

JAMES (JAY) G. JOHNSON, PhD

Dept. of Sociology, University of Vermont

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2024-present Lecturer in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Vermont
- 2022-2024 Lecturer in Urban Studies, Division of Social Sciences, Yale-NUS, Singapore
- Visiting Research Fellow, Centre for European Studies and Comparative Politics (CEE) and the Urban School, Sciences Po, Paris (May-July 2023)
- 2020-2022 Joint Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Arts & Science, University of Toronto, and the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (MPI-MMG), Göttingen, Germany
- 2017-2018 Visiting Researcher, Scalabrini Institute for Human Migration in Africa (SIHMA), Cape Town, South Africa

EDUCATION

- 2020 PhD, Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- 2012 MA, Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)
- 2010 MA, Forced Migration Studies by Research, African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS), University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg
- 2006 MSc, Global Politics, London School of Economics and Political Science
- 2005 BA, Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California, Berkeley

AREAS OF RESEARCH

International and Forced Migration; Law & Society; Urban Studies; Rights, Civil Society & Social Movements; Border Studies; Comparative Nationalism, Race, & Ethnicity; South Africa and France

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 Johnson, James (Jay) G. 2025. "Urban Aesthetics, Nuisance, and Refugees: Local Business Litigation in South African Cities." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 1-19.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2025.2558977>
- 2022 Johnson, James (Jay) G. 2022. "Challenging Policies and Contextualizing Rights: Civil Society Litigation and Refugee and Asylum Seeker Governance in South African Cities." *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies* 22(3): 545-558.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2022.2061097>

- 2020 Johnson, James (Jay) G. 2020. "Constructing and Contesting State-Urban Borders: Litigation over Refugee Reception Offices in Post-apartheid South African Cities." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 48(15): 3810-3827. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2020.1779046>

WORK IN PROGRESS

Preliminary Insights on Gentrification, Mega-Events, and the Dispersal of Newly Arrived Migrants: The Case of the 2024 Paris Olympics and Paralympics

(De/Re)Criminalizing Sanctuary, Informality, and Aesthetics: Exploring the Opportunities and Limitations of Urban Law and Resistance in Cities

TEACHING POSITIONS – INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

University of Vermont

Crime – Fall, 2025; Spring 2025; Fall 2024

Sociology of Law – Fall 2025; Fall 2024

Political Sociology – Fall 2025

Crime & the City – Spring 2025

Deviance & Social Control – Spring 2025

Criminal Justice – Fall 2024

Yale-NUS, Singapore

Divided Cities – Spring 2024, Spring 2023

Cities of the Global South – Spring 2024, Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022

Global Cities – Fall 2023, Fall 2022

Social Life of Cities – Fall 2023, Fall 2022

University of Toronto

Global Cities and Urban Refugees – Fall 2022, Winter 2021 (online)

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

Introductory Sociology – Summer 2022 (online)

Urban Sociology – Fall 2021 (online), Fall 2020 (online)

Political Sociology – Summer 2019, Summer 2018, Summer 2015

Introduction to Sociology Research Methods – Summer 2018

TEACHING POSITIONS – INTERNSHIP COORDINATOR

Center for Community Engagement, UCLA

Corporate and Community Internships in Sociology – AY2018-2019, AY2019-2020 (in-person and online consultations)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2022, 2023	3 x Special Research Pocket Grants, Yale-NUS (4,500 SGD)
2017, 2018	Department Nomination for UCLA Distinguished Teaching Award
2017	Fellow, Academy for African Urban Diversity (AAUD)
2017	Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship (30,000 USD)
2015, 2016	Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, UCLA
2013	Graduate Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division (20,000 USD)
2013	Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) (declined) (15,000 USD)
2013	African Foreign Languages Initiative/Boren Fellowship (30,000 USD)
2011	Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf Peace Prize (5,000 USD)
2011	Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, UCLA Graduate Division (5,000 USD)
2010, 2015	UCLA Department of Sociology (16,000-18,000 USD)
2010	Ford Predoctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention
2009	US Fulbright Student Fellowship, South Africa (21,000 USD)

SUPERVISION AND RESEARCH MENTORING

University of Vermont

2024	Advisor, Honors Enrichment Contract (HEC) in Crime
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Yale-NUS, Singapore

