

## MICHAEL W. YARBROUGH

City University of New York (CUNY)  
Law & Society Major | Department of Political Science | John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Doctoral Faculty | Department of Sociology | CUNY Graduate Center  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2022-      Doctoral Faculty  
            Department of Sociology  
            CUNY Graduate Center
- 2020-      Associate Professor of Law & Society (with tenure)
- 2013-20     Assistant Professor of Law & Society  
            Department of Political Science  
            John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York (CUNY)

### EDUCATION

- 2013      Ph.D., Sociology, Yale University (with distinction)  
            Dissertation: "I Now Declare You": State Law and the Making of Marriage in  
                            Post-Apartheid South Africa  
            \**Marvin B. Sussman Dissertation Prize, Yale Sociology Department*
- 2009      J.D., Yale Law School  
            *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism*: Managing Editor, Articles Editor, Symposium Editor
- 2001      B.A., Sociology, University of Chicago (with general and departmental honors)

### PUBLICATIONS AND MANUSCRIPTS

#### Edited Volumes

- 2018      Michael W. Yarbrough, Angela Jones, and Joseph Nicholas DeFilippis, eds. [\*Queer Families and Relationships After Marriage Equality\*](#). Routledge.
- Angela Jones, Joseph Nicholas DeFilippis, and Michael W. Yarbrough, eds. [\*The Unfinished Queer Agenda After Marriage Equality\*](#). Routledge.
- Joseph Nicholas DeFilippis, Michael W. Yarbrough, and Angela Jones, eds. [\*Queer Activism After Marriage Equality\*](#). Routledge.

## Articles and Book Chapter

- 2020 "A New Twist on the 'un-African' Script: Representing Lesbian and Gay African Weddings in Democratic South Africa." *Africa Today* 67(1): 48-70. doi:[10.2979/africatoday.67.1.04](https://doi.org/10.2979/africatoday.67.1.04). [[preprint](#)]
- 2018 "Something Old, Something New: Historicizing Same-Sex Marriage within Ongoing Struggles over African Marriage in South Africa." *Sexualities* 21(7): 1092-1108. doi:[10.1177/1363460717718507](https://doi.org/10.1177/1363460717718507). [[preprint](#)]
- "Very Long Engagements: The Persistent Authority of Bridewealth in a Post-Apartheid South African Community." *Law & Social Inquiry* 43(3): 647-77. doi:[10.1111/lsi.12275](https://doi.org/10.1111/lsi.12275). [[preprint](#)]  
\*Law & Society Association Article Prize, 2019
- Reprinted in: Moore, Elena (ed.). 2022. *Generation, Gender and Negotiating Custom in South Africa*. Routledge.
- "For Better or for Worse? Relational Landscapes in the Time of Same-Sex Marriage." In Michael W. Yarbrough, Angela Jones, and Joseph Nicholas DeFilippis, eds. *Queer Families and Relationships After Marriage Equality*. Routledge. [[preprint](#)]
- 2015 "South African Marriage in Policy and Practice: A Dynamic Story." *South African Review of Sociology* 46(4): 5-23. doi:[10.1080/21528586.2015.1100095](https://doi.org/10.1080/21528586.2015.1100095). [[preprint](#)]
- "Toward a Political Sociology of Conjugal-Recognition Regimes: Gendered Multiculturalism in South African Marriage Law." *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society* 22(3): 456-94. doi:[10.1093/sp/jxv016](https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxv016). [[preprint](#)]
- 2012 "When Symbolic Action Fails: Illustrations from Small-Claims Court." *Qualitative Sociology Review* 8(3): 44-57. Available at [http://www.qualitativesociologyreview.org/ENG/Volume24/QSR\\_9\\_1\\_Yarbrough.pdf](http://www.qualitativesociologyreview.org/ENG/Volume24/QSR_9_1_Yarbrough.pdf).
- 2006 "South Africa's Wedding Jitters: Consolidation, Abolition, or Proliferation?" *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism* 18(2): 497-521. Available at <https://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/yjlf/vol18/iss2/5/>.
- Published in Chinese Translation: [美]迈克尔·W. 亚伯勒 (Michael W. Yarbrough) 2018. 南非的婚姻震动：巩固、废除或再生。杨俊菲, 译 (Yang Junfei, trans.). *Review on Law*, Shanghai International Studies University.

