

Walker Nelson Kahn

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2024
Dissertation: *Debtors' Rights in the Age of Mass Securitization*
Committee: Joseph Conti (chair), Jane Collins, Joel Rogers, Max Besbris, Megan McDermott
J.D. University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, 2021
M.A. Department of Sociology, Columbia University, 2012
B.A. Department of Anthropology, New College of Florida, 2007

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & APPOINTMENTS

2026-present Assistant Professor, Tulane University Law School and The Murphy Institute
2024-2026 Postdoctoral Researcher, Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, University at Buffalo Law School
2019-2024 Policy Director, ProGov21, High Road Policy Center, University of Wisconsin
2017-2019 Legal Research Associate, Home Savers Campaign, Detroit MI

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Law and Political Economy, Machine Learning, Artificial Intelligence, Debt Collection, Bankruptcy, Housing, Access to Justice

TEACHING INTERESTS

Bankruptcy, Secured Transactions, Property, Law and Political Economy

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

In Review **Kahn, W. N.**, *The Financialization of Civil Courts and Foreclosure Litigation During the Subprime Mortgage Boom*, Article, R&R at Law & Society Review
2024 **Kahn, W. N.**, *Safe as Houses: Financialization, Foreclosure, and Precarious Homeownership in the United States*, 89 AM. SOC. REV. 197

- Winner of Ronald Burt Student Paper Award, Economic Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association
- Featured in [Sage Sociology Podcast](#), April 8, 2024

2017 Collins, J. L., & **Kahn, W. N.**, *The Hijacking of a New Corporate Form? Benefit Corporations and Corporate Personhood*. 45 ECON. & SOC. 325

Policy Publications & White Papers

- 2021 **Kahn, W. N.**, Editor and lead analyst. [*Live Free's Agenda for Ending Mass Incarceration and Criminalization: Merced County*](#), Live Free USA.
- 2021 **Kahn, W. N.**, and Dresser, L., [*Toward a New Tradition in "Nontraditional Occupations,"*](#) High Road Strategy Center.
- 2018 Dresser, L., and **Kahn, W. N.**, [*Manufacturing Pathways in Milwaukee: Bringing Skills and Equity to Manufacturing's Future*](#), High Road Strategy Center.

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Awards

- 2024 Ronald Burt Student Paper Award, "Safe as Houses: Financialization, Foreclosure, and Precarious Homeownership in the United States," Economic Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association

External Grants & Fellowships

- 2024 Research Fellow, Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy, University at Buffalo Law School
- 2023 Dissertation Fellow, Center for Engaged Scholarship
- 2021 Doctoral Dissertation Grant, Law and Science Division, National Science Foundation

Internal Grants & Fellowships

- 2016 Academic Merit Scholarship, University of Wisconsin Law
- 2016 Graduate Research Fellow, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin
- 2015 Fellow, Institute for Legal Studies, University of Wisconsin Law School

MEDIA & INVITED TALKS

- 2024 [*Rights and Markets*](#), McMaster University, October 4.
- 2024 [*Safe as Houses*](#), Sage Sociology Podcast, April 8

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Panels Organized

- 2026 "New Horizons in Property Law: Legal Realism, Political Economy, & Sociolegal Research," Law and Society Association, San Francisco, CA.
- 2026 "Law and Political Economy," Sociology of Law Article Session, American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
- 2026 "Race, Ethnicity, and Civil Law," Sociology of Law Article Session, American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
- 2022 "The Visible Hand I: The State, Finance, and Displacement from Global Perspectives," Thematic Session with Drs. Fred Block, Marion Fourcade, Bruce Carruthers, American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2022 "The Visible Hand II: The State, Finance, and Displacement from a US Perspective," Thematic Session with Drs. Frederick Wherry, Sarah Quinn, Adam Goldstein, and Barbara Kiviat, American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Papers Presented

- 2026 “Moving Fast and Breaking Things: The Litigation Strategies of High-Volume Foreclosure Firms,” Association of Law and Political Economy, Richmond, VA.
- 2026 “The Political Economy of High-Volume Mortgage Foreclosure Litigation,” Law & Society Association, San Francisco, CA.
- 2025 “Making Mass Foreclosure: The Political Economy of Municipal Courts, Subprime Mortgage Markets, and Residential Displacement,” Law & Society Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2023 “Safe as Houses: Financialization, Foreclosure, and Precarious Homeownership in the United States,” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2023 “Fines and Fees in the Civil Court Context: Impacts and Consequences of Court Dependence on Mortgage Foreclosure Fee Income,” Law and Society Association, San Juan, PR.
- 2021 “Debtors’ Rights in the Age of Mass Securitization” New Directions in Law and Society, Amherst, MA.
- 2018 “Citizenship and Civil Procedure: The Decline of Social Protection in Foreclosure,” Midwest Law and Society Retreat, Madison, WI.
- 2016 “The Ideological Development of Benefit Corporations,” American Society for Legal History, Toronto, ON.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review

- Reviewer, American Sociological Review, 2024-present
- Reviewer, Review of Radical Political Economics, 2026-present
- Reviewer, American Journal of Sociology, 2026-present

Disciplinary Service

- Committee Member, ASA Sociology of Law Program Committee, 2026
- Committee Member, ASA Sociology of Law Section Graduate Student Paper Award, 2025

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Association of Law and Political Economy, 2025-present
- Law and Society Association, 2016-present
- American Sociological Association, 2015-present