

b.1979 / citizenship USA and Sweden / lives in Malmö

Education

Yale University

Ph.D., Sociology. Title: *Art Work? Tradition, Rationalization, and the Valuation of Contemporary Artistic Practice*. Supervisor: Julia Adams. Committee: Frederick Wherry, Amy Wrzesniewski, Rene Almeling. Degree awarded December 13, 2014
M.A. (2010), M.Phil. (2011)

Malmö Art Academy, Lund University

Critical Studies (2005)

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities

B.F.A., Studio Art (2002)

B.A., Psychology (1999)

Academic Employment

2019- Senior lecturer (universitetslektor, vik), Department of Sociology, Lund University

2017-19 Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Sociology, Lund University, Sweden

2017 Visiting Researcher, Department of Sociology, Uppsala University, Uppsala
Lecturer, Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnæus University, Växjö

2015-17 Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden

2014-15 Coordinator, Mellon Forum at Calhoun College, Yale University

2014 Visiting Lecturer, Linnaeus University, Växjö, Sweden

Publications

Monograph

Gerber, Alison. 2017. *The Work of Art: Value in Creative Careers*. Stanford University Press.

Refereed articles

Gerber, Alison. Forthcoming 2019 (in press). “Black Hole Suns: Binarism and Gravity in Cultural Fields.” *Culture Unbound*.

Gerber, Alison and Clayton Childress. 2017. “The Economic World Obverse: Freedom Through Markets After Arts Education.” *American Behavioral Scientist* 61(12): 1532–1554.

Gerber, Alison and Clayton Childress. 2017. “I Don’t Make Objects, I Make Projects: Selling Things and Selling Selves in Contemporary Artmaking.” *Cultural Sociology* 11(2):234-254.

*Nominated for the Sage Prize for Innovation and Excellence.

Childress, Clayton and Alison Gerber. 2015. “What’s a Creative Writing MFA For?: The Uses of a ‘Useless’ Credential in the U.S. Literary Field.” *Professions and Professionalism* 5(2).

Klett, Joseph, and Alison Gerber. 2014. "The Meaning of Indeterminacy: Noise Music as Performance." *Cultural Sociology* 8(3):275-290. *Nominated for the Sage Prize for Innovation and Excellence.

Other publications

Gerber, Alison. 2019. Review of Gary Alan Fine, *Talking Art: The Culture of Practice and the Practice of Culture in MFA Education*. *Contemporary Sociology* 48(6):657-60.

Gerber, Alison. 2017. "Newspaper Refuses To Give An Artist Credit For Her Work." *Hyperallergic*.

Gerber, Alison. 2015. Review of Pierre-Michel Menger, *The Economics of Creativity: Art and Achievement Under Uncertainty*. *Organization Studies* 36(8):1115-1117.

Gerber, Alison. 2015. "Our Common Field Is Practice." *Temporary Art Review*.

Gerber, Alison. 2014. "The Audit of Venus." *Berkeley Journal of Sociology* 58(1).

Gerber, Alison. 2014. "Bad Art Is Good For Us All." *The Enemy* 1(3).

Gerber, Alison. 2014. "Archiving Exchange, Mapping Value." *Art Practical* 5(4).

Gerber, Alison. 2014. "The Tax Collectors vs. the Artists." *Minneapolis Star Tribune* April 3, A13.

Gerber, Alison and Matthias Revers. 2012. "The Library of Affecting Social Science." *Contexts* 11(1):76-77.

