

Cody R. Melcher

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Loyola University New Orleans
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Academic Appointments

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY—NEW ORLEANS, LA

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, 2022-present

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW—NEW ORLEANS, LA

Workplace Justice Project (WJP)

Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic & Center for Social Justice

Research Associate, 2022-2025

Education

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK—NEW YORK, NY

Ph.D., Sociology, 2022

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK—NEW YORK, NY

M.Phil., Sociology, 2021

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY—DETROIT, MI

M.A., Political Science, 2018

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN—ANN ARBOR, MI

B.A., Political Science, 2013

Research Interests

The intersection of race and class; economic insecurity; public opinion; quantitative methods; experimental designs; labor history; US South

Awards

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD IN RESEARCH (2026)

Loyola University New Orleans

JON T. ALTSCHUL AWARD FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (2024-2025)

Loyola University New Orleans

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD IN ADVISING (2024)

Loyola University College of Arts and Sciences

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD IN TEACHING (2023)

Loyola University College of Arts and Sciences

Book

Melcher, Cody R., Esther Cyna, & Olivier Maheo (eds.). *Class, Race, and the US South: American Politics and Society through the Lens of Michael Goldfield's Work*.

Hardcover: (2026) Leiden: Brill. ISBN: 978-90-04-74764-7.

Paperback: (2027) Chicago: Haymarket Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

(14) Lindsay, Spencer and Cody R. **Melcher**. 2026. "Racialized Perceptions of Cities and the Attitudes of White Americans." *Urban Affairs Review*.

(13) **Melcher**, Cody R., Joseph van der Naald, Christopher E. Torres, and Spencer C. Lindsay. 2025. "Class, the Welfare State, and Redistributive Attitudes: A Methodological Intervention." *The Social Science Journal*.

(12) Lindsay, Spencer C. and Cody R. **Melcher**. 2025. "Investigating the Origins of Status Threat Among White Americans." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 88(4): 1283-1295.

(11) **Melcher**, Cody R. and Spencer C. Lindsay. 2025. "What Do American Socialists Really Believe? Polarization, Ideology, and the Problem of Socialist Identifiers." *Critical Sociology* 51(7-8): 1369-1382.

Results discussed in *Initium Media*, one of the largest Chinese language news outlets in Singapore.

(10) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2024. "Black Lives Matter and the Changing Sociological Canon: An Analysis of Syllabi from 2012 to 2023." *Teaching Sociology* 52(4): 377-384.

(9) **Melcher**, Cody R., and Joseph van der Naald. 2024. "The Centrality of the Workplace and Class Consciousness in the US South: The New Orleans Community Studies." *Journal of Labor and Society* 28(2):254-274 .

(8) **Melcher**, Cody R. and Michael Goldfield. 2024. "Gérer les affaires de la bourgeoisie à part entière : L'état américain, la législation progressiste et le New Deal" ["Managing the Common Affairs of the Whole Bourgeoisie: The American State, Progressive Legislation, and the New Deal"]. *Mouvement ouvrier, luttes de classes et révolutions – Revue d'histoire (MOLCER Revue)* Issue 8: 30-38. Translated into French by Donna Kesselman.

(7) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2023. "Race Scholars Denied Syllabus." *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*. Washington D.C.: American Sociological Association.
Also featured in *Teaching Sociology* 2024, Vol. 52(1): 103-105.

(6) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2023. "Economic Insecurity and the Racial Attitudes of White Americans." *American Politics Research* 51(3): 343-356.

(5) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2023. "Economic Self-Interest and Americans' Redistributive, Class, and Racial Attitudes: The Case of Economic Insecurity." *Political Behavior* 45: 175-196.

(4) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2021. "The Political Economy of 'White Identity Politics': Economic Self-Interest and Perceptions of Immigration." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 44.2: 293-313.

(3) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2021. "Who's Afraid of 1619?: Pedagogy, Race, and Class in the United States." *Dialectical Anthropology* 45.2: 183-189.

(2) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2020. “First as Tragedy, Then as Farce: W.E.B. Du Bois, Left-Wing Radicalism, and the Problem of Interracial Labor Unionism.” *Critical Sociology* 46.7-8: 1041-1055.

(1) Goldfield, Michael & Cody R. **Melcher**. 2019. “The Myth of Section 7(a): Worker Militancy, Progressive Labor Legislation, and the Coal Miners.” *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History* 16.4: 49-65.