## Book Reviews

- 2021 “Queering Legal Pluralism?” Review essay on *Time Out of Joint: The Queer and the Customary in Africa* edited by Kirk Fiereck, Neville Hoad, and Danai S. Mupotsa (2020); and *Queering Colonial Natal: Indigeneity and the Violence of Belonging in Southern Africa* by T.J. Tallie (2019). *PoLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 44(2): e131-e141. doi:[10.1111/plar.12425](https://doi.org/10.1111/plar.12425). Available at <https://polarjournal.org/2021/05/01/queering-legal-pluralism/>.
- 2019 *Gay Priori: A Queer Critical Legal Studies Approach to Law Reform* by Libby Adler (2018). *Contemporary Sociology* 48(6): 638-39.
- 2012 *Out in Africa: LGBT Organizing in Namibia and South Africa* by Ashley Currier (2012). *American Journal of Sociology* 119(1): 286-88.
- 2011 *Unhitched: Love, Marriage, and Family Values from West Hollywood to Western China* by Judith Stacey (2011). *Gender & Society* 27(1): 123-25.
- 2005 *Overcoming Apartheid: Can Truth Reconcile a Divided Nation?* by James L. Gibson (2004). *Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal* 8: 237-39.

## Writing for the General Public

- 2020 “What CUNY teaches us about the coronavirus, and vice versa.” *New York Daily News*, April 17. Available at <https://www.nydailynews.com/opinion/ny-oped-what-cuny-teaches-us-about-the-coronavirus-20200417-a3632rnkmjadldaoutmzyrimy-story.html> (jointly researched with my Spring 2020 Law & Society capstone class)
- 2019 “‘50/50’ Gender Equality and the Persistence of Bridewealth in Democratic South Africa.” *Cambridge Core blog*, June 17. Available at <https://www.cambridge.org/core/blog/2019/06/17/persistence-of-bridewealth-in-democratic-south-africa/>.
- (w/ Jean Carmalt) “Diversity, Inequality, and Law in the Global City of New York.” *In the Classroom: A Blog about Undergraduate Teaching and Learning* hosted by the Consortium of Undergraduate Law & Justice Programs. Available at <https://www.culjp.com/blog/diversity-inequality-and-law-in-the-global-city-of-new-york-jean-carmalt-michael-yarbrough>.
- 2015 “Clearing a Path to Liberation?” *contexts.org*, July 7. Available at <http://contexts.org/blog/clearing-a-path-to-liberation/>.

**Works in Progress**

- in prep     *"I Now Declare You...": Making Marital Status and its Paradoxes in South Africa, Past and Present* (book manuscript)
- in prep     Steven Boutcher, Corey Shdaimah, and Michael W. Yarbrough, eds. *Research Handbook in Law, Movements, and Social Change*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing. (under contract for the *Research Handbooks in Law and Society* series)
- in prep     Steven Boutcher, Corey Shdaimah, and Michael W. Yarbrough. "Introduction: On 'Legitimate Political Discourse' in the Global Twenty-first Century" (introduction chapter for *Research Handbook on Law, Movements, and Social Change*)

**SELECTED AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS**

- 2021       PSC-CUNY Research Grant # 64607-00 52 (\$6000)
- 2020       PSC-CUNY Research Grant # 63748-00 51 (\$6000)
- 2019       Law & Society Association Article Prize  
PSC-CUNY Research Grant # 62591-00 50 (\$6000)  
Henry Wasser Award for Outstanding Assistant Professors at CUNY, CUNY Academy for the Humanities and Sciences  
Distinguished Faculty Service to Students Award, John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Presidential Faculty-Student Research Collaboration Award, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (\$7000) [w/ Jean Carmalt and Jamie Longazel]
- 2018       PSC-CUNY Research Grant # 61600-00 49 (\$6000)
- 2017       PSC-CUNY Research Grant # 60647-00 48 (\$6000)
- 2016       Community Event Funding Grant, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (\$5100)  
Conference Reception Funding Grant, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (\$3000)  
American Sociological Association/National Science Foundation, Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline Grant (\$4000) [w/ Angela Jones]
- 2015       William Stewart Travel Award, CUNY Academy for the Humanities & Sciences (\$500)  
Community Event Funding Award, Office for the Advancement of Research, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (\$1500) [w/ Jean Carmalt and Karin Martin]  
Distinguished Teaching Award, John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
Marvin B. Sussman Dissertation Prize, Yale Sociology Department
- 2014       PSC-CUNY Research Grant #67688-00 45 (\$5895)
- 2011       Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (\$15,000)

**INVITED TALKS AND COLLOQUIA [LAST TEN YEARS]**

- 2020     Marital Status in South Africa, Past and Present. Comparative Politics Workshop, Department of Political Science, CUNY Graduate Center, September 15.

