

# Cody R. Melcher

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Assistant Professor of Sociology, Loyola University New Orleans

6363 St. Charles Ave · 241 Monroe Hall · New Orleans, LA 70118

✉ [crmelche@loyno.edu](mailto:crmelche@loyno.edu)  [orcid.org/0000-0003-3952-6600](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3952-6600) | Updated: Nov. 19, 2025

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## Academic Appointments

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY—NEW ORLEANS, LA

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, 2022-present

LOYOLA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW—NEW ORLEANS, LA

Workplace Justice Project (WJP)

Stuart H. Smith Law Clinic & Center for Social Justice

Research Associate, 2022-2025

## Education

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK—NEW YORK, NY

*Ph.D.*, Sociology, 2022

THE GRADUATE CENTER, CITY UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK—NEW YORK, NY

*M.Phil.*, Sociology, 2021

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY—DETROIT, MI

*M.A.*, Political Science, 2018

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN—ANN ARBOR, MI

*B.A.*, Political Science, 2013

## Research Interests

The intersection of race and class; economic insecurity; public opinion; quantitative methods; experimental designs; labor history; US South

## Awards

JON T. ALTSCHUL AWARD FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (2024-2025)

Loyola University New Orleans

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD IN ADVISING (2024)

Loyola University College of Arts and Sciences

FACULTY EXCELLENCE AWARD IN TEACHING (2023)

Loyola University College of Arts and Sciences

## Book

**Melcher**, Cody R., Esther Cyna, & Olivier Maheo (eds.). *Class, Race, and the US South: American Politics and Society through the Lens of Michael Goldfield's Work*.

**Hardcover**: (2026) Leiden: Brill. ISBN: 978-90-04-74764-7.

**Paperback**: (2027) Chicago: Haymarket Press.

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

- (13) **Melcher**, Cody R., Joseph van der Naald, Christopher E. Torres, and Spencer C. Lindsay. 2025. "Class, the Welfare State, and Redistributive Attitudes: A Methodological Intervention." *The Social Science Journal*.
- (12) Lindsay, Spencer C. and Cody R. **Melcher**. 2025. "Investigating the Origins of Status Threat Among White Americans." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 88(4): 1283-1295.
- (11) **Melcher**, Cody R. and Spencer C. Lindsay. 2025. "What Do American Socialists Really Believe? Polarization, Ideology, and the Problem of Socialist Identifiers." *Critical Sociology* 51(7-8): 1369-1382.  
Results discussed in *Initium Media*, one of the largest Chinese language news outlets in Singapore.
- (10) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2024. "Black Lives Matter and the Changing Sociological Canon: An Analysis of Syllabi from 2012 to 2023." *Teaching Sociology* 52(4): 377-384.
- (9) **Melcher**, Cody R., and Joseph van der Naald. 2024. "The Centrality of the Workplace and Class Consciousness in the US South: The New Orleans Community Studies." *Journal of Labor and Society* 28(2):254-274 .
- (8) **Melcher**, Cody R. and Michael Goldfield. 2024. "Gérer les affaires de la bourgeoisie à part entière : L'état américain, la législation progressiste et le New Deal" ["Managing the Common Affairs of the Whole Bourgeoisie: The American State, Progressive Legislation, and the New Deal"]. *Mouvement ouvrier, luttes de classes et révolutions – Revue d'histoire (MOLCER Revue)* Issue 8: 30-38. Translated into French by Donna Kesselman.
- (7) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2023. "Race Scholars Denied Syllabus." *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*. Washington D.C.: American Sociological Association.  
Also featured in *Teaching Sociology* 2024, Vol. 52(1): 103-105.
- (6) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2023. "Economic Insecurity and the Racial Attitudes of White Americans." *American Politics Research* 51(3): 343-356.
- (5) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2023. "Economic Self-Interest and Americans' Redistributive, Class, and Racial Attitudes: The Case of Economic Insecurity." *Political Behavior* 45: 175-196.
- (4) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2021. "The Political Economy of 'White Identity Politics': Economic Self-Interest and Perceptions of Immigration." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 44.2: 293-313.
- (3) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2021. "Who's Afraid of 1619?: Pedagogy, Race, and Class in the United States." *Dialectical Anthropology* 45.2: 183-189.
- (2) **Melcher**, Cody R. 2020. "First as Tragedy, Then as Farce: W.E.B. Du Bois, Left-Wing Radicalism, and the Problem of Interracial Labor Unionism." *Critical Sociology* 46.7-8: 1041-1055.
- (1) Goldfield, Michael & Cody R. **Melcher**. 2019. "The Myth of Section 7(a): Worker Militancy, Progressive Labor Legislation, and the Coal Miners." *Labor: Studies in Working-Class History* 16.4: 49-65.