Book Chapters

Melcher, Cody R. 2026. “White Supremacy as a Decommodification Strategy.” In Cody R. Melcher, Olivier Maheo, and Esther Cyna (eds.) *Class, Race, and the US South: American Politics and Society through the Lens of Michael Goldfield’s Work* (Leiden: Brill).

Melcher, Cody R. *forthcoming*. “Race, Racism, and Economic Insecurity in the United States.” In Michael A. Long, Andrew S. Fullerton, Rachel M. Schmitz, and Kelley J. Sittner (eds.) *Handbook on Insecurity and Society* (London: Edward Elgar).

Encyclopedia Entries

Melcher, Cody R. & Michael Goldfield. 2019. “The Failure of Labor Unionism in the US South.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*.

Melcher, Cody R. 2026. “Race vs. Class Debates.” *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, forthcoming (accepted summer 2025).

Popular Press Publications

Asterik (*) denotes a student co-author.

Lindsay, Spencer and Cody R. **Melcher**. 2026. “How Do Americans Perceive Cities, and Why Does It Matter?” *Urban Affairs Review Blog*.

Melcher, Cody R. and Joseph van der Naald. 2025. “The South is Unorganized, Not Backward.” *Jacobin Magazine*.

Melcher, Cody R., C.K. Seymour,* Joseph van der Naald. 2024. “The Forgotten Career of Jim Crow: On the Origins of White Supremacy.” *Spectre Journal*.

Melcher, Cody R. 2024. “The Shadow of Hunger: W.E.B. Du Bois, White Supremacy, and the Possibility of Interracial Class Politics.” *Spectre Journal*, Issue 10: 72-81.

Melcher, Cody R. 2024. “Canary in the Coal Mine: Mass Incarceration in Louisiana.” *Spectre Journal*.

Melcher, Cody R. 2023. “Father Louis Twomey and the Fight for Labor and Civil Rights at Loyola.” *JustSouth Monthly* No. 130.

Melcher, Cody R. 2022. “The Contemporary Relevance of Catholic Labor Radicalism.” *Jacobin Magazine*.
Also published at *Portside*.

Melcher, Cody R. 2022. “What Do Socialists Actually Believe?” *Jacobin Magazine*.

Melcher, Cody R. 2021. “‘Southernism or Socialism—Which?’: White Supremacy and Labor’s Failure.” *Against the Current*. No. 211: 34-36.

Melcher, Cody R. 2021. “The Wages of Whiteness or White Fragility? W.E.B. Du Bois and the Enduring Problem of Interracial Unionism.” *American Sociological Association Marxist Sociology Blog*.

Goldfield, Michael & Cody R. **Melcher**. 2021. “Moments of Rupture: The 1930s and the Great Depression.” *Convergence Magazine*.

Also published at *Portside*.

Goldfield, Michael & Cody R. **Melcher**. 2020. “American Exceptionalism or the Trump Aberration? Race and Class in American Politics.” *Left Voice*.

Melcher, Cody R. 2019. “Progressive Illusions, Radical Promises: The Working Class and the State.” *Left Voice*.

Book Reviews

Melcher, Cody R. *forthcoming*. “Folk Engineering: Planning Southern Regionalism” *Contemporary Sociology*.

Melcher, Cody R. & Michael Goldfield. 2018. “Review of Rights Delayed: The American State and the Defeat of Progressive Unions, 1935-1950.” *Journal of Labor and Society* 21(2): 265-268.

Melcher, Cody R. 2017. “Review of Uninformed: Why People Know so Little about Politics and What We Can do about It.” *Journal of Political Science Education* 13(3): 370-372.

Research Grants Awarded

Loyola College of Arts and Sciences, Dean’s Office Grant
Finding Economic Security” (2026) Amount: \$3,000

Workplace Justice Project
“Creating a Roadmap for a More Equitable New Orleans:
Finding Economic Security” (2022-present) Amount: \$18,000

Multidisciplinary Enhancement of Geospatial Tools for GIS, Mapping and Data Visualization
at Loyola University New Orleans
Co-Principal Investigator (2022-2023) Amount: \$101,573

Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality
“Survey Experiment Research Grant” (2022) Amount: \$3,000

PSC-CUNY Research Grant 63139-00 51:
“Economic Insecurity and Social and Political Attitudes” (2021) Amount: \$3,500

Early Research Initiative (ERI) Catalyst Grant:
“Economic Insecurity Survey Experiment” (2020) Amount: \$2,000

Teaching Experience

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT LOYOLA AT RAYBURN (LO-RAY; RAYBURN CORRECTIONAL CENTER, ANGIE, LOUISIANA)

SOCI-A335: Research Methods and Techniques: Spring 2024; Spring 2025

SOCI-A338: Research Methods Lab: Spring 2024; Spring 2025

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

SOCI-A336: Social Statistics: Spring 2023; Spring 2024; Spring 2025; Spring 2026

SOCI-A339: Social Statistics Lab: Spring 2023; Spring 2024; Spring 2025; Spring 2026

SOCI-A302: Race Scholars Denied: Spring 2023; Spring 2024; Fall 2025; Fall 2026.

SOCI-X234: Capitalism: Spring 2023; Summer 2024; Fall 2024; Summer 2025; Summer 2026

SOCI-A335: Research Methods and Techniques: Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Fall 2025; Fall 2026.

SOCI-A338: Research Methods Lab: Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Fall 2025; Fall 2026.

SOCI-A310: Social Policy: Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Spring 2026

SOCI-A300: Urban Sociology: Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Spring 2025; Spring 2026; Fall 2026.

SOCI-A499: Independent Study (Advanced Statistics): Fall 2023; Fall 2026

SOCI-A499: Independent Study (Sociology of American Radicalism): Spring 2024; Fall 2024

SOCI-A499: Independent Study (Sociology of Black Nationalism): Spring 2024; Fall 2024; Spring 2025

SOCI-A499: Independent Study (History and Sociology of Hong Kong): Fall 2024

SOCI-A499: Independent Study (Readings on Rural Subcultures): Spring 2025

SOCI-A499: Independent Study (Sociology of Religion): Spring 2026

SOCI-A499: Independent Study (Urban Sociology of NYC): Spring 2026

Sociology Capstone Theses Advised: Fall 2022, two students; Spring 2023, three students; Fall 2023, four students; Spring 2024, five students; Fall 2024, one student; Spring 2025, five students. Fall 2026, one student; Spring 2026, seven students.

Honors Theses Advised: Camilla Johnson (2025)

Environmental Studies Capstone Theses Advised: Natalia Arredondo (2025)

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

SOC 31996: Capitalism: Fall 2019; Fall 2020; Fall 2021

SOC 27400: Urban Politics and Policy: Spring 2020; Spring 2021; Spring 2022

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY:

PS 2240: Urban Politics and Policy: Spring 2017

PS 3520: Justice: Fall 2016

PS 1010: American Government: Fall 2015 & Spring 2016

Conference Papers and Presentations

Melcher, Cody R. and Spencer Lindsay. 2026. “Racialized Perceptions of Cities and the Attitudes of White Americans.” Presented at the 121st Annual Conference of the American Sociological Society, 8/12/2026, New York, NY.

Melcher, Cody R. 2025. “The Sociological Canon,” (invited participant) Teaching and Learning Sociology Panel. Presented at the 120th Annual Conference of the American Sociological Society, 8/11/25, Chicago, IL.

Melcher, Cody R. and Spencer Lindsay. 2024. “What do American Socialists Really Believe? Political Polarization, Partisanship, and the Problem of Socialist-Identifiers.” Presented at the 94th Annual Conference of the Southern Political Science Association, 1/10/2024, New Orleans, LA.

Melcher, Cody R. and Michael Goldfield. 2023. [Keynote Address](#): “The Fight for Workers’ Rights and Gender Equality in the US Today.” Presented at “Classe, race et lieux au péril du Sud : la politique américaine au prisme de l’œuvre de Michael Goldfield.” Sorbonne Université; Paris, France (2/1/2023).

Melcher, Cody R. 2023. “Michael Goldfield as Scholar, Mentor, and Agitator.” Presented at “Classe, race et lieux au péril du Sud : la politique américaine au prisme de l’œuvre de Michael Goldfield.” Université Paris-Est Créteil; Paris, France (2/2/2023).

Melcher, Cody R. 2022. Invited Speaker, “On the Contemporary Relevance of Louis Twomey, S.J.,” *Catholic Social Teach-In*, event sponsored by the Loyola University Community Action Program. (11/17/2022).

Melcher, Cody R. 2022. “White Supremacy as a Decommodification Strategy: The Role of Economic Insecurity in the Determination of White American’s Racial Attitudes.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Comparative Labor Politics Workshop.

Melcher, Cody R. 2020. “The Whip of Hunger: The Causal Effects of Economic Insecurity on Racial and Redistributive Attitudes.” Presented at the Experimental Design Workshop at Columbia University’s Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics, New York.

Melcher, Cody R. and Kevin G. Lorentz II. 2017. “Built Environment and the Court: An Experimental Substantiation of Political Aesthetics.” Presented at the 88th Annual Conference of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans.