Teaching Experience

Total teaching hours through November 2019: 2,240 (648 at Lund University, 856 at Uppsala University, and 736 at Yale University)

Supervisor, Ph.D. candidate Juliane Zelwies, UiT / The Arctic University of Norway Academy of Fine Arts (2017-present)

2019

- *Qualitative Analysis and Coding Using Software*. Graduate School, Lund University. 7.5HP. New course development, lecturer, seminar leader, and examination in a course for MA and PhD students on qualitative data analysis and Nvivo.
- *Planeringens förutsättningar - introduktion till sociologi* (Preconditions for Planning - introduction to sociology). Department of Sociology, Lund University. 7.5HP. Course leader, course development, lecturer, seminar leader, and examination for an upper-level course on sociology for social planning BA students.
- Supervision (handledning), 1 student, BA thesis in criminology, Lund University.
- *Sociology: Managing Sustainability, Society and Collective Behaviour*. Department of Sociology, Lund University. 30HP. Course development, lecturer, seminar leader, and examination for a module on qualitative research methods.
- *The Sociology of Human Development*. Department of Sociology, Lund University. Department of Sociology, Lund University. 30HP. Course development, lecturer, seminar leader, and examination for a module on qualitative research methods.
- *Socialpsykologi* (Social psychology). Department of Sociology, Lund University. 30HP. Lecturer, seminar leader, and examination.

2018

- *Planeringens förutsättningar - introduktion till sociologi* (Preconditions for Planning - introduction to sociology). Department of Sociology, Lund University. 7.5HP. Lecturer, seminar leader, and examination for an upper-level course on sociology for social planning BA students.
- Supervision (handledning), 5 students, BA thesis in Sociology, Lund University.
- Guest lecturer, Design + Change and Visual Communication + Change programs, Linnæus University. Lectures on writing and social research methods.
- *Sociology: Managing Sustainability, Society and Collective Behaviour*. Department of Sociology, Lund University. 30HP. Lecturer and seminar leader.
- *The Sociology of Human Development*. Department of Sociology, Lund University. 30HP. Lecturer and seminar leader.
- *Socialpsykologi* (Social psychology). Department of Sociology, Lund University. 30HP. Lecturer, seminar leader, and examination.

2017

- *Introduction to the Social Analysis of Economic Life*. Department of Sociology, Uppsala University. 15HP. Course leader, lecturer, seminar leader, and examination for a course on interdisciplinary social science research methods for master's students.
- *Writing Practice*. Oslo National Academy of the Arts. 5HP. Course development and teacher for a workshop-based course in research and writing for master's students.
- *Nordic Workshops in Cultural Sociology*, Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnæus University. 7.5HP. New course development, course leader, lecturer, and seminar leader for a master's level course in cultural sociology. Distance learning.
- *Skolframgång i det mångkulturella samhället* (School Success in a Multicultural Society). Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnæus University. 7.5HP. Lecturer and seminar leader for an upper-level course on migration, diversity, segregation, and school success. Distance learning.
- *Metod och analys / Samhällsgeografisk metod* (Method and Analysis). Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. 7.5HP. Course leader, course development, lecturer, seminar leader, and examination for a course on research methods for cultural geography and city planning BA students.
- *Masteruppsats i kulturgeografi* (Master's thesis course in cultural geography). Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. 30HP. Course leader, lecturer, seminar leader, and examiner for a thesis course.

2016

- *Introduction to the Social Analysis of Economic Life*. Department of Sociology, Uppsala University. 15HP. Course leader, course development, lecturer, seminar leader, and examination for a course on interdisciplinary social science research methods for master's students.
- *Marknadsföring och organization 1* (Marketing and Organization). Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University. 30HP. Lecturer, seminar leader, and examination in a course for first-year economics BA students.
- *Ekonomisk geografi* (Economic Geography). Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. 15HP. Lecturer and seminar leader.
- *Writing Practice*. Oslo National Academy of the Arts. 5HP. New course development, lecturer, and workshop leader for a course in research and writing for master's students.
- Outside reader for PhD Theses. Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. Theses: Su-Hyun Berg, Chiara Valli.

2015

- *Introduction to the Social Analysis of Economic Life*. Department of Sociology, Uppsala University. 15HP. New course development, course leader, lecturer, seminar leader, and examination for a course on interdisciplinary social science research methods for master's students.
- *Marknadsföring och organization I* (Marketing and Organization). Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University. Lecturer, seminar leader, and examination in a course for first-year economics BA students.
- *Ekonomisk geografi* (Economic Geography). Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. Lecturer and seminar leader.

