New York Public Library (\$4,000)
- 2017-2018 Hellman Fellowship, Williams College (\$9,730)
- 2016-2017 Ferguson Academic Seed Grant, Washington University in St. Louis (with David Cunningham and Nicole Fox; \$8,500 in collaborative funds)
- 2016 Tutorial Development Stipend, Williams College (\$4,000)
- 2011-2013 Dissertation Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University of Virginia
- 2012 Summer Research Grant, Society of Fellows, University of Virginia (\$4,000)
- 2011-2012 Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, University of Virginia

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Invited Panelist, "Theodicy and the Meaning of Suffering," Culture and Contemporary Life Series, American Sociological Association Culture Section, April 2023

Invited Panelist, The Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Digital Archive Launch, Northeastern University, October 2022

Invited Panelist, "Theorizing for Troubled Times," Junior Theorists Symposium After Panel, August 2021

Invited Panelist, "The Cultural Politics of Naming and Commemoration," Culture and Contemporary Life Series, American Sociological Association Culture Section, May 2021

"Memoir and the Sociological Imagination," Eastern Sociological Society, February 2020

"Marking Time in Memorials and Museums of Terror: Temporality and Cultural Trauma," Regular Session: Cultural Sociology, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2019

Invited Panelist, "American Exceptionalism in Memory Politics," Memory Studies Association Conference, Madrid, Spain, June 2019

"American Collective Identity at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice," National Memory in a Time of Populism Conference, Washington University in St. Louis, May 2019

"Marking Time in Museums of Terror," The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology Conference, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018

Invited Discussant, "Collective Memory and Mnemonic Practices," The Roots and Branches of Interpretive Sociology Conference, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018

Invited Speaker, "Building a National Architecture for Peace and Prevention in America," George Mason University, School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, May 2018

“Oprah and the Politics of Consolation,” Brandeis University Workshop for Critical Inquiry and Education, April 2018

Invited Discussant, “Collective Memory: The Aesthetics and Materiality of Memory,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, QC, August 2017

“Memorials on the Move: Union and Confederate Relocations in St. Louis” (with David Cunningham and Nicole Fox), Material World of Modern Segregation Symposium, Washington University in St. Louis, April 2017

“Building Mnemonic Capacity: Public and Private Memories of the Greensboro Massacre” (with Nicole Fox and David Cunningham), Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Greenville, SC, March 2017

“Responses to a Contentious Past: Activating and Resisting Memory Projects in Three American Cities” (with Nicole Fox and David Cunningham), Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Greenville, SC, March 2017

“Reflections from Across the Pond: Difficult Pasts in Europe and the United States,” Memory Studies Association Conference, Amsterdam, Netherlands, December 2016

“The Politics of Consolation: Memory and the Meaning of September 11,” American Democracy Project Lecture, The College at Brockport—State University of New York, March 2016

Invited Discussant, “Collective Memory: Contesting the Meanings of the Past,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 2015

“Shifting Ground: The Transformation of ‘Ground Zero’ in U.S. Discourse from Hiroshima to September 11,” Invited Presentation, Narratives and Intergroup Conflict Resolution Conference, Stanford Center on International Conflict and Negotiation, Stanford University, May 2015

“Memory, Culture, and the Meaning of New York’s ‘Ground Zero,’” Paper Session: Culture, Memory, and the Definitions of Trauma, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, February 2015

“Bringing Theodicy Back In: Suffering and the Sociology of Meaning” (with Jeffrey K. Olick), Regular Session: Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 2014

Invited Panelist, Session on “September 11 and the Battle for American Memory,” Conference on New York State History, Poughkeepsie, NY, June 2014

“The Ground Zero Trope in American Memory Politics,” Regular Session: Collective Memory, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August 2013

“Rhetorics of Suffering: September 11 Commemorations as Theodicy,” Junior Theorists Symposium, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, August 2012

“The Theodicies of Terrorism in American Memory,” Regular Session: Section on Science, Knowledge, and Technology, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO, August 2012

“Between Dualism and Tragedy: The Fractured Commemorations of September 11,” Invited Presentation, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture Annual Fellows’ Colloquium, September 2011

“Toward a Sociology of Theodicy: Reviving the Weberian Concept,” Theory Section Roundtables, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, August 2011

“Trauma, Theodicy, and 9/11,” Panel on 9/11 Memory, New School for Social Research 2011 Memory Conference, New York, NY, March 2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Williams College:

Invitation to Sociology (Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2021, Fall 2021)

Symbols and Society (Spring 2016)

Media Events (Fall 2015)

Memory and Forgetting (Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

American Social Dramas (Fall 2016)

Story, Self, and Society (Spring 2017, Fall 2017)

Being Mortal (Spring 2018, Spring 2020)

Humans of the Berkshires (Winter Study 2017)

Social Theory (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2023)

Senior Seminar (Spring 2020)

Stories We Tell (Fall 2020, Spring 2022)

The Self in Society (Summer 2022)

University of Pittsburgh:

Social Theory (Fall 2014, Spring 2015)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Williams College committees:

- Project Committee, Hollander Hall First Floor Space Study, 2023-24
- Faculty Compensation Committee, 2019-21
- Oakley Center Fellowship Selection Committee, 2020
- Standing Grievance Panel, 2019-20, 2021-22
- Faculty Review Panel, 2016-18
- British Postgraduate Fellowships Selection Committee, 2017-18
- Sociology Faculty Search Committee, 2017-18
- Committee on Undergraduate Life, 2016-17
- Olmsted Committee, 2016-17

Disciplinary service:

- Occasional manuscript reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Poetics*, *Cultural Sociology*, *American Journal of Cultural*

Sociology, Irish Journal of Sociology, Sociologica, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Theory and Society, Memory Studies, Qualitative Sociology, Oxford University Press, and University of California Press

- Nominations Committee, American Sociological Association Culture Section, 2023-24
- Council Member, American Sociological Association Culture Section, 2022-25
- Editorial Board, *American Sociological Review*, 2022-25
- Co-Organizer, “Action in Unsettled Times,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2022
- Selection Committee, Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book in the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association, 2021
- Selection Committee, Edward Shils–James Coleman Memorial Award for Best Graduate Student Paper in Sociological Theory, American Sociological Association, 2021
- Organizer, Regular Sessions on Collective Memory, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2020
- Program Committee, American Sociological Association Culture Section, 2019-20
- Presider, Regular Session on the Sociology of Culture, 2018
- Ad hoc reviewer for the National Science Foundation, 2017
- Selection Committee, Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article in the Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association, 2017
- Organizer, Author-Meets-Critics Panel for *Reluctant Witnesses*, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, February 2017
- Organizer, Regular Sessions on Collective Memory, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2016