

## **Emily Coombes, M.A., PhD Candidate**

Department of Sociology

University of Nevada, Las Vegas

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### **EDUCATION**

#### **2025 PhD Candidate in Sociology**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Las Vegas, NV

Committee: Dr. Barbara Brents (Chair), Dr. Robert Futrell (Sociology), Dr. Lillian Junglieb (Sociology), Dr. Benjamin Burroughs (Journalism & Media Studies)

- *Dissertation: "Posting into the Void: An In-Depth Case Study of #LetUsSurvive, Survivors Against SESTA, and Networked Collective Action in the 2018 anti-FOSTA/SESTA Campaign"*

#### **2021 MA in Sociology**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Las Vegas, NV

Advisor: Dr. Barbara Brents

- *Thesis: "#LetUsSurvive and #SurvivorsAgainstSESTA: Hashtag Activism, Online Claims-making, and Digital Mobilization Against Threat in the 2018 Anti-FOSTA/SESTA Campaign on Twitter."*

#### **2020 Graduate Certificate in Social Justice Education**

University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), Las Vegas, NV

Advisor: Dr. Christine Clark

#### **2017 Graduate Certificate in Sexuality, Culture, and Society**

University of Amsterdam, Graduate School of Social Sciences, Amsterdam, NL

#### **2016 BS in Sociology**

Northeastern University, Boston, MA

Minors: Mathematics and Psychology

- *Thesis (2016 Public Sociology Award Winner): "Social Capital in Cyberspace: A Content Analysis of the Sex Worker Community on Reddit."*

### **AREAS OF EXPERTISE**

- Social Movements (PhD Comprehensive Exam passed with Distinction Fall 2022)
- Sexual Politics (PhD Comprehensive Exam passed with Distinction Spring 2023)
- Surveillance & Technology
- Social & Design (In)Justice
- Qualitative Methods (Trauma-Informed)
- Survey Research
- Evaluation Research
- Community-Based Participatory Action Research (PAR)
- Public Sociology, Policy, & Advocacy

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES & ESSAYS

- [WIP] **Coombes, Emily**. “#LetUsSurvive and #SurvivorsAgainstSESTA: Hashtag Activism, Online Claimsmaking, and Digital Mobilization Against Threat in the 2018 Anti-FOSTA/SESTA Campaign on Twitter.”
- [WIP]. **Coombes, Emily** and Benjamin Burroughs. “Political Livestreaming and the Role of Far-Right Influencers in the 2021 U.S. Capital Insurrection.”
- 2026 **Coombes, Emily**. “Sex, Tech, and Sci-Fi: Subversive Comics in Pursuit of a Queer Sex Worker Feminist Imagination.” *Radical History Review Issue 155* (Under Review)
- 2025 **Coombes, Emily**. “Review of *Policing Patients: Treatment and Surveillance on the Frontlines of the Opioid Crisis* by Elizabeth Chiarello.” *Surveillance & Society* (Forthcoming)
- 2024 Underwood, Mary and **Emily Coombes**. “Review of *Dangerous Love: Sex Work, Drug Use, and the Pursuit of Intimacy in Tijuana, Mexico* by Jennifer Leigh Syversten.” *Gender & Society*.
- 2022 **Coombes, Emily**, Danielle Blunt, and Ariel Wolf. “Disabled Sex Workers’ Fight for Digital Rights, Platform Accessibility, and Design Justice.” Special Issue on Sex Work and Disability in *Disability Studies Quarterly (DSQ)*.
- 2022 Marianno, Bradley D., Hemphill, Annie A., Loures-Elias, Ana Paula S., Garcia, L., Cooper, Diana, and **Coombes, Emily**. “Power in a pandemic: Teachers’ unions and their responses to school reopening.” *AERA Open*
- 2020 **Coombes, Emily**, Andrea Dassopoulos, and Jonathan Jimenez. “Forging Fandom: Shared Culture and Porn Tourism at the Adult Entertainment Expo” Special Issue on Sexual Tourism in *Porn Studies*.

## RESEARCH REPORTS

- 2025 Brents, Barb, **Emily Coombes**, Lillian Jungleib, and Mary Underwood. “Sex Industry and Sex Workers in Nevada” in *The Social Health of Nevada: Leading Indicators and Quality of Life in the Silver State*. UNLV: Center for Democratic Culture Publications. (Forthcoming)
- 2022 Stardust, Zahra, Emily van der Nagel, Katrin Tiidenberg, Jiz Lee, **Em Coombes** and Mireille Miller-Young. “[Manifesto for Sex-Positive Social Media](#).” *ARC Centre of Excellence for Automated Decision- Making and Society*
- 2022 Marianno, Dr. Brad, Dr. Mark Spinrad, **Emily Coombes** M.A., Gillian Bowden M.Ed. “YMCA of Southern Nevada Power Scholars Academy Annual Evaluation Report.” *Center for Research Evaluation and Assessment (CREA)*.

