

MAX BESBRIS

University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Sociology • William H. Sewell Social Science Building
1180 Observatory Drive • Madison, WI 53706
besbris@wisc.edu

EMPLOYMENT

2023- Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

- Associate Chair, 2023-2025
- Faculty Affiliate, Center for Demography and Ecology, 2020-
- Faculty Affiliate, Center for Financial Security, 2020-
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Diversity Studies, 2023-
- Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Research on Poverty, 2021-
- Faculty Affiliate, Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies, 2023-

2020-2023 Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison

2017-2020 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Rice University

EXTERNAL AFFILIATIONS

2023- Affiliate, James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility, University of Chicago

2020-2021 Visiting Scholar, Russell Sage Foundation

2017- Fellow, Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University

EDUCATION

2017 PhD, Sociology, New York University

2012 MA, Sociology, New York University

2008 BA, Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

- Sociology Departmental Citation
- Highest Honors
- Phi Beta Kappa

2008 BA, Linguistics, University of California, Berkeley

BOOKS

Rhodes, Anna and **Max Besbris**. 2022. *Soaking the Middle Class: Suburban Inequality and Recovery from Disaster*. New York: Russell Sage.

- Author-Meets-Critics: Eastern Sociological Society 2023; Southern Sociological Society 2023
- Related media coverage in *The American Prospect*; CBS; CNN; *The Conversation*; Houston Public Media; *Jacobin*; Madison Community Radio; NBC; *New York Times*

Besbris, Max. 2020. *Upsold: Real Estate Agents, Prices, and Neighborhood Inequality*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

- Distinguished Book Award, Midwest Sociological Society, 2022

- Shortlisted, Alice Amsden Book Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, 2022
- Author-Meets-Critics: Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics 2021; Eastern Sociological Society 2022
- Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*; *British Journal of Sociology*; *Contemporary Sociology* (review essay); *Journal of Urban Affairs*; *Laboratorium*; *Public Books*; *Social Forces*; *Symbolic Interaction*
- Related media coverage in *Bloomberg*; *Crain's New York Business*; *HousingWire*; *Insider*; *Jacobin*; *Marketplace*; NPR's *Think with Krys Boyd*

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Schachter, Ariela, John Kuk, **Max Besbris**, and Lydia Ho. Forthcoming. "What's in a Name? Place Misrepresentation and Neighborhood Stigma in the Online Housing Market." *Urban Studies*

Besbris, Max and Gary Alan Fine. 2023. "Planning as Social Practice: The Formation and Blockage of Competitive Futures in Tournament Chess, Homebuying, and Political Organizing." *Theory and Society* doi: 10.1007/s11186-023-09516-5

Schachter, Ariela, John Kuk, **Max Besbris**, and Garrett Pekarek. 2023. "Inclusive but not Integrative: Ethnoracial Boundaries and the Use of Spanish in the Market for Rental Housing." *Sociological Science* 10:585-612.

Robinson III, John N., Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, and **Max Besbris**. 2023. "Racial Capitalism and Social Psychology: A Note for Future Research." *Social Psychology Quarterly* 86:399-411.

Hayes, Adam and **Max Besbris**. 2023. "Earmarking Space: Relationality, Economic Judgments, and Housing Wealth." *Socio-Economic Review* 21:1445-1472.

Besbris, Max and Elizabeth Korver-Glenn. 2023. "Value Fluidity and Value Anchoring: Race, Intermediaries, and Valuation in Two Housing Markets." *Socio-Economic Review* 21:79-98.

- SER Editors' Choice Article

Rhodes, Anna and **Max Besbris**. 2022. "Best Laid Plans: How the Middle-Class Make Residential Decisions Post-Disaster." *Social Problems* 69:1137-1153.

- Related media coverage in *Front Burner*; *Urban Edge*

Besbris, Max, John Kuk, Ann Owens, and Ariela Schachter. 2022. "Predatory Inclusion in the Market for Rental Housing: A Multi-City Empirical Test." *Socius* 8:1-16.

Besbris, Max, Ariela Schachter, and John Kuk. 2021. "The Unequal Availability of Rental Housing Information Across Neighborhoods." *Demography* 58:1197-1221.

- Honorable Mention, Award for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship in Population, Sociology of Population Section of ASA

Kuk, John, Ariela Schachter, Jacob William Faber, and **Max Besbris**. 2021. "The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Rental Market: Evidence from Craigslist." *American Behavioral Scientist* 65:1623-1648.

