

Jonathan Ben-Menachem

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Education

Columbia University

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology 2020–2027 (expected)

M.A., Sociology 2022

Dissertation: 21st Century Crime News Work

Committee: Bruce Western, Tey Meadow, Mario Small

New York University

B.A., Philosophy and Comparative Literature 2016

Refereed Articles

- ⑧ **Jonathan Ben-Menachem**, Ari Galper, and Nic Fishman. Forthcoming. [Rethinking Repeatability in Observational Social Science](#). *Sociological Methods and Research*. (Conditionally accepted.) Best Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Methodology Section.
- ⑦ **Jonathan Ben-Menachem**, Forthcoming. [Beyond Police Stenography: How Disembedding Enables Critical Crime News Work](#). *Work and Occupations*. (Conditionally accepted.)
- ⑥ **Jonathan Ben-Menachem**. Forthcoming. [Which Deaths Count? Debating Homicide Coverage Amidst Newsroom Scarcity](#). *Criminology*.
- ⑤ **Jonathan Ben-Menachem**. 2026. [Clickbait Crime News? Metrics and Professional Authority in Local Newsrooms](#). *Sociological Science*.
- ④ Aaron Stagoff-Belfort, **Jonathan Ben-Menachem**, and Brenden Beck. 2025. [Can Speed Cameras Make Roads Safer? Quasi-Experimental Evidence from New York City](#). *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.
- ③ Claudia Anderson, **Jonathan Ben-Menachem**, Samuel Donahue, Jessica Simes, and Bruce Western. 2025. [Solitary confinement, parole, and criminalization](#). *Journal of Criminal Justice*.
- ② **Jonathan Ben-Menachem** and Gerard Torrats-Espinosa. 2024. [Police violence reduces trust in the police among Black residents](#). *PLoS One*.
- ① **Jonathan Ben-Menachem** and Kevin Morris. 2022. [Ticketing and Turnout: The Participatory Consequences of Low-Level Police Contact](#). *American Political Science Review*.

Works in Progress

Jonathan Ben-Menachem. “Uses and Misuses of Large Language Models in Qualitative Research.” Under review. ([Preprint URL](#))

Jonathan Ben-Menachem, Taylor B. Alarcon, and Rory Kramer. “Sundown Towns, Durable Exclusion, and The Legacy of Northern Racial Regimes.” Under review. ([Preprint URL](#))

David J. Knight and **Jonathan Ben-Menachem.** “Mobilization or Retreat? Racialized Patterns of Political Engagement in U.S. Jails and Prisons.” Under review.

Gerard Torrats-Espinoza and **Jonathan Ben-Menachem.** “Police Raids Erode Civic Cooperation and Institutional Trust.”

Book Project

Jonathan Ben-Menachem. *Beyond Copaganda: Why America Still Needs Crime News.*

Book Chapters

Kennedy, David M. and **Jonathan Ben-Menachem.** 2019. “Moving Toward an American Police–Community Reconciliation Framework.” In T. Lave & E. Miller (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Policing in the United States* (Cambridge Law Handbooks). [doi:10.1017/9781108354721.029](https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108354721.029)

Grants and Fellowships

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow (\$159,000)	2022–2027
Columbia Department of Sociology Paul F. Lazarsfeld Fellow	2020–2027

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Economy and Society (2022)

Teaching Assistant, The Social World (2021) — Columbia’s Introduction to Sociology

Invited Talks and Conference Presentations

“Mobilization or Retreat? Racialized Patterns of Political Engagement in U.S. Jails and Prisons.” (with David Knight)

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2025.
- Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality, 2025.

- Maryland Population Research Center, 2025.

“The End of Police Stenography? Critical Crime News Work After Black Lives Matter.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, 2025.

“Global Solidarities and Campus Activism on Palestine.” Presidential Plenary, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Conference, 2025.

“Police Violence Reduces Trust in the Police Among Black Residents.”

- Justice and Injustice Mini-Conference, 2023.
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2023.

“How Do Causal Accounts Explain?” (with Ari Galper)

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2023.
- Columbia University Department of Sociology Science Knowledge and Technology Workshop, 2022.

“Ticketing and Turnout: The Participatory Consequences of Low-Level Police Contact.” (with Kevin Morris)

- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2021.
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2021.

Professional Service

- **Workshop Coordinator**, Qual Lab, Columbia University Department of Sociology 2024–25
- **Peer Reviewer** for *American Journal of Sociology*, *Criminology*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, among others

Professional Experience

Fines and Fees Justice Center: **Policy and Communications Manager** (2018-2020)

John Jay College of Criminal Justice, National Network for Safe Communities: **Communications Associate** (2017-2018)

Media Coverage and Public Writing

“A Road Safety Blueprint for the Mamdani Administration,” **Vital City**, 2026.

“What is a ‘criminal’ immigrant? The word is an American rhetorical trap,” **The Guardian**, 2025.

“Malpractice or best practice? The fight over ‘rigor’ in criminal justice reform,” **Scatterplot**, 2024.

“Our Evidence-Based Obsession,” **Inquest**, 2023.

“A Police Stop Is Enough to Make Someone Less Likely to Vote,” **Bolts**, 2023.

“Getting a traffic ticket makes you less likely to vote, research finds,” **Washington Post**, 2022.