

DR. VICTOR LUND SHAMMAS

Head of Department & Associate Professor
Department of Sociology and Social Work
University of Agder (UiA), Norway

Personal Information

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Citations: 1,053 citations ([Google Scholar](#)) (h-index: 13; i10-index: 14)

Education

2017 PhD Sociology, University of Oslo

2012 MPhil Sociology, University of Oslo (Thesis: A)

2010 BA Sociology, University of Oslo

2005 International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma, International School of Stavanger, Norway (44/45 points)

Work

June 2023–present **Head of Department** (*instituttleder*), Department of Sociology and Social Work, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Agder (UiA)

June 2021–present **Associate Professor** (*førsteamanuensis*) of Sociology, UiA

2018–2021 Senior Researcher, Work Research Institute (AFI), Oslo Metropolitan University

2014–2018 PhD Research Fellow, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo

2014–2015 Research Assistant, Norwegian Social Welfare (NOVA)

2013 Lecturer, International Summer School, University of Oslo

2012–2014 Research and Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology and Human Geography, University of Oslo

Academic Visits & Courses

2027 (planned) Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS), Uppsala, Sweden. SCAS-Nordic Fellowship Programme, Spring 2027.

2017 Visiting Student Researcher, SCANCOR, Stanford University

2015–2016 Visiting Student Researcher, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

2015 Visiting Doctoral Student, Department of Criminology, Stockholm University

2011	Visiting Graduate Student, Dept. of Sociology, UC Berkeley
2009	Visiting Undergraduate Student, Dept. of Department, UC Berkeley
2006	Michaelmas term; Politics, Philosophy, and Economics (PPE), Balliol College, Oxford University
2006	Visiting Undergraduate Student, Norwegian University Center of St. Petersburg, Russia (January–May 2006)

Grants and Awards

2023	University of Agder Qualification Stipend (150,000 NOK)
2021	Nordic Research Council for Criminology (NSfk) Co-Investigator; 500,000 SEK (w/ Anita Heber, Stockholm University)
2018	“Comparing Extremes: US Hyperincarceration and Norwegian Penal Exceptionalism, 1960-2017,” Peder Sather Grant, Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study, University of California, Berkeley (\$25,000; w/ Loïc Wacquant and Sveinung Sandberg)
2016	Co-Investigator, Norwegian Research Council IDEALAB Grant, “Invisible Infrastructures: Socioecological Transformations in the Postindustrial Metropolis” (7 million NOK [approx. \$1,000,000])
2015	Thorleif Dahl Historical Research Scholarship, University of Oslo (25,000 NOK [\$3,100])
2014	3-year fully funded PhD fellowship, University of Oslo
2006	G9-Alt Grant, SpareBank1 (25,000 NOK [approx. \$6,500])
2005	Norwegian Young Researchers Humanities Scholarship (4,500 NOK)

Courses

2023	Leadership Training Course (<i>Introduksjon til nye ledere</i>), University of Agder (Fall 2023)
2022-2023	University Instructