

Kelley Fong
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Irvine, 2022–

Assistant Professor, School of History and Sociology, Georgia Institute of Technology, 2020–2022

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology and Social Policy, Harvard University, 2020

Dissertation: *Essays on Child Protective Services Reporting*

A.M., Sociology, Harvard University, 2016

B.A., American Studies and History, Stanford University, 2009

Thesis: *“I Do What I Can”*: How Homeless Parents Interpret and Support Their Children’s Education

PUBLICATIONS

Articles

Fong, Kelley. 2022. “I Know How It Feels: Empathy and Reluctance to Mobilize Legal Authorities.” *Social Problems*. [[Online First](#)]

- Student Paper Award, Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity, American Sociological Association

Bullinger, Lindsey, Julia Fleckman, and **Kelley Fong**. 2021. “Proximity to SNAP-Authorized Retailers and Child Maltreatment Reports.” *Economics and Human Biology* 42:101015. [[Link](#)]

Bullinger, Lindsey and **Kelley Fong**. 2021. “Evictions and Neighborhood Child Maltreatment Reports.” *Housing Policy Debate* 31(3):490–515. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley. 2020. “Getting Eyes in the Home: Child Protective Services Investigations and State Surveillance of Family Life.” *American Sociological Review* 85(4):610–38. [[Link](#)]

- Article of the Year Award, Family Section, American Sociological Association
- Publication Award, Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Section, American Sociological Association

Darrah-Okike, Jennifer, Hope Harvey, and **Kelley Fong**. 2020. “‘Because the World Consists of Everybody’: Understanding Parents’ Preferences for Neighborhood Diversity.” *City & Community* 19(2):374–97. [[Link](#)]

Harvey, Hope, **Kelley Fong**, Kathryn Edin, and Stefanie DeLuca. 2020. “Forever Homes and Temporary Stops: Housing Search Logics and Residential Selection.” *Social Forces* 98(4):1498–1523. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley. 2019. “Concealment and Constraint: Child Protective Services Fears and Poor Mothers’ Institutional Engagement.” *Social Forces* 97(4):1785–1810. [[Link](#)]

- Candace Rogers Student Paper Award, Eastern Sociological Society

- Student Paper Award, Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems

Fong, Kelley. 2019. “Neighborhood Inequality in the Prevalence of Reported and Substantiated Child Maltreatment.” *Child Abuse & Neglect* 90:13–21. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley. 2019. “Subject to Evaluation: How Parents Assess and Mobilize Information from Social Networks in School Choice.” *Sociological Forum* 34(1):158–80. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley and Sarah Faude. 2018. “Timing is Everything: Late Registration and Stratified Access to School Choice.” *Sociology of Education* 91(3):242–62. [[Link](#)]

- Student Paper Award, Educational Problems Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems

Fong, Kelley. 2017. “Child Welfare Involvement and Contexts of Poverty: The Role of Parental Adversities, Social Networks, and Social Services.” *Children and Youth Services Review* 72:5–13. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley, Rachel A. Wright, and Christopher Wimer. 2016. “The Cost of Free Assistance: Why Low-Income Individuals Do Not Access Food Pantries.” *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* 43(1):71–93. [[Link](#)]

Other Writing

Fong, Kelley. 2022. “‘Like a Trap’: Mandatory Reporting and Dilemmas of Help-Seeking.” *Family Integrity and Justice Quarterly*.

Fong, Kelley. 2022. “Morality Infuses Ideas About Reporting Victimization to Authorities – But Not Always in the Way We Might Presume.” ASA Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity Newsletter.

Fong, Kelley. 2021. “Public Comment on Mandated Reporter Commission Report.” Written comments prepared for the Massachusetts Mandated Reporter Commission.

Fong, Kelley. 2020. “We Shouldn’t Rely on Child Protective Services To Address Family Adversity.” *The Imprint*. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley. 2020. “‘The Tool We Have’: Why Child Protective Services Investigates So Many Families and How Even Good Intentions Backfire.” Briefing paper prepared for the Council on Contemporary Families. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley. 2019. “When DCF Arrives: Intake Participants’ Perceptions and Perspectives.” Brief prepared for Connecticut Department of Children and Families.

Fong, Kelley. 2019. “Neighborhood Inequality in Reported and Substantiated Maltreatment in Connecticut.” Brief prepared for Connecticut Department of Children and Families, Division of Quality and Planning.

Fong, Kelley. 2016. “Encouraging Parental Trust and Honesty to Promote Food Security for All Children” (Letter to the Editor). *Pediatrics* 137(4). [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley. 2014. “Parents Navigating BPS Kindergarten Registration and Choice.” Brief prepared for Boston Public Schools Office of Welcome Services.

