

Adam Saltsman

Worcester State University, Department of Urban Studies
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EDUCATION

- 2015 PhD in Sociology, Boston College, Chestnut Hill
Dissertation Title: “Surviving Dispossession: Burmese Migrants in Thailand’s Border Economic Zones.” *Committee:* Stephen Pfohl C. Shawn McGuffey, M. Brinton Lykes, Karen Jacobsen, Mary Beth Mills.
- 2009 MA in Sociology, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, with distinction
- 2009 Certificate in Human Rights, Boston College Centre for Human Rights and International Justice
- 2004 BA in Anthropology, Colby College, Waterville, ME (*Magna Cum Laude*)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Exclusion	Global Political Economy	Migration & Displacement
Food Justice	Global South Urbanization	Borders & Borderlands
Participatory Action Research	Human Rights & Development	Community Organizing

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2016-Present **Assistant Professor, Department of Urban Studies**
- Introduction to Urban Studies (F. 16, S. 17, F.17, S. 18)
 - English Language Learning Practicum (UR440-01) (F. 16, S. 17, F. 17, S. 18)
 - English Language Learning Practicum (UR440-02) (S. 17, F. 17, S. 18)
 - SNAP Practicum (F. 16, S. 17, F. 17, S. 18)
 - Urban Exclusion and Global Political Economy (S. 18)
 - Global Cities (S. 17)
 - Human Needs (F. 17)
 - Power and Urban Insecurity (F. 18)
 - Organizational Theory (graduate-level) (F. 18)
 - Refugees in American Society (S. 19)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2019 Faculty Scholarship & Creative Activity Grant, Worcester State University
- 2015 Donald and Hélène White Prize for the Outstanding Dissertation in the Field of Social Sciences, Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2014 Severyn T Bruyn Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Social Economy & Social Justice
- 2014 *Lowry Fellowship*, Boston College Department of Sociology
- 2012 *Dissertation Fellowship*, Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
- 2011 *Research Grant*, US Bureau of Populations, Refugees, and Migrants (through Feinstein International Centre)
- 2009 *Summer Research Fellowship*, Program on Negotiation, Harvard Law School.
- 2009 *Summer Research Grant*, Boston College Centre for Human Rights and International Justice

- 2008 *Summer Research Fellowship*, Boston College Sociology Department
- 2008 *Graduate Research Expense Grant*, Boston College Sociology Department
- 2005 Fellowship, Casten Family Foundation for research in Cambodia (two year Fellowship)
- 2004 Fellowship, Freeman Foundation for research in Vietnam

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2019 (forth.) Jacobsen, K. & **Saltsman, A.** “Introduction to Special Section on The Politics and Practice of Forced Migration Research Methods.” *Journal of Refugee Studies*.
- 2018 (review) Saltsman, A. “Representing refugees in participatory research methodologies: A reflexive analysis of micro-level politics and global NGO discourse on the Thai-Burmese border.” *Qualitative Inquiry*.
- 2014 Saltsman, A. “Beyond the Law: Power, Discretion, and Bureaucracy in the Management of Asylum Space in Thailand,” *Journal of Refugee Studies*. 27(3): 457-476. (**Winner of 2014 Severyn T. Bruyn Award for Outstanding Scholarship in Social Economy and Social Justice**)
- 2012 Saltsman, A. “Displaced Iraqis in Jordan: Formal and Informal Information Flows, and Migratory Decisions in a Context of Uncertainty,” *Refuge*. 28(1): 81-96.
- 2010 Finnegan, A., Saltsman, A., White, S. “Negotiating Politics and Culture: The Utility of Human Rights for Activist Organizing in the United States,” *Journal of Human Rights Practice*. 2(3): 307-333.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR A BROADER AUDIENCE

- 2020 (forth.) Saltsman, A. “Changing the Game: Using Research to Promote Social Justice,” in Catherine Harnois and Kristin Kenneavy (eds.) *Sociology in Action*. Sage.
- 2019 Saltsman, A. “Review: *Border Capitalism, Disrupted: Precarity and Struggle in a Southeast Asian Industrial Zone*.” *Social Forces*.
- 2019 Saltsman, A., Fowler, M., Dogali, M., Johnston, G., Wetherell, O. *Hunger and Homelessness at Worcester State University*.” City Lab & Urban Action Institute, Worcester State University.
- 2018 Saltsman, A. “A Proliferation of Border Interfaces: Ordering Insecurity for Migrants in the Thai-Burmese Borderlands,” in Horstmann, A. (ed.). *The Handbook of Asia’s Borderlands*. London: Routledge.
- 2017 Saltsman, A. *Gender Data in Contexts of Displacement*, UN Foundation.
- 2015 Saltsman, A. “A Real Durable Solution for Southeast Asia’s Refugees.” *The Diplomat*. Online (thediplomat.com).
- 2012 Frelick, B. and Saltsman, A. “Ad hoc and Inadequate: Thailand’s Treatment of Refugees and Asylum Seekers,” Human Rights Watch.
- 2011 Saltsman, A. “Surviving or Thriving on the Thai-Burma Border: Vulnerability and Resilience in Mae Sot, Thailand,” International Rescue Committee.
- 2010 Saltsman, A. “Rumour versus Information,” *Forced Migration Review*, No. 36: 57-58.
- 2010 Kusa, D., Saltsman, A., Gamaghelyan, P. “Mediating History, Making Peace: Dealing with the ‘Messy’ Stuff in the Conciliation Process,” in Schuman, S., ed. *The Handbook for Working with Difficult Groups*. Jossey Bass/Wiley.
- 2009 Saltsman, A. “Facing an Uncertain Future: Improving CARE’s Capacity to Provide Displaced Iraqis in Jordan with Information on Resettlement and Return.” CARE International.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2019 “Mapping Border Precarity: Burmese Migrants, State Security, and the Production of Transnational Economic Space in Mae Sot, Thailand,” *Urban Affairs Association*, Los Angeles, CA.
- 2019 With Asefa, M., Borg, A., and Cawley, M. “Expanding the Impact of School Gardens through Higher Education, K-12 School and Community Coalitions,” *Universities Fighting World Hunger*, Portland, ME.
- 2018 “The Politics and Practice of Forced Migration Research Methods, A Conversation,” *International Association for the Study of Forced Migration*, Thessaloniki, Greece.
- 2018 “A Sociology of Action & Inclusion: Pedagogical Strategies for Countering White Supremacism and Immigrant Exclusion in Our Contemporary Era,” *Eastern Sociological Society*, Baltimore, MD.
- 2018 “Who Can Speak for this Household?” Problematizing Sex & Gender Research in Contemporary Displacement Contexts,” *Eastern Sociological Society*, Baltimore, MD.
- 2018 “Making Place in Welcoming Cities: An Unsettled View of Inclusion and Integration,” *American Association of Geographers*, New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 With Amira Ahmed, “Searching for ‘Participation’ in Participatory Research with Forced Migrants,” *Conducting Research with Refugees* workshop, Northeastern University.
- 2017 “Politics of Difference, Politics of Possibility: Spatial Practices of B/ordering Burmese Migrants in Thailand as Sites for Emergent Political Subjectivities,” *American Association of Geographers*, Boston, MA.
- 2016 “The Ambivalence of Empowerment: Bio-welfare and Migrant Agency in the Response to Gender-Based Violence on the Thai-Burmese Border,” *Society for the Study of Social Problems*, Seattle, WA.
- 2016 “Mobilities and Productions of Order and Place among Burmese Migrants in Thailand.” Presentation at *Mobilities & Temporalities: Rethinking Migrant Trajectories and Transnational Lifestyles in the Asian Context*, Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore
- 2015 “Order, Resistance, and the Ethical Subject: Negotiating Hyper-visibility and Precarity on the Thailand-Myanmar Border.” Presentation at the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies, Vienna
- 2015 “Surviving Dispossession, Producing Space: Burmese Migrants, Precarity and Social Ties in Thailand’s Border Economic Zones.” Presentation at the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies, Vienna
- 2012 With Frelick, B., Robertson, P. “Ad hoc and Inadequate.” Presentation for Human Rights Watch, Foreign Correspondents Club, Thailand
- 2011 “Measuring Vulnerability and Resilience for Displaced Burmese in Thailand: Results and Implications.” Presentation for the Committee for the Coordination of Services for Displaced People in Thailand
- 2009 “Community Conflict and Transitional Justice in Cambodia.” Presentation for the Voices from the Field series, International Centre for Conciliation
- 2009 “Crossing the Scholarly-Activist Divide.” *Association for Humanist Sociology*, Boston, MA.
- 2009 With Finnegan, A. “Utility of a Human Rights Framework for US Activists,” *Eastern Sociological Society*, Boston, MA.
- 2008 “Localizing International Justice: Making the Khmer Rouge Trials Work for Cambodia.” *Eastern Sociological Society*

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 “Food Security at Worcester State University,” Worcester Magazine Radio Hour, Unity Radio.
- 2019 “Hunger and Homelessness at Worcester State University.” Board Meeting, Worcester State Foundation.
- 2018 “Beyond Ramen: Why So Many Students in College are Hungry and What to Do About It.” Sustainability and Food Day Fair, Worcester State University.
- 2018 “Collaborative Research on the Thai-Burmese Border,” Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.
- 2018 “Backgrounder: Refugees in Thailand (1960-Present),” Worcester State University.
- 2017 “Social Change and International Non-Profits: Power, Collaboration, and Transformative Action,” Department of Sociology, Endicott College.
- 2017 “Collaborative Research on the Thai-Burmese Border,” Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University.
- 2017 With Madeline Campbell, “When are Refugees Threats? When Protection Fails,” Global Action Fair, Worcester State University.
- 2016 “Displacement, Public Health, and Gender,” Department of Public Health, Simmons College.
- 2016 With Timothy Murphy, “Food Security for College Students,” Sustainability and Food Day Fair, Worcester State University.
- 2015 “Navigating Dispossession: Gender and Agency among Burmese Migrants in Thailand’s Border Economic Zones.” Public lecture at Colby College.

SERVICE TO PROFESSION, UNIVERSITY, AND COMMUNITY

- 2018-Present **Member, Faculty Committee on Immigration**
Work with other faculty to organize symposia and teach-ins about immigrant rights and experiences in Worcester as well as in the United States.
- 2018-Present **Member, Multicultural Affairs Planning Committee**
Participate in quarterly meetings to develop diversity and inclusion programming at Worcester State University.
- 2017-2018 **Member, Campus Climate Committee**
Participated in bi-monthly meetings to advise campus administration on practices to institutionalize diversity on all levels of the university.
- 2017-2018 **Member, Academic Policies Committee**
Regularly attend committee meetings to review and advise on academic policies.
- 2017-Present **Faculty Advisor, Social Justice Coalition**
Attend club meetings, advise club officers on organizing social justice activities.
- 2009-2010 **Graduate Student Representative, Department of Sociology, Boston College**
Responsible for voicing views and concerns of graduate students at faculty meetings.
- 2008-2009 **Member, Graduate Student Association, Department of Sociology, Boston College**
Responsible for allocating department funds for conference travel, research, educational improvement grants, and graduate student shared space development.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2016-Present **Director, Urban Action Institute, Worcester State University**
Coordinating programs and managing staff for an institute housed in the Department of Urban Studies, focused on connecting students with the broader Worcester community for experiential learning focused on social justice.

- 2016 **Research Consultant, Data2X project, UN Foundation**
Mapping and advising on the way that gender and sexuality are measured in humanitarian and development programmatic research.
- 2012-2013 **Protection Coordinator, International Rescue Committee, Mae Sot, Thailand**
Designed and managed implementation of protection programs for Burmese displaced in Thailand, including a legal clinic, community justice activities, and gender-based violence programming. Managed finances and sub-grant partnerships.
- 2011-2012 **Research Consultant, Refugee Policy Division, Human Rights Watch, Thailand**
Designed and implemented research on and analysis of the impact of Thai policy on Burmese forced migrants residing in Thai border camps.
- 2011 **Research Team Leader, Feinstein International Center, Mae Sot, Thailand**
Coordinated an assessment of the well-being of Burmese displaced in Mae Sot, Thailand, including the design of survey tools, sampling strategy and a qualitative interview guide. Recruited, trained, and managed interview team.
- 2009-2010 **Research Consultant, CARE International, Amman, Jordan**
Developed mechanisms to increase access to information about durable solutions for Iraqi refugees in Amman. Determined primary protection concerns in Amman for Iraqi forced migrants related to transparency and access to information.
- 2009 **Coordinator, Media Research and Action Project, Boston College, Massachusetts**
Organized weekly presentations by students and faculty working on social movements research from a sociology, communications, and political science perspective.
- 2006-2008 **Project Coordinator, International Centre for Conciliation, Phnom Penh, Cambodia**
Designed and managed programs implemented in Cambodia focusing on peace building, community justice mechanisms, and conflict resolution.
- 2005 **Caseworker, Refugee Services of Texas, Austin, Texas**
Aided in the reception and settlement of refugees arriving in the United States. Duties included orientation, arrangement of housing, interlocutor with US Social Security system, assistance in employment search.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Association of Geographers
- Urban Affairs Association
- Society for the Study of Social Problems
- International Association for the Study of Forced Migration
- Eastern Sociological Association

