

Katherine Thomas

Updated: July 2026

✉ katethomas@nyu.edu
🌐 katherineathomas.github.io
🌐 [Google Scholar](#)

New York University
Department of Sociology
79 Washington Square East
New York, NY, 10003

EDUCATION

Exp. 2027 Ph.D., Sociology, New York University
 Committee: Jacob Faber (chair), Maria Abascal, Ingrid Gould Ellen, Michael Hout
2025 M.A., Sociology, New York University
2017 B.A. with High Honors in Statistics and Policy Studies, Rice University

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming **Thomas, Katherine A.** “Countering the Current: Flood Risk and Uneven Patterns of Immobility.” *Forthcoming in Demography*.

- Honorable Mention — 2025 SSSP Division of Environment and Technology’s Graduate Student Paper Prize
- Honorable Mention — 2025 ASA Section on Race, Class and Gender Graduate Student Paper Award

2026 **Thomas, Katherine A.**, Thomas Storrs, Wenfei Xu, and Jacob W. Faber. “New-deal mortgage programmes benefited white borrowers disproportionately.” *Nature*.
[[Paper](#)] [[Summary](#)] [[Data](#)]

2022 Hanson, Devlin, Michael Pergamit, Laura Packard Tucker, **Katherine A. Thomas**, and Shannon Gedo. “Do Education and Training Vouchers Make a Difference for Youth in Foster Care?” *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*.

2019 **Thomas, Katherine A.**, James R. Elliott, and Sergio Chavez. “Community Perceptions of Industrial Risks Before and After a Toxic Flood: The Case of Houston and Hurricane Harvey.” *Sociological Spectrum*.

MANUSCRIPTS

Thomas, Katherine A. “Moving to Risk: The Effect of Climate Risk Information on Residential Mobility and Spatial Inequality.” (Draft available upon request)

Xu, Wenfei, Thomas Storrs, Jacob W. Faber, and **Katherine A. Thomas**. “Revisiting the Measurement of Redlining with Comparative Evidence from FHA and HOLC Maps.”

Jacob W. Faber, **Katherine A. Thomas**, Thomas Storrs, and Wenfei Xu. “The Geography of Exclusion: Explaining racial disparities in FHA and VA lending”

POLICY REPORTS AND PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2023 [Labor Markets in Climate Migrant Receiving Communities](#). Urban Institute.
- 2023 [Keeping Families Together in New Jersey: Findings from Program Model Interviews](#). Urban Institute.
- 2023 [Evaluation of the Urban Alliance High School Internship Program](#). Urban Institute.
- 2022 [Do Education and Training Vouchers Make a Difference for Young Adults in Foster Care? A Study of Ten States](#). Urban Institute.
- 2021 [Employers, Young People, Training and Support: Implementation Study of the Urban Alliance High School Internship Program](#). Urban Institute.
- 2021 [What Elements of Employment and Training Programs Set Young People up for Success?](#) *Urban Wire* (blog).
- 2020 [What HUD’s Proposed Rule Gets Wrong About Affordable Housing](#). *Urban Wire* (blog).
- 2020 [HUD Omits Race from Fair Housing Proposal: Public Comment on the Proposed Rule Change on Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing](#). *Public comment submitted to HUD*.
- 2020 [A State-by-State Look at Children of Immigrants](#). Urban Institute.
- 2017 [How to Better Understand Houston’s Complex Network of Parks](#). *Urban Edge* (blog).

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

External Fellowships and Grants

- 2025–27 National Science Foundation, “Collaborative Research: Uncovering the history of redlining with new data from local land records.” With Omer A. Ali, Jacob Faber, Andreas Ferrara, Jonathan Rose, Thomas Storrs, Randall P. Walsh, and Wenfei Xu. \$600,000. (Role: Co-Investigator) (Terminated)
- 2023–25 Washington Center for Equitable Growth, “Missing Pieces in the Puzzle: Leveraging untapped archival data to connect New Deal housing policies to racial and spatial inequality.” With Jacob Faber, Thomas Storrs, and Wenfei Xu. \$70,000 (Role: Co-PI)
- 2023–25 Russell Sage Foundation, “Missing Pieces in the Puzzle: Leveraging untapped archival data to connect New Deal housing policies to racial and spatial inequality.” With Jacob Faber, Thomas Storrs, and Wenfei Xu. \$199,681 (Role: Co-Investigator)
- 2022 Summer Institute in Computational Social Science (SICSS), Duke University. (Role: Participant)

Competitive Internal Fellowships and Grants

- 2026–27 NYU Climate Seed Grant, “How Information about Climate Risk Shapes Housing Markets.” With Malcolm Araos. \$19,373. (Role: Co-Investigator)
- 2026 NYU Sociology Research Initiation Grant. \$3,000.
- 2026–28 NYU REBOOT, “Leveraging Historical Property Records to Uncover Federal Support of Redlining.” With Jacob Faber. \$248,524. (Role: Co-Investigator)
- 2025–26 NYU Climate Doctoral Fellowship. \$2,500.
- 2024–25 NYU Institute for Human Development and Social Change, “Financing American Apartheid: Leveraging historical property records to measure the true impacts of redlining.” With Jacob Faber. \$15,070. (Role: Co-Investigator)

2023–24	NYU Urban Doctoral Fellowship. \$3,000.
2021–26	NYU Henry MacCracken Fellowship for Graduate Study
2017–18	Rice University Wagoner Fellowship. \$11,000.
2016	Rice University Chandler-Davidson Research Fund. \$2,000.
2016	Rice University Loewenstern Fellowship. \$4,000.

