

MATTHEW MCCREERY WOLFE

Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University
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Education

- 2023 Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology, New York University
Dissertation: “Marketing The Missing: Missing Persons and the Competition for Concern”
Committee: Eric Klinenberg, David Garland, Ann Morning, Paul DiMaggio, Thomas Sugrue
- 2018 Master of Philosophy, Sociology, New York University
- 2013 Master of Arts, Journalism, New York University
- 2005 Bachelor of Arts, Art History, Columbia University

Professional and Academic Positions

- 2024- Postdoctoral Fellow, Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University
- 2023-2024 National Fellow, New America, Washington, DC

Books

Mysterious Disappearances: Missing Persons in the United States (under contract with Princeton University Press)

Fires in the Night: The Earth Liberation Front, The FBI and The Secret History of Radical Environmentalism (under contract with Viking Press)

Publications

“The Climate Missing: Identifying Bodies and Preventing Disappearances Linked to Climate Change” equal authorship, with Malcolm Araos. 2024. *BMJ Global Health* 9 (2): e014767.

“Policing The Lost: The Emergence of Missing Persons and the Classification of Deviant Absence.” 2022. *Theory and Society*, 51(3), 511-541.

“Towards A Theory of Social Repair,” first author, with Eric Klinenberg. 2021. *Social Research*, 88:2, (Fall).

Publications Under Review

“Marketing The Missing: Missing Persons and the Competition for Concern.” Interview- and ethnography-based study on the pursuit of “sympathy campaigns” by families of the missing and other parties as an adaptation to state failure and resource scarcity [R&R at *Theory and Society*]

“More Than Missing White Women: Race, Media, and Institutional Pitching.” Interview-based study on media discrimination of missing persons cases and the complex set of racialized inequalities obscured by the concept of “Missing White Woman Syndrome” [under review]

Publications In Progress

“Race and the Risk of the Becoming a Missing Person,” with Kiara Wyndham-Douds. Mixed-Methods analysis of a unique dataset of missing persons cases in California that describes the social patterning of missingness, positioning it as a racialized form of damage to social networks [revising – will submit to *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*]

“He’s Missing But He’s Not *Missing*’: Missing Persons, Police and The Negotiation of Deviance” Interview- and ethnography-based study on the process by which actors “negotiate” absent individuals’ status as deviant [revising – will submit to *American Journal of Sociology*]

“Ecotage, Climatage, and State Repression: Property Destruction and the Radical Flank Effect in Environmental Movements” [drafting – will submit to *Social Movement Studies*]

Book Chapters

“A Stay Against Financial Catastrophe: The Social Security Act of 1935,” equal authorship, with Carrie Bersak, in, *Struggle and Solidarity: Seven Stories of How Americans Fought for Their Mental Health Through Federal Legislation*. 2023. Washington, DC. American Psychiatric Association, edited by Michael T. Compton and Marc W. Manseau.

“Culture, media, and communication,” equal authorship, with Eric Klinenberg, *The Sociology Project 3.0*. 2022. Hoboken, NJ: Pearson, edited by Jeff Manza and Lynne Haney.

“Crime and punishment,” with Jeff Manza, Patrick Sharkey, Troy Duster, Offer Egozy, and Delaram Takyar in *The sociology project 2.5*. 2018. Hoboken, NJ: Pearson, edited by Jeff Manza, Richard Arum, and Lynne Haney.

Teaching

2019 Instructor of Record, Criminology, New York University (undergraduate)
2017 Instructor of Record, Introduction to Sociology, New York University
(undergraduate)

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

2023-present National Fellow, New America (\$30,000)
2015-present Fellow, Institute for Public Knowledge
2023-2024 Post-PhD Research Grant, Wenner-Gren Foundation (\$17,835)
2015-2022 Fellow, McCracken Fellowship (\$186,000)
2021-2022 Fellow, ACLS/Mellon Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$48,000)
2021-2022 Fellow, NYU Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship (\$29,500) (declined)
2021 Visiting Fellow, Berlin, NYU Global Research Initiative (\$2,100)
2020 NYU Sociology Summer Research Grant (\$3,500)
2019 NYU Travel Grant (\$750)
2018 NYU Sociology Summer Research Grant (\$3,500)
2018 NYU Travel Grant (\$750)
2017 NYU Travel Grant (\$750)
2017 NYU Sociology Summer Research Grant (\$3,500)
2016 Honorable mention, National Science Foundation graduate research fellowship
2016 NYU Sociology Summer Research Grant (\$3,500)
2013 Edwin Diamond Award for best work by a journalism student (\$5,000)

Conference Presentations

2024 American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada: “He’s Missing But He’s Not *Missing*’: Missing Persons, Police and The Negotiation of Deviance”
2022 American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, California: “The Risk of Missingness: Missing Persons, Race, and Social Disadvantage.”
2022 Population Association of America, Atlanta, Georgia: “The Risk of Missingness: Missing Persons, Race, and Social Disadvantage.”
2021 American Sociological Association, Chicago, Illinois: “Marketing The Missing: Missing Persons and The Economy of Concern.”
2019 NYLON Conference, London School of Economics, London, United Kingdom: “Missing Persons: Rupture and Repair in American Institutions”

Wolfe – CV

2017 American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada: “Inventing Missingness: The Formation of the New York City Missing Persons Bureau.”

Research Assistance

2015-2018 Research Assistant to Eric Klinenberg

Public Sociology

- 2023 “Climate Change Is Forcing Families Into a New Kind of Indefinite Hell.” *New York Times*, October 2, 2023 (with Malcolm Araos)
- 2022 “The ELF Rise and Fall of America’s Environmentalist Underground.” *New York Times Magazine*. On the federal prosecution of eco-sabotage activists The Earth Liberation Front and the decline of the wider radical environmentalist movement.
- 2021 “Giant Lizards, Hissing Ducks, and Pythons.” *National Geographic*. On the dilemma of invasive species in Florida, a crisis exacerbated by climate change.
- 2020 “Can Domestic Abusers Be Cured?” *The Atlantic*. On the “Duluth Model” and the failure of domestic violence rehabilitation programs.
- 2019 “Without A Trace.” *Harpers*. On the search for missing migrants in the European Union, with on-the-ground reporting from four countries.
- 2017 “The Handshake.” *The New Republic*. On Islamophobia and the arrest of a Muslim small-business owner for an aggressive handshake.
- 2016 “The Last Unknown Man.” *The New Republic*. On the search for an amnesiac’s true identity and our waning capacity for anonymity in an age of mass surveillance.
- 2011 “After The Scream.” *Dissent*. On Occupy Wall Street and the difficulty of creating a durable structure for a hierarchy-free social movement.

Memberships

American Sociological Association
Social Science History Association
Society for United States Intellectual History (former)

Professional Service

Presider, Sociology of Emotions Section, American Sociology Association Conference 2024
Reviewer, *Theory and Society* 2022-
Organizer, graduate student pandemic committee, NYU Department of Sociology, 2020
Peer mentor, NYU Department of Sociology, 2018-2020