Mayer, Alexander K., Oscar Cerna, Dan Cullinan, **Kelley Fong**, Elizabeth Zachry Rutschow, and Davis Jenkins. 2014. *Moving Ahead with Institutional Change: Lessons from the First Round of Achieving the Dream Community Colleges*. New York: MDRC. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley and Mary G. Visser. 2013. *Fast Forward: A Case Study of Two Community College Programs Designed to Accelerate Students Through Developmental Math*. New York: MDRC. [[Link](#)]

AWARDS

Student Recognition of Excellence in Teaching: CIOS Honor Roll, Georgia Tech, 2022

Article of the Year Award, Family Section, American Sociological Association, 2021

Publication Award, Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2021

Faculty Excellence in Research Award, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, Georgia Tech, 2021

Student Paper Award, Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity, American Sociological Association, 2020

Student Paper Award, Educational Problems Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2017

Candace Rogers Student Paper Award, Eastern Sociological Society, 2017

Student Paper Award, Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2016

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, 2016

FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

“The Next Generation of Evidence-Based Home Visiting Services: Learning from COVID-19 Pandemic Experiences with Virtual Delivery” (\$80,000, Co-PI with Lindsey Bullinger). Research to Action Grant, Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, 2021–2022

“Challenging Motherhood: Child Protective Services and Families Facing Adversity” (\$7,500). Small Grant for Research, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, Georgia Tech, 2021

“Housing Insecurity and Child Well-Being: A National Analysis” (\$12,204, Co-PI with Lindsey Bullinger). Special Opportunity for Faculty Development Activities, Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts, Georgia Tech, 2021

Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being, 2016–2018

Julius B. Richmond Fellowship, Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, 2016–2017

“The Role of Late Registration in School Choice Inequality” (\$2,300, with Sarah Faude). Research Seed Grant, Boston Area Research Initiative, 2016

“The Spatial Dynamics of Child Welfare System Involvement” (\$3,000). Summer Predissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University, 2015

Doctoral Fellowship, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, 2014–2020

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2014–2019

“Understanding Boston Public Schools Late Registrants” (\$1,000). Graduate Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University, 2014

“How Boston Kindergarten Parents Navigate School Choice and Registration” (\$3,500). Joblessness and Urban Poverty Research Program, Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Harvard University, 2014

Presidential Scholar Fellowship, Harvard University, 2013–2020

PRESENTATIONS (* indicates invited presenter or panelist)

To Academic Audiences

*“Challenging Motherhood: Child Protective Services and Families Facing Adversity.” Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, November 2021.

“What Makes a ‘Good Mother’? Reading Risk in Child Protective Services Investigations”

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2021
- *NYU Ethnography Workshop, April 2021

*“Critical Conversations on Race: Race and the Public Side of Family Law.” University of Tennessee College of Law, October 2020.

*“Housing and Homelessness Implications for Children and Families.” Doris Duke Fellowship for the Promotion of Child Well-Being, March 2020.

“I Know How It Feels: Empathy and Child Maltreatment Non-Reporting Among Low-Income Mothers”

- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, February 2020
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2019

*“Origins and Implications of Expansive Child Protective Services Reporting.” Center on Poverty and Social Policy at Columbia University, October 2019.

“Interrogating Child Protective Services Reporting as an Institutional Response to Children’s Adversities.” Punishing Trauma Conference, Columbia University, April 2019.

“Who Knows Best? Conflicting Logics of Expertise in School Choice” (with Sarah Faude). Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2019.

“How Mandated Reporters, Agency Investigators, and Investigated Mothers Interpret Child Protective Services: Disjunctures and Implications.” Doris Duke Fellowships Mid-Year Meeting, February 2019.

“When the House Finds You: Spontaneous Opportunities in the Housing ‘Search’” (with Hope Harvey)

- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2019
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2018

“Neighborhood Inequality and the Concentration of Child Welfare Contact During Childhood.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2017.

“Child Welfare Reporting and Poor Urban Mothers’ Disengagement”

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2016
- Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 2016
- Population Association of America Annual Meeting, April 2016
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2016

“Forever Homes and No-Go Neighborhoods: How Housing Search Perceptions and Preferences Shape Neighborhood Selection” (with Hope Harvey)

- Harvard University Urban Social Processes Workshop, December 2015

“Choosing Late: Understanding the Causes and Implications of Late Registration for Boston Public Schools” (with Sarah Faude)

- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2016
- Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 2015

“With A Little Help From My Friends? Social Capital Mobilization Among Parents Choosing Schools”

- Harvard University Mixed Methods Workshop, February 2016
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, February 2015

“Child Welfare Involvement and Contexts of Poverty: The Role of Parental Adversities, Social Networks, and Social Services.” Economic Causes and Consequences of Child Maltreatment Workshop, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, August 2015.

To Policy and Practice Audiences

*“A Conversation on Mandated Reporting.” Kempe Center Conference: A Call to Action to Change Child Welfare, October 2021.

