

Stefano Bloch, Ph.D.

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RESEARCH, TEACHING, AND EXPERTISE

- Urban and Cultural Geography
- Legal Geographies and Nuisance Law
- Gentrification and Los Angeles
- Mexico
- Socio-spatial and Geographical Theory
- Cultural Criminology
- Street and Prison Gangs
- Crime and Policing
- Graffiti
- Auto-ethnography

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2021-current Associate Professor, School of Geography, Development & Environment, Graduate Interdisciplinary Program in Social, Cultural & Critical Studies, University of Arizona
- 2017-2021 Assistant Professor, School of Geography, Development & Environment, University of Arizona
- 2015-2017 Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow and Senior Research Associate, Urban Studies Program, Brown University
- 2013-2015 Postdoctoral Fellow, Cogut Institute for the Humanities and Urban Studies Program, Brown University

EDUCATION

- 2012 Ph.D. (Dissertation Fellow) Department of Geography, Environment & Society University of Minnesota. Advisors: Roger Miller and Edward W. Soja
Dissertation: "The changing face of wall space: Graffiti-murals in the context of neighborhood change in Los Angeles."
- 2006 M.A. Department of Urban Planning, UCLA. Advisors: Edward W. Soja, Allen Scott, Michael Storper. Thesis: "Properties and prop-house geography: One aspect of the film industrial complex in Los Angeles."
- 2001 B.A. Literature (Highest Honors), UC Santa Cruz.
- 1998 A.A.S. Los Angeles Valley College.

COURSES TAUGHT

“Crime & the City” GEOG 150B2	“Cultural Geography” GEOG 340	“The Geography of Gangs in America” GEOG 450	“Geographical Thought” GEOG 689
“The US/Mexico Border” HNRS 195H	“Reading the City” HNRS 195J	“Place Making in Oaxaca” GEOG 395A	

PUBLICATIONS**Book**

- 2019 *Going All City: Struggle and Survival in LA’s Graffiti Subculture*. University of Chicago Press.
- On Contract *Who Killed Efred Barbosa: An urban autopsy of an LA gang killing*. University of Chicago Press.

Peer-Reviewed

- 2026 (w/ Martinez, Olivares-Pelayo, Oviemhada, Seal, Strong) Crimmigration and the Carceral Fix in Arizona. *Punishment & Society*.
- 2026 (w/ Martinez, Meyer, Olivares-Pelayo, Oviemhada, Seal, Strong) “The Crimmigration Corridor.” *Antipode* (under review)
- 2025 (w/ Olivares-Pelayo) “Spatially contingent racialization: A prison site ontology.” *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*.
- 2025 “Crime as Relational Concept in Political Geography.” *Geography Compass*.
- 2025 (w/ Olivares-Pelayo) “Banging them out: An affective politics of prison sound.” *Geoforum* 164.
- 2024 “A legal geography of prison and other carceral spaces.” *Antipode* 56/4.
- 2024 (w/ Olivares-Pelayo) “Captive bodies, prison geographies, and the somatic carceral condition. *Progress in Human Geography* 48/1.
- 2024 (w/ Olivares-Pelayo) “Prison geographies: Nine disciplinary approaches. *Geography Compass* 18/3.

- 2024 (w/ Olivares-Pelayo) "Carceral racialization, prison segregation, and the Integrated Housing Program in Arizona." *Theoretical Criminology* 28/2.
- 2023 (w/ Meyer) "Displacement beyond dislocation: Aversive racism in gentrification studies." *Dialogues in Urban Research* 1/3.
- 2023 (w/ Brasdefer) "Edward W. Soja's Radical Spatial Perspective." *Human Geography* 16/3.
- 2022 "Gangs, gang members, and geography." *Geography Compass* 16/8.
- 2022 "For autoethnographies of displacement beyond gentrification: The body as archive, memory as data." *Annals of the American Assoc. of Geographers* 112/3.
- 2022 "Gangs, gang members, and geography." *Geography Compass* 16/8.
- 2022 "Aversive racism and community-instigated policing: The spatial politics of Nextdoor." *Environment and Planning C: Politics and Space* 40/1.
- 2022 (*Best Article short list, w/ Phillips) "Mapping and making gangland: A legacy of redlining and enjoining gang neighbourhoods in LA." *Urban Studies* 59/4.
- 2021 (w/ Olivares-Pelayo) "Carceral geographies from inside prison gates: The micro-politics of everyday racialization." *Antipode* 15/1.
- 2021 "Police and policing in geography: From methods, to theory, to praxis." *Geography Compass* 15/3.
- 2021 "Policing car space and the legal liminality of the automobile." *Progress in Human Geography* 45/1.
- 2020 (w/ Martínez) "Canicide by cop: A geographical analysis of canine killings by police in Los Angeles." *Geoforum* 111.
- 2020 "An autoethnographic account of urban restructuring and neighborhood change in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley." *cultural geographies* 27/3.
- 2020 "An on-the-ground challenge to uses of spatial big data in assessing neighborhood character." *Geographical Review* 110/1-2.
- 2020 (*Best Article recipient) "Broken windows ideology and the (mis)reading of graffiti." *Critical Criminology* 28.
- 2020 "COVID-19 Graffiti." *Crime, Media, Culture* 17/1.
- 2019 (w/ Meyer) "Implicit Revanchism: Gang Injunctions and the Security Politics of White Liberalism." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 37/6.