Melcher, Cody R. 2016. “The Pragmatics of Style and the Redistribution of the Sensible: A Critique of Rancière.” Presented at the 74th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago.

Reviewer for:

American Journal of Sociology

American Political Science Review

Social Forces

Political Behavior

British Journal of Political Science

Sociological Inquiry
Teaching Sociology
West European Politics
The Social Science Journal
Democratization
Critical Sociology
Political Research Quarterly
Sociology Lens (Journal of Historical Sociology)
The Sociological Quarterly
Sociological Perspectives
Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy
Sociological Forum
Journal of Political Ideologies
 Swiss National Science Foundation (grant reviewer)

Service to the Discipline

Committee Membership at Loyola University New Orleans:

Member of the Faculty Committee for Black Studies, 2023-present.

Member of the Standing Committee on the Loyola Core, 2023-present.

College Planning Committee, 2024-present.

Co-Chair from 2025-2026.

University Senate Fringe Benefit Committee, 2025-present.

Faculty Advisor, Abolition Book Club (ABC), 2023-present.

Organized and hosted *The Labor Spring*, sponsored by the The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University, Black Studies at Loyola, and the Jesuit Social Research Institute (3/26/25).

Organizer and discussant, “Book Talk on John Bardes’ *The Carceral City: Slavery and the Making of Mass Incarceration in New Orleans, 1803-1930*,” Loyola University New Orleans (October 28, 2024).

Member of the 2024 American Political Science Association (APSA) Class & Inequality Award Committee (Best Paper on Social and Economic Inequality).

Organized and hosted *The Labor Spring*, sponsored by the Workplace Justice Project at Loyola Law Clinic, The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University, and the Jesuit Social Research Institute (3/21/24).

Organizer and discussant, “Book Talk on John Arena’s *Expelling Public Schools*,” Loyola University New Orleans (October 26, 2023).

Organized and hosted *The Labor Spring: Loyola, the Labor Movement, and the Fight for Workers' Rights*,” sponsored by the Workplace Justice Project at Loyola Law Clinic, The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University, and the Jesuit Social Research Institute (4/21/23).

Taught a seminar on R and RStudio to high school students at Loyola’s Neuroscience Summer Camp (Summer 2023)

Organized and taught a faculty workshop on R, RStudio, and RMarkdown (Loyola; Sep. 2022).

Conference Organizing Committee, “Classe, race et lieux au péril du Sud : la politique américaine au prisme de l’œuvre de Michael Goldfield.” Université Paris-Est Créteil; Paris, France (Feb. 2023).

Curriculum and Examinations Committee (Graduate Center; elected; 2019-2021)

Statistical/Survey Program Proficiency

R, R Markdown, L^AT_EX, Stata, SPSS, Qualtrics

Fellowships

Graduate Center Fellow (CUNY)	2018-2022
Teaching appointment at the City College of New York	2019-2022
Research Assistant for Prof. Michael Goldfield (Wayne State)	2016-2022
Assisted in the publication of Michael Goldfield’s <i>The Southern Key: Race, Class, and Radicalism in the 1930s and 1940s</i> (2020) Oxford: Oxford University Press.	
Graduate Teaching Instructor (Wayne State)	2015-2017
Thomas C. Rumble Fellow (Wayne State)	2014-2015

Association Membership

American Sociological Association
Association for the Study of African American Life and History
American Political Science Association
Southern Political Science Association

References

Leslie McCall, Presidential Professor of Sociology and Political Science
Associate Director, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Dept. of Sociology
365 5th Ave. Room 6112.04
New York, NY 10016
lmccall@gc.cuny.edu

Marcus Kondkar, Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology
Academic Director, Loyola Prison Education Program
Loyola University New Orleans

6363 St.Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70118
kondkar@loyno.edu

Michael Goldfield, Professor Emeritus of Political Science
Wayne State University, Dept. of Political Science
2285 FAB 656 W. Kirby
Detroit, MI 48202
aa2182@wayne.edu

Mary Clare Lennon, Professor of Sociology
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Dept. of Sociology
365 5th Ave. Room 6112.04
New York, NY 10016
mlennon@gc.cuny.edu

Stephen Steinberg, Professor of Sociology
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365 5th Ave. Room 6112.04
New York, NY 10016
ssteinberg1@gc.cuny.edu

Charles Post, Professor of Sociology
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Dept. of Sociology
365 5th Ave. Room 6112.04
New York, NY 10016
charlespost@nyc.rr.com