

Amy Casselman-Hontalas

Stanford University, Department of Sociology
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Education

Ph.D.	Sociology Minor	Stanford University Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies	Expected 2027
M.A.	Sociology Qualifying Areas	Stanford University Gender; Social Inequality	2019
M.A.	Ethnic Studies Highest Honors	San Francisco State University	2011
B.A.	American Studies Highest Honors	University of California, Santa Cruz	2006

Areas of Specialization

Law and Society; Gender, Intersectionality, and Feminist Theory; Legal Mobilization and Right-Wing Movements; Race, Indigeneity, and Colonialism; Qualitative Methods and Discourse Analysis

Academic Appointments

Lecturer	Stanford University Sociology	Winter–Spring 2027, appointed
Lecturer	California State University, Stanislaus Gender Studies; Ethnic Studies	2012–present
Lecturer	San Francisco State University Ethnic Studies; American Indian Studies	2011–present
Lecturer	Laney College Ethnic Studies; Native American Studies	2012–2018

Publications

Book

Casselman, Amy L. 2016. *Injustice in Indian Country: Jurisdiction, American Law, and Sexual Violence Against Native Women*. New York: Peter Lang. Reprinted 2022.

Articles and Chapters

Casselman-Hontalas, Amy. 2025. “Taking the Children to Take the Land: Indian Child Welfare and the Enduring Epidemic of Family Separation.” Pp. 53–72 in *Policing Not Protecting Families: The Child Welfare System as Poverty Governance*, edited by Kerry Woodward and Jennifer Randles. New York: New York University Press.

Casselman-Hontalas, Amy, Dominique Adams-Santos, and Celeste Watkins-Hayes. 2024. "Discourses of Distrust: How Lack of Trust in the U.S. Healthcare System Shaped COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*. 10(4): 154–72.

Casselman, Amy L. 2016. "Oliphant v. Suquamish, 1978." In *50 Events that Shaped American Indian History: An Encyclopedia of the American Mosaic*. Eds. Donna Martinez and Jennifer W. Bordeaux. New York: Bloomsbury Publishing.

Dissertation Research – Three Article Format

Speculative Victimhood: A Framework for Understanding Right-Wing Mobilization

- Develops a framework for understanding how right-wing movements justify opposition to rights-expanding policies by framing protections for marginalized groups as sources of harm.

Legal Activism Against the Indian Child Welfare Act: Settler-Colonialism as Social Movement

- Analyzes the surge in legal challenges to the Indian Child Welfare Act, positioning anti-ICWA litigation in the context of settler colonialism through case study analysis.

Breaking Rank: Decision-Making and Judicial Behavior in Indian Law Cases on the Roberts Court

- Examines how U.S. Supreme Court justices' judicial philosophies shape their opinions in Indian law cases on the Roberts Court (2005–present), using qualitative and quantitative methods.

Working Papers

Conservative Legal Mobilization and the Defeat of the Equal Rights Amendment

- Draws on archival research to show how anti-ERA activists leveraged patriarchal scripts and gendered appeals to block ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment in the 1970s.

Studying Women and Gender in the Wake of Sociology's "Missing Feminist Revolution"

- Analyzes how feminist and gender theory have been incorporated into sociology, using a qualitative meta-analysis informed by critiques from the 2006 *Social Problems* symposium on the "Missing Feminist Revolution."

Research Experience

Research Affiliate – American Voices Project

2020–present

Stanford and Princeton Universities

- Conduct research using the restricted American Voices Project dataset, a nationally representative qualitative study of over 2,000 interviews. Produce peer-reviewed scholarship.

Research Assistant

2019–2020

Stanford University

- Bay Area Law School Project: Longitudinal study of the experiences of Bay Area law school students; Qualitative analysis of interviews.
- Race as a Conceptual Category in American Sociology, 2000-2020: Qualitative analysis of gender as an analytical category in top sociology journals.

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Stanford University

- Capstone Research Seminar Series, Winter–Spring 2027, appointed

San Francisco State University

- American Indians and U.S. Laws
- Power and Politics in American Indian History
- Critical Thinking and the Ethnic Studies Experience
- American Indian History in the United States
- American Indian Women

California State University, Stanislaus

- Women's and Feminist Activism
- Society and Gender
- Gender, Environment, and Sustainability
- Racial and Ethnic Experiences
- Multiculturalism

Laney College

- Introduction to Ethnic Studies
- Native American History
- Native American Indians in Contemporary Society

Graduate Student Instructor

Stanford University

- Capstone Research Seminar
- Introduction to Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity
- Introduction to Sociology
- America: Unequal
- Monitoring the Crisis

San Francisco State University

- Introduction to Women and Gender Studies
- Introduction to Ethnic Studies
- American Indian Women

College of Marin

- U.S. History, Reconstruction to Present

Instructional Training

Certificate	Pedagogy for Inclusive Excellence	San Francisco State University	2019
Certificate	Quality Learning and Teaching	San Francisco State University	2019
Certificate	Community College Teaching	CSU Dominguez Hills	2011

