

Jessica Shannon Cobb

POSITIONS

Education Policy Consultant, Long Beach, CA (2018-current)

Foundation for the California Community Colleges, Sacramento, CA
Associate Director, Rising Scholars Network (2025)

National Center for Youth Law, Washington, DC
Policy Manager, Education Civil Rights Alliance (2021-2023)

Norco College, Norco, CA
Director, Prison Education Program (2018-2021)

College Access Plan, Pasadena, CA
Board Member (2015-Current), Director of Programs (2013-14), Program Coordinator (2012-13)

EDUCATION

JD, University of California, Los Angeles School of Law (2018)
Specialization in Critical Race Studies
Activities: Writing Advisor, Education Law Society, Curriculum Committee, Law Fellows Mentor.
Internships: ACLU SoCal, UCLA Civil Rights Project, Stanford Law Three Strikes Project

PhD in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley (2012)
Dissertation: "Shocking Inequality: Teachers' Subjective Experiences of Segregated Schools."

MA in Sociology, University of California, Berkeley (2009)
Thesis: "Crying in the Garden: The Exploitation of Emotional Boundaries in Paid Care Work."

BA in Science, Technology and Society, Pomona College (2003)
Thesis: "Assessing the Impact of High-Stakes Testing Culture on Science Literacy."

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles & Book Chapters

- (2026). "Higher Education in Prison and Carceral State Entrenchment." Forthcoming in *Wake Forest Journal of Law and Policy*.
2023. "Playing to Resist: Youth Challenging Racial Oppression." In *Gender Replay: Reflections on Youth, Feminism, and Schools*. Freeden Blume Oeur and C.J. Pascoe, Eds. NYU Press.
2018. "One Thing I Know: Higher Ed Can Learn from First-Gen Students." *Contexts* 17(1).
2017. "Inequality Frames: How Teachers Inhabit Colorblind Ideology." *Sociology of Education* 90(4):315-332.
2017. "From Play to Peril: A Historical Examination of Media Coverage of Accidental Shootings Involving Children." *Social Science Quarterly*, Special Issue on "Gun Politics" 98(2): 397-412 (With Jennifer Carlson).

2015. “Protagonist-Driven Urban Ethnography.” *City and Community* 14(4): 348-51. (With Kimberly Hoang).
2013. “California” and “Social Status of Teachers.” Pp. 93-95 & 718-19 in *Sociology of Education: An A-to-Z Guide*. James Ainsworth, Ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Reference.

Policy Reports & White Papers

2025. *Stopping the Flood Waters: A Call to Transform California’s School in Support of Native American Students*. American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. (With Linnea Nelson, Sonny Tripp, Ana Mendoza, and Anjleena Kour Sahni).
2023. *Decoding Alternative Education: Student Demographics, Coursework, and Budgeting in Five Large California County Offices of Education*. National Center for Youth Law, East Bay Community Law Center, and American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. (With Stephanie Horwitz, Atasi Uppal, and Amir Whitaker).
2021. *No Police in Schools: A Vision for Safe and Supportive Schools in CA*. American Civil Liberties Union of California. (With Amir Whitaker, Victor Leung, and Linnea Nelson)
2020. *Our Right to Resources: School Districts are Cheating High Need Students by Funding Law Enforcement*. American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California and Public Advocates (With Victor Leung, Nicole Gon Ochi, and Ariana Rodriguez).
2018. *Here to Learn: Creating Safe and Supportive Schools in Los Angeles Unified School District*. American Civil Liberties Union of Southern California. (With Victor Leung and Ana Mendoza).
2017. *The Devil in the Details: Bail Contracts in California*. UCLA School of Law Criminal Justice Reform Clinic. (With Neelum Arya, Carolyn Barden, Alisha Brush, Rachel Clark, Brianne Holland-Stergar, and Shelby King).
2016. *The Right to Remain a Student: How California School Policies Fail to Protect and Serve*. American Civil Liberties Union of California. (With Victor Leung and Linnea Nelson).
2015. *College Access Plan: A Community Opting In to Post-Secondary Success*. White paper supported by a grant from the Rosalinde and Arthur Gilbert Foundation.

AWARDS

Honors

2017. Masin Family Academic Excellence Gold Award, UCLA Law (Law & Dissent, Critical Race Theory)
2016. Masin Family Academic Excellence Gold Award, UCLA Law (Constitutional Law I)
2009. Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor, UC Berkeley
2008. Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award, Care Work Network
2003. Distinction in Senior Exercise, Pomona College

Grants & Fellowships

2019. California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Incarcerated Student Reentry Programs Grant

2018. Riverside Community College District Foundation Century Circle Grant
2017. UCLA School of Law Summer Public Service Fellowship
2016. UCLA School of Law Summer Public Service Fellowship
2015-2018. Merit Scholarship, UCLA Law
2011-2012. UC/ACCORD Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, University of California All Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity
2012. Graduate Division Summer Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2011. Sociology Department Summer Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2009-2010. Sociology Department PhD Candidacy Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2009-2010. Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, UC Berkeley
2006-2007. Leo Lowenthal Fellowship, UC Berkeley Department of Sociology

Travel & Research Support

2017. University of California Consortium on Social Science and Law Conference Travel Grant.
2012. Sociology Department Conference Travel Grant, UC Berkeley
2010. Sociology Department Conference Travel Grant, UC Berkeley
2008. Sociology Department Research Support Grant, UC Berkeley

TEACHING – INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Norco College Sociology Department, Associate Faculty, Prison Education Program

Marriage and Family Relations (Fall 2019, Fall 2020)

Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2018)

Pitzer College Sociology Department, Visiting Instructor

Selling Emotions (Spring 2014)

Social Inequality (Spring 2013)

Statistical Methods (Spring 2013)

TEACHING – RESEARCH ADVISEMENT

University of LaVerne Doctoral Dissertation in Education Leadership – External Committee Member.
Jessica Dobson: *Motivations for Community College Faculty to Teach in Carceral Spaces*. (Spring 2023).

Pitzer College Senior Thesis – Second Reader. Joanna Lamb-Looby: *Policing the Boundaries of Whiteness on Reality Television: A Content Analysis*. (Spring 2013)

TEACHING – TEACHING ASSISTANT

University of California, Los Angeles Sociology Department, Teaching Fellow

Collective Behavior for Prof. Edward Walker (Winter 2018)

Introductory Sociology for Instr. Isaac Speer (Fall 2017)

Introductory Sociology for Instr. Patrick Reilly (Spring 2017)

Contemporary Social Theory for Prof. Jeffrey Guhin (Winter 2017)

University of California, Los Angeles Psychology Department, Teaching Fellow

Research Methods in Psychology for Prof. Iris Firstenberg (Fall 2016)

University of California, Berkeley Sociology Department, Graduate Student Instructor
Introduction to Sociology for Prof. Raka Ray (Spring 2009)
Evaluation of Evidence for Prof. David Nasatir and Instr. Rachel Best (Fall 2008)
Principles of Sociology: American Cultures for Prof. Brian Powers (Spring 2008)
Introduction to Sociology for Prof. Ann Swidler (Fall 2007)

University of California, Berkeley Sociology Department, Graduate Student Reader
Principles of Sociology: American Cultures for Prof. Brian Powers (Spring 2007)
Sociology of Education for Professor Samuel R. Lucas (Fall 2006)

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Guest Editor with Kimberly Hoang and Ya-Wen Lei. “Decentering ‘Globalized’ Asia” a special edition of *positions: asia critique* 25:4 (2017).

Developmental Editor for the Global Korea Book Series workshops, Center for Korean Studies, UC Berkeley (2015-2016).

Developmental Academic Editor, Independent Contractor (2011-2016).

Reviewer, *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Sociology of Education*, *Gender & Society*, *Social Problems*, *Sociology of Race & Ethnicity*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Childhood: A Journal of Global Child Research*

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- (2026). “Higher Education in Prison and Carceral State Entrenchment.” Panel Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association.
2025. “Restorative Education: Transforming College Opportunity for Justice-Involved Youth.” Panel presentation at the Prison to University Conference.
2025. “Partnerships that Power Transformative Work in Youth Justice: Spotlight on California Justice Realignment.” Roundtable at the Transformation of Youth Justice Symposium.
2023. “Transforming the Education of Rebellious Practitioners.” Plenary Roundtable at the Critical Race Studies 20th Anniversary Symposium – Rebellious: Envisioning and Embodying Radical Practice.
2023. “Uplifting Student Civil Rights with the School-Level Finance Survey.” Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy.
2022. “Universal Implementation of SLFS Will Advance Student Civil Rights and Equity.” Panel presentation at the National Center for Education Statistics STATS-DC Data Conference.
2022. “School Finance Data Supports the Advancement of Student Civil Rights and Equity.” Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy.
2019. “Unlocking Student Potential: The Norco College Prison Education Program.” Presentation at the Prison-to-Work Pipeline Symposium at the Presley Center of Crime and Justice Studies at UC Riverside.
2017. Discussant. Regular Session Panel on “Ethnography” at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.
2017. “Segregated Schemas: Public Schoolteachers Inhabiting Institutional Inequality.” Roundtable presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.

