

Margot R. Lurie

University of Chicago, Department of Sociology
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EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

Ph.D. Candidate, Sociology

2022 - Present

Certificate in Environment, Geography, and Urbanization (in progress)

M.A., Sociology

2024

Amherst College, Amherst, MA

B.A., Environmental Studies, *Summa cum laude*

2021

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Environmental sociology; historical sociology; sociology of the state; social theory; political economy; sociology of race and empire; sociology of energy; sociology of science, knowledge, and technology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Lurie, Margot R. 2025. “‘We have that vision of the future’: Indigenous womxn’s resistance as environmental protection.” *Journal of Political Ecology* 32(1). <https://doi.org/10.2458/jpe.5225>

Sims, K.R.E., L.G. Lee, N. Estrella-Luna, **M.R. Lurie**, J.R. Thompson. 2022. “Environmental justice criteria for new land protection can inform efforts to address disparities in access to nearby open space.” *Environmental Research Letters* 17 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1088/1748-9326/ac6313>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & IN PROGRESS

Lurie, Margot R. “The Electric New Deal: Roosevelt’s National Power Policy and the American State’s Changing Relationship to Energy, 1933-1945.” (Under review)

- 2025 Albert Szymanski/T.R. Young Marxist Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Marxist Sociology Section

Lurie, Margot R. “Toward a Theory of State Environmental Violence.” (Draft available)

- 2026 Edward Shils - James Coleman Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, Honorable Mention, ASA Theory Section

Lurie, Margot R. “Electricity, Waste, and the ‘Other’: Infrastructural Racialization in the Electrification of the American West, 1902-1933.” (Draft available)

- 2026 Student Paper Award winner, ASA Environmental Sociology Section
- 2026 Junior Theorists Symposium

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Lurie, M. “Electricity, Waste, and the ‘Other’: Infrastructural Racialization in the Electrification of the American West, 1902-1933.” Paper presented at joint Comparative-Historical Sociology and Environmental Sociology Section panel on “Comparative-Historical Perspectives on Climate Change” at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, August 2026.

Lurie, M. “Electricity, Waste, and the ‘Other’: Infrastructural Racialization in the Electrification of the American West, 1902-1933.” Paper presented at Junior Theorists Symposium, New York, August 2026.

- Lurie, M. "Electrifying Settler Colonialism: The Bureau of Reclamation and Hydropower in the American West, 1902-1933." Presenter and organizer of panel on "Landscapes of Power: Environmental Transformations of the 20th Century" at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, November 2025.
- Lurie, M. "Toward a Theory of State Environmental Violence." Paper presented at Environmental Sociology Section panel on "State Violence and the Environment" at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, August 2025.
- Lurie, M. "U.S. Rural Electrification, State Environment-Making, and the Great Acceleration." Presenter and organizer of panel on "State Environment-Making in Historical Perspective" at the Social Science History Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, October 2024.
- Lurie, M. "Power for Defense: U.S. Rural Electrification as State War-Making." Paper presented at Regular Session panel on "Historical Sociology: Empire, Power, and Difference" at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, August 2024.
- Lurie, M. "U.S. Rural Electrification, Covert War-Making, and the Great Acceleration." Paper presented at the Symposium on American Empire, Extraction, and Environment, University of Chicago, April 2024.
- Lurie, M. "Beyond Conservation, Toward Decolonization: The Vision of Indigenous Feminist Environmental Protection." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association Undergraduate Honors Roundtable, August 2021. *Virtual*.
- Lurie, M. "'It reminds me of reservations': the limitations of rights-based conservation for Indigenous justice." Poster session presented at the New Horizons in Conservation Conference, April 2021. *Virtual*.
- Awarded first prize in the undergraduate research section
- Lurie, M. "The Perils and Possibilities of Indigenous-Environmental Solidarity." Poster session presented at the National Collegiate Research Conference, January 2021. *Virtual*.

WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- Lurie, M. "Toward a Theory of State Environmental Violence." Paper presented at the University of Chicago Politics, History, & Society Workshop, March 2026.
- Lurie, M. "American Power: The State, Energy, and the Environment in the 20th Century." Paper presented at the University of Michigan Climate Social Science Workshop, April 2025. *Virtual*.
- Lurie, M. "The Electric New Deal: Roosevelt's National Power Policy and the American State's Changing Relationship to Energy." Paper presented at the University of Chicago Committee on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization Colloquium, January 2025.
- Lurie, M. "Power for Defense: Lessons from the U.S. Rural Electrification Effort." Paper presented at the Harvard Climate Sociology Pipeline Workshop, December 2023.

NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- Petersen, J., R. Nagra, and **M. Lurie**. 2021. "'They Didn't Pay Us For Our Memories': Environmental Racism, Forced Displacement, and the Industrial Buyout of Mossville, Louisiana." Report prepared by the University Network for Human Rights, published November 17, 2021.
<https://www.humanrightsnetwork.org/mossville>
- Lurie, M. 2021. "Protecting 30% of the Earth by 2030 would threaten Indigenous peoples." *Open Democracy*, published June 27, 2021.

GRADUATE TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago Sociology Department Instructor of Record	Winter 2026
Course: Introduction to Environmental Sociology	
University of Chicago Sociology Department Teaching Assistant	Winter 2025
- Course: Cities, Space, Power - Instructor: Neil Brenner	
University of Chicago Sociology Department Teaching Assistant	Autumn 2024
- Course: Society, Power and Change - Instructor: Julian Go	
University of Chicago Sociology Department Teaching Assistant	Spring 2024
- Course: Qualitative Field Methods - Instructor: Omar McRoberts	
University of Chicago Sociology Department Teaching Assistant	Autumn 2023
- Course: Society, Power and Change - Instructor: Julian Go	

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

University of Chicago Urban Theory Lab	January 2026 - Present
Doctoral researcher	
University of Chicago Comm. on Environment, Geography, and Urbanization	April 2025 - Present
Research coordinator for undergraduate research project: "The Fossil University"	
Amherst College Sociology Department	June - October 2024
Research associate for Prof. Hannah Holleman on undergraduate sociological theory curricula	

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Redekop Family Environmental Research Grant, University of Chicago (\$5,000)	2025
Henderson Research Grant, University of Chicago (\$3,000)	2025
Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (3CT) Graduate Student Fund (\$1,000)	2024
Shapiro Initiative for Environment and Society Pre-Dissertation Travel Grant (\$1,600)	2024
Sociology Department Conference Travel Award (\$2,000)	2024
Henderson Research Grant, University of Chicago (\$2,500)	2024
Redekop Family Environmental Research Grant, University of Chicago (\$2,000)	2023
First-Year Scholars Summer Research Grant, University of Chicago (\$2,500)	2023
Henderson Research Grant, University of Chicago (\$3,000)	2023
Rufus B. Kellogg University Fellowship, Amherst College (\$90,000)	2022-2025
Thomas J. Watson Foundation Fellowship (\$36,000)	2021, <i>declined due to Covid-19</i>
Project: "After Extraction: Human and Environmental Recovery"	
Amherst College Post-Baccalaureate Research Fellowship (\$4,800)	2021

HONORS & AWARDS

Student Paper Award, Winner, ASA Environmental Sociology Section	2026
Edward Shils - James Coleman Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper, Honorable Mention,	2026

ASA Theory Section

Robert E. Park Lectureship in Sociology, University of Chicago (AY 2025-26), for course: Introduction to Environmental Sociology	2025
Albert Szymanski/T.R. Young Marxist Sociology Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Marxist Sociology Section	2025
First-Year Scholars Program, University of Chicago	2022-2023
Amherst College Woods-Travis Prize	2021
“The Woods-Travis Prize, an annual gift in memory of Josiah B. Woods of Enfield and Charles B. Travis of the Class of 1864, is awarded for outstanding excellence in culture and faithfulness to duty as a scholar.”	
Amherst College Jan E. Dizard Prize in Environmental Studies	2021
“The Jan E. Dizard Prize in Environmental Studies, established on the occasion of his retirement, honors Professor Dizard for his role in founding the department. It is awarded to a member(s) of the graduating class who, in the opinion of the Environmental Studies Department, exemplifies the field of environmental studies in academic work.”	
American Sociological Association Undergraduate Honors Program	2021
First Prize in Undergraduate Research, New Horizons in Conservation Conference	2021
Junior Officer, Amherst College Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa	2020
Truman Scholarship finalist	2020

SERVICE

Associate Editor <i>American Journal of Sociology</i>	2026-2027
Assistant Editor <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> (Manuscript Board)	2024-2026
Member Deans Advisory Council, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago	2025-2026
Graduate Student Coordinator Politics, History, & Society Workshop, University of Chicago	2023-2025
Graduate Student Coordinator Empires Forum, University of Chicago	2023-2024
Occasional reviewer for: <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> , <i>American Sociological Review</i> , <i>Journal of Political Ecology</i>	