

# Julia T. Thomas

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Department of Sociology  
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## **EDUCATION**

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2025 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
*Dissertation:* “From the Courthouse Lawn to the Courtroom: A Historical Quantitative Examination of the Legacy of Lynching on Capital Punishment in Texas, 1976-2017”  
*Advisor:* Michael Massoglia  
*Preliminary Exams:* Crime, Law, and Deviance; Demography and Ecology

2021 M.S., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2017 A.B., Sociology, Harvard College  
High Honors in Sociology, *Magna Cum Laude* in Field  
*Advisor:* Christopher Winship

## **PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS**

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2025- Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Georgia  
Faculty Affiliate, Criminal Justice Studies Program, University of Georgia  
Faculty Affiliate, Owens Institute for Behavioral Research, University of Georgia

## **CURRENT AREAS OF INTEREST**

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Sociology of Law and Punishment, Criminology, Racial Inequality, Stratification, Historical Sociology

## **HONORS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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2024 Population Association of America’s Poster Award: “Legacy of the ‘Forgotten Dead’: Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death”

2024 Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award for Outstanding Research in the Social Sciences (Honorable Mention): “The Legacy of Lynching: Historic Lynching Practices and Individuals’ Risk of Being Sentenced to Death”

2022 American Sociological Association Distinguished Student Paper Award in the area of Crime, Law, and Deviance: “The Legacy of Lynching: Historic Lynching Practices and Individuals’ Risk of Being Sentenced to Death”

2019-2024	National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellow: “Capital Punishment and the Legacy of Lynching”
2018	National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) Traineeship
2016	Center for American Political Studies Summer Research Fellowship, Harvard University
2016	Harvard College Research Program Grant, Harvard University
2015	Harvard Global Health Institute Global Health Fund Grant, Harvard University
2014	Harvard College Research Program Grant, Harvard University

### **PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

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Light, Michael T., and Julia T. Thomas. 2021. “Undocumented Immigration and Terrorism: Is There a Connection?” *Social Science Research* 94:102512. doi: 10.1016/j.ssresearch.2020.102512.

Light, Michael T., and Julia T. Thomas. 2019. “Segregation and Violence Reconsidered: Do Whites Benefit from Residential Segregation?” *American Sociological Review* 84(4):690–725. doi: 10.1177/0003122419858731.

### **MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

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Thomas, Julia T., “The Legacy of Lynching: The Relationship between Lynching and Post-Furman Capital Punishment.” [Revise and Resubmit at the *American Sociological Review*]

- American Sociological Association Distinguished Student Paper Award in the area of Crime, Law, and Deviance
- Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award for Outstanding Research in the Social Sciences (Honorable Mention)

Thomas, Julia T., “Legacy of the ‘Forgotten Dead’: Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death.”

- Population Association of America’s Poster Award

### **RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

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2024	Research Assistant, Center for Demography and Ecology and the Center for Demography of Health and Aging, University of Wisconsin-Madison <i>Principle Investigator:</i> Tiffany Green and Klaira Lerma
2024	Research Assistant, Center for Demography and Ecology and the Center for

Demography of Health and Aging, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
*Principle Investigator:* Christine Schwartz

2017 Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison  
*Principle Investigator:* Michael T. Light

2016 Research Assistant, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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**Thomas, Julia.** “Public Punishment: An Event History Analysis of Executions and Lynchings, 1883-1939.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA. 2024

**Thomas, Julia.** “Public Punishment: An Event History Analysis of Executions and Lynchings, 1883-1939.” Paper presented at Roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Montreal, CAN. 2024.

**Thomas, Julia.** “Legacy of the ‘Forgotten Dead’: Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death.” Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Columbus, OH. 2024.

**Thomas, Julia.** “Legacy of the ‘Forgotten Dead’: Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, PA. 2023.

**Thomas, Julia.** “Legacy of the ‘Forgotten Dead’: Lynching of Hispanics and Risk of Being Sentenced to Death.” Paper presented at Roundtable at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. 2023.

**Thomas, Julia.** “The Legacy of Lynching: Historic Lynching Practices and Individuals' Risk of Being Sentenced to Death.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association. Los Angeles, CA. 2022.

**Thomas, Julia** and Massoglia, Michael. “Southern Lethal Punishment and the Great Migration.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Chicago, IL. 2021.

**Thomas, Julia** and Massoglia, Michael. “Refugees from the Land of Cotton: Lynching and the Great Migration.” Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Virtual. 2021.

Light, Michael and **Thomas, Julia.** “Undocumented Immigration, Terrorism, and Hate Crime.” Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Virtual. 2020.

**Thomas, Julia.** “Capital Punishment and the Legacy of Lynching.” Paper presented at the

annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. San Francisco, CA. 2019.

Light, Michael and **Thomas, Julia**. "Segregation and Violence Reconsidered: Do Whites Benefit from Residential Segregation?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America. Austin, TX. 2019.

Light, Michael and **Thomas, Julia**. "Segregation and Violence Reconsidered: Do Whites Benefit from Residential Segregation?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, GA. 2018.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Georgia:**

History of Race, Crime, and Justice in the United States, Instructor of Record (Fall 2025)

### **University of Wisconsin-Madison:**

Criminal Justice in America, Lecturer (Summer 2024); Teaching Assistant (Fall 2021)

Population Problems, Lecturer (Fall 2023)

Juvenile Delinquency, Lecturer (Spring 2022)

Research Practicum in Sociology, Principal Instructor (Multiple Terms)

## **SERVICE**

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### **Department**

2025 Member, Colloquium Committee, University of Georgia

2023 Peer Mentor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2019-2021 Panelist, Professionalization Seminar External Funding and Fellowships Panel, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2019-2020 Faculty and Association Relations Officer, Sociology Graduate Student Association Governing Board, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2019-2020 Cohort Co-Representative, Sociology Graduate Student Association Governing Board, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2018 Peer Mentor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2018 Visit Day Committee Member, University of Wisconsin-Madison

### **Discipline**

2025 Session Chair, Effects of Vicarious Criminal Legal System Contact on Families, Networks, and Neighborhoods, Population Association of America Annual Meeting

2024                    Roundtable Presider, Crime, Law, and Deviance Roundtables: Sentencing & Punishment, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

**Journal Referee**

*American Journal of Sociology, Socius, Sociological Inquiry, Journal of Health and Social Behavior, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Sociological Association  
American Society of Criminology  
Population Association of America