

CAROLINE W. LEE

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Lafayette College
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EDUCATION

- 2006 Ph.D., Sociology, University of California, San Diego
Dissertation: *What Difference Does Local Participation Make?*
Committee: Martha Lampland (chair), John Skrentny, Michael Schudson, Amy Bridges, Clark Gibson
- 2002 M.A., Sociology, University of California, San Diego
- 1999 B.A., Sociology, Vassar College

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Lafayette College, Anthropology & Sociology Department

- 2022- Professor
2022- Faculty Director, Landis Center for Community Engagement
2019- Department Head
2013-22 Associate Professor
2006-13 Assistant Professor

University of California, San Diego, Sociology Department

- 2005 Associate in Residence

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Sociology	Economic Sociology	Organizations and Professions
Social Movements	Sociology of Culture	Research Methods

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2024 John T. McCartney Award for Excellence in Diversity Education, Lafayette College
- 2022, 16 Marquis Distinguished Teaching Award, for distinctive and extraordinary teaching, Lafayette College.
- 2013 Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Faculty Lecture Award, in recognition of excellence in teaching and scholarship, Lafayette College.
- 2008 Outstanding Article Award: "Is There a Place for Private Conversation in Public Dialogue? Comparing Stakeholder Assessments of Informal Communication in Collaborative Regional Planning." Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section, American Sociological Association.

- 2005-6 Fellowship in Contemporary History, Public Policy, and American Politics, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia.
- 2003-4 Dissertation Research Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector.
- 2000-1 Regents Fellowship, University of California, San Diego.

GRANTS

- 2017 Lafayette College Academic Research Committee, Richard King Mellon Summer Research Fellowship
- 2017, '15 Lafayette College Academic Research Committee EXCEL Scholar Grant and Research Grant: "Democratic Accountability in Higher Education."
- 2014 Lafayette College Academic Research Committee Publication Grants: *DIY Democracy*, *Democratizing Inequalities* indexes.
- 2009-11 Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline, sponsored by the American Sociological Association and the National Science Foundation: "Democratizing Inequalities."
- 2011 Lafayette College First Year Seminar Development Grant: "Democracy 2.0: Movements and Markets in the Participation Economy."
- 2011 Lafayette College Academic Research Committee Research Grant: "Disciplining Democracy."
- 2009 Lafayette College Academic Research Committee Research Grant: "Movement Logics and Multi-Institutional Politics in the Public Participation Field."
- 2008 Lafayette College Environmental Studies Steering Committee Course Development Grant: "Designs for Living: Environmentalism, Counterculture, and American Utopias."
- 2007 Lafayette College Academic Research Committee Research Grant: "Public Participation Professionals: Big Business and Best Practices in the Public Sphere."
- 2004 Social Science Research Council, Program on Philanthropy and the Nonprofit Sector Dissertation Write-Up Grant.

BOOKS

- Lee, Caroline W. 2015. *Do-it-Yourself Democracy: The Rise of the Public Engagement Industry*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Reviews: *American Journal of Sociology*, *Governance*, *International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Journal of Political Science Education*, *Journal of Public Deliberation*, *Library Journal*, *Mobilization*, *Social Forces*
- Review essays: *Contemporary Sociology*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Participations*
- Book Symposium: *Trajectories*
- Interviews/press: *US News*, America's Democrats podcast, Real Democracy Now! podcast

Lee, Caroline W., Michael McQuarrie, and Edward Walker, eds. 2015. *Democratizing Inequalities: Dilemmas of the New Public Participation*. New York: New York University Press.

