

Alison Gerber

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

Education

Yale University

Ph.D., Sociology (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

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

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

Research and Teaching Interests

Economic Sociology; Culture; Sociological Theory; Qualitative Methods; Sociology of the Arts and Popular Culture; Work and Organizations

Publications

Book

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

Refereed articles

Gerber, Alison and Clayton Childress. 2017 (forthcoming). "The Economic World Obverse: Freedom Through Markets After Arts Education." *American Behavioral Scientist*.

Gerber, Alison and Clayton Childress. 2017 (forthcoming). "I Don't Make Objects, I Make Projects: Selling Things and Selling Selves in Contemporary Artmaking." *Cultural Sociology*.

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. 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.

Gerber, Alison. 2011. "Real, Not-Real." Pp. 66-71 in *Private Investigations: Paths of Critical Knowledge Production in Contemporary Art*. Büchs'n'Books, Künstlerhaus Büchsenhausen, ed. Andrei Siclodi.

Gerber, Alison. 2006. "Objects and Facts." Pp. 58-59 in *Cabinet of Curiosities: A Meditation on the University in an Installation by Mark Dion*. University of Minnesota Press, ed. Colleen Sheehy.

Teaching Experience

Total contact hours: 356 (172 at Uppsala University, 184 at Yale University)

2017 Metod och analys / Samhällsgeografisk metod (Method and Analysis). Department of social and economic geography, Uppsala University. 7.5HP. Course leader and teacher 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, teacher, and examiner for a thesis course.

2016 Introduction to the Social Analysis of Economic Life, Department of sociology, Uppsala University. 15HP. Course leader and teacher for a course on interdisciplinary social science research methods for master's students.

Marknadsföring och organization 1 (Marketing and Organizations), Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University. 30HP. Teacher and seminar leader in a course for first-year economics BA students.

Ekonomisk geografi (Economic Geography), Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. 15HP. Teacher and seminar leader in an undergraduate course.

Writing Practice, Oslo National Academy of the Arts. 5HP. New course development and teacher for a workshop-based course in research and writing for master's students.

Reading Group (läsgrupp) for PhD Theses: Su-Hyun Berg, Chiara Valli

- 2015 Introduction to the Social Analysis of Economic Life, Uppsala University. New course development, course leader, and teacher for a course on interdisciplinary social science research methods for master's students.

Marknadsföring och organization 1 (Marketing and Organizations), Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University. Teacher and seminar leader in a course for first-year economics BA students.

Ekonomisk geografi (Economic Geography), Department of Social and Economic Geography, Uppsala University. Teacher and seminar leader in an undergraduate course.

- 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.

- 2008 Staged Photography. Led an introductory course on photography. Ölands Konstskola/Ölands folkhögskola, Skogsby, Sweden.

- 2003 Mimesis and Sound Art. Led a course on sound, installation, and lens-based media. Trondheim Academy of Fine Art, Trondheim, Norway.

- 2000 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Photography. Served as a Teaching Assistant with Martin Springborg, University of Minnesota. An introductory course on photography and black-and-white darkroom.

Conference Presentations (refereed)

- 2016 “Selling Things and Selling Selves in Contemporary Artmaking.” American Sociology 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.” 6th Nordic Conference on Cultural Policy Research, University of Copenhagen and Copenhagen Business School, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 2012 “Market and Professional Logics in the Visual Arts”. 37th Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, Vancouver.
“Art Work? Employment, Markets, and Valuation in the Visual Arts”. 7th 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.” Power and Politics, 35th Annual Meeting, Social Science History Association.
“Public Is Everyone Else.” Sociology on the Move, 17th International Sociological Association World Congress.
- 2009 “Sketching a New Profession.” Agency and Action, 34th Annual Meeting, Social Science History Association. Long Beach, CA.
“Domestic Civility: Locating Private Political Action.” American Sociological Association 104th Annual Meeting. San Francisco.

Selected Invited Presentations, Workshops, and Seminars

- 2016 “The Smell of Others: Valued fragrances and devalued odors in a multicultural Context.” Department of Sociology, Stockholm University.

