

Janina L. Selzer, Ph.D.

Visiting Assistant Professor

Hamilton College
Department of Sociology
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Academic Positions

2023 **Hamilton College**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology

Education

2023 **City University of New York Graduate Center**
Ph.D. in Sociology (accepted without revisions)
Dissertation: "Learning to Fly while Staying Grounded: How Forcibly Displaced Individuals Develop a Sense of Belonging in Disempowered Cities"
Advisor: Prof. Philip Kasinitz

2021 **City University of New York Graduate Center**
MPhil in Sociology

2019 **University of Cambridge, UK**
M.A. in Politics, Psychology, and Sociology

2016 **University of Chicago**
M.A. in the Social Sciences
Thesis: "Displacement without Being Displaced: What Interactions among Residents of a Diverse Neighborhood Can Tell Us about Racial Tensions"
Advisor: Prof. Ellis Monk

2015 **University of Cambridge, UK**
B.A. in Politics, Psychology, and Sociology
Thesis: "I'm gonna take you in the back and screw you!": Do Award-Winning American Movies Portray Gender More Stereotypically than Prizewinning European Films? Best Picture Oscar Movies vs. Cannes Palme d'Or Winners: A Comparison."
Advisor: Dr. Liberty Barnes

Publications

Journal Articles

Published

Selzer, Janina L. 2025. "'Can't Take the Country Out of Me!': Chaldean Place-Identity Projects in Motor City." *Genealogy* 9(3):82.

Selzer, Janina L. 2021. "Constructing a Geography of Trauma: Nation-Building and the Convergence of Feminist and Far-Right Anti-Refugee Discourses in Germany." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 45(11): 2266-2288.

Under Review

Selzer, Janina L. 2025. "Becoming Welfare Subjects and Immigrant Entrepreneurs: Forced Displacement, Urban Disempowerment, and the Politics of Belonging." *American Journal of Sociology*. (R&R)

In Preparation

Selzer, Janina L. "Certified Human Beings: Diversity, Inclusion, and the Commodification of Belonging." *American Sociological Association*. (accepted)

Books

Selzer, Janina L. *Belonging, Commodified: Forced Displacement and Urban Disempowerment in Germany and the United States*. (forthcoming at NYU Press)

Book Chapters and Other Publications

Soyer, Michaela and Selzer, Janina L. 2021. "'I wanna be somebody by the time I turn 25' – Narratives of Pathways into Crime and Reentry: Expectations among Young Men in Germany and the United States." Pp. 165-182 in *The Palgrave International Handbook of Youth Imprisonment*, edited by A. Cox and L. Abrams. London: Palgrave Macmillan

Selzer, Janina L. 2020. "Create, Don't Destroy: Laying the Foundation for a Public Discourse on Racial Justice in Germany." *Metropolitics*, September 15. (<https://metropolitics.org/Create-Don-t-Destroy-Laying-the-Foundation-for-a-Public-Discourse-on-Racial.html>)

Selzer, Janina. 2014. "Die Rolle von Vergewaltigungsmythenakzeptanz, Geschlechterrollenkonformität und Substanzkonsum bei der Schuldzuschreibung in Vergewaltigungsfällen: Zusammenfassung einer Literaturübersicht." *Newsletter für den Nachwuchs der Rechtspsychologie*, September, pp. 31-32

Book Reviews

Selzer, Janina L. 2021. "The Complexities of Commemorating Evil" *Sociological Forum* 36(4): 1135-1138.

Selzer, Janina. 2018. "The Changing Nature of Multiculturalism: Death or Adaptation?" *Sociological Forum* 33(3): 830–34.

Grants and Fellowships

2022	CUNY Graduate Center, Carell Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
2021	CUNY Graduate Center, Doctoral Student Research Grant (\$900)
2021-2022	City of Stuttgart (Germany) Manfred-Rommel-Stipendium (35,000 €)
2019	CUNY Graduate Center, Advanced Research Collaborative Student Research Fellowship (\$4,000)
2018	CUNY Graduate Center, Graduate Center Travel Award

- 2017-2022 CUNY Graduate Center, Graduate Center Fellowship
- 2015-2016 University of Chicago, Half Tuition Scholarship
- 2015 University of Cambridge, UK, Murray Edwards College, Academic Needs Award
- 2014 University of Cambridge, UK, Murray Edwards College, Gateway Scholarship
- 2012-2014 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes
awarded for academic excellence after recommendation by Prof. Cathleen
Kantner, Universität Stuttgart, Germany (10,000 € + 300 € monthly stipend)

Presentations

“Certified Human Beings: Diversity, Inclusion, and the Commodification of Belonging.” At the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago on August 10, 2025

“Learning to Fly while Staying Grounded: How Geographies of Inclusion and Exclusion Shape Refugees’ Pathways toward Belonging” at the NIAS Conference on Belonging & Mobility, Amsterdam on October 20, 2023

“We are Refugees, but We Are also Human Beings: Urban Disempowerment and the Commodification of Belonging” at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia on August 20, 2023

“Be:longing – Zugehörigkeit in einer vielfältigen Stadtgesellschaft“ at the StadtPalais – Museum für Stuttgart on June 28, 2022

“Starting Fresh/Erasing their Past – The Politics of Belonging of Disempowered Cities” at The Future of Migration Conference, University of South Carolina, Columbia on March 4, 2022

“Be:longing – Zugehörigkeit schaffen mit und für jesidische Geflüchtete in Bielefeld“ at Deutsch-Ezidische Freundschaft e.V., Bielefeld, Germany on January 10, 2022

“Finding Their Place – How Disempowered Cities Envision a Politics of Belonging for the Forcibly Displaced” at the NIAS Conference on the Studies of Belonging, Amsterdam, June 10, 2021

“Women as Fair Game? – Why Some Feminists Support Anti-Immigrant Politics” at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York on August 12, 2019

“‘Not in Our Name!’ – When Feminist and New Right Narratives Converge” at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston on March 17, 2019

“A Turning Point in History? The Convergence of Right-Wing and Feminist Discourses in Germany” at the Transatlantic Summer Workshop, Ruhr Universität Bochum, Germany on July 10, 2018

“Our Community?” at the ‘Intersectional Interventions: Connecting oppression anywhere to oppression everywhere’ conference in Sheffield, UK on October 21, 2016

“Displacement without Being Displaced” at the MAPSS conference, Chicago on June 9, 2016

“‘I’m gonna take you in the back and screw you!’ - Do Award-Winning American Movies Portray Gender More Stereotypically Than Prizewinning European Films? Best Picture Oscar Movies vs. Cannes Palme d’Or Winners - A Comparison” at the PCA/ACA Conference, New Orleans on April 3, 2015

“The Right Way to Remember? – How the art project ‘Stolpersteine’ Help Remember the Victims of National Socialism”, at the Social and Political Science Society, Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, UK, on November 10, 2014

“Bilingual Education in Stuttgart”, at International Women’s Club Stuttgart, Stuttgart, Germany, on December 5, 2012 overview of bilingual education system for non-native speakers

Research Experiences

Research Assistant, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY, 2022-2023

- Transcribing and coding of qualitative interview data for Professor Elke Weesjes Sabella

Research Assistant, Hunter College, CUNY, 2020-2021

- Transcribing and coding of qualitative interview data for Professor Michaela Soyer

Research Assistant, The Graduate Center, CUNY, 2019-2020

- Creating a German literature review for Professor Philip Kasinitz

Research Assistant, Criminological Research Institute of Lower Saxony, Hannover, Germany, 2014

- Evaluated psychological screening tests
- Analyzed existing data on computer gaming addiction by using both qualitative and quantitative methods
- Synthesized data and wrote reports on new results

Investigative Journalism Assistant, SWR TV, Editorial Office ‘Report Mainz’ and ‘Zur Sache Rheinland-Pfalz’, Mainz, Germany, 2013

- Conducted background research for journalists, later included in the documentaries
- Coded video footage to facilitate retrieval of specific clips
- Organized filming locations
- Responded to viewers’ comments and inquiries

Teaching Experiences

Visiting Assistant Professor, Hamilton College

- American Society (co-taught): Fall 2025
- Summer Community Impact advisor: Summer 2025
- Summer Levitt Research advisor: Summer 2025
- Senior Project: Spring 2025
- Introduction to Sociology: Fall 2024
- Globalization and Its Discontents: Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025
- Urban America: Spring 2024, 2025
- Sociology of Immigration: Fall 2023, Spring 2024, 2025
- Urban Ethnography (cross-listed with Public Policy): Fall 2023

Adjunct Lecturer, Hunter College, CUNY, 2018-2023

- Social Statistics: Spring 2019, 2020, 2021, 2023, Fall 2020, 2022
- The Sociology of New York City: Fall 2018, 2019

WRAC Fellow, Kingsborough Community College, CUNY, 2021-2022

- Tutoring students at the writing center
- Developing teaching portfolio

Leadership and Service

Community and Urban Sociology Section Outstanding Book Award Committee, American Sociological Association, 2025

Department Colloquium Coordinator, Hamilton College, Clinton, 2024 - 2025

Journal Reviewer, American Journal of Sociology, Journal of Intercultural Studies, Politics, Groups, and Identities

Advisory Board Member, Kingsborough Holocaust Center, New York, 2022 - 2024

Co-Chair, GC Immigration Working Group, City University of New York, 2019 - 2021

Program Representative, Doctoral Student Council, City University of New York, 2018-2019

Methodological Training

- Ethnographic research methods
- Inferential statistics (SPSS, Stata, R)
- Qualitative coding (by hand, MAXQDA, QDA Miner)
- Qualitative interviewing
- Spatial data analysis and visualization (QGIS, GeoDa, R)

Languages

German (native language)
English (fluent)
French (fluent)
Spanish (elementary)
Arabic (elementary)