Reviews: *Contemporary Sociology, Mobilization, Social Movement Studies*

Review essay: *Participations*

Interviews/press: New Books in Political Science podcast

ARTICLES

- 2020 Lee, Caroline W. "Who is Community Engagement For? The Endless Loop of Democratic Transparency." *American Behavioral Scientist* 64(11):1565-1587.
- 2019 Lee, Caroline W. "21st Century Town Hall Meetings in the 1990s and 2000s: Deliberative Demonstrations and the Commodification of Political Authenticity in an Era of Austerity." *Journal of Public Deliberation* 15(2): Article 2.
Originally published in translation in 2016 as: "Les 21st Century Town Meetings dans les Annees 1990 et 2000: Assemblees Deliberantes et Marchandisation de L'authenticite Politique dans une Epoque d'Austerite." Traduction: Laurent Vannini. *Participations* 14(2): 51-82.
- 2016 Lee, Caroline W. "The Arts and Crafts of Participatory Reforms: How Can Socially Engaged Art and Public Deliberation Inform Each Other?" *Field* 3(Spring).
- 2015 Lee, Caroline W. "Participatory Practices in Organizations." *Sociology Compass* 9(4), 272-288.
- 2014 Lee, Caroline W. "Walking the Talk: The Performance of Authenticity in Public Engagement Work." *The Sociological Quarterly* 55: 493-513.
- 2013 Lee, Caroline W. and Zachary Romano (Lafayette '10). "Democracy's New Discipline: Public Deliberation as Organizational Strategy." *Organization Studies* 34(5-6), 733-753.
- 2013 Lee, Caroline W., Kelly McNulty (Lafayette '11) and Sarah Shaffer (Lafayette '11). "'Hard Times, Hard Choices': Marketing Retrenchment as Civic Empowerment in an Era of Neoliberal Crisis." *Socio-Economic Review* 11(1), 81-106.
- 2011 Lee, Caroline W. "Five Assumptions Academics Make about Public Deliberation, and Why They Deserve Rethinking." *Journal of Public Deliberation* 7(1), 1-48.
- 2011 Lee, Caroline W., and Elizabeth Long Lingo. "The 'Got Art?' Paradox: Questioning the Value of Art in Collective Action." *Poetics* 39(4), 316-335.
- 2011 Lee, Caroline W. "The Politics of Localness: Scale-Bridging Ties and Legitimacy in Regional Resource Management Partnerships." *Society & Natural Resources* 24(5), 439-454.
- 2010 Lee, Caroline W. "The Roots of Astroturfing." *Contexts* (Winter), 73-75.
- 2009 Lee, Caroline W. "Conservation as a Territorial Ideology." *City & Community* 8(3), 301-328.
- 2007 Lee, Caroline W. "Is There a Place for Private Conversation in Public Dialogue? Comparing Stakeholder Assessments of Informal Communication in Collaborative Regional Planning." *American Journal of Sociology* 113(1), 41-96.

- 2004 Haydu, Jeffrey, and Caroline Lee. "Model Employers and Good Government in the Late 19th and Late 20th Centuries." *Sociological Forum* 19(2), 177-202.

REVIEWS, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2025 Lee, Caroline W. Review of "The Participation Paradox: Between Bottom-Up and Top-Down Development in South Africa" by Luke Sinwell. H-SAfrica, H-Net Reviews. February.
- 2024 Lee, Caroline W. "Leaning into Institutional Politics: Paradoxes of Success in Higher Education Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Initiatives." Pp. 49-64 in *Leaning into Politics: Higher Education's Role in Building the Democracy We Need*, edited by Abraham Goldberg and Carah Ong Whaley. Information Age Press.
- 2022 Lee, Caroline W. Review of "Sustainable Cities in American Democracy: From Postwar Urbanism to a Civic Green New Deal" by Carmen Sirianni, *American Journal of Sociology* 128(1), 318-320.
- 2019 Laurence Bherer and Caroline W. Lee. "Consultants: The Emerging Participation Industry." In *The Handbook of Democratic Innovation and Governance*, edited by Stephen Elstub and Oliver Escobar. Cheltenham, UK; Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.
- 2019 Lee, Caroline W. Review of "Freedom from Work: Embracing Financial Self-Help in the United States and Argentina" by Daniel Fridman, *Cultural Sociology* 13(2), 254-255.
- 2019 Lee, Caroline W. Review of "Political Translation: How Social Movement Democracies Survive" by Nicole Doerr. *Mobilization* 24(1), 123-124.
- 2017 Lee, Caroline W. "Public Participation Professionals in the U.S.: Confronting Challenges of Equity and Empowerment." Pp. 65-86 in *The Professionalization of Public Participation*, edited by Laurence Bherer, Mario Gauthier, and Louis Simard. New York: Routledge.
- 2016 Lee, Caroline W. "Is Deliberative Democracy Stuck in a Moment?" *Trajectories* 28(1), 32-35.
- 2016 Lee, Caroline W. "The Upsizing of Public Deliberation has Downsized Citizen Expectations." Democratic Audit UK, London School of Economics blog. January 15.
- 2015 Lee, Caroline W. "Viewpoints: The Sharers' Gently Used Clothes." *Contexts* (Winter), 17-18.
- 2015 Lee, Caroline W. "Don't Let Participatory Democracy Stifle Debate." *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 6.
- 2015 Walker, Edward T., Michael McQuarrie, and Caroline W. Lee. "Rising Participation and Declining Democracy." Pp. 3-23 in *Democratizing Inequalities*, edited by Lee, McQuarrie, and Walker. New York: NYU Press.
- 2015 Lee, Caroline W., Kelly McNulty (Lafayette '11) and Sarah Shaffer (Lafayette '11). "Civic-izing Markets: Selling Social Profits in Public Deliberation." Pp. 27-45 in *Democratizing Inequalities*, edited by Lee, McQuarrie, and Walker. New York: NYU Press.
- 2015 Lee, Caroline W., Michael McQuarrie, and Edward Walker. 2015. "Realizing the Promise of Public Participation in an Age of Inequality." Pp. 247-250 in *Democratizing Inequalities*,

