



Matthew Clair

Assistant Professor of Sociology and, by courtesy, of Law

Bio

BIO

Matthew Clair is Assistant Professor of Sociology and, by courtesy, Law. His research interests include law and society, race and ethnicity, cultural sociology, criminal justice, and qualitative methods. He is the author of the award-winning book *Privilege and Punishment: How Race and Class Matter in Criminal Court* (Princeton University Press).

Learn more at his personal website: <https://www.matthewclair.org/>

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Sociology
- Assistant Professor (By courtesy), Stanford Law School

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- American Studies

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Harvard University , Sociology (2018)
- A.M., Harvard University , Sociology (2015)
- A.B., Harvard College , Government (2009)

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Classics of Modern Social Theory: SOC 170, SOC 270 (Spr)
- Crime and Punishment in America: AFRICAAM 179A, AMSTUD 179A, CSRE 179A, SOC 179A, SOC 279A (Spr)
- Ethnographies of Race, Crime, and Justice: SOC 346A (Win)

2024-25

- Classics of Modern Social Theory: SOC 170, SOC 270 (Win)
- Crime and Punishment in America: AMSTUD 179A, CSRE 179A, SOC 179A, SOC 279A (Win)
- Workshop: Qualitative and Fieldwork Methods: SOC 380W (Aut, Win, Spr)

2023-24

- Classics of Modern Social Theory: SOC 170, SOC 270 (Spr)
- Workshop: Qualitative and Fieldwork Methods: SOC 380W (Spr)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Amy Casselman-Hontalas, Reagan Ross, Iris Zhang

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Michael Cerda-Jara

Master's Program Advisor

Ivy Chen, Jasmine Clark, Ami Dongchau, William Heafey, Annalisa King, Ava Mendoza, Husna Nashnoush, Temitope Oshodi, Victoria Ren, Carter Sun, Dylan Vergara

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Nya Hardaway, Caylin Moore

Doctoral (Program)

Michael Cerda-Jara, Nya Hardaway

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **A Relational Theory of Inequality in the Criminal Legal System** *SOCIOLOGY COMPASS*
Clair, M.
2026; 20 (4)
- **Courthouse funneling: how organizational mechanisms teach tenants to bargain in eviction court** *LAW & SOCIETY REVIEW*
Hardaway, N., Clair, M.
2026
- **Spatial Burdens of State Institutions: The Case of Criminal Courthouses** *SOCIAL SERVICE REVIEW*
Clair, M., Orozco, J., Zhang, I. H.
2025; 99 (2): 201-257
- **Moral reconciling at career launch: politics, race, and occupational choice** *SOCIO-ECONOMIC REVIEW*
Clair, M., Hunt, S.
2024
- **"The roughest form of social work:" How court officials justify bail decisions** *CRIMINOLOGY*
Winter, A. S., Clair, M.
2023
- **The collateral consequences of criminal legal association during jury selection** *LAW & SOCIETY REVIEW*
Clair, M., Winter, A. S.
2022; 56 (4): 532-554
- **Black Sociology in the Era of Black Lives Matter** *DU BOIS REVIEW-SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ON RACE*
Clair, M.
2022
- **Punishment Without Crime: How Our Massive Misdemeanor System Traps the Innocent and Makes America More Unequal (Book Review)** *PUNISHMENT & SOCIETY-INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PENOLOGY*
Book Review Authored by: Clair, M.
2022

- **Courts and the Abolition Movement** *CALIFORNIA LAW REVIEW*
Clair, M., Woog, A.
2022; 110 (1): 1-45
- **Being a Disadvantaged Criminal Defendant: Mistrust and Resistance in Attorney-Client Interactions** *SOCIAL FORCES*
Clair, M.
2021; 100 (1): 194-217
- **Blood, Powder, and Residue: How Crime Labs Translate Evidence into Proof (Book Review)** *SOCIAL FORCES*
Book Review Authored by: Clair, M.
2021; 100 (1)
- **CRIMINALIZED SUBJECTIVITY Du Boisian Sociology and Visions for Legal Change** *DU BOIS REVIEW-SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH ON RACE*
Clair, M.
2021; 18 (2): 289-319
- **Unequal Before the Law** *NATION*
Clair, M.
2020; 311 (13): 32–36
- **Jurors' Subjective Experiences of Deliberations in Criminal Cases** *LAW AND SOCIAL INQUIRY-JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN BAR FOUNDATION*
Winter, A. S., Clair, M.
2018; 43 (4): 1458–90
- **Racialized legal status as a social determinant of health** *SOCIAL SCIENCE & MEDICINE*
Asad, A. L., Clair, M.
2018; 199: 19–28
- **Destigmatization and health: Cultural constructions and the long-term reduction of stigma** *SOCIAL SCIENCE & MEDICINE*
Clair, M., Daniel, C., Lamont, M.
2016; 165: 223–32
- **HOW JUDGES THINK ABOUT RACIAL DISPARITIES: SITUATIONAL DECISION-MAKING IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM** *CRIMINOLOGY*
Clair, M., Winter, A. S.
2016; 54 (2): 332–59
- **What is missing? Cultural processes and causal pathways to inequality** *SOCIO-ECONOMIC REVIEW*
Lamont, M., Beljean, S., Clair, M.
2014; 12 (3): 573–608