“...as African as...’: Lesbian and Gay Identities and the Mobilization of ‘African Culture’ in Constitutional South Africa.” South Africa Reading Group, New York Law School, July 24.

- 2019 “I Now Declare You: Marital Status and the Everyday Life of Law in South Africa, Past and Present.” St. Louis University School of Law, April 10.

Invited commentator, Gender, (Inter)Generation, and Negotiating Power in Families Workshop. Centre for Social Science Research and NRF Chair in Customary Law, Indigenous Values and Human Rights, University of Cape Town, January 21-22.

- 2017 “Walking Down the Aisle: Expanded Marriage Recognition and the Persistent Race-Gender Complex in South African Marriage Law.” Social Movements Workshop: Law & Litigation in Equality Movements, Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School, April 7-8.

“The Problem of Marital Status.” LGBT Law Workgroup, Cardozo Law School, New York City, February 17.

- 2015 “By the Authority Vested: The Sociolegal Production of Marital Status in South Africa and Beyond.” Wednesday Seminar Series, Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg, August 12.

“By the Authority Vested: The Sociolegal Production of Marital Status in South Africa and Beyond.” *Indexing the Human* Seminar Series, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Stellenbosch University, August 6.

“By the Authority Vested: Marital Status as Social Process.” Marvin B. Sussman Dissertation Prize Lecture, Department of Sociology, Yale University, April 29.

“Very Long Engagements: Legal Consciousness and the Persistent Authority of Bridewealth in a South African Community.” Conversations in Law & Society, University of Delaware, April 15.

- 2014 “Very Long Engagements: Legal Consciousness and the Persistent Authority of Bridewealth in a South African Community.” African Studies Workshop, Center for African Studies, Harvard University, October 6.

“Very Long Engagements: Legal Consciousness and the Persistent Authority of Bridewealth in a South African Community.” Centre for Law & Society, University of Cape Town, August 18.

“Marriage Regimes from Above and Below: Preliminary Thoughts Based on South African Research.” Centre for Law & Society, University of Cape Town, August 15.

“Very Long Engagements: Legal Consciousness and the Persistent Authority of Bridewealth in a South African Community.” Centre for Social Science Research, University of Cape Town, August 12.

2012 “I Now Pronounce You: Law and the Making of Marriage in Two South African Communities.” Dept of Anthropology & Sociology, Bucknell University, October 10.

“Toward a Political Sociology of Conjugal-Recognition Regimes: South Africa’s Post-Apartheid Transition to a Multicultural Marital Regime.” South Africa Reading Group, New York Law School, January 20.

## **CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES**

### **Conferences Organized**

2016 *After Marriage: The Future of LGBTQ Politics and Scholarship*, CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies, City University of New York. [conceived and co-organized]

***\*Three edited volumes based on conference published by Routledge in 2018. See Publications and Manuscripts section for more information.***

2015 Mid-Atlantic Law & Society Association Conference, John Jay College of Criminal Justice (CUNY), New York City. [chair of organizing committee]

### **Conference Panels Organized**

2022 Critical Perspectives on Love & Law. Law & Society Association Global Meeting, July 13-16, Lisbon.

2021 Pluralism and Authority in British Colonialism. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 26-30, Chicago/online.

Research Handbook on Law, Movements, and Social Change I, II, and III. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 26-30, Chicago/online. [co-organized with Steve Boutcher and Corey Shdaimah]

2019 Community, Family, and Law(s) in the Global South and its Diasporas. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 30-June 2, Washington, DC.

2016 Redress and Recognition in Law and Society. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, June 2-5, New Orleans. [co-organized with Poulami Roychowdhury]

**Conference Panel Chair/Discussant [last five years]**

- 2021 Research Handbook on Law, Movements, and Social Change I: Identities & Consciousness. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 26-30, Chicago/online.
- 2019 LGBTQ Families and Relationships. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 10-13, New York City.
- 2018 Gender and Sexuality in Social Movements. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, June 7-10, Toronto.
- 2017 New Studies and Perspectives on Familiar Movements and Protests in the U.S. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, June 20-23, Mexico City.

**Conference Presentations [last five years]**

*\*See Teaching section for conference presentations related to teaching and pedagogy.*

- 2021 “Marital Status as British Colonial Project in Southern Africa.” Social Science History Association Annual Conference, November 11-14, Philadelphia/online. | Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 26-30, Chicago/online.

Reader, Author Meets Readers panel on *Queer Alliances: How Power Shapes Political Movement Formation* by Erin Mayo-Adam. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 26-30, Chicago/online.

