Curriculum Vitae

**Neil M. Gong**

University of California, San Diego

Department of Sociology

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# Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of California, San Diego 2021–present

Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, University of Michigan 2019—2021

# Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles 2019

MA. in Sociology, University of California, Los Angeles, 2013

BA in Individualized Study, Summa Cum Laude, New York University, 2008

# Research Interests

Power and Social Control, Law and Society, Sociology of Medicine, Urban Sociology, Ethnography, Sociology of Knowledge, Violence, Body and Embodiment, Liberalism and Libertarianism.

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# Books

Gong, Neil. (2024).*Sons, Daughters, & Sidewalk Psychotics: Mental Illness and Homelessness in Los*

*Angeles.* Chicago, Il: University of Chicago Press.

Abramson, Corey M. and **Neil Gong**, eds. **(**2020**).** *Beyond the Case: The Logics and Practices of Comparative Ethnography.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

# Peer Reviewed Articles

Gong, Neil. (2019). “Between Tolerant Containment and Concerted Constraint: Managing Madness for the City and the Privileged Family.” *American Sociological Review*. 84(4) 664-689

* 2020 Junior Theorist Award (for scholar less than 8 years post-PhD), Theory Section of the American Sociological Association
* 2020 James F. Short Distinguished Article Award, Crime, Law, and Deviance Section of the American Sociological Association

Gong, Neil. (2018). “Seeing Like a State Athletic Commission: Multi-Case Ethnography and the Making of ‘Underground’ Combat Sports.” *Ethnography*

Gong, Neil. (2017). “That Proves You Mad, Because You Know it Not’: Impaired Insight and the Dilemma of Governing Psychiatric Patients as Legal Subjects.” *Theory and Society* (46) 201-228

* 2019 Edward Shils-James Coleman Memorial Award, Theory Section of the American Sociological Association

Gong, Neil (2015). “How to Fight Without Rules: On Civilized Violence in ‘De-Civilized’ Spaces.” *Social Problems* (62) 605-622

* 2016 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award, Body and Embodiment Section of the American Sociological Association

**Book Chapters**

Abramson, Corey and **Neil Gong**. (2020). “The Promises, Pitfalls, and Practicalities of Ethnographic Comparison.” In *Beyond the Case: The Logics and Practices of Comparative Ethnography.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

Abramson, Corey and **Neil Gong**. (2020). “Comparative Analysis of Comparative Ethnographies.” In *Beyond the Case: The Logics and Practices of Comparative Ethnography.* New York, NY: Oxford University Press.

# Essays, Briefs, and Reviews

Gong, Neil. “Californians Narrowly Passed Proposition 1. But Will it Work?” *Los Angeles Times.*

March 22.

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2024-03-21/prop-1-housing-mental-health-treatment-psychiatric-asylums>

**Gong, Neil** and Katherine Beckett. (2024). “Housing First Can Work—If Done Right.” *The American*

*Prospect.* Feb 27.

<https://prospect.org/health/2024-02-27-housing-first-can-work-done-right/>

**Gong, Neil** and Alex Barnard. (2022). “Forcing the Homeless Into Treatment Can Backfire. What about a Firm Nudge?” *Washington Post.* May 11. *Sunday Outlook Section.*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/05/11/care-courts-california-homeless-coercion/>

Gong, Neil (2021). “California Gave People the ‘Right’ to be Homeless, But Little Help Finding Homes.” *Washington Post.* May 23. *Cover story for Sunday Outlook section.*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/05/20/california-homeless-addiction-drugs/>

**Gong, Neil** and Heath Pearson. (2021). “Can Abolition Work in an Age of Right-Wing Extremism?”

*The Atlantic.* Jan 22.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2021/01/stop-right-wing-extremism-without-bolstering-police-power/617759/>

Gong, Neil. (2020). “How Defunding Abusive Institutions Goes Wrong, and How We Can Do It Right.” *Los Angeles Review of Books.* August 24.

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/how-defunding-abusive-institutions-goes-wrong-and-how-we-can-do-it-right/>

**Gong, Neil** and Chris Herring (2020). “The Case for Commandeering Hotel Rooms: San Francisco Has a Model to House the Homeless During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *CalMatters.* April 19.

<https://calmatters.org/commentary/the-case-for-commandeering-hotel-rooms-san-francisco-has-a-model-to-house-the-homeless-during-covid-19-pandemic/>

Herring, Chris and **Neil Gong.** (2020). “San Francisco Has the Authority, Vacancies, and Funds to House Homeless People in Hotels.” *San Francisco Examiner.* March 31.

<https://www.sfexaminer.com/opinion/san-francisco-has-the-authority-vacancies-and-funds-to-house-homeless-people-in-hotels/>

Barnard, Alex and **Neil Gong.** (2020). “Reform With Care: Expanding Mental Health Conservatorships in California.” *Scholars Strategy Network.*

<https://scholars.org/contribution/reform-care-expanding-mental-health-conservatorships-california>

**Gong, Neil** and Xiaohong Xu. (2019). “How Andrew Yang Can and Should Advance Racial Understanding.” *San Francisco Chronicle.* December 12.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/How-Andrew-Yang-can-and-should-advance-racial-14900358.php>

**Gong, Neil** and Alex Barnard. (2019). “Save San Francisco’s Board and Care Homes—and then Fix Them.” *San Francisco Chronicle.* September 17.