edited by Lee, McQuarrie, and Walker. New York: NYU Press.

- 2015 Lee, Caroline W. Review of “How Social Movements Die: Repression and Demobilization of the Republic of New Africa” by Christian Davenport. *Mobilization* 20(4), 550-551.
- 2014 Lee, Caroline W. “Accounting for Diversity in Collaborative Governance: An Institutional Approach to Empowerment Reforms.” Pp. 127-158 in *Varieties of Civic Engagement: Deliberative, Collaborative, Network, and Narrative Approaches*, edited by Carmen Sirianni and Jennifer Girouard. Nashville, TN: Vanderbilt University Press.
- 2014 Lee, Caroline W. Review of “Art Against Dictatorship: Making and Exporting Arpilleras under Pinochet” by Jacqueline Adams. *American Journal of Sociology* 120(2), 603-604.
- 2012 Lee, Caroline W. “Comment on ‘Polite Culture: “Nice Nellyism” Suffuses Sociology.’” *Contemporary Sociology* 41, 699.
- 2012 Lee, Caroline W. Review of “Laotian Daughters: Working Toward Community, Belonging, and Environmental Justice” by Bindi V. Shah. *Mobilization*. 17(4), 488-489.
- 2011 Lee, Caroline W. Review of “Handbook of Social Movements Across Disciplines” by Bert Klandermans and Conny Roggeband (eds.). *Social Movement Studies* 10(4), 441-442.
- 2010 Lee, Caroline W. “Making Community Governance Work.” *Directory*, Lehigh Valley Alliance for Sustainable Communities.
- 2009 Lee, Caroline W. Review of “Democracy as Problem Solving: Civic Capacity in Communities Across the Globe” by Xavier de Souza Briggs. *Mobilization* 14(3), 403-404.
- 2008 Lingo, Elizabeth Long, and Andrew Taylor, with Caroline Lee. “National Performing Arts Convention 2008: Assessing the Capacity of the Field for Collective Action: Report of the 2008 I-DOC Team.” Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy.
- 2008 Lee, Caroline. “Fare: Dixieland.” *Savour Magazine*. 112, 20.
- 2007 Lee, Caroline W. Review of “Empowered Participation: Reinventing Urban Democracy” by Archon Fung. *Journal of Politics* 69(2), 592-593.
- 2005 Lee, Caroline W. Review of “Mobilizing an Asian American Community” by Linda Trinh Võ. *Journal of Urban Affairs* 27(5), 559-560.