- “Art Work: Worth, value, and artistic practice.” Oslo National Academy of the Arts.
 “The Smell of Others.” Presentation at May Meaning Meeting, Yale University.
 “Tradition, Rationalization, and Worth: Conflict over the value of artistic practice.”
 O-Forum, Department of Business Studies, Uppsala University.
 “Deal or No Deal.” Presentation at CHARGE, Art League Houston.
- 2015 “Art Works?” Presentation at Hand-In-Glove, Common Field’s national convening
 for the field of alternative art spaces, artist-led projects and artists' organizations,
 Minneapolis.
- 2014 Seminar at the Culture and Social Analysis Workshop, Harvard University.
 “At Any Cost: Economics, Politics, and Value”. Presentation at CHARGE: Artist
 Sustainability & Compensation, Art League Houston.
 “Art Work? Making Cents and Nonsense of Art.” Presentation at Valuing Labor in the
 Arts, Arts Research Center, University of California – Berkeley.
 Workshop on Social Value at Boston University.
 Presentation at Invisible Work in Visible Work, Work/Culture 2.1, Baltimore.
 Workshop at the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University.
- 2013 Seminar with the Convaluation group at Stockholm University / Uppsala University.
 Seminar at the Cultural Policy Center at the University of Chicago.
 Presentation at May Meaning Meeting, University of Michigan.
 Workshop at Work/Culture 2.0, Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture, University
 of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.
 Seminar at the Department of Sociology, Northwestern University.
 Seminar at Center for Cultural Sociology, Linnaeus University, Sweden.
 Seminar at Cultural Space, Department of Sociology, Lund University, Sweden.
 Workshop at Work/Culture 1.1 at the Carroll School of Management, Boston College,
 Boston.
 Presentation at Experience the Creative Economy, Martin Prosperity Institute,
 Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada.
 Workshop at Work/Culture 1.0 at the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University.
 Presentation at Cultural Analysis of Complex Phenomena, the Center for Cultural
 Sociology, Yale University.
 “Goodbye Object, Hello Project”. Presentation at Lisa Cooley Gallery, New York.
 Workshop at the Comparative Research Workshop, Yale University.
 Comment on Claudio Benzecry’s “An Opera House for the ‘Paris of South America.’:
 A framework for the study of the pathways to high culture institutionalization” at the
 Comparative Research Workshop, Yale University.
- 2012 Workshop at Summer Institute in New Economics, Boston College, Boston.
 Presentation at May Meaning Meeting, Yale University.
 Workshop at the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University.
- 2010 Presentation at Clash of Cultures?, Konstanzer Meisterklasse, University of Konstanz,
 Germany.
 Comment on Krishnendu Ray’s “Dreams of Pakistani Grill and Vada Pao in
 Manhattan: Re-inscribing the Immigrant in Metropolitan Discussions of Taste” at
 Agrarian Studies Colloquium, Yale University.
 Workshop at the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University.
- 2009 Workshop at the Comparative Research Workshop, Yale University.
 Comment on Rodney Benson’s “Does Field Theory Help Explain Omnibus Media
 Cultural Production? A comparison of French and U.S. television news framing of
 immigration” at the Comparative Research Workshop, Yale University.

Service

Reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *Cultural Sociology*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Organization Science*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *Valuation Studies*

Evaluation of grant applications for the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

2017: Co-organizer of roundtables with Emily Barman, Economic Sociology section, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

2016: Together with Anna Lund organized and led workshop “Making it Matter: publics and practitioners in cultural research on the arts”, international research workshop at Linnéuniversitetet.

2012-present: Co-convener with Joseph Klett, Work/Culture research network

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

2016 Workshop grant for “Making it Matter: publics and practitioners in cultural research on the arts,” 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

Professor of Sociology & International and Area Studies

Head of College, Calhoun College, Yale University

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Frederick Wherry

Professor of Sociology, Yale University

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Amy Wrzesniewski

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Rene Almeling
Associate Professor of Sociology, Yale University
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Dominic Power
Professor of Human Geography, Stockholm University
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Anna Lund
Associate Professor, Department of Cultural Sciences, Linnaeus University
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