2014

- *The Evolution of Beauty*. Served as a Teaching Fellow with Richard Prum, Yale University, leading two sections. An introductory interdisciplinary course on evolution, aesthetics, and beauty.
- *Health of the Public*. Served as a Teaching Fellow with Nicholas Christakis, Yale University, leading two sections. An introductory interdisciplinary course on medicine, public health, and networks.

2012

- *Foundations of Modern Theory*. Served as a Teaching Fellow with Sadia Saeed, Yale University, leading a section. An introductory course on social theory.

2011

- *Sex and Gender in Society*. Served as a Teaching Fellow with Rene Almeling, Yale University, leading a section. An introductory course on the sociology of sex and gender with an emphasis on biology and medicine.
- *Arts and Popular Culture*. Served as a Teaching Fellow with Ron Eyerman, Yale University. An upper-division seminar on the sociology of arts and popular culture.

2010

- *Foundations of Modern Theory*. Served as a Teaching Fellow with Emily Erikson, Yale University, leading a section. An introductory course on social theory.

Training in Pedagogy

2018

- Course design in higher education (4.5HP/3 weeks). Division for Higher Education Development, Lund University. Continuing professional education on course leadership and new course development.

2008-2012

- Training through Yale's Center for Teaching and Learning, including their core curriculum and advanced workshops.
 - o Fundamentals of Teaching Social and Political Science
 - o Workshops: The diverse classroom; Advanced discussion techniques; Promoting students' respectful conduct; Teaching students with different learning styles and levels of preparation; Preparing and delivering a lecture; Course design; Teaching controversial subjects; Core competencies: How people learn

Conference Presentations (refereed)

- 2019: "Images, Evidence, and the Arts of Attention". American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York; Society for Social Studies of Science Annual Meeting, New Orleans.
- 2018: "Teaching and Learning the Swedish Body: The Smell of Others in the Civilizing Institution". Swedish Sociology Association Biennial Meeting, Lund.

- “Art Markets? Binary Distinctions and Valuation Beyond Market Value”. Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore.
- “Money-grubbers & Sunday Painters: Binary social thought in an economic world obverse”. European Sociological Association Midterm Conference of the Research Networks for Sociology of the Arts & Sociology of Culture, Malta.
- 2017: “The Field in Three Dimensions: Caricature in Cultural Fields”. Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Montreal.
- “Terra Pericolosa: Dualism and beyond in occupational legitimacy.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal.
- “There Be Monsters: Valuation and occupational boundaries.” Fellow Travelers on Different Roads: The Intersections of Economic Sociology and Organizations, Occupations, and Work, Montreal.
- 2016 “Selling Things and Selling Selves in Contemporary Artmaking.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle.
- “The Smell of Others: Landscapes of olfaction in the Nordic countries.” Swedish Sociology Association Biennial Meeting, Uppsala.
- 2015 “Freedom From and Through Markets: Creative autonomy and financial stability in American literary and visual arts practice.” With Clayton Childress. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago; European Group on Organizational Studies Annual Colloquium, Athens, Greece; Fourth European Colloquium on Culture, Creativity, and Economy, Florence, Italy; The Art Market in a Global Perspective, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.
- “When I say time for myself, I mean time for my work: Occupational commitment in the arts.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York.
- 2014 “Commensuration and Decommensuration in Artistic Practice.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Toronto.
- “Tradition, Rationalization, and Worth: A Theory of Decommensuration.” Junior Theorists Symposium, Berkeley.
- “Making Cents and Nonsense of Art: The Beard.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.
- “Making Cents and Nonsense of Art.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore.
- 2013 “Priceless: Commensuration and decommensuration at work.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.
- “I don’t make objects, I make projects: Value and valuation in contemporary artmaking.” Nordic Conference on Cultural Policy Research, University of Copenhagen and Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2012 “Market and Professional Logics in the Visual Arts”. Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Vancouver.
- “Art Work? Employment, Markets, and Valuation in the Visual Arts”. Conference of the European Research Network Sociology of the Arts, Vienna.
- 2011 “Agency and the Meaning of Work.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas.
- 2010 “I’m Working: Agency and the Meaning of Work.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting.
- “Public Is Everyone Else.” International Sociological Association World Congress.
- 2009 “Sketching a New Profession.” Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Long Beach, CA.
- “Domestic Civility: Locating Private Political Action.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.