2020 Blunt, Danielle, **Emily Coombes**, Shanelle Mullin, and Ariel Wolf. "[Posting into the Void: Studying the Impact of Shadowbanning on Sex Workers and Activists.](#)" *Hacking//Hustling*

### BOOK CHAPTERS

2027 **Coombes, Emily**. "Sex Workers' Rights in a Digital Age" in *Digital Technologies and Sex Work* edited by Teela Sanders. Palgrave Publishing's for the Advances in Sex Work Series. (Forthcoming)

2026 **Coombes, Emily**. "Anti-Trafficking Activism and Survivor-Led Protest in the #LetUsSurvive Campaign against FOSTA/SESTA" in *Human Trafficking in Mass Media: (Mis)Representations, Sensationalization, and Implications* edited by Menaka Raguparan. Palgrave Publishing's Crime and Media Series. (Forthcoming)

### PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

2021 **Coombes, Emily**. "[When Sex Workers Speak, Who Listens?](#)" *The Nation*

2018 **Coombes, Emily**. "[New Legislation Poses Threat to Sex Workers in the U.S.](#)" *NSWP*

2018 **Coombes, Emily**. "[USA Sex Workers Resist Closures Strip Clubs.](#)" *NSWP*

2018 **Coombes, Emily**. "[Canada's Liberal Party votes to support the decriminalization of sex work.](#)" *NSWP*

2018 **Coombes, Emily**. "[Woodhull Freedom Foundation and Human Rights Watch file a federal lawsuit against FOSTA.](#)" *NSWP*

2018 **Coombes, Emily**. "[Largest Sex Worker Conference in the USA is cancelled due to threat from FOSTA-SESTA.](#)" *NSWP*

2018 **Coombes, Emily**. "[Canadian Sex Worker Organisations Organise #JusticeforMoka Campaign.](#)" *NSWP*

2016 **Coombes, Emily**. "[Pimps are not the problem, harsh laws and lack of services are.](#)" *The Huffington Post*

### PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-Now **Teaching & Research Graduate Assistant**

2016-2019 UNLV Department of Sociology, Las Vegas, NV

SOC 474: Sociology of Religion

SOC 470: Sociology of Deviance

SOC 403: Techniques of Social Research (Sociological Methods)

SOC 102: Social Problems

SOC 101: Principles of Sociology

- 2023 **Graduate Assistant & Evaluation Researcher**  
 2019-2020 Nevada Problem Gambling Study (NVPG)  
 UNLV International Gaming Institute (IGI), Las Vegas, NV  
 PI: Andrea Dassopoulos, MA
- 2019-Now **Resident Movement Scholar & Community Researcher**  
 The Hacking//Hustling Collective
- 2021-2023 **Graduate Assistant Researcher**  
 The Center for Research Evaluation and Assessment (CREA), Las Vegas, NV  
 PI/Director: Bradley Marianno, PhD
- 2021-2022 **Research Consultant**  
 Max Planck Institute for Software Systems, Germany  
 PI: Elissa M. Redmiles, PhD
- 2020-2021 **COVID Contact Tracing Researcher**  
 School of Public Health, UNLV
- 2018-2019 **Global Correspondent & Researcher, North America**  
 Global Network of Sex Work Projects (NSWP)
- 2015 **Summer Research Student: Berlin & Istanbul**  
 Global Experience Office (GEO), Northeastern University, Boston, MA  
 Research dialogue trip between Berlin, Germany & Istanbul, Turkey: *"Politics of Space: Islam, Gender, and Sexuality in Istanbul and Berlin"*
- 2012-2014 **Research Assistant**  
 ADAM Center, New York, NY  
 PI: Dr. Braw Shonner, DPT

### **OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

- 2014-2016 **Crisis Counselor & Medical Advocate**  
 Boston Area Rape Crisis Center (BARCC), Boston, MA
- 2015 **Community Relations Intern**  
 Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts (PPLM), Boston, MA
- 2014 **Operations Management Co-op**  
 Root Cause, Boston, MA

