

# Clay Davis

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## Education

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- expected June 2026*    **Ph.D. in Sociology**, Northwestern University; Evanston, IL
- Dissertation title: “P-value politics: How meta-analysis is used to resolve conflict in hospitals, global health NGOs, and US courts”
  - Committee: Steven Epstein (*chair*), Wendy Espeland, Carol Heimer
- 2022    **M.A. in Sociology**, Northwestern University; Evanston, IL
- 2018    **B.S. in Biology and Society**, Cornell University; Ithaca, New York
- Honors thesis committee: Michael Lynch (*chair*), Christopher Roebuck, Suman Seth
  - *cum laude* with distinction in research

## Peer-reviewed Publications

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- 2025    **Davis, Clay**. “The moral force of guidelines: How surgeons use evidence-based medicine to curb their interventionism.” *Sociology of Health & Illness*. 47, 8.
- 2023    **Davis, Clay**. “The routinization of lay expertise: A diachronic account of the invention and stabilization of an open-source artificial pancreas.” *Social Studies of Science*. 54, 4: 626–652.
- Winner of the ASA Section on Knowledge and Technology Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award
  - Winner of the Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Published Paper
- 2022    Heimer, Carol, and **Clay Davis**. “Good law to fight bad bugs: Legal responses to epidemics.” *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*. 18: 1–26.
- 2020    **Davis, Clay**. “Homo adhaerens: Risk and adherence in biomedical HIV prevention research.” *Social Studies of Science*. 50, 6: 860–880.

## Book Chapters

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- Forthcoming*    **Davis, Clay**. “The knowledge politics of evidence-based global health: knowledge brokers, meta-analysis, and ‘mass deworming’ beyond the World Health Organization.” In *Handbook on Knowledge Politics*, edited by Daniel Barben, Anja Bauer, and Erik Aarden. Edward Elgar.

## Manuscripts in Progress

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- Avail. upon request*    **Davis, Clay** and Christine Percheski.\* “Unequal access to HIV PrEP in rural U.S. counties: Introducing and validating a new version of PrEP-to-need ratio (PnR) that better captures regions with sparse data.” Target journal: *SSM - Population Health*.

## Essays

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- 2020    **Davis, Clay**. “Beyond investment in research: What COVID-19 policymakers can learn from the HIV/AIDS epidemic.” *NULR Of Note*.

\* Equal co-authors.

## Invited Talks

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|------|---|--------------------------|
| 2025 | <p>“Experts in exile: How populist mistrust empowers ‘knowledge brokers’ at the margins of health governance”</p> <p><i>Science Knowledge and Technology Workshop, Columbia University</i></p> <p><i>Department of Sociology</i></p>  | New York, New York       |
| 2024 | <p>“The routinization of lay expertise: A diachronic account of the invention and stabilization of an open-source artificial pancreas”</p> <p><i>Experiential knowledge in the making: Lessons and perspectives from the DIY-AIDS movement</i></p> <p><i>Department of Philosophy, Université de Montréal</i></p> | Montréal, Québec, Canada |
| 2024 | <p>“The life cycles of health social movements: How a group of patients with type 1 diabetes routinized their lay expertise”</p> <p><i>Colloquium, Northwestern University Department of Sociology</i></p>  | Evanston, Illinois       |

## Conference Presentations

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|------|---|--------------------------|
| 2025 | <p>Discussant for “Lay Expertise: Empirical Studies of Lay Social Knowledge” workshop at Copenhagen Business School</p>   | Copenhagen, Denmark      |
| 2025 | <p>“Too close for credibility: how the epistemology of meta-analysis challenges US federal courts”</p> <p><i>Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting</i></p>   | Seattle, Washington      |
| 2025 | <p>“Knowledge brokers in the gaps of deglobalization: The P-value politics of global health beyond the World Health Organization”</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association</i></p>   | Chicago, Illinois        |
| 2025 | <p>“Platinum standard or partisan ploy? A mixed-methods study of how actors in the US federal district courts construct, codify, and contest the epistemic authority of meta-analysis”</p> <p><i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i></p> | Chicago, Illinois        |
| 2024 | <p>“Evidence-based medicine as a moral and organizational tool for surgeons”</p> <p><i>Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association</i></p>  | Montréal, Québec, Canada |
| 2023 | <p>“Meta-analysis as a tool for the global circulation of uncertainty and expertise”</p> <p><i>Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting</i></p>   | Honolulu, Hawaii         |
| 2023 | <p>“Unequal access to PrEP in rural U.S. counties: Focus on health infrastructure and population characteristics”</p> <p><i>Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science Conference</i></p>  | Baltimore, Maryland      |
| 2022 | <p>“Making expertise legitimate: ‘Biohackers’ as a morally ambiguous case for analyzing battles over expert authority”</p> <p><i>Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting</i></p>   | Cholula, Puebla; Mexico  |
| 2020 | <p>“Lay expertise in ‘knowledge commons’: How the open-source artificial pancreas community innovates ‘outside of’ IP law and regulation”</p> <p><i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i></p>  | Chicago, Illinois        |