<https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/openforum/article/>Open-Forum-Save-San-Francisco-s-board-and-care-14444806.php

Gong, Neil. (2017). Review of *Better Must Come: Exiting Homelessness in Two Global Cities,* by Matthew Marr. *Social Forces*. (Online).

# Fellowships and Awards

UCSD Faculty Career Development Award 2023-2024

Michigan Society of Fellows-Junior Fellowship 2019-2021

UCLA Dissertation Year Fellowship 2018-2019

National Science Foundation - Graduate Research Fellow 2012-2016

UCLA Department of Sociology Excellence in Teaching Award 2013-2014

Fulbright Fellowship at the University of Hong Kong 2009-2010

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# Presentations

2023 “Sons, Daughters, and Sidewalk Psychotics: Madness and Inequality in Los Angeles”

May 19. Department of Sociology. UC Irvine.

March 1. Department of Sociology. University of Southern California

2022. “Sons, Daughters, and Sidewalk Psychotics: Madness and Inequality in Los Angeles” September 1. Department of Sociology, UT Austin

April 13. Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, UC Berkeley.

April 6. Department of Sociology, Boston University.

March 31. Department of Sociology, Dartmouth University.

2021. “Keynote Address: On Public Theorizing.”

August 6. Junior Theorists Symposium. Theory Section, Annual Meeting.

“Sons, Daughters, and Sidewalk Psychotics: Madness and Inequality in Los Angeles” February 25. Department of Sociology, Northwestern University.

“Live Free or Die: American Libertarianism as Cultural Practice.”

February 2. Society of Fellows, University of Michigan.

2020. “Beyond the Case: The Logics and Practices of Comparative Ethnography.” (with Corey Abramson of University of Arizona)

January 23. Department of Sociology, UCLA

2019. “Between Tolerant Containment and Concerted Constraint.”

Aug 20. American Sociological Association. Annual Meeting. New York, NY.

2018. “Mind and Matter: Madness and Inequality in Los Angeles.”

Nov 19. Columbia University, Department of Sociology.

Nov 15. University of Michigan, Department of Sociology.

Nov 9. Boston College, Department of Sociology.

Nov 6. University of British Columbia, Department of Sociology.

Oct 25. UC San Diego, Department of Sociology.

Apr 14. University of Arizona, Department of Sociology.

2017. “The Dual Freedom of Madness: Governing Rich and Poor Psychiatric Patients in the Community.”

Dec 14. UC Santa Barbara, Department of Sociology.

Nov 28. University of Washington, Law, Societies and Justice.

“Following Problem Solving in the Field.”

Aug 15. Berkeley Center for Ethnographic Research.

2016. “The Dual Freedom of Madness: Governing Rich and Poor Psychiatric Patients After Deinstitutionalization.”

Nov 28. UC Berkeley, Department of Sociology.

“From the Stickiness of Labels to Seeing What Sticks: The Economy of Diagnosis in Mental Health and Homeless Outreach.”

August 20. American Sociological Association.Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.

“Publishing Qualitative and Theoretical Work.”

August 19. Society for the Study of Social Problems.Seattle, WA.

2014. “That Proves You Mad Because You Know It Not”

Nov 7. Social Science History Association.Annual Meeting. Toronto, Ontario.

“How To Fight Without Rules: On Civilized Violence in ‘De-Civilized Spaces’”.

Mar 7. Chicago Ethnography Conference.Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.

2012. “Sportization and Its Discontents.”

Aug 29. American Sociological Association.Annual Meeting. Denver, CO.

# Teaching

**University of California San Diego**

Graduate: Field Methods, Ethnographic Data Analysis

Undergraduate: Field Research, The Sociology of Mental Health**,** Defund Police and Prisons?

**University of Michigan**

Defund Police and Prisons?

Social Orders and Mental Disorders

**University of California Los Angeles**

Ethnographic Fieldwork (with Stefan Timmermans, UCLA Graduate Seminar)

The Psy-Sciences and Society

**University of California Berkeley**

Center for Ethnographic Research Qualitative Methods Workshop (with Chris Herring, Cole Hansen)

# Professional Service

Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Theory and Society, Social Problems, Social Forces*, *Sociological Methods and Research, Law and Social Inquiry, Social Science and Medicine, Ethnography, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, and Men and Masculinities*

UCSD Graduate Placement Director 2022-2023

UCSD Sociology Colloquium Committee Member 2021-2022

ASA Theory Section Nomination Committee Member 2019-2020

UCLA Sociology Graduate Admissions Committee Member 2015-2016

UCLA Sociology Undergraduate Honors Thesis Mentor 2014-2015

UCLA Ethnography Working Group Co-Leader 2012-2014

# Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association 2012-2019 UC Berkeley Center for Ethnographic Research 2012-current

# Relevant Professional Experience

Case Manager with Pathways to Housing, New York NY 2008-2009