## Book Chapters

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2025. "White Supremacy as a Decommmodification Strategy." In Cody R. Melcher, Olivier Maheo, and Esther Cyna (eds.) *Class, Race, and the US South: American Politics and Society through the Lens of Michael Goldfield's Work* (Leiden: Brill).

**Melcher**, Cody R. *forthcoming*. "Race, Racism, and Economic Insecurity in the United States." In Michael A. Long, Andrew S. Fullerton, Rachel M. Schmitz, and Kelley J. Sittner (eds.) *Handbook on Insecurity and Society* (London: Edward Elgar).

## Encyclopedia Entries

**Melcher**, Cody R. & Michael Goldfield. 2019. "The Failure of Labor Unionism in the US South." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of American History*.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2026. "Race vs. Class Debates." *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, forthcoming (accepted summer 2025).

## Popular Press Publications

Asterik (\*) denotes a student co-author.

**Melcher**, Cody R. and Joseph van der Naald. 2025. "The South is Unorganized, Not Backward." *Jacobin Magazine*.

**Melcher**, Cody R., C.K. Seymour,\* Joseph van der Naald. 2024. "The Forgotten Career of Jim Crow: On the Origins of White Supremacy." *Spectre Journal*.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2024. "The Shadow of Hunger: W.E.B. Du Bois, White Supremacy, and the Possibility of Interracial Class Politics." *Spectre Journal*, Issue 10: 72-81.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2024. "Canary in the Coal Mine: Mass Incarceration in Louisiana." *Spectre Journal*.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2023. "Father Louis Twomey and the Fight for Labor and Civil Rights at Loyola." *JustSouth Monthly* No. 130.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2022. "The Contemporary Relevance of Catholic Labor Radicalism." *Jacobin Magazine*.

Also published at *Portside*.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2022. "What Do Socialists Actually Believe?" *Jacobin Magazine*.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2021. "'Southernism or Socialism—Which?': White Supremacy and Labor's Failure." *Against the Current*. No. 211: 34-36.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2021. "The Wages of Whiteness or White Fragility? W.E.B. Du Bois and the Enduring Problem of Interracial Unionism." *American Sociological Association Marxist Sociology Blog*.

Goldfield, Michael & Cody R. **Melcher**. 2021. "Moments of Rupture: The 1930s and the Great Depression." *Convergence Magazine*.

Also published at *Portside*.

Goldfield, Michael & Cody R. **Melcher**. 2020. "American Exceptionalism or the Trump Aberration? Race and Class in American Politics." *Left Voice*.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2019. "Progressive Illusions, Radical Promises: The Working Class and the State." *Left Voice*.

## Book Reviews

**Melcher**, Cody R. & Michael Goldfield. 2018. "Review of Rights Delayed: The American State and the Defeat of Progressive Unions, 1935-1950." *Journal of Labor and Society* 21(2): 265-268.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2017. "Review of Uninformed: Why People Know so Little about Politics and What We Can do about It." *Journal of Political Science Education* 13(3): 370-372.

## Research Grants Awarded

Workplace Justice Project

"Creating a Roadmap for a More Equitable New Orleans:  
Finding Economic Security" (2022-present) Amount: \$18,000

Multidisciplinary Enhancement of Geospatial Tools for GIS, Mapping and Data Visualization  
at Loyola University New Orleans  
Co-Principal Investigator (2022-2023) Amount: \$101,573

Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality  
"Survey Experiment Research Grant" (2022) Amount: \$3,000

PSC-CUNY Research Grant 63139-00 51:  
"Economic Insecurity and Social and Political Attitudes" (2021) Amount: \$3,500

Early Research Initiative (ERI) Catalyst Grant:  
"Economic Insecurity Survey Experiment" (2020) Amount: \$2,000

## Teaching Experience

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT LOYOLA AT RAYBURN (LO-RAY; RAYBURN CORRECTIONAL  
CENTER, ANGIE, LOUISIANA)

*SOCI-A335*: Research Methods and Techniques: Spring 2024; Spring 2025

*SOCI-A338*: Research Methods Lab: Spring 2024; Spring 2025

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT LOYOLA UNIVERSITY NEW ORLEANS