- 2020 Critic, Author Meets Critics panel on *Queering Colonial Natal: Indigeneity and the Violence of Belonging in Southern Africa* by T.J. Tallie, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 19-21, online. [invited]

- 2019 “A New Twist on the ‘un-African’ Script: Representing Lesbian and Gay African Weddings in Democratic South Africa.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 10-13, New York City.

“Contesting Marital Status in South Africa, Past and Present.” Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 20-June 2, Washington, DC. | North East Workshop on Southern African Studies, April 26-27, Burlington, VT. | Gender, (Inter)Generation, and Negotiating Power in Families Workshop. Centre for Social Science Research and NRF Chair in Customary Law, Indigenous Values and Human Rights, University of Cape Town, January 21-22. [invited]

- 2018 “By the Authority Vested: Colonial Legacies and the Everyday Life of Marriage Law in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” ASA Sexualities Section Pre-Conference, August 9-10, Philadelphia. | Symposium on Non-Traditional Kinship and the Law: Socio-Legal Perspectives, May 17-18, Rome. | Race Sex Power Conference, April 6-7, Chicago.

“We Want a Good Relationship”: Marital Status and Everyday Legal Mobilization in Contemporary South Africa. Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, June 5-10, Toronto.

2017 “Something Old, Something New: Same-Sex Marriage and Ongoing Struggles Over African Marriage in South Africa.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 12-15, Montreal.

“Marital Status Regimes: Legal Pluralism and the Everyday Distribution of Marital Status in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, June 20-23, Mexico City.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

#### **Undergraduate Courses, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, City University of New York**

*\*Distinguished Teaching Award, John Jay College, 2015*

##### *Current courses:*

2022 Law in Everyday Life (lecture)  
2014-22 Colloquium for Research in Law & Society (senior research capstone seminar)  
2013-16, Introduction to Law & Society (lecture)  
2022

##### *Past courses:*

2019 Supervised Research Experience: Law & Society Major Research Project  
(co-taught research practicum for the Legal Disruption Project, a student-led research project in the Law & Society major)  
2018-19 Introduction to Research in Law & Society (research methods)  
2014-16 Supervised Research Experience: Marriage Regimes from Above and Below (small research practicum)  
2013 Gender and the Law (lecture)

#### **Graduate Courses, CUNY Graduate Center**

2016 Cultural Studies and the Law (master’s seminar)

#### **Undergraduate Courses, College of Staten Island, City University of New York**

2012-13 American Ideas, Institutions, and Issues (undergraduate lecture)  
Introduction to Sociology (undergraduate lecture)  
2010-12 Class, Status, and Power (undergraduate lecture)  
2009 Marriage and Family (undergraduate lecture)

### PhD Dissertation Co-Supervised

- 2020-21 Sisanda Msekele, Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand: "The Blind Gaze: A Critical Examination of Disability and Queer Sexuality in South Africa." (co-supervised w/ Dr. Nolwazi Mkhwanazi)

### Senior Honors Theses Supervised

- 2017-18 Stephanie Johns, "Collective Silence and the Belief that Homosexuality is 'Un-African'" (Finalist, 2018 John Jay College Honors Capstone Awards)  
Michael Hourahan, "Anarchist Thought and Non-State Law"  
2016-17 Nicole Vitrit, "LGBTQ Youth Understandings of Marriage"  
2015-16 Trushalkumar Pandhi, "The Impact of Television Shows and Movies on How Audiences Perceive Police Officers"  
Tricia Ramcharit, "Racial Formation: Constructing Identity on Government Surveys"  
2014-15 Diana Ereskina, "Does Marriage Make People Happy?"

### Special Pedagogical Projects

- 2018- Affiliated faculty, Legal Disruption Project (student-led participatory action research project in the Law & Society major at John Jay)
- 2020 [COVID-19 at CUNY: A Class Project](#). Archival website of research performed by students in my Spring 2020 Colloquium for Research in Law & Society about their experiences of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Available at <https://johnjay.digication.com/covid19-at-cuny/home-1>.