Awards

2025	Selected, SSSP Division of Environment and Technology's Graduate Student Paper Prize (<i>Selected by panel to receive prize, not awarded due to eligibility rules requiring conference attendance</i>)
2025	Honorable Mention, ASA Section on Race, Class and Gender Graduate Student Paper Award
2017	Rice University Weber-Durkheim Award for Excellence in Sociology
2017	Rice University President's Honor Roll
2017	Rice University Distinction in Research and Creative Works

PRESENTATIONS

Invited

2026	Harvard Sociology Urban Data Lab, Cambridge, MA
2024	Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA

Conferences

2026	Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Boston, MA American Sociological Association (ASA), New York, NY Sociological Science Conference, Palo Alto, CA
2025	Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Seattle, WA American Sociological Association (ASA), Chicago, IL NBER Linking Historical Data Sources for Small Populations, Cambridge, MA
2024	Social Sciences History Association (SSHA), Toronto, ON American Sociological Association (ASA), Montreal, QC Population Association of America (PAA), Columbus, OH International Conference on Urban Affairs (UAA), New York, NY Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), Washington, DC
2023	Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Atlanta, GA
2021	Society for Social Work and Research Conference (SSWR) (virtual)
2019	National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics (NAWRS) Workshop, New Orleans, LA
2017	Stanford Undergraduate Research Conference, Palo Alto, CA Rice University Research Symposium, Houston, TX
2016	Rice University Research Symposium, Houston, TX

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP

Teaching

Fall 2026	Teaching Assistant, NYU, Statistics for Social Research (with Michael Hout)
Fall 2024	Guest Lecturer, Cornell University, Neighborhood Change in the City: Quantitative Methods
Spring 2024	Teaching Assistant, NYU, Statistics for Social Research (with Ravaris Moore)
Fall 2016	Teaching Assistant, Rice University, Elementary Applied Statistics

Formal Mentorship

2025–26	PhD Mentor, NYU Research Education and Credentialing Hub (REACH)
---------	--

SERVICE

Disciplinary Service

2026	APPAM Session Discussant, “Climate Shocks and the Reallocation of Households and Housing”
2026	APPAM Panel Co-Organizer, “Housing policy for equitable climate adaptation”
2026	RC28, Program Committee Member
2025–26	ASA Section on Inequality, Poverty and Mobility, Student Council Member
2025	APPAM, Panel Co-Organizer, “Beyond the Red Lines: New Directions in the Study of Housing Policy and Racial Inequality” (with Jacob Faber)
2025	SASE, Session Co-Organizer, “Historical and environmental foundations of urban inequality: Insights from new methodological assemblages” (with Jonathan Tollefson)
2025	PAA, Session Discussant, “Historical Roots of Spatial Inequality”
2024	SSHA, Session Co-Organizer, “New Data on the New Deal”
2024	SSHA, Session Chair, “Inequality and Segregation in US Cities”
2022	SICSS, Program Assistant
	Occasional Reviewer: <i>Social Forces</i> , <i>Housing Studies</i>

Departmental and Institutional Service

2025	Co-Organizer, NYU Sociology Race/Ethnicity Workshop (with Linsey Edwards)
2024	Co-Organizer, NYU Sociology Race/Ethnicity Workshop (with Jacob Faber)
2023 – 25	Co-Organizer, Institute for Public Knowledge Climate Change Doctoral Working Group (with Nicholas Hoynes)
2022 –23	Chair, Graduate Student Association, NYU Department of Sociology
2021	Data Science Champion, Urban Institute
2019 – 21	Peer Ambassador, Urban Institute
2018 – 21	Organizer, RCT Methods Group, Urban Institute
2018 – 21	Organizer, R Users Group, Urban Institute
2018 – 21	Organizer, Stata Users Group, Urban Institute

2014 – 17 President and Co-Founder, Rice Urbanists, Rice University

RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

Institutes

2023 – Co-Director, [Redlining Lab](#)
2022 – Doctoral Fellow, NYU Institute for Public Knowledge

Professional Memberships

- GSOC-UAW Local 2110 – Graduate Student Union, New York University
- American Sociological Association
 - Section on Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility
 - Section on Community and Urban Sociology
 - Section on Environmental Sociology
 - Section on Race, Class, and Gender
- Association for Public Policy, Analysis, and Management
- Population Association of America

Other Professional Experience

2022 Research Assistant, Cash Transfer Lab, New York University
2019 – 21 Urban Institute, Research Analyst
2018 – 19 Urban Institute, Research Assistant
2017 – 18 Wagoner Fellow, Buenos Aires, Argentina (independent research fellowship)
2015 – 17 Research Assistant, Kinder Institute for Urban Research
2014 Research Intern, Center for Houston's Future