*SOCI-A336*: Social Statistics: Spring 2023; Spring 2024; Spring 2025

*SOCI-A339*: Social Statistics Lab: Spring 2023; Spring 2024; Spring 2025

*SOCI-A302*: Race Scholars Denied: Spring 2023; Spring 2024; Fall 2025

*SOCI-X234*: Capitalism: Spring 2023; Summer 2024; Fall 2024; Summer 2025

*SOCI-A335*: Research Methods and Techniques: Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Fall 2025

*SOCI-A338*: Research Methods Lab: Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Fall 2025

*SOCI-A310*: Social Policy: Fall 2022; Fall 2023

*SOCI-A300*: Urban Sociology: Fall 2022; Fall 2023; Fall 2024; Spring 2025

*SOCI-A499*: Independent Study (Advanced Statistics): Fall 2023

*SOCI-A499*: Independent Study (Sociology of American Radicalism): Spring 2024; Fall 2024

*SOCI-A499*: Independent Study (Sociology of Black Nationalism): Spring 2024; Fall 2024; Spring 2025

*SOCI-A499*: Independent Study (History and Sociology of Hong Kong): Fall 2024

*SOCI-A499*: Independent Study (Readings on Rural Subcultures): Spring 2025

*Sociology Capstone Theses Advised*: Fall 2022, two students; Spring 2023, three students; Fall 2023, four students; Spring 2024, five students; Fall 2024, one student; Spring 2025, five students.

*Honors Theses Advised*: Camilla Johnson (2025)

*Environmental Studies Capstone Theses Advised*: Natalia Arredondo (2025)

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK

*SOC 31996*: Capitalism: Fall 2019; Fall 2020; Fall 2021

*SOC 27400*: Urban Politics and Policy: Spring 2020; Spring 2021; Spring 2022

AS INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD AT WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY:

*PS 2240*: Urban Politics and Policy: Spring 2017

*PS 3520*: Justice: Fall 2016

*PS 1010*: American Government: Fall 2015 & Spring 2016

## Conference Papers and Presentations

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2025. "The Sociological Canon," (invited participant) Teaching and Learning Sociology Panel. Presented at the 120th Annual Conference of the American Sociological Society, 8/11/25, Chicago, IL.

**Melcher**, Cody R. and Spencer Lindsay. 2024. "What do American Socialists Really Believe? Political Polarization, Partisanship, and the Problem of Socialist-Identifiers." Presented at the 94th Annual Conference of the Southern Political Science Association, 1/10/2024, New Orleans, LA.

**Melcher**, Cody R. and Michael Goldfield. 2023. [Keynote Address](#): "The Fight for Workers' Rights and Gender Equality in the US Today." Presented at "Classe, race et lieux au péril du Sud : la politique américaine au prisme de l'œuvre de Michael Goldfield." Sorbonne Université; Paris, France (2/1/2023).

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2023. "Michael Goldfield as Scholar, Mentor, and Agitator." Presented at "Classe, race et lieux au péril du Sud : la politique américaine au prisme de l'œuvre de Michael Goldfield." Université Paris-Est Créteil; Paris, France (2/2/2023).

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2022. Invited Speaker, "On the Contemporary Relevance of Louis Twomey, S.J.," *Catholic Social Teach-In*, event sponsored by the Loyola University Community Action Program. (11/17/2022).

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2022. "White Supremacy as a Decommodification Strategy: The Role of Economic Insecurity in the Determination of White American's Racial Attitudes." Presented at the American Political Science Association Comparative Labor Politics Workshop.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2020. “The Whip of Hunger: The Causal Effects of Economic Insecurity on Racial and Redistributive Attitudes.” Presented at the Experimental Design Workshop at Columbia University’s Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics, New York.

**Melcher**, Cody R. and Kevin G. Lorentz II. 2017. “Built Environment and the Court: An Experimental Substantiation of Political Aesthetics.” Presented at the 88th Annual Conference of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans.

**Melcher**, Cody R. 2016. “The Pragmatics of Style and the Redistribution of the Sensible: A Critique of Rancière.” Presented at the 74th Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago.

## **Reviewer for:**

*American Journal of Sociology*

*American Political Science Review*

*Social Forces*

*Political Behavior*

*British Journal of Political Science*

*Sociological Inquiry*

*Teaching Sociology*

*West European Politics*

*The Social Science Journal*

*Democratization*

*Critical Sociology*

*Political Research Quarterly*

*Sociology Lens (Journal of Historical Sociology)*

*The Sociological Quarterly*

*Sociological Perspectives*

*Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*

Swiss National Science Foundation (grant reviewer)

## **Service to the Discipline**

*Committee Membership at Loyola University New Orleans:*

Member of the Faculty Committee for Black Studies, 2023-present.