### Panel Appearances and Podcast Interviews on Teaching

- 2021 *Digication Scholars Podcast*. "Teaching at the Epicenter."  
[Part 1: The Professor and the Project](#).  
[Part 2: The Student Experience](#).  
[Part 3: Reflections on the Pedagogy](#).
- The Key Podcast by Inside Higher Ed*. ["The Pandemic's Human Toll at CUNY."](#)
- Panelist, Panel on "Reflections on Teaching during a Global Pandemic." Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, May 26-30, Chicago/online.
- Panelist, Workshop on "Teaching in a Time of Catastrophe." Consortium of Undergraduate Law & Justice Programs Preconference, May 25, online.
- 2020 *John Jay Distinguished Teaching Prize Interviews*. ["Interview with Michael Yarbrough."](#)

**SERVICE TO PROFESSION**

Peer reviewer: *American Journal of Cultural Sociology, British Journal of Sociology, Journal of Family Studies, Journal of Homosexuality, Journal of Law & Religion, Law & Policy, Law & Society Review, Politics & Gender, Reproductive Biomedicine & Society, Social Dynamics, Sociological Perspectives, South African Review of Sociology*, National Research Foundation of South Africa

- 2021 Mentor, Early Career Workshop, Law & Society Association  
Undergraduate Paper Award Committee, Law & Society Association
- 2019- Associate Editor, *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*
- 2018 External Examiner, PhD dissertation in Law by Nyasha Karimakwenda, University of Cape Town: "Where Rape Does Not Exist: Tracing the Unsettled Position of Marital Rape Through Women's Recourse-Seeking Journeys"
- 2017-18 Peterson-Krivo Mentoring Award Committee, Sociology of Law/Crime, Law & Deviance Sections, American Sociological Association
- 2017 Refereed Roundtable Organizer, Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting
- 2016 External Examiner, PhD dissertation in Law by I. India Thusi, University of the Witwatersrand: "Policing Sex: An Ethnographic Study of the Policing of Sex Workers in Johannesburg"
- 2015-16 Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Sociology of Law Section, American Sociological Association
- 2014-17 Board of Directors, CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies, City University of New York
- 2013- Faculty Fellow, Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University
- 2013-14 Martin Levine Dissertation Award Committee, Section on Sexualities, American Sociological Association
- 2012-15 Steering Committee, LGBTQ Caucus, American Sociological Association

**SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT, COLLEGE, AND UNIVERSITY**

*\*Distinguished Service to Students Award, John Jay College, 2019*

- 2022-23 Co-Coordinator & Advisor, Political Science and Law & Society Majors
- 2021-23 Racial Justice & Equity Committee, Political Science Department (chair, 2022-23)
- 2021 Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Law & Society
- 2019-20 Personnel & Budget Committee, Political Science Department (elected)  
Search Committee, Lecturer in Political Science  
Faculty Advisor, Legally Conscious (student law & society club)
- 2017-20 Committee on Scholarships, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- 2019 Chair, Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Law & Society
- 2018-20 Pre-Law Advisor, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- 2018-19 Co-Coordinator, Law & Society Major
- 2015-17 Co-Coordinator, Law & Society Major

- 2014-17 Board of Directors, CLAGS: The Center for LGBTQ Studies, City University of New York
- 2016 Co-Chair, Search Committee, Tenure-Track Faculty Position in Law & Society Search Committee, Director of the Center for the Advancement of Teaching
- 2015-16 Ad Hoc Committee on Measuring Excellence in Teaching, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- 2014-16 Webmaster, Department of Political Science
- 2013-17 LGBTQ Task Force, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- 2013 Search Committee, Assistant Professor in Gender and the Law

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

- 2014-17 Research Associate, Department of Sociology, University of Johannesburg
- 2011 Visiting Scholar, Law Faculty, University of KwaZulu-Natal – Pietermaritzburg
- 2006-13 Fellow, Center for Comparative Research, Yale University
- 2006-07 Managing Editor, *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism*
- 2006 Legal Researcher, OUT LGBT Well-being, Pretoria
- 2005-06 Articles Editor, *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism*
- 2005 Visiting Researcher, Gender Research Project of the Centre for Applied Legal Studies, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg  
Editor, *Yale Journal of Law & Humanities*  
Junior Editor, *Yale Human Rights & Development Law Journal*
- 2004-05 Symposium Editor, *Yale Journal of Law & Feminism*

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

African Studies Association

American Sociological Association

Section Memberships: Sociology of Law; Sexualities; Sex and Gender; Family; Global and Transnational Sociology; Sociology of Culture; Political Sociology; Comparative and Historical Sociology

Law and Society Association

Collaborative Research Network Memberships: Africa; British Colonial Legalities; Critical Race; Ethnography; Everyday Legality; Gender & Sexuality; Legal Pluralism; Social Movements

Queer African Studies Association

Sociologists for Women in Society

### **LANGUAGES**

isiZulu (excellent reading and good speaking)

Spanish (excellent reading and good speaking)

*Updated May 7, 2022*