*“Transformation Points: Redesigning Child Welfare to Help Youth and Families Thrive.” The Imprint, April 2021.

*“Family Well-Being and Child Welfare Services Against the Backdrop of COVID-19.” National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics, October 2020.

“A Paradigm Shift: Using Micro and Macro Data to Disrupt Norms” (with Meg Feely and Kerri Raissian). CTData Conference 2019: Counting What Matters, New Haven, CT, November 2019.

*“How Mandated Reporters, Agency Investigators, and Investigated Mothers Interpret Child Protective Services: Disjunctures and Implications.” Action Research Partners, Brooklyn, NY, October 2019.

“Perspectives of Intake Stakeholders” (presentation to Connecticut Department of Children and Families investigative staff)

- New Haven, CT, October 2019
- Willimantic, CT, July 2019

“Low-Income Providence Mothers on DCYF Reporting and Investigations” (presentation to Child Protective Services administrators). Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Providence, RI, March 2018.

*“What They Don’t Tell You: How DCYF Concerns Inform Healthcare Interactions for Low-Income Mothers in Providence” (presentation to pediatric residents and medical students). Hasbro Children’s Hospital, Providence, RI, August 2017.

*“Racial Disparity in the Child Welfare System in Middletown.” Middlesex Coalition for Children, Middletown, CT, May 2017.

*“The Spatial Concentration of Child Maltreatment Reports in Connecticut”

- Presentation to regional office leadership, Waterbury, CT, February 2017
- Presentation to Commissioner and senior administrative team, Hartford, CT, December 2016

*“School Choice and Student Assignment.” Boston Area Research Initiative and Boston University Initiative on Cities, Boston, MA, February 2016.

“Findings from Survey of BPS Late Registrants” (presentations to Boston Public Schools Welcome Center leadership, with Sarah Faude). Boston, MA, October 2014 and October 2015.

TEACHING

Georgia Institute of Technology

Social Issues and Public Policy, Spring 2022

- Student Recognition of Excellence in Teaching: CIOS Honor Roll

Sociology of Education, Fall 2021

Seminar in Sociology: U.S. Poverty and Social Welfare Policy, Spring 2021

Harvard University

Teaching Fellow, Qualitative Social Analysis, Spring 2016

- Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning

Teaching Fellow, Poverty in America, Fall 2015

SERVICE

Reviewing and Editorial Board Service

Editorial Board, *American Sociological Review*, 2022–2025

Editorial Advisory Board, *Social Problems*, 2021–2024

Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Annals of the American Academy for Political and Social Science*, *Child & Family Social Work*, *Child Maltreatment*, *Child Welfare*, *Children & Youth Services Review*, *Housing Policy Debate*, *Journal of Children and Media*, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Race and Social Problems*, Russell Sage Foundation, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Social Service Review*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Sociological Focus*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociology of Education*, *Socius*

Conference Service

Thematic and Presidential Panel Organizer, “Racialized Bureaucracies of U.S. Family Displacement and Separation,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2022

Session Organizer, “Children and Youth,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2022

Session Organizer, “Public Policy and Child Well-Being,” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, 2022

Discussant, Bellow Scholars Program Workshop, 2021

Panel Moderator, “Family Surveillance,” Strengthened Bonds Symposium, *Columbia Journal of Race and Law*, 2021

Panel Organizer, “The Child Welfare System: Historical Developments and Contemporary Inequalities” and “The Child Welfare System: Family and Community Experiences,” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, 2020

Committee Service

Outstanding Scholarly Contribution (Book) Award Committee, Section on Children and Youth, American Sociological Association, 2022

Membership Committee, Child Well-Being Research Network, 2021–

Undergraduate Committee, School of History and Sociology, Georgia Tech, 2021–2022

Speakers Committee, School of History and Sociology, Georgia Tech, 2021–2022

Student Paper Award Committee, Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2017

Committee on Higher Degrees, Department of Sociology, Harvard University, 2014–2015

SELECTED ADDITIONAL RESEARCH, EMPLOYMENT, AND VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

Court Appointed Special Advocate, Rhode Island CASA, 2014–2019; San Francisco CASA, 2011–2013; completed Boston CASA training, 2013

Fieldworker, How Parents House Kids (PIs: Stefanie DeLuca and Kathryn Edin), 2013–2014

Research Assistant, MDRC, 2011–2013

- Contributed to multi-method research projects on community college programs and reforms

Paralegal, Children’s Rights, 2009–2011

- Provided research and litigation support for class action institutional reform lawsuits brought on behalf of children in foster care

JusticeCorps Intern, Family Law Facilitator’s Office and Landlord/Tenant Clinic, Superior Court of California, County of San Mateo, 2008–2009

- Conducted intake interviews and provided assistance in family and housing law self-help clinics