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS, 2014-2025

- 2023 “Microtargeting Hyperlocal Influencers: Organizing Progressive Youth from the Top Down.” Future of Social Movements Conference, Ford Motor Company Center for Global Citizenship, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University. Also presented at:
Movements at the Forefront of Contemporary Politics Workshop, Univ. of Pennsylvania.
American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2019 The Endless Loop of Democratic Accountability.” American Sociological Association, New York City. Also presented at:
Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL.

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, New York, NY.

- 2016 “The National Politics of Local Democracy.” American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 “The Organizational Politics of Higher Education Democracy Initiatives.” Social Science History Association, Baltimore, MD.
- 2015 “Democracy Speak in Higher Education.” American Sociological Association, Chicago.
- 2015 “Civic Authenticity and Demobilization in Higher Education.” Protesters and Their Targets Workshop, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago.
- 2014 “Democratic Accountability in Higher Education.” Social Science History Association, Toronto.
- 2014 “The Next Generation of Democracy Practitioners.” National Conference on Dialogue and Deliberation, Washington, DC.
- 2014 “Professionalizing the Representation of Publics.” American Sociological Association, San Francisco.

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS, 2014-2025

- 2024 Panelist: Youth Civic and Voter Engagement. White House Convening. Washington, DC. November 26.
- 2024 Respondent: Organizational Innovation Beyond Cooperatives. Worker Power and Economic Democracy Conference, Center for Work and Democracy, Arizona State University.
- 2023 Keynote: “Public Participation Underwater: Just Keep Swimming?” at “After the Hype? On the Effects, Pitfalls and Potentials of Public Participation,” sponsored by Building ‘Normative Orders’/ConTrust. Goethe University, Frankfurt, Germany. May 11.
- 2023 Panelist, “Leaning into Institutional Politics: Paradoxes of Success in CLDE,” AASCU and NASPA Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement meeting, Boston, MA.
- 2023 Presenter, Leaning into Politics Workshop, Lumina Foundation. Washington, DC.
- 2022 Panelist, “Exploring the Decline in Charitable Participation.” Giving Innovation Summit, The Urban Institute, Washington, DC.
- 2020 Speaker, “Deliberation, Inc.? The Professionalization of Public Engagement in 2020.” Centre for Deliberative Democracy and Global Governance Virtual Seminar. University of Canberra.
- 2020 Interlocutor, “The Participant in Troubled Times” by Christopher Kelty. 2020-21 Mellon Sawyer Seminar: “The Order of Multitudes: Atlas, Encyclopedia, Museum.” Yale University.
- 2018 Panelist, “Rethinking Organizational Power.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 Guest speaker, “Change and Crisis in Universities: Research, Education, and Equity in

- Uncertain Times”: Sociology graduate seminar funded by the Futures Initiative. CUNY Graduate Center, New York.
- 2018 Panelist, Book Launch: *The Help-Yourself City*, by Gordon Douglas. Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University.
- 2017 Panelist, Book Launch: *Popular Democracy*, by Gianpaolo Baiocchi and Ernesto Ganuza. Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University.
- 2016 Author: Author Meets Critics Session: *Do-it-Yourself Democracy: The Rise of the Public Engagement Industry*. American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 Author: Author Meets Critics Session: *Do-it-Yourself Democracy: The Rise of the Public Engagement Industry*. Social Science History Association, Baltimore, MD.
- 2015 “Short Take” Speaker: “A Field at a Crossroads.” Frontiers of Democracy Conference, Tufts University.
- 2015 Speaker, Dayton Days Research Meeting, Kettering Foundation, Dayton, OH.
- 2015 Presenter, Politics & Protest Workshop at the Graduate Center, CUNY. Critics: Tarun Banerjee, Philip Balsiger.
- 2015 Panelist: *Democratizing Inequalities* Book Launch. London School of Economics.
- 2015 Co-presenter with Edward Walker: “Participation, Inc.: How Consultants, Professionals, and Experts are Transforming Civic Engagement.” London School of Economics, Department of Sociology.
- 2015 Aaron Cicourel Lecture: “Democratic Accountability in Higher Education.” University of California, San Diego, Department of Sociology.
- 2014 Panelist: Institut du Nouveau Monde Symposium: “Developing Expertise in the Design of Participatory Tools: Professionalization and Diversification of the Public Participation Field.” International Political Science Association World Congress, Montreal.
- 2014 The Thomas Roy and Lura Forrest Jones Faculty Lecture: “What is Participation Good For?” Lafayette College, Easton, PA.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE, 2014-2025