- Related media coverage in *Truthout*

Boeing, Geoff, **Max Besbris**, David Wachsmuth, and Jake Wegmann. 2021. "Tilted Platforms: Rental Housing Technology and the Rise of Urban Big Data Oligopolies." *Urban Transformations* 3:1-10.

Boeing, Geoff, **Max Besbris**, Ariela Schachter, and John Kuk. 2021. "Housing Search in the Age of Big Data: Smarter Cities or Same Old Blind Spots?" *Housing Policy Debate* 31:112-126.

Besbris, Max and Caitlin Petre. 2020. "Professionalizing Contingency: How Journalism Schools Adapt to Deprofessionalization." *Social Forces* 98:1524-1547.

- Related media coverage in Houston Public Media; *Study Hall*

Besbris, Max, Jacob William Faber, and Patrick Sharkey. 2019. "Disentangling the Effects of Race and Place in Economic Transactions: Findings from an Online Field Experiment." *City & Community* 18:529-555.

Besbris, Max and Shamus Khan. 2017. "Less Theory. More Description." *Sociological Theory* 35:147-153.

Besbris, Max and Jacob William Faber. 2017. "Investigating the Relationship Between Real Estate Agents, Segregation, and House Prices: Steering and Upselling in New York State." *Sociological Forum* 32:850-873.

- Student Paper Award, SASE
- Related media coverage in *Brick Underground*; *Newsday*; *SDP Radio*

Schachter, Ariela and **Max Besbris**. 2017. "Immigration and Neighborhood Change: Methodological Possibilities for Future Research." *City & Community* 16:244-251.

Besbris, Max. 2016. "Romancing the Home: Emotions and the Interactional Creation of Demand in the Housing Market." *Socio-Economic Review* 14:461-482.

- Student Paper Award, SASE
- Honorable Mention, Best Student Paper Award, Consumers & Consumption Section of ASA

Besbris, Max. 2016. "Revanchist Masculinity: Gender Attitudes in Sex Work Management." *The Sociological Quarterly* 57:711-732.

- Honorable Mention, Sally Hacker Award, Sociology of Sex and Gender Section of ASA
- Candace Rogers Award, Eastern Sociological Society

- Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division of SSSP

Besbris, Max, Jacob William Faber, Peter Rich, and Patrick Sharkey. 2015. "Effect of Neighborhood Stigma on Economic Transactions." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 112:4994-4998.

- Related media coverage in *CityLab*; *Next City*; *U.S. New and World Report*; *Washington Post*; *Wonkblog*

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Besbris, Max, John N. Robinson III, and Hillary Angelo. "The Sociology of Real Estate." (Invited submission to the *Annual Review of Sociology*)

Besbris, Max, Sadie Dempsey, Brian McCabe, and Eva Rosen. "Pandemic Housing: The Role of Landlords, Social Networks, and Social Policy in Mitigating Housing Insecurity during the COVID-19 Pandemic." (Revise and resubmit, *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*)

Wohl, Hannah and **Max Besbris**. "Relational Brokerage: Interaction and Valuation in Two Markets." (Revise and resubmit, *Qualitative Sociology*)

Rhodes, Anna and **Max Besbris**. "A Rapidly Changing Ecology of Aid: Help-Seeking and Stigma in the Aftermath of Disaster." (Under review)

Mikulas, Alexander, Brenden Beck, **Max Besbris**. "Home Price Change and Racial Residential Segregation: Temporal Relationships at the Metro Level." (Under review)

BOOK CHAPTERS

Korver-Glenn, Elizabeth, Robin Bartram, and **Max Besbris**. 2023. "Housing Market Intermediaries." Pp. 191-201 in *The Sociology of Housing*, edited by Brian McCabe and Eva Rosen. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Besbris, Max, Jacob William Faber, Peter Rich, and Patrick Sharkey. 2018. "The Geography of Stigma: Experimental Methods to Identify the Penalty of Place." Pp. 159-177 in *Audit Studies: Behind the Scenes with Theory, Method and Nuance*, edited by S. Michael Gaddis. New York: Springer.

Sharkey, Patrick, **Max Besbris**, and Michael Friedson. 2016. "Poverty and Crime." Pp. 623-636 in *The Oxford Handbook of the Social Science of Poverty*, edited by David Brady and Linda M. Burton. New York: Oxford University Press.

Sharkey, Patrick and **Max Besbris**. 2012. "Cities and Communities." Chapter 8 in *The Sociology Project: Introducing the Sociological Imagination*, edited by Jeff Manza, Lynne Haney, and Richard Arum. New York: Pearson.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS, BOOK REVIEWS, AND NEUROLOGY RESEARCH

Besbris, Max. Forthcoming. Review of *Showroom City: Real Estate and Resistance in the Furniture Capital of the World* by John Joe Schlichtman. *Contemporary Sociology*

Besbris, Max. Forthcoming. Review of *Stacked Decks: Building Inspectors and the Reproduction of Urban Inequality* by Robin Bartram. *American Journal of Sociology* 129

Besbris, Max. 2023. "Insuring a Future for Sociology." Review Symposium *Underwater: Loss, Flood Insurance, and the Moral Economy of Climate Change in the United States* by Rebecca Elliott. *Socio-Economic Review* 21:1828-1830

Rhodes, Anna and **Max Besbris.** 2022. "How Hurricane Ian and Other Disasters Are Becoming a Growing Source of Inequality—Even Among the Middle Class." *The Conversation* Oct 3rd.

Rhodes, Anna and **Max Besbris.** 2022. "How Hurricane Ian's Damage Could Exacerbate Inequality." *NBCNews* Oct 1st.

Rhodes, Anna and **Max Besbris.** 2022. "Losing Your Neighborhood to Climate Change Is Sometimes Necessary." *New York Times* Aug 25th.

Rhodes, Anna and **Max Besbris.** 2022. "After Hurricane Harvey, flood insurance created windfalls and fault lines for the middle class." *Urban Edge*. Kinder Institute.

Besbris, Max. 2022. Review of *A Detroit Story: Urban Decline and the Rise of Property Informality* by Claire W. Herbert. *Contemporary Sociology* 51:390-392.

Besbris Max. 2022. Review of *The Innovation Complex: Cities, Tech, and the New Economy* by Sharon Zukin. *Contemporary Sociology* 51:78-79.

Besbris, Max, Jacob Faber, and Elizabeth Korver-Glenn. 2021. "Shifting the Burden of Proof to the Discriminators: A Proposal for Real Estate Industry Data Collection." Pp. 36-42 in *Racial Justice in Housing Finance*, edited by Megan Haberle and Sophia House. Washington DC: PRRAC.

Besbris, Max. Jan, 2021. "Home is Where the Money Is." *Consume This! Blog*. American Sociological Association.

Besbris, Max and Jacob W. Faber. 2020. "Furthering Fair Housing in the Residential Real Estate Industry." *Race & Poverty* 29: 7-8.

Besbris, Max and Caitlin Petre. Dec, 2019. "Professionalizing contingency." *Work in*

Progress Blog. American Sociological Association.

Besbris, Max. Feb, 2017. "How real estate agents manage homebuyer's emotions and reshape preferences." *Work in Progress Blog*. American Sociological Association.

Besbris, Max. 2015. "Stigma." Pp. 1532-4 in *The Sage Encyclopedia of Economics and Society*, edited by Frederick F. Wherry and Juliet Schor. Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Petre, Caitlin and **Max Besbris**. 2013. *Hitting a Moving Target: How Journalism Schools are Adapting to an Unstable Media Job Market*. Commissioned by the Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism, CUNY.

DeLeon, Jessica, Benno Gesierich, **Max Besbris**, Jennifer Ogar, Maya L. Henry, Bruce L. Miller, Maria Louisa Gorno-Tempini, and Stephen M. Wilson. 2012. "Elicitation of specific syntactic structures in primary progressive aphasia." *Brain and Language* 123: 183-90.

Wilson, Stephen M., Maya Henry, **Max Besbris**, Jennifer M. Ogar, Nina F. Dronkers, William Jerrold, Bruce L. Miller, and Maria Louisa Gorno-Tempini. 2010. "Connected speech production in three variants of primary progressive aphasia: linguistic features and neuroanatomical correlates." *Brain: A Journal of Neurology* 133: 2069-88.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External:

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| 2021-2022 | Russell Sage Foundation Grant Extension #1808-07960. "The Consequences of Ecological Disaster on Social Mobility and Economic Security"—\$18,468 (with Anna Rhodes) |
| 2020-2022 | National Science Foundation SES Grant #1947591/1947598/2041304. "Collaborative Research: Testing the Effects of Unequal Information in the Rental Housing Market"—\$378,793 (with Ariela Schachter) |
| 2019-2020 | Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Grant #1808-07960. "The Consequences of Ecological Disaster on Social Mobility and Economic Security"—\$34,971 (with Anna Rhodes) |
| 2013 | Tow-Knight Center for Entrepreneurial Journalism. "How Journalism Schools are Adapting to an Unstable Media Job Market"—\$5,400 (with Caitlin Petre) |
| 2012 | Berlin Summer School in Social Sciences Fellowship |
| 2011-2014 | National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship—\$138,000 |

Internal:

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| 2023-2026 | WiscRDC, Federal Statistical Research Data Center. "Rent Change and Residential Mobility." |
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2023-2024	Institute for Diversity Studies Seed Grant, UW-Madison. “Ethnoracial Variation in Neighborhood Knowledge.”—\$47,138
2023-2024	Center for Demography of Health and Aging Pilot Grant, UW-Madison. “Rent and Mortality in the Metropolitan U.S.”—\$30,771
2022-2023	Center for Demography and Ecology Seed Grant, UW-Madison. “Rent and Mortality in the Metropolitan U.S.”—\$5,000
2022-2023	Graduate School Research Competition, UW-Madison. “Testing the Effects of Unequal Information in the Rental Housing Market”—\$41,655
2017-2018	Seed Grant, Social Science Research Institute, Rice University. “Post-Disaster Residential Instability among Middle-Class Households”—\$10,000 (with Anna Rhodes)
2016-2017	Dean’s Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New York University—\$26,200
2015	Student Grant Award, Center for Social and Political Behavior, New York University—\$1,000
2014	Student Grant Award, Center for Social and Political Behavior, New York University—\$1,000
2012	Research Development Grant, Institute for Public Knowledge—\$2,084 (with Caitlin Petre)
2012	Predocotrual Summer Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, New York University—\$3,000
2011	Graduate Student Summer Research Grant, Department of Sociology, New York University—\$3,000

HONORS AND AWARDS

2023	Honorable Mention, Award for Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship on Population, Sociology of Population Section of the American Sociological Association
2023	Early Career Public Sociology Award, Eastern Sociological Society
2022	Honored Instructor, UW-Madison
2022	Shortlist, Alice Amsden Book Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
2022	Distinguished Book Award, Midwest Sociological Society
2022	Junior Scholar Nominee for the Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, UW-Madison

- 2017 Honorable Mention, Sally Hacker Graduate Student Paper Award, Sex and Gender Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2016 Honorable Mention , Best Student Paper Award, Consumers & Consumption Section of the American Sociological Association
- 2015 Student Paper Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
- 2014 Student Paper Award, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
- 2013 Outstanding Student Teacher, Department of Sociology, New York University (Dept. nominee for NYU-wide teaching prize)
- 2012 Candace Rogers Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, Eastern Sociological Society
- 2012 Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher, Department of Sociology, New York University (Dept. nominee for NYU-wide teaching prize)
- 2011 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division of the Society for the Study of Social Problems

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2023

- Natural Hazards Center, University of Colorado Boulder, March
- Hazard Reduction & Recovery Center, Texas A&M University, March
- Theory and Research in Comparative Social Analysis Seminar, Department of Sociology, UCLA, February
- Department of Sociology, University of Chicago, February

2022

- Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University, October
- Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison, October

2021

- Department of Sociology, Purdue University, February
- Institute for Public Knowledge, New York University, January

2020

- Furman Center, New York University, October
- Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, April
- Agora Institute, Johns Hopkins University, March
- Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, March

2019

- Department of Sociology, Cornell University, November
- Sociology of Housing Conference, Georgetown University, October
- Furman Center, New York University, June
- Department of Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University, May
- Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard Kennedy School, March

2018

- Department of Sociology, Tulane University, September
 - Population Research Center, University of Texas Austin, January
- 2017
- Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, November
- 2016
- Department of Sociology, UCLA, December
 - Department of Sociology, Dartmouth College, October
 - Department of Sociology, Rice University, October
 - Ethnography Working Group, UCLA, April

CONFERENCE PAPERS (past 5 years)

2023

- "Are Some Neighborhoods More Attractive to Visit? A Quasi-Experimental Approach to Understanding Mobility and Neighborhood Stigma." Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA
- "Home Value Change and Racial Residential Segregation: Temporal Relationships at the Metro-Level." PAA, New Orleans, LA

2022

- "Returning to Risk: Residential Immobility and Climate Change Beliefs after Hurricane Harvey." Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Washington, D.C.
- "Inclusive but not Integrative: Ethnoracial Boundaries and the Use of Spanish in the Market for Rental Housing." American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA

2021

- "Value Fluidity and Value Anchoring: Race, Intermediaries, and Valuation Processes in Two Housing Markets." ASA (virtual)
- "Earmarking Space: Relationality and Decisions Around Housing Wealth." ASA (virtual)

2020

- "Do Housing Voucher Holders Live in Affordable Neighborhoods?" APPAM (virtual)
- "Signals of Segregation: The Use of Spanish in Online Housing Advertisements." ASA (virtual)

2019

- "Professionalizing Contingency: How Journalism Schools Adapt to Deprofessionalization." Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, New York, NY
- "The Effect of Homicide on Local Rent." Urban Affairs Association, Los Angeles, CA
- "The Effect of Homicide on Local Rent." PAA, Austin, TX

TEACHING/ADVISING

Graduate Courses Taught:

- Classical Sociological Theory; Economic Sociology; Urban Sociology

Undergraduate Courses Taught:

- Advanced Qualitative Methods; Methods of Sociological Inquiry; Senior Honors Research; Sociological Theory; Urban Sociology

Advising:

- *Dissertation*: Asia Bento (Rice), Sarah Elizabeth Farr (UW-Madison), Adam Hayes (UW-Madison), Martina Kunovic (UW-Madison), Taylor Laemmli (UW-Madison), Sharan Mehta (Rice), Jason Nolen (UW-Madison)
- *Master's Thesis*: Asia Bento (Rice), Cullen Cohane (UW-Madison), Grace Nguyen (UW-Madison), Xioarui Zhang (Rice)
- *Senior Honors Thesis*: Sarah Berton (Rice), Sophie Rodriguez (Rice), Bharathi Selvan (Rice)

SERVICE

Editorial Boards:

- *American Sociological Review*, 2023-2026
- *Sociological Theory*, 2020-2023
- *Social Forces*, 2018-2023

Professional Association Positions:

- Council Member, Economic Sociology Section of ASA, 2023-2026
- Member, Joseph B. Gittler Award Committee of SSSP, 2021-2022
- Member, Robert and Helen Lynd Award for Lifetime Achievement Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section of ASA, 2020-2021
- Member, Robert E. Park Book Award Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section of ASA, 2019-2020
- Member, Nominations Committee, Organizations Occupations and Work Section of ASA, 2019-2020
- Member, Shils-Coleman Prize Committee, Theory Section of ASA, 2017-2018
- Member, Outstanding Publication Award Committee, Consumers and Consumption Section of ASA, 2017-2018
- Council Member, Consumers and Consumption Section of ASA, 2016-2017
- Member, Student Paper Award Committee, Consumers and Consumption Section of ASA, 2016-2017

Occasional Reviewer for:

American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; City & Community; Cityscape; Demography; Gender & Society; Housing Policy Debate; Housing Studies; International Journal of Urban and Regional Research; National Science Foundation; Oxford University Press; Population and Environment; Princeton University Press; Public Culture; Qualitative Sociology; Race and Social Problems; Russell Sage Foundation; Russell Sage Press; Social Forces; Social Problems; Socio-Economic Review; Sociological Forum; Sociological Methods & Research; Sociological Science; Sociological Theory; The Sociological Quarterly; Socius; University of Chicago Press; Urban Studies; Work and Occupations

Department and University Service:

- Associate Chair, Department of Sociology, UW-Madison, 2023-2025
- National Poverty Fellow Mentor, Institute for Research on Poverty, UW-Madison 2023-
- Faculty Representative, Labor Codes and Licensing Advisory Committee, UW-Madison, 2023-2026
- Chair, Sociology Department Social Committee, UW-Madison, 2022-2023
- Faculty Advisor, Qualitative Methods Working Group, UW-Madison, 2022
- Member, Graduate Committee, Dept of Sociology, Rice University, 2018-2020
- Member, Post-Doctoral Committee, Dept of Sociology, Rice University, 2018-2019
- Chair, Office of Institutional Effectiveness Committee, Dept of Sociology, Rice University, 2018-2020
- Co-Founder, Qualitative Working Group, Dept of Sociology, Rice University
- Member, Technology Culture and Society Planning Committee, Rice University, 2018-2020

Public Service:

- Expert Witness in United States District Court: Southern California Housing Rights Center, Inc. et al v. K3 Holdings LLC et al., 2023
- Consulting with U.S. Senate Budget Committee on Post-Hurricane Response, 2022
- Invited testimony given to the NY State Senate Standing Committee on Housing Construction and Community Development, Standing Committee on Investigations and Government Operations, Standing Committee on Consumer Protection, Sept. 17th, 2020