## INVITED TALKS

- 2025 **UNLV's William S. Boyd School of Law and the Program on Race, Gender & Policing**  
Symposium on Policing Consent in Commercial Sex Work  
**Panelist:** *"Policing Sex Work: Community Impact and Legal Response"*
- 2024 **UNLV Libraries Special Collections & Archives**  
Sexual Entertainment & Economies: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Issues and Approaches  
**Panelist:** *"Sex Worker Rights: Representation, Research, and Resistance in the Age of FOSTA/SESTA"*
- 2023 **University of Leicester**  
Virtual Event: "Online Sex Work & Platform Governance: Can Regulation Make Things Safer?"  
**Presenter:** *"Performing Sex Worker-led Research Under FOSTA/SESTA"*
- 2022 **AIDS United**  
Virtual Listening Session  
**Panelist:** *"Sex Work, Policy, and the Intersections of the Law"*
- 2022 **Boston University Faculty of Computing & Data Sciences (BU FCDS)**  
Virtual Spring Speaker Series  
**Presenter:** *"Sex Work and Surveillance"*
- 2021 **RightsCon Global**  
Annual Conference, Digital due to COVID  
**Community Lab Co-Facilitator:** *"Alternative Frameworks for Sexual Content Moderation"*
- 2021 **The Labor and Working-Class History Association**  
Annual Conference, Digital due to COVID  
**Panelist:** *"Canaries in the Coal Mine: Sex Workers at the Front Lines"*
- 2019 **UNLV Department of Sociology**  
Brownbag Lecture, Las Vegas, NV  
**Presenter:** *"Mobilization via Threat: Sex Worker Resistance in the #LetUsSurvive Anti-SESTA/FOSTA Campaign"*
- 2019 **The Cyberlaw Clinic @ Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society**  
Harvard Law School, Cambridge, MA  
**Presenter:** *"Mobilization via Threat: Sex Worker Resistance in a Post-SESTA/FOSTA Era"*
- 2018 **UNLV Department of Sociology**  
SOC 101: Principles of Sociology  
Guest Lecturer: *"Sociology and Social Movements"*
- 2017 **UNLV Department of Sociology**  
SOC 443: Urban Sociology

Guest Lecturer: *“Sex Work, Policy, and Urban Spaces.”*

## CONFERENCES

- 2025 **Pacific Sociological Association (PSA)**  
Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA  
**Presider and Presenter:** *“Sex Worker- and Survivor-Led Protest in #LetUsSurvive #SurvivorsAgainstSESTA.”*
- 2023 **Surveillance Studies Network (SSN)/Surveillance & Society**  
Biennial Conference, University of Oregon  
**Discussant:** *“The Battle for Control: Protest Policing, Extinction Rebellion & the Spiral of Surveillance and Counter-Surveillance in the Age of AI.”*
- 2019 **American Sociological Association (ASA)**  
Media Preconference, New York, NY  
**Presenter:** *“Examining Digital and Sexual Citizenship in a FOSTA/SESTA Era: Who Gets to Survive Online and Who Doesn’t?”*
- 2019 **Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)**  
Annual Conference, New York, NY  
**Moderator:** *“The Future of Work in the Digital Age”*
- 2019 **Beyond Discourse: Critical and Empirical Approaches to Human Trafficking**  
The Anti-Slavery & Human Trafficking Initiative (ASHTI) @ Center for the Study of Injustice  
Institute for Policy & Social Research, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS  
**Presenter:** *“Online Anti-Trafficking Activism and Twitter: Investigating Survivor Led Advocacy in the Campaign Against FOSTA-SESTA.”*
- 2019 **Pacific Sociological Association (PSA)**  
Annual Conference, Oakland, CA  
**Co-Presenter** with C. Wakefield and Dr. B. Brents: *“Legality, Prostitution and Public Health: Reported Condom Use Among Buyers of Sexual Services in Different Markets.”*
- 2018 **National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)**  
Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA  
**Moderator:** *“Exploring Sex Work/er Feminism as a 21st Century Intersectional Feminism.”*
- 2018 **Law and Society Association (LSA)**  
Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, Canada  
**Co-Presenter** with Dr. Barb Brents: *“Sex Worker Owned, Operated or Organized?: Global Comparisons of Worker-involved Businesses.”*
- 2017 **COST Action PROSPOL Conference: Displacing Sex for Sale**  
Aalborg University, Copenhagen, Denmark

**Presenter:** *“Global Trends in the Neo-liberalization of Social Movements: An Analysis of the Relationship between Contemporary Anti-Trafficking Efforts and the Sex Workers’ Rights Movement.”*

2017 **Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)**

Annual Conference, Montréal, Quebec Canada

**Presenter:** *“Workers’ Rights vs. Human Rights: Investigating the Impact of Contemporary Social Movement Strategies through a Case Study of the Sex Workers’ Rights Movement.”*