Volunteer Reviewer

American Academy in Berlin, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Sociological Review*, *City & Community*, Columbia University Press, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Contexts*, *Cultural Sociology*, *Environmental Management*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Public Deliberation*, *Journal of Rural Studies*, *Journal of Sociology*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Law & Society Review*, *Management Decision*, *Organization Science*, *Organization Studies*, Oxford University Press, *Poetics*, *Politics & Policy*, Routledge, *Social Forces*, *Social Movement Studies*, *Social Problems*, *Society & Natural Resources*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Inquiry*, *Sociological Quarterly*, *Sociological Science*, *Studies in Comparative International Development*, Temple University Press

- 2024-25 Higher Education Democracy Inventory Design Team, American Association of Colleges & Universities and Campus Compact
- 2024 Distinguished Career Award in Political Sociology Committee, Chair
- 2023-24 Chair, American Sociological Association Political Sociology Section
- 2023 Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship (Book) Award committee, Political Sociology Section, ASA
- 2023 James Coleman Article Award committee, Sociology of Education Section, ASA
- 2023 Moderator, “Nothing to Lose but Our Chains!” Panel Discussion about Social Transformation with Raina Lipsitz and Melissa Ditmore, Easton Book Festival.
- 2020-22 Landis Center for Community Engagement Advisory Board, Lafayette College
- 2020 Reviewer, American Sociological Association Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant Program
- 2020-22 Consulting Editor, *American Journal of Sociology*
- 2020 Thematic Session Panel Organizer, “What Does Post-Democratic Participation Look Like?” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco. [Canceled]
- 2019 Chair, Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section Mentoring Committee
- 2019 W. Richard Scott Award for Distinguished Scholarship Committee, ASA Organizations, Occupations and Work Section
- 2019- Editorial Board, *Civic Sociology*
- 2018 Discussant and Presider, “Modes of Political Dissent and Consent.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2018 James D. Thompson Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, ASA Organizations, Occupations and Work Section
- 2018 Nominations Committee and Distinguished Career Award Committee, ASA Political Sociology Section
- 2017 ASA Theory Section Junior Theorist Award Committee.
- 2017 ASA Sociology of Culture Section Mary Douglas Prize for Best Book Committee.
- 2017 Political Culture Session Organizer, ASA Annual Meeting, Montreal.
- 2016 Discussant, “Civil Society Solidarity and Boundaries.” American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA.

- 2015-18 Editorial Board, *Contexts* Magazine
- 2015 Chair and Discussant, “Civil Society, Deliberation, & Policymaking.” Social Science History Association, Baltimore, MD.
- 2015 Critic, Authors Meets Critics Session: Michael T. Heaney and Fabio Rojas, *Party in the Street: The Antiwar Movement and the Democratic Party after 9/11*. Social Science History Association, Baltimore, MD.
- 2015 ASA Culture Section Richard A. Peterson Award for Best Student Paper Committee.
- 2015 Critic: Philip Balsiger’s “Grub First, Then Ethics? Contentious Struggles on the Values of Chickens and Eggs.” Politics & Protest Workshop, The Graduate Center, CUNY.
- 2014 Chair and Discussant, “Mobilization.” Social Science History Association, Toronto.

COURSES TAUGHT

Lafayette College

Introduction to Sociology	Introduction to American Studies
First Year Seminar: The Participation Economy	Contemporary American Society
Business and Society	Sociology of Knowledge
American Studies Senior Research Seminar	Research Methods and Design
Designs for Living: Environmentalism, Counterculture, and American Utopias	

University of California, San Diego

Field Research Methods

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association, American Political Science Association, Law & Society Association, Social Science History Association, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics

WEBSITES

Personal website: <http://sites.lafayette.edu/leecw/>

2009 Dialogue and Deliberation Practitioners Survey website: <http://sites.lafayette.edu/ddps/>