

Kelley Fong
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

Affiliations: Center for Organizational Research; Center for Population, Inequality, and Policy;
Initiative to End Family Violence

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

Book

Fong, Kelley. Forthcoming, 2023. *Investigating Families: Motherhood in the Shadow of Child Protective Services.* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. [\[Link\]](#)

Academic Articles

Edwards, Frank, **Kelley Fong**, Victoria Copeland, Mical Raz, and Alan J. Dettlaff. Forthcoming, 2023. “Administrative Burdens in Child Welfare Systems.” *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences.*

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

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

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

Bullinger, Lindsey Rose, 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, ASA Family Section
- Publication Award, ASA Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Section

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

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, SSSP Educational Problems Division

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. 2023. “ASFA Is a Dangerous Tool in an Arbitrary System.” *The Imprint*. [[Link](#)]

Fong, Kelley. 2022. “Trans Families in Texas Are Right: DFPS Investigations Inflict Trauma.” *The Dallas Morning News*. [[Link](#)]

Bullinger, Lindsey Rose, **Kelley Fong**, and Ashley Watson. 2022. “Virtual Delivery in Home Visiting: Insights from Administrative, Survey, and Focus Group Data.” Brief prepared for National SafeCare Training and Research Center. [[Link](#)]

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

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. 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. [[Link](#)]

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, ASA Family Section, 2021

Publication Award, ASA Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Section, 2021

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

Student Paper Award, ASA Section on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity, 2020

Student Paper Award, SSSP Educational Problems Division, 2017

Candace Rogers Student Paper Award, ESS, 2017

Student Paper Award, SSSP Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division, 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

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS

“‘The Tool We Have’: How Frontline Professionals Shuttle Family Adversity to Child Protective Services,” Law and Society Association Annual Meeting (LSA) 2023 (scheduled)

“Rethinking Family-School Relations: From Parents’ Involvement in Schools to Schools’ Involvement in Parenting,” Family Working Group and Stratification, Inequality and Mobility Working Group, UCLA, 2023; Education Research Section, Princeton University, 2023

“What Makes a ‘Good Mother’? Reading Risk in Child Protective Services Investigations,” Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2021; ASA 2021; NYU Ethnography Workshop, 2021

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

“I Know How It Feels: Empathy and Child Maltreatment Non-Reporting Among Low-Income Mothers,” ESS 2020 and ASA 2019

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

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

“Who Knows Best? Conflicting Logics of Expertise in School Choice” (with Sarah Faude), ESS 2019

“When the House Finds You: Spontaneous Opportunities in the Housing ‘Search’” (with Hope Harvey), ESS 2019 and ASA 2018

“Neighborhood Inequality and the Concentration of Child Welfare Contact During Childhood,” ASA 2017

“Child Welfare Reporting and Poor Urban Mothers’ Disengagement,” ASA 2016, ESS 2016, SSSP 2016, Population Association of America Annual Meeting (PAA) 2016

“Choosing Late: Understanding the Causes and Implications of Late Registration for Boston Public Schools” (with Sarah Faude), ESS 2016 and SSSP 2015

“With A Little Help From My Friends? Social Capital Mobilization Among Parents Choosing Schools,” ESS 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, 2015

COURSES TAUGHT

University of California, Irvine

Research Design (graduate)

Social Problems (undergraduate)

Georgia Institute of Technology

Social Issues and Public Policy (undergraduate)

Sociology of Education (undergraduate)

U.S. Poverty and Social Welfare Policy (undergraduate majors writing seminar)

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*, *Urban Affairs Review*

Conference, Symposium, and Workshop Service

Book Forum Panelist, *The Politics of Surviving*, ASA 2023 (scheduled)

Author Meets Reader Panelist, *Prosecuting Poverty*, *Criminalizing Care* and *Torn Apart*, LSA 2023 (scheduled)

Panelist, “What’s Next? Supporting Children, Youth, and Families in a Post-Abolition World,” Rutgers Law School, 2023 (scheduled)

Guest Presenter, “Navigating Confidentiality in Qualitative Research,” Qualitative Working Group, Rice University Department of Sociology, 2023

Thematic and Presidential Panel Organizer, “Racialized Bureaucracies of U.S. Family Displacement and Separation,” ASA 2022

Session Organizer, “Children and Youth,” ASA 2022

Panelist, First Time Attendees Orientation, ASA 2022

Session Organizer, “Public Policy and Child Well-Being,” PAA 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,” ESS 2020

Committee Service

Article of the Year Award Committee, ASA Family Section, 2023–2025

Colloquium Committee, Department of Sociology, UC Irvine, 2022–

Outstanding Scholarly Contribution (Book) Award Committee, ASA Section on Children and Youth, 2022

Membership Committee, Child Well-Being Research Network, 2021–2022

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, SSSP Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division, 2017

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

Research Presentations to Policy and Practice Audiences

“Poverty Bias” (training for attorneys and judges), Judicial Counsel of California / Children’s Law Center of California, 2023 (scheduled)

“‘The Tool We Have’: Mandated Reporters on Reporting,” Colorado Mandatory Reporter Task Force, 2023

“Supporting Child Welfare Beyond ‘Child Welfare.’” Government Performance Lab, 2023

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

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

“COVID-19 and Child Maltreatment Reporting: What Are We Missing?” (part of webinar on Family Well-Being and Child Welfare Services Against the Backdrop of COVID-19), National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics, 2020

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

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

“Perspectives of Intake Stakeholders” (two presentations to Connecticut Department of Children and Families investigative staff), 2019

“Low-Income Providence Mothers on DCYF Reporting and Investigations” (presentation to Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth, and Families administrators), 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, 2017

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

“The Spatial Concentration of Child Maltreatment Reports in Connecticut” (presentations to regional office leadership and Commissioner with senior administrative team), 2016 and 2017

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

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

Public Testimony

Written testimony to the New York State Assembly Standing Committee on Children and Families, Assembly Subcommittee on Foster Care, 2023

Written comments to the California State Senate Human Services Committee on Senate Bill 578, 2023

Written comments and oral testimony to the California State Assembly Committee on Public Safety on Assembly Bill 2085, 2022

Written comments and oral testimony to the Massachusetts Mandated Reporter Commission, 2021

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

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