2017 **Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)**

Annual Conference, Albuquerque, NM

**Presenter:** *“Addressing Intersectionality in the Sex Workers’ Rights Movement: Resistance or Reproduction?”*

2016 **CSSH Undergraduate Research Forum**

Northeastern University, Boston, MA

**Presenter:** *“Social Capital in Cyberspace: A Content Analysis of the Sex Worker Community on Reddit.”*

2016 **Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)**

Annual Conference, Boston, MA

**Poster Presenter:** *“Social Capital in Cyberspace: A Content Analysis of the Sex Worker Community on Reddit.”*

## UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2023-2024 **Grad Rebel Advantage Program Mentor for Undergraduate Students**

Graduate College, University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV)

2019-2020 **Graduate Student Representative**

UNLV Sociology Undergraduate Committee

2018-2020 **Graduate Representative for UNLV Department of Sociology**

UNLV Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA) Council

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

2022-Now Peer Reviewer

- *Feminist Media Studies*
- *Sexualities*
- *The Age of Human Rights Journal (TAHRJ)*

## AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

2025 **Graduate Travel Award (\$100)**

Pacific Sociological Association (PSA)

- 2024 **Outstanding PhD Student Award**  
Department of Sociology, UNLV, Las Vegas, NV
- 2024 **Summer Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$7000)**  
UNLV Graduate College
- 2024 **Grad Academy Award (\$750)**  
UNLV Graduate College
- 2024 **Grad Rebel Advantage Scholarship (\$100)**  
UNLV Graduate College
- 2023 **Grad Rebel Advantage Scholarship (\$100)**  
UNLV Graduate College
- 2019 **Graduate Student Public Sociology Award**  
Department of Sociology, UNLV, Las Vegas, NV
- 2017 **Sponsorship Travel Award (\$1000)**  
Graduate Professional Student Association (GPSA), UNLV, Las Vegas, NV
- 2016 **Public Sociology Departmental Award**  
Department of Sociology, Northeastern University, Boston, MA  
*Senior Thesis awarded: "Social Capital in Cyberspace: A Content Analysis of the Sex Worker Community on Reddit."*
- 2016 **Undergraduate Dean's List**  
College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University, Boston, MA
- 2015 **Undergraduate Dean's List**  
College of Social Sciences and Humanities, Northeastern University, Boston, MA

### **OTHER COMMUNITY-ENGAGED PROJECTS & ADVOCACY**

- 2025 **Founder & Curator**  
#LetUsSurvive Hashtag Syllabus (Forthcoming)
- 2020 **Contributor: "Solidarity (not charity) forever."**  
International Whores Day Zine, Kink Out Productions  
- Winner of Broken Pencil Magazine's "Best Political Zine" and selected for MoMA PS1's permanent collection. <https://www.internationalwhoresday.com/zine>
- 2018, 2017 **Presenter: "A Feminist's History of Anti-Capitalism"**  
**Panelist: "Femme Identity in the Workplace"**  
Left in LA, Los Angeles, CA



- 2018      **Organizing Lead for Sex Worker Community Outreach**  
Women’s March, Las Vegas, NV
- 2017      **Panelist: Health Care Hearing with Senator Cortez Masto**  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN), Las Vegas, NV  
- *Organized by Senator Cortez Masto and Planned Parenthood*

### **MEDIA QUOTES & COVERAGE**

- 2020      “[No New Normal, Who Will We Be After This Nightmare is Over?](#)” Kim Kelly. *Bitch Media*.
- 2020      “[Report Says Shadowbanning is Real—and it’s Suppressing Sex Workers.](#)” Ana Valens. *Daily Dot*.
- 2020      “[Sex Workers are Stressed, Anxious, and Depressed amid COVID-19 Pandemic.](#)” Nicole Karlis. *Salon*.
- 2019      “[Sex Workers Are at the Forefront of the Fight Against Mass Surveillance and Big Tech.](#)” Erin Taylor. *The Observer*.
- 2018      “[Social Media for Mobilization.](#)” *UNLV News Center*.

### **SKILLS & CERTIFICATIONS**

**Statistical Programs:** Stata, SPSS

**Qualitative Data Analysis Programs:** Nvivo, ATLAS.ti

**Survey Design Programs:** Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Google Forms, Microsoft Forms

**Other Certifications:** UNLV Grad Academy Research Certification, CITI Social/Behavioral Research Certification, Planned Parenthood’s Sexuality Education Certification Series (SECS)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

**American Sociological Association (ASA):** Media Soc; Collective Behavior & Social Movements

**Pacific Sociological Association (PSA)**

**Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP):** Conflict, Social Action, & Change; Labor Studies

**Surveillance Studies Network (SSN)**