2023-2024	Supervisor, Undergraduate Student Researcher on Spatial Transformation in Paris
2022-2023	Supervisor, Undergraduate Student Researcher on Refugee Law in the Global South
2022-2024	Advisor and Reader, Undergraduate Capstone Research Projects

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

2015-2020	Consultant, Graduate Writing Center, UCLA <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Mentored PhD and M.A. students in academic and fellowship writing; developed dissertation proposal and fellowship application workshops.
2018-2020	Honors Program Mentor, Department of Sociology, UCLA

SERVICE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 2025-2026 Center for Teaching and Learning Faculty Associate, UVM
- 2019-2020 Administrative Coordinator - Test of Oral Proficiency, Center for the Advancement of Teaching, UCLA
- Reviewer *Cambridge University Press; Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Conference Panels

- 2022 “Revisiting Cities and Borders: Persisting Urban (Mis)Management of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in South African Cities in Comparative Perspective.” American Sociological Association, Invited Session: “Bureaucratic (Mis)Management of South-South Migration,” August.

Selected Academic Conferences

- 2025 “Walking as (Urban) Pedagogy.” Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Symposium, University of Vermont, May.
- 2023 “Shifting Legal Frameworks and Contestation concerning Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Global South Cities.” International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), Warsaw (Online), June, Panel Chair.
- 2022 “Legal Borders and Social Boundaries: Contesting Urban Spaces for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.” Global Law & Society Association, Lisbon, July.
- 2022 “Temporal Trajectories and Spatial Shifts: Assessing the Uncertain and Ambivalent Designation of Urban Locations for Asylum Seekers in Comparative Perspective.” International Migration Research Network (IMISCOE), June.
- 2021 “Closing Buildings, Shifting Borders: Contentious Politics over Urban Relocations for Refugees and Asylum Seekers.” European Sociological Association (ESA) Barcelona (Online), September.
- 2021 “Reproducing Inequalities and Contesting Borders: Refugee Reception Offices and Social Boundaries in South African Cities.” International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM), University of Accra (Online), July.
- 2021 “Litigation, Non-Compliance, and the Limits of Judicial Institutions and National Rights: Restricting and Contesting Access to Cities and Asylum in Post-Apartheid South Africa.” NCCR – Neuchâtel Graduate Conference on Migration and Mobility, University of Neuchâtel (Online), July.
- 2021 “Refugee Reception Offices and the Limits of Class Action Litigation on behalf of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in South Africa.” Refugee Law Initiative, University of London (Online), June.
- 2021 “Contested Borders in South African Cities: Urban Refugee and Asylum Seeker Policies and Contentious Politics over Urban Space.” American Association of Geographers (Online), April.

- 2019 “Urban Politics and Refugee Reception Offices: Contesting Integration and Constructing Social Boundaries through Litigation in South African Cities.” Canadian Association for Refugee and Forced Migration Studies, York University, May. Presentation funded by the UCLA Canadian Studies Program.
- 2019 “State Borders, Urban Boundaries, and Legal Identities: The Case of Refugee Reception Offices in South African Cities” Critical Perspectives on Race and Human Rights: Transnational Re-Imaginations Symposium, UCLA School of Law, March.
- 2018 “Refugee Reception Offices and Contested Rights in South African Cities.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, Aug.
- 2018 “Closure of Refugee Reception Offices in South Africa” Faculty of Law, University of Oslo, May.
- 2018 “Contested Rights and Spaces in the City: The Case of Refugee Reception Offices in South Africa.” Centre for Civil Society, University of KwaZulu-Natal, March.
- 2018 “Urban Politics and Refugee Law: Refugee Reception Offices and Contested Residence in South African Cities” African Cities Centre, University of Cape Town.
- 2017 “Urban Politics and Refugee Law: Refugee Reception Offices and Contested Residence in South African Cities.” Scalabrini Institute for Human Mobility in Africa (SIHMA), Cape Town, Oct.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- 2021- International Migration Research Network – IMISCOE
- 2021- Law & Society Association (LSA): Citizenship & Migration section
- 2020- European Sociological Association (ESA): Urban Sociology, International Migration, and Political Sociology sections
- 2020- International Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM)
- 2013- American Sociological Association (ASA): International Migration, Law & Society, and Global & Transnational Sociology sections

FOREIGN LANGUAGES

- English – Native Language
- French – Advanced Proficiency
- Spanish – Advanced Proficiency