2020	“Patient-led research: Is the open-source artificial pancreas project a new paradigm?” <i>Comparative and Historical Social Science Workshop</i>	Evanston, Illinois
2020	“Solving the problem of regulatory stagnation: the open-source artificial pancreas as a model for patient-led innovation” <i>Problem Solving Sociology Workshop</i>	Evanston, Illinois
2019	“Participant subjectivity, adherence, and risk in biomedical HIV prevention research” <i>Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting</i>	New Orleans, Louisiana

## Grants & Fellowships

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2025	Dissertation Fellowship <i>Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Northwestern University</i>	
2023	Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant <i>National Science Foundation</i>	\$25,000
2023	Anonymous Midwest University Bioethics Institute (with Wayne Rivera)	\$10,000
2020	Graduate Fellowship in Legal Studies <i>Center for Legal Studies, Northwestern University</i>	
2020	MacArthur Summer Research Grant <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	\$1,000
2020	Second-year Paper Alumni Fund Grant <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	\$400
2019	Mellon Cluster Fellowship in Science Studies <i>Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern University</i>	\$2,500
2017	Emily Murray Student Fellowship Award <i>The Hastings Center</i>	\$375

## Awards

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2025	Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award <i>Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, Northwestern University</i>
2024	Hacker-Mullins Graduate Student Paper Award <i>Section on Knowledge and Technology, American Sociological Association</i>
2024	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>
2024	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Published Paper <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>
2023	Robert F. Winch Award for Outstanding Teaching Assistant <i>Department of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>

## Teaching Experience

W '23, S '25	Science in Crisis? <i>Instructor of record</i>	5.93/6 (n=17)	† Northwestern University
F '21, W '22, F '22, W '25	Sociological Theory <i>Co-instructor with Wendy Espeland</i>	5.72/6 (n=58)	Northwestern University
F '24	Health, Biomedicine, Culture & Society <i>Teaching assistant for Santiago Molina</i>	5.60/6 (n=26)	Northwestern University
S '21	Medical Sociology <i>Teaching assistant for Carol Heimer</i>	5.79/6 (n=13)	Northwestern University
W '21	Sexuality, Technoscience, and the Law <i>Teaching assistant for Renee Shelby</i>		Northwestern University
F '20	Numbers, Identity, and Modernity <i>Co-instructor with Wendy Espeland</i>	5.62/6 (n=28)	Northwestern University

## Professional Service

—	Peer reviewer for <i>Social Studies of Science</i> and <i>American Sociological Review</i>
2023–present	Chronic Illness Alliance (Northwestern University Undergraduate Student Organization) <i>Advisor</i>
2020–2021	Doctoral Colloquium, Science in Human Culture Program <i>Coordinator</i>
2020–2021	Graduates Mentoring Undergraduates <i>Graduate Mentor</i>
2020–2021	Graduate Student Association <i>Fellowships and Grants Volunteer</i>

## References

Steven Epstein <i>Professor of Sociology and John C. Shaffer Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University</i>	<a href="mailto:s-epstein@northwestern.edu">s-epstein@northwestern.edu</a>
Wendy Espeland <i>Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	<a href="mailto:wne741@northwestern.edu">wne741@northwestern.edu</a>
Carol Heimer <i>Professor of Sociology Emerita, Northwestern University</i>	<a href="mailto:c-heimer@northwestern.edu">c-heimer@northwestern.edu</a>
Christine Percheski <i>Associate Professor of Sociology, Northwestern University</i>	<a href="mailto:c-percheski@northwestern.edu">c-percheski@northwestern.edu</a>
Ken Alder <i>Milton H. Wilson Professor in the Humanities, Northwestern University</i>	<a href="mailto:k-alder@northwestern.edu">k-alder@northwestern.edu</a>

† Each depicted score represents an aggregate of responses across evaluation questions and terms. A comprehensive record of my teaching evaluations, including qualitative feedback, is available on [my website](#).

Michael Lynch  
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University*

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