

SHAI KARP
Curriculum Vitae
Updated September 2026

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APPOINTMENTS

Ursinus College

Assistant Professor of Politics

2025–

EDUCATION

PhD Political Science

2025

Northwestern University

Dissertation: *Leasing Democracy: Private Power and Public Policy in American Rental Housing*

Committee: Chloe Thurston (chair), Daniel Galvin, Ann Orloff, Reuel Rogers

Major field in American politics, minor field in political theory

Certificates: Comparative-Historical Social Science, Critical Theory

MA Political Science

2020

Northwestern University

BA Political Science

2018

Vassar College

Minor in Sociology

RESEARCH

Publications (peer-reviewed)

“Private Government at Home: Landlord Power and Rental Residential Domination in the United States,” *Politics & Society* 53, no. 2 (2025): 167–209, doi:10.1177/00323292241285289.

“Performing Social Control: Poverty Governance, Public Finance, and the Politics of Visibility,” *Sociological Theory* 41, no. 1 (2024): 23–48, doi:10.1177/07352751231222476. With John N. Robinson III and Spencer Headworth.

Winner of the 2025 Outstanding Article Award from the Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

Works in Progress

“The Anti-Renter Regime in American Housing Policy” (book project)

“Landlord-Tenant Politics: Renters and the Experience of Power”

“From Public Housing to Private Subsidies: How Housing Delegation Demobilized Poor Renters of Color”

“HUD’s Broken Promises: Inequality, Racialized Politics, and the Devolution of Urban Governance” (with Jacob Loewenberg Ball)

“The Great Recession and American Political Development”

Areas of Specialization

race-class inequality; law & public policy; housing; American political institutions; American political development; urban studies; contemporary political theory; qualitative methods

Book Reviews

Through the Roof: Housing, Capitalism, and the State in America and Germany by Alexander Reisenbichler, *International Journal of Housing Policy*, ahead of print, August 11, 2026, doi:10.1080/19491247.2026.2713312.

Public Writing

“Rent Strikes as a Form of Righteous Resistance,” LPE Project, December 10, 2024, <https://lpeproject.org/blog/landlords-as-petty-tyrants/>.

TEACHING

Ursinus College, Assistant Professor

American Politics	Fall 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026, scheduled Spring 2027
Constitutional Law & Politics	Fall 2025, scheduled Spring 2027
Law & Society	Fall 2026
Public Policy	scheduled Spring 2027
Race & the American City	Spring 2026

Northwestern University, Lecturer

The American Presidency	Spring 2024
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Northwestern University, Teaching Assistant

African American Politics	Spring 2022, Spring 2025
International Political Economy	Winter 2022
Introduction to Law in the Political Arena	Spring 2020, Fall 2021
Constitutional Law II	Spring 2021
Law and Society	Fall 2020, Winter 2021
Introduction to Political Theory	Winter 2020
Constitutional Law I	Fall 2019

Northwestern University, Grader

Public Policy	Fall 2024
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Pedagogical Training

Searle Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning, Teaching Certificate	2022
Political Science Graduate Student Teaching Certificate	2021

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Outstanding Article Award for “Performing Social Control” Society for the Study of Social Problems: Poverty, Class, and Inequality Division	2025
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Ursinus College

Provost’s Award for Innovative Teaching	2026
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Northwestern University

Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy Research Grant (\$2500)	2023
Minar Memorial Summer Award (\$1000)	2022

Vassar College

Departmental honors in Political Science	2018
Ida Frank Guttman Prize for best thesis in Political Science (thesis: <i>Redeeming Political Myth: Walter Benjamin, History, and Politics</i>)	2018

PRESENTATIONS

Invited lectures

“The Origins of the Anti-Renter Regime in American Housing Policy” Political Science Speaker Series, Bowling Green State University	2024
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Conference presentations