- 2017. “Impunity at the Heart of Anglo-American Legal Tradition.” Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association.
- 2016. “Evaluating College Access Programs.” Learning Lounge presentation at the Annual Meeting of the National Association of College Admissions Counselors.
- 2012. “The Organization of Teacher Emotion in Race-Class Stigmatized Schools.” Panel presentation at the 12th Annual Meeting of UC/ACCORD Fellows.
- 2012. “Pride and Shame in ‘Ghetto Schools’: The Effects of School Culture on Teacher Racial Identification.” Regular session panel at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.
- 2012. “Framing the ‘Uncomfortable Middle Ground’: Teachers’ Experiences of Race and Class Inequality.” Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society.
- 2012. “Constructing Appropriate Families: Inequality, Education, and Teacher Subjectivities.” Panel presentation at the UC Berkeley Center for Race and Gender Thursday Afternoon Forum.
- 2011. “Shocking Inequality: Teachers’ Subjective Experiences in Segregated Schools.” Panel presentation at the 11th Annual Meeting of UC/ACCORD Fellows.
- 2011. “Caring to Resist: Teachers Humanizing Their Labor to Resist Test-Based Schooling.” Panel presentation at the Care Work Network Bi-Annual Conference.
- 2010. “The Emergent Racialization of White Teachers in Racially Stigmatized Schools.” Panel presentation at the Hendricks Symposium on Race in the Age of Obama at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.
- 2010. “The Extraction of Emotional Labor in Paid Care Work.” Section session at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association.
- 2010. “The Child as Sexual Citizen.” Panel presentation at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association.
- 2009. “Crying in the Garden: The Exploitation of Emotional Boundaries in Paid Care Work.” Panel presentation at the Care Work Network Bi-Annual Conference.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025. “Higher Education in Prison and Carceral State Entrenchment.” Colloquium at the University of Pacific McGeorge School of Law.
- 2025. “Transforming Education to Practice Freedom.” Presentation to the STARS and Engage Programs at Cal Poly Pomona.
- 2023. “Decoding Alternative Education.” Webinar co-presented with the National Center for Youth Law, East Bay Community Law Center, and the ACLU of Southern California.
- 2022. “Within-District School Funding Inequities.” Listening session with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights and Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development.
- 2022. “Snapshot of Within-District School Funding Inequities, 2018-19.” Webinar for the State & Local Education Resource Equity collaborative, convened by the Education Civil Rights Alliance at NCYL and the National Disabilities Resource Network.
- 2022. “Recommendations for the Civil Rights Data Collection elements related to school-based arrests, referrals, and law enforcement.” Listening session with the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights.

- 2021. “Research is Power: Leveraging Data for Police-Free Schools.” Webinar for the national American Civil Liberties Union.
- 2021. “Education as Liberation: Community Colleges in California’s State Prisons.” UC Riverside Osher Life Lecture Series.
- 2020. Facilitator for “Within *The Prison Within*.” Dialogue between formerly incarcerated student advocates at Norco College.
- 2020. “Data Analysis for Social Justice Advocacy.” Brown-bag training for ACLU attorneys, interns, and staff.
- 2019. “Trauma, Resiliency, and Teaching: Lessons from the Prison Education Community of Norco College.” Training for Norco College Faculty.
- 2019. “Data Analysis for Social Justice Advocacy.” Brown-bag training for ACLU attorneys, interns, and staff.
- 2019. “LAUSD Student Experiences with Police.” Participatory action research workshop with the ACLU of Southern California and Youth Justice Coalition.
- 2018. “Students or Suspects? Contesting LAUSD’s Mandatory Metal Detector Search Policy.” Talk for the University of New Orleans Department of Sociology.
- 2017. “Inequality Frames: How Teachers Inhabit Colorblind Ideology.” Talk for the Utah State University Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology.
- 2016. “Moving from Dissertation to Book.” Two-day workshop for the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University.
- 2015. “Caring Together: Creating a Supportive Teaching Culture.” Keynote address to the Pasadena Rotary Foundation (CA).
- 2015. Developmental Editor for the Social Science Research Council Korean Studies Workshop for Junior Faculty.
- 2011. “Interrogating Waiting for Superman.” Facilitator of a student conversation hosted by the Berkeley Undergraduate Sociology Association at UC Berkeley.
- 2009. “Digital Communication and GSI/Student Boundaries.” Panel discussion at the Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Learning Center at UC Berkeley.
- 2008. “The Interview-Based Research Process: Experiences from the field.” Guest Lecture for *Sociology 5: Methods of Inquiry* at UC Berkeley.
- 2008. “Surviving and Thriving as a First-Semester Graduate Student Instructor.” Panel discussion for *Sociology 301: Professional Development Seminar – Teaching* at UC Berkeley.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

California State Bar Member #322996 (Admitted 2018; Active), Law & Society Association