

Leah Binkovitz

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Rice University, Sociology, 2024 (expected)

M.A. Rice University, Sociology, 2021

M.S. Columbia University, Journalism, 2011

B.A. University of California, Berkeley, Art History with minor in Environmental Studies, 2010

INTERESTS

With a professional background in journalism, I am interested in the coproduction of space and race within the context of urban development. I seek to bring a narrative sensibility, sociological lens and historical depth to critical issues of equity, power and resources in our communities. My work, covering everything from arts and culture to transportation policy, has appeared in the Washington Post, National Public Radio, Smithsonian magazine, Texas Monthly, Houston Chronicle and more and my scholarship has been published in the journals City & Community and Spatial Demography.

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Binkovitz, Leah. 2022. "Circling the Herd: Houston's Black Trail Riders, Placemaking and the Liberatory Potential of Second Sites." City & Community. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/15356841221084263>

Turner, Kieran and Leah Binkovitz. 2021. "Violence in Stone: Confederate Monuments and Lynchings in the US South." Spatial Demography ():1-16. doi: 10.1007/s40980-021-00098-3

SELECT RECENT ARTICLES

"Opinion: New to Juneteenth? Know the history before you celebrate." Houston Chronicle. June 17, 2022. <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Opinion-New-to-Juneteenth-Know-the-history-17247480.php>

"Opinion: We must confront the misogyny behind gun violence." Houston Chronicle. June 7, 2022. <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Opinion-We-must-confront-the-misogyny-behind-gun-17225380.php>

"Essay: 30 years he's tended not just Olivewood Cemetery but Houston's soul." Houston Chronicle. May 11, 2022. <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/opinion/outlook/article/Essay-30-years-he-s-tended-not-just-Olivewood-17166404.php>

"The Surprising, Fraught History of the Texan Jewish Experience." Texas Monthly. March 25, 2022. <https://www.texasmonthly.com/arts-entertainment/fraught-history-texan-jewish-experience/>

"One of the Country's First Racially Integrated Fine Art Shows Gets an Overdue Update." Texas Monthly. September 15 2021. <https://www.texasmonthly.com/arts-entertainment/deluxe-show-houston-fifth-ward-art/>

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“The Houston Arrow: The shape of Houston’s inequity.” One Breath Partnership. 2021 <https://onebreathhou.org/houston-arrow/>

“Stay home, work safe? Environmental racism complicates that for many Houstonians.” One Breath Partnership. July 5, 2020. <https://onebreathhou.org/newsroom/2020/07/environmental-racism-coronavirus-impacts-communities-of-color/>

PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 Pediatric Grand Rounds, Mayo Clinic: Redlining, Racism and Health
- 2022 Radiology Residency, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Mayo Clinic: Redlining and Systemic Racism: 100 Years of the Houston Arrow
- 2021 United Way of Greater Houston, Data and Dish: The Shape of Houston’s Inequity
- 2021 American Sociological Association: “Circling the Herd: Houston’s Black Trail Riders, Placemaking and the Liberatory Potential of Second Sites”
- 2020 American Sociological Association: “Monumental Problems: Confederate Monuments and Regimes of Violence Over Time”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2021 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to African and African American Studies, Rice University
- 2021 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology, Rice University
- 2021 Teaching Assistant, Race, Place and Power in Houston, Rice University
- 2020 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Sociology, Rice University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2019-2022 Graduate Research Assistant, Sociology, Rice University
- 2009-2010 Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of California, Berkeley

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2022-Present Senior Editorial Writer, Houston Chronicle
- 2021-2022 Graduate Fellow, Center for Civic Leadership, Rice University
- 2017-2019 Senior Editor, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University
- 2016-2017 Staff Writer, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University
- 2014-2016 Reporter, Houston Chronicle
- 2013-2014 Stone and Holt Weeks Fellow, Washington Post and NPR
- 2012-2013 Editorial Intern, Smithsonian Magazine

AWARDS

- 2022 Walter and Helen Hall Graduate Student Paper Award (\$300)
- 2021 Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Social Sciences Research Institute (SSRI), Rice University (\$2,875)
- 2021 Walter and Helen Hall Graduate Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention
- 2015 First Place, Short Features, Texas Associated Press Managing Editors
- 2015 Finalist, Investigations Triggered by Breaking News, IRE
- 2010 Departmental Citation for outstanding thesis, UC Berkeley Art History