Selected Invited Presentations, Workshops, and Seminars

- 2019 Tromso Academy of Contemporary Art at UiT the Arctic University of Norway (lecture)
- 2018 *Creativity in Art and Science: Genius, Collaborative Processes and Networks*
Symposium, Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies (presentation)
Visual Social Sciences and Digital Media Politics conference, Centre for
Anthropological, Political and Social Theory, University of Copenhagen (presentation)
- 2017 INRS / National Institute of Scientific Research, Montreal (author meets critics)
University of Toronto Department of Sociology (seminar)
Yale University Department of Sociology (seminar)
University of Virginia Department of Sociology (seminar)
Eastern Sociological Association Annual Meeting (author meets critics)
Galleri Signal, Malmo (lecture)
Oslo National Academy of the Arts (lecture)
- 2016 Stockholm University Department of Sociology (seminar)
Uppsala University Department of Business Studies (seminar)
Oslo National Academy of the Arts (lecture)
May Meaning Meeting, Yale University (presentation)
CHARGE: Artist Sustainability & Compensation, Art League Houston (lecture and
workshop)
- 2015 *Hand-In-Glove*, Common Field's national convening for the field of alternative art
spaces, artist-led projects and artists' organizations, Minneapolis (lecture)
- 2014 *Valuing Labor in the Arts*, Arts Research Center, University of California – Berkeley
(lecture)
CHARGE: Artist Sustainability & Compensation, Art League Houston (lecture)
Harvard University Culture and Social Analysis Workshop (seminar)
Workshop on Social Value, Boston University (presentation)
- 2013 Stockholm University Department of Sociology (seminar)
University of Chicago Cultural Policy Center (lecture)
Northwestern University Department of Sociology (seminar)
Linnaeus University Center for Cultural Sociology (seminar)
Lund University Department of Sociology Cultural Space (seminar)
Experience the Creative Economy, Martin Prosperity Institute, Rotman School of
Management, University of Toronto, Canada (presentation)
Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York (lecture)
May Meaning Meeting, University of Michigan (presentation)
- 2012 Summer Institute in New Economics, Boston College, Boston (presentation)
May Meaning Meeting, Yale University (presentation)
- 2010 Konstanzer Meisterklasse, University of Konstanz, Germany (presentation)

Scientific leadership and service

Organization of scientific meetings and service to associations

- 2020 Co-organizer of the working group on cultural sociology's panels at Sociologidagarna,
the Swedish Sociological Association's biennial conference
- 2019 Co-organizer of an international cross-disciplinary conference (*Photography and / as
knowledge*), two exhibitions (*Pierre Bourdieu In Algeria: Testimonies of Uprooting* and
Richard Barlow's *Erebus*), and five evening seminars for the general public (*Krig och
social omvandling; Socialt arv och ungdomars kulturengagemang; Eliterna; Kvinnor,
fotografi & arkivet; En skola i kris?*). Lund University and Landskrona Foto, Sweden