Member of the Standing Committee on the Loyola Core, 2023-present.

College Planning Committee, 2024-present.

Co-Chair from 2025-2026.

University Senate Fringe Benefit Committee, 2025-present.

Faculty Advisor, Abolition Book Club (ABC), 2023-present.

Organized and hosted *The Labor Spring*, sponsored by the The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University, Black Studies at Loyola, and the Jesuit Social Research Institute (3/26/25).

Organizer and discussant, “Book Talk on John Bardes’ *The Carceral City: Slavery and the Making of Mass Incarceration in New Orleans, 1803-1930*,” Loyola University New Orleans (October 28, 2024).

Member of the 2024 American Political Science Association (APSA) Class & Inequality Award Committee (Best Paper on Social and Economic Inequality).

Organized and hosted *The Labor Spring*, sponsored by the Workplace Justice Project at Loyola Law Clinic, The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University, and the Jesuit Social Research Institute (3/21/24).

Organizer and discussant, “Book Talk on John Arena’s *Expelling Public Schools*,” Loyola University New Orleans (October 26, 2023).

Organized and hosted *The Labor Spring: Loyola, the Labor Movement, and the Fight for Workers’ Rights*,” sponsored by the Workplace Justice Project at Loyola Law Clinic, The Kalmanovitz Initiative for Labor and the Working Poor at Georgetown University, and the Jesuit Social Research Institute (4/21/23).

Taught a seminar on R and RStudio to high school students at Loyola’s Neuroscience Summer Camp (Summer 2023)

Organized and taught a faculty workshop on R, RStudio, and RMarkdown (Loyola; Sep. 2022).

Conference Organizing Committee, “Classe, race et lieux au péril du Sud : la politique américaine au prisme de l’œuvre de Michael Goldfield.” Université Paris-Est Créteil; Paris, France (Feb. 2023).

Curriculum and Examinations Committee (Graduate Center; elected; 2019-2021)

## Statistical/Survey Program Proficiency

R, R Markdown, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stata, SPSS, Qualtrics

## Fellowships

Graduate Center Fellow (CUNY)	2018-2022
Teaching appointment at the City College of New York	2019-2022
Research Assistant for Prof. Michael Goldfield (Wayne State)	2016-2022
Assisted in the publication of Michael Goldfield’s <i>The Southern Key: Race, Class, and Radicalism in the 1930s and 1940s</i> (2020) Oxford: Oxford University Press.	
Graduate Teaching Instructor (Wayne State)	2015-2017
Thomas C. Rumble Fellow (Wayne State)	2014-2015

## Association Membership

American Sociological Association

Association for the Study of African American Life and History

American Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association

## References

Leslie McCall, Presidential Professor of Sociology and Political Science  
Associate Director, Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality  
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Dept. of Sociology  
365 5th Ave. Room 6112.04  
New York, NY 10016  
[lmccall@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:lmccall@gc.cuny.edu)

Marcus Kondkar, Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology  
Academic Director, Loyola Prison Education Program  
Loyola University New Orleans  
6363 St.Charles Ave.  
New Orleans, LA 70118  
[kondkar@loyno.edu](mailto:kondkar@loyno.edu)

Michael Goldfield, Professor Emeritus of Political Science  
Wayne State University, Dept. of Political Science  
2285 FAB 656 W. Kirby  
Detroit, MI 48202  
[aa2182@wayne.edu](mailto:aa2182@wayne.edu)

Mary Clare Lennon, Professor of Sociology  
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Dept. of Sociology  
365 5th Ave. Room 6112.04  
New York, NY 10016  
[mlennon@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:mlennon@gc.cuny.edu)

Stephen Steinberg, Professor of Sociology  
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Dept. of Sociology  
365 5th Ave. Room 6112.04  
New York, NY 10016  
[ssteinberg1@gc.cuny.edu](mailto:ssteinberg1@gc.cuny.edu)

Charles Post, Professor of Sociology  
The Graduate Center, CUNY, Dept. of Sociology  
365 5th Ave. Room 6112.04  
New York, NY 10016  
[charlespost@nyc.rr.com](mailto:charlespost@nyc.rr.com)