- 2018 “Place-based elicitation: Interviewing graffiti writers at the scene of the crime.” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 47/2.
- 2018 “Hardening the Border.” *Journal of Latin American Geography* 17/3.
- 2016 “Why do Graffiti Writers Write on Murals? The Birth, Life, and Slow Death of Freeway Murals in LA.” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 40/2.
- 2013 “Hollywood as Waste Regime: The Revalorization of a Cast-off Mattress as Film Prop.” *City* 17/4.
- 2012 “The illegal face of wall space: Graffiti-murals on the Sunset Boulevard retaining walls.” *Radical History Review* 113.
- 2012 “Considering the Photography of Leonard Nadel.” *Association of Pacific Coast Geographers* 74/1.

Book Chapters

- 2025 “Centering Urban Autoethnographies on the Margins.” *The Wiley Blackwell Companion to Cultural and Social Geography* (I. Ashutosh, J. Winders, eds.) pp. 459-469
- 2025 “Policing and Geography.” *The Encyclopedia of Human Geography*. Springer.
- 2024 “Place Matters: Geographers and Gang Members.” *Oxford Handbook of Gangs and Society* (D.C. Pyrooz, J.A. Densley, J. Liverso, eds.) pp. 121-134.
- 2023 “Stefano Bloch: On How Media Architecture is Vectored.” *Provocations on Media Architecture* (I. Callender and A. Dell’Aria, eds.). Set Margins.
- 2023 “For Autoethnographies of Displacement.” *Geographies of Displacement/s* (K. Strauss ed.). Routledge.
- 2022 “Concerning community, with Lynn Staeheli.” *Political Geography* 92.
- 2021 (w/ Phillips) “A Legacy of Mapping Gang Neighborhoods in LA.” *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Gang Studies* (D. Brotherton and R. Gude, eds.)
- 2021 (w/ Phillips) “Graffiti, Crime, and Street Culture.” *Routledge Handbook of Street Culture* (J.I. Ross, ed.)

2019 “Painting Insurgent Artscapes.” *The New Companion to Urban Design* (T. Banerjee and A. Loukaitou-Sideris, eds.). Routledge

2016 “Challenging the Defense of Graffiti, In Defense of Graffiti.” *Routledge Handbook of Graffiti and Street Art* (J.I. Ross, ed.)

Book Reviews

2025 “Geographies of trauma.” *Contexts: Sociology for the Public* 24/1.

2020 “No Single Source, No Simple Solution: A Young Mother’s Homelessness in New York City.” *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

2015 “Street Art, Public City: Law, Crime and the Urban Imagination by A. Young.” *Urban Studies* 52/13.

2014 (w/ Tchopourian) “Railtown: The Fight for the Los Angeles Metro Rail and the Future of the City by E. Elkind.” *Journal of Regional Science* 54/5.

2014 “A People's Guide to Los Angeles by L. Barraclough, W. Cheng, L. Pulido.” *Social & Cultural Geography* 15/1.

2011 “The Truce: Lessons from an LA Gang War by K. Umemoto.” *Urban Geography* 32/1.

2009 “The Los Angeles Plaza: Sacred and Contested Space by W.D. Estrada.” *Journal of Cultural Geography* 26/3.

OP-EDs AND POPULAR MEDIA

2024 “The most dangerous drug on campus.” *Arizona Daily Star*.
https://tucson.com/opinion/column/local-opinion-the-most-dangerous-drug-on-campus/article_abfed946-58f0-11ef-8ca5-c7ccaa008442.html

2024 “Some good news about violent crime.” *Arizona Daily Star*.
https://tucson.com/opinion/column/local-opinion-some-good-news-about-violent-crime/article_1983f344-0d50-11ef-bf1d-0788a292ce44.html

2023 “Graffiti has undergone a massive shift toward social acceptance.” *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/graffiti-has-undergone-a-massive-shift-in-a-few-quick-decades-as-street-art-gains-social-acceptance-196995>