- 2018-present: Co-convenor of the research environment *Cultural Space*, Department of Sociology, Lund University. Weekly workshop with and for local researchers and invited guests.
- 2018 Organizer and convenor of a two-day international cross-disciplinary workshop (*The Photograph and Scientific Practice*) at the Pufendorf Institute for Advanced Studies, Lund University, Sweden
 Roundtable organizer, Theory section, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting
 Co-organizer of the working group on cultural sociology's panels at Sociologidagarna, the Swedish Sociological Association's biennial conference
- 2017 Co-organizer of roundtables, Economic Sociology section, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting
- 2016 Co-organizer and co-convenor of a two-day international workshop (*Making it Matter: publics and practitioners in cultural research on the arts*) at Linnæus University, Sweden
 Co-organizer of the working group on cultural sociology's panels at Sociologidagarna, the Swedish Sociological Association's biennial conference
- 2014 Co-organizer of a two-day miniconference (*Invisible Work in Visible Work*) at the Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting
- 2012-present: Co-convenor, Work/Culture research network
- 2011-12 Elected graduate student member of the council, Section on Sociology of Culture, American Sociological Association
- 2011 Organized panel for the Social Science History Association's annual meeting

Reviewing activities

- 2020 Serving on the American Sociological Association's Economic Sociology Section award committee for the Granovetter Award for Best Article in Economic Sociology.
- 2019-present Moderator for SocArXiv preprints, the free, non-profit, open access social sciences archive for working papers, preprints, published papers, data, and code.
- 2019 Served on the American Sociological Association's Culture Section award committee for the Richard Peterson Prize, the section's highest honor for graduate students.
- 2016 Evaluation of grant applications for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada.
- 2015-present Regular reviewer for *American Behavioral Scientist*, *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Cultural Sociology*, *Culture Unbound*, *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, *Organization Science*, *Poetics*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Social Psychology Quarterly*, *Socio-Economic Review*, and *Valuation Studies*.
 Book manuscript reviewer for Columbia University Press.

Community engagement and community collaborations

- 2017-present: Head of research for the *Rädda Bildarvet* project, a two-year collaboration between the city of Landskrona, Sweden (home of photography center Landskrona Foto) and the Department of Sociology at Lund University. With a perspective concerned with value and valuation, the project investigated processes behind the collection, preservation, and uses of images. Institutional partners included the Swedish National Archives and Malmö Museums.
- 2016 Presenter and participant at CHARGE: Artists' Sustainability & Compensation convening, Houston, Texas.

- 2015 Presenter and participant in Hand-in-Glove, Common Field's national convening for the field of alternative art spaces, artist-led projects and artists' organizations.
- 2014 Presenter and participant at CHARGE: Artists' Sustainability & Compensation convening, Houston, Texas.
Invited participant, WAGE Summit, Working Artists and the Greater Economy, New York.

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships (as applicant / PI)

- 2019 Riksbankens Jubileumsfond Research Initiation grant
Travel and research grants from Stiftelsen Malmö stads jubileumsfond and the Knut and Alice Wallenbergs stiftelse, Lund University
- 2016 Workshop grant, Advanced Cultural Studies Institute of Sweden (with Anna Lund)
Residency at Bergmangårdarna, Uppsala University and the Bergman Estate
- 2013 Yale Center for Cultural Sociology research grant
- 2012 Watson Fellowship, Yale University
John F. Enders Fellowship, Yale University
Social Science History Association Rockefeller Travel Award
Yale Graduate Student Assembly Conference Travel Fellowship
Yale Center for Cultural Sociology research grant
Davis Fund grant, Yale Sociology Department
- 2009 Social Science History Association Rockefeller Travel Award
George M. Camp research grant, Department of Sociology, Yale University
- 2008-2010 Sterling Fellowship, Yale University
- 2008-2013 Doctoral Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University

References

Julia Adams
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julia.adams@yale.edu

Frederick Wherry
Professor of Sociology, Princeton University
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Amy Wrzesniewski
Professor of Organizational Behavior, Yale University
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Dominic Power
Professor of Human Geography, Stockholm University
dominic.power@su.se

Anna Lund
Associate Professor, Department of Child and Youth Studies, Stockholm University
anna.lund@buv.su.se

Peeter Maandi

Senior Lecturer and Director of Studies, Department of Social and Economic Geography,
Uppsala University
peeter.maandi@kultgeog.uu.se

Jan-Olof Nilsson
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jan-olof.nilsson@soc.lu.se