Mentorship

Thesis Advisor

Stanford University

- Elana Begay, “Law and Justice in The Navajo Peacemaking Program” 2023
- Claudia Nmai, “Police Talk: Narratives Among Black Immigrant American Parents” 2023
- Huanvy Phan, “Thriving Together: Nonbinary Asian American Identity Formation” 2020

Research Assistant Intern Supervisor

2021–2022

Stanford University - Institute for Research in the Social Sciences

- Aya Boubezari, Foothill College
- Afreen Shameem, Diablo Valley College

Awards and Fellowships

The Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program Fellowship

2021–present

The California State University

Distinguished Achievement Award for Academic Excellence

2011

San Francisco State University

Invited Talks (selected)

“How COVID-19 Revealed a Fractured System”

2023

American Voices Project Research: Classical Interpretive Studies

Stanford University Center on Poverty and Inequality, Stanford, CA

“Discourses of Distrust: Anti-Vax Narratives in the New Economy”

2022

American Voices Project: Building an Open Qualitative Social Science

The Russell Sage Foundation, New York, NY

“Implications of the Violence Against Women Act”

2019

Federal Indian Policy Speaker Series

Stanford University Law School, Stanford, CA

“Justice on the Reservation”

2018

Sexual Assault Awareness Month Speaker Series

Columbia University Medical School, New York, NY

“Jurisdiction and Justice in Louise Erdrich’s *The Round House*”

2018

Fairhaven Lecture Series

University of Wisconsin, Whitewater, Whitewater, WI

“Gendered Violence in Indian Country”

2017

Stanford University Law School, Stanford, CA

“The Violence Against Women Act: Past and Present”

2017

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Conference Presentations (selected)

“Breaking Rank: Judicial Behavior in Indian Law Cases on the Roberts Court” <i>Law & Society Association</i>	2026
“Legal Activism Against ICWA: Settler Colonialism as Social Movement” <i>Pacific Sociological Association</i>	2025
“Taking the Children to Take the Land: Indian Child Welfare and <i>Brackeen v. Haaland</i> , and the Future of Tribal Sovereignty” <i>Sociologists for Women in Society</i>	2022
“Whose Bodies Matter? Rhetorical Strategies Against the Violence Against Women Act” <i>The Society for the Study of Social Problems</i>	2021
“Discursive Framing in Opposition to the Violence Against Women Act” <i>Law & Society Association</i>	2021
“The Violence Against Women Act and the Trope of ‘Unconstitutionality’” <i>Rights and Wrongs: A Constitution Day Conference</i>	2017
“From Standing Rock to the Urban Rez: Home is Where the Struggle Is” <i>National Association of Ethnic Studies</i>	2017
“Savage Justice: The 2013 Reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act” <i>Pacific Conference on Politics, Law, and Public Policy</i>	2016
“European Conquest Narratives and Indigenous Resistance to Sexual Violence” <i>Cultural Studies Association</i>	2016
Author-Meets-Critics Session on <i>Injustice in Indian Country</i> Author, Amy L. Casselman <i>Cultural Studies Association</i>	2016

Media and Public Scholarship (selected)

<i>Women Are Sacred</i> Feature-length documentary film on violence against Native women.	Forthcoming 2026
<i>60 Minutes</i> Investigative report on tribal criminal jurisdiction.	2019
<i>Marin Independent Journal</i> Op-Ed: “Ethnic Studies Can Liberate and Save Lives” Author, Amy Casselman-Hontalas	2019
<i>Associated Press</i> Investigative report on missing and murdered Indigenous women.	2018

<i>AJ+</i> (a division of <i>Al Jazeera Media Network</i>)	2018
Investigative report on violence against Native women.	
<i>Voice of America</i>	2018
“Advocates Seek Justice for Abused Native American Women”	
Cronkite News, Arizona PBS	2018
“Forgotten Justice: After Decades, Tribal Courts, Police Slowly Regaining Lost Authority”	
<i>The Marshall Project</i>	2018
Investigative report on tribal criminal jurisdiction.	
<i>VICE Magazine</i>	2017
• “Lawmakers Are Finally Addressing the Epidemic of Violence Against Native Women”	2016
• “A Brief and Depressing History of Rape Laws”	2015
• “Native Women Are Rape Targets Because of a Legislative Loophole”	

Professional Experience and Service

Faculty Organizer	2016–2018
Campaign to Defend and Advance Ethnic Studies	
<i>San Francisco State University</i>	
Caseworker, Native TANF Program	2008–2009
<i>Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California</i>	

Skills

- Qualitative Analysis: NVivo (advanced), Dedoose, ATLAS.ti
- Quantitative Analysis: Stata (proficient)
- Instructional Platforms: Canvas (advanced), Blackboard, iLearn, Moodle
- Languages: Spanish (proficient: spoken, reading, and writing)

References

Michael Rosenfeld, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology Stanford University mrosenfe@stanford.edu	Celeste Watkins-Hayes, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology University of Michigan cwhayes@umich.edu
David Grusky, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology Stanford University grusky@stanford.edu	Andrew Jolivéte, Ph.D. Professor of Sociology University of California, Santa Barbara ajolivette@ucsb.edu
Corey Fields, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Sociology Georgetown University cdf46@georgetown.edu	Betsy Eudey, Ph.D. Professor of Gender Studies California State University, Stanislaus beudey@csustan.edu