“The Law and Politics of Federal Rent Control in the United States, 1942–1954” <i>American Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i>	2026
<i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	2026
“HUD’s Broken Promises: Inequality, Racialized Politics, and the Devolution of Urban Governance” <i>Social Science History Association Annual Meeting</i>	2025
“The Anti-Renter Regime in American Housing Policy” <i>Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i>	2025
<i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	2025
<i>American Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i>	2024
“Urbanization, Private Rental Housing, and the Anti-Renter Regime in American Housing Policy” <i>Political Economy and Economic Sociology Consortium Summer Conference</i>	2024
“Private Power, Rights Consciousness, and Collective Action among Chicago Renters” <i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	2024
“Renter Politics: Race, Class, Landlords, and Power among Chicago Tenants” <i>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i>	2024
“Private Government at Home: Landlord Power and Rental Residential Domination” <i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	2023
“Renters and the State: Housing, Urbanization, Real Estate, and Public Policy in the Long New Deal Era” <i>Social Science History Association Annual Meeting</i>	2022
<i>American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting</i>	2022
“The Eviction State: Housing, Tenancy, and Law in American Political Development” <i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	2021
<i>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i>	2021

Conference panel participation

Author-Meets-Readers: <i>Through the Roof: Housing, Capitalism, and the State in America and Germany</i> by Alexander Reisenbichler <i>American Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i>	2026
Author-Meets-Readers: <i>Indefensible Spaces: Policing and the Struggle for Housing</i> by Rahim Kurwa <i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	2026
Roundtable: Tenant Unions and Housing Justice <i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	2025

Workshop presentations

“Renter Politics: Race, Class, Landlords, and Power among Chicago Tenants”	
<i>Northwestern Politics and Public Policy Lab</i>	2024
“Private Government at Home: Landlord Power and Rental Residential Domination”	
<i>Northwestern Political Theory Workshop</i>	2023
“Renters and the State: Housing, Urbanization, Real Estate, and Public Policy in the Long New Deal Era”	
<i>Northwestern APD Workshop</i>	2022
“Underwriting Social Control: Punishment, Provision, and the Insidious Public Eye”	
<i>Northwestern APD Workshop</i>	2022
“Housing, Law, and Court Development in Cook County, Illinois”	
<i>Northwestern Politics and Public Policy Lab</i>	2022
“The Eviction State: Housing, Tenancy, and Law in American Political Development”	
<i>Northwestern APD Workshop</i>	2021
“Machiavellian Empire: Expansion Between Domination and Freedom”	
<i>Northwestern Political Theory Workshop</i>	2020

SERVICE

Departmental and institutional service, Ursinus College

Information Technology committee	scheduled Spring 2027
Arts & Lectures committee	Fall 2026
Honors project reader	Spring 2026–
Advisory committee member, Civic Spark Hub	2025–

Departmental service, Northwestern University

Co-founder and co-chair of American Political Development Workshop	2021–2023
Political Science Teaching Committee	2020–2021

Professional

Panel chair	2025
“U.S. Public Policy”	
<i>Northeastern Political Science Association Association Annual Meeting</i>	
Panel chair	2025
“Spatial Justice: Housing, Urban Development, and the Political Economy of Place”	
<i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	
Panel organizer and chair	2024
“Housing and American Political Development”	
<i>American Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i>	
Panel organizer	2024
“Race, Inequality, and Qualitative Methods in Urban Politics”	
<i>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting</i>	
Panel organizer and chair	2023
“How Economic Power Shapes Legal Structures, and Vice Versa”	
<i>Law and Society Association Annual Meeting</i>	
Panel organizer	2022
“Local Legal Institutions: Capitalism, Inequality, and the Grassroots Negotiation of Power in the	

U.S.”

American Society for Legal History Annual Meeting

Journal peer reviewer

Journal of Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR)

2022

Northwestern Searle Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning Certificate Program

2021–2022

AFFILIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association

Law and Society Association

Northeastern Political Science Association

Social Science History Association

SOFTWARE SKILLS

R (RStudio, tidyverse), L^AT_EX, NVivo, MaxQDA, Markdown, Canvas, Microsoft Office