- 2020 “Are you in a gang database?” *New York Times*.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/02/03/opinion/los-angeles-gang-database.html>
- 2020 (w/ Marinez) “Cops Are Also Shooting Pets in Black and Brown Communities at Much Higher Rates.” *Slate.com*. <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2020/07/cops-shooting-dogs-police-violence-racism.html>

MEDIA INTERVIEWS

Radio

NPR Morning Edition Interview: “A new public art project in Los Angeles is creating a lot of controversy.” <https://www.npr.org/2024/03/12/1237888140/a-new-public-art-project-in-los-angeles-is-creating-a-lot-of-controversy>

LAist (Los Angeles NPR): “Uncovering the History and Impact of Graffiti Writing In Los Angeles.” <https://laist.com/news/arts-and-entertainment/la-graffiti-writing-art-politics>

KJZZ (Phoenix NPR): “A graffiti artist-turned professor on the history and evolution of the artform.” <https://www.kjzz.org/2023-09-13/content-1857429-graffiti-artist-turned-professor-history-and-evolution-artform>

Print

Psychology Today Interview: “The Night Writer.”
<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/articles/202409/the-night-writer>

London Times Higher Education Interview: “Life and Death in LA’s Graffiti Subculture.”
<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/features/stefano-bloch-life-and-death-las-graffiti-subculture>

Los Angeles Times: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-10-17/nothing-changed-about-graffiti-except-the-settings>

Los Angeles Times: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-02-02/two-men-arrested-in-connection-with-tagging-graffiti-covered-l-a-skyscraper-across-the-street-from-grammys>

Los Angeles Times: <https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2024-02-01/taggers-graffiti-more-than-25-stories-of-dtla-skyscraper-across-from-the-grammys-red-carpet>

New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/03/us/la-graffiti-building.html>

Washington Post: “Inside the graffiti-covered Oceanwide Plaza.”
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/entertainment/art/2024/02/08/los-angeles-graffiti-building/>

Smithsonian Magazine: “Graffiti Artists Tag 27 Floors of Abandoned Skyscraper in Los Angeles.” <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/graffiti-artists-tag-27-floors-of-an-empty-skyscraper-development-in-los-angeles-180983749/>

Annenberg Media: “Oceanwide Plaza graffiti: eyesore or artform?” <https://www.uscannenbergmedia.com/2024/02/13/oceanwide-plaza-graffiti-eyesore-or-artform/>

Television

NBC 4 (Los Angeles): “City to vote on having owners clear graffiti from downtown LA high-rise.” <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/on-air/city-to-vote-on-having-owners-clear-graffiti-from-downtown-la-high-rise/3334969/>

KXAN 36 (Austin): “What gives with the ‘Buscar’ graffiti?” <https://www.kxan.com/news/local/what-gives-with-the-buscar-graffiti/>

FACULTY AWARDS

- 2025 College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Research Institute (SBSRI) Faculty Small Grant.
- 2021 University of Arizona Early Career Scholar.
- 2021 College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Undergraduate Teaching Award.
- 2020 George H. Davis Travel Grant
- 2019 UArizona Provost’s Author Support Grant
- 2019-2020 College of Social & Behavioral Sciences Faculty Seed Grant.

INVITED LECTURES AND CONFERENCE TALKS

- 2025 Gangs and Graffiti: Identity in Action. Department of Criminology and Justice, Loyola University, New Orleans.
- 2024 “How Nuisance Enforcement Drives Displacement.” Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Phoenix, AZ.
- 2024 “Crime Myths and Real Harms,” Pima County Community Prevention Coalition, Tucson, AZ.

DISCIPLINARY AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

- 2025- Co-Chair: University of Arizona Committee on Ethics & Commitment
- 2025- Co-Chair: American Association of Geographers (AAG) Committee on Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
- 2024-present Editorial Board: *Dialogues in Urban Research*
- 2024-present Member: Arizona State Board on Geographic and Historic Names
- Ongoing Reviewer: Mellon/ACLS Grants, AAG Awards, Chicago University Press, Temple University Press, Georgia University Press, Antipode, Urban Studies, Geography Compass (full list upon request)
- 2022-2024 UArizona Grievance Committee
- 2019-2023 Chair: University of Arizona Police Department Campus Community Committee

SCHOOL/DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- Current Chair: Annual Performance Review Committee
- 2022-2025 Chair: Graduate Admission Committee
- Current Chair / Committee Member: Promotion and Tenure Committee

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2022-ongoing Expert Witness: Gangs, graffiti, street and prison criminal subcultures

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- 2006-present American Association of Geographers (AAG)
- 2019-present American Society of Criminology (ASC)
- 2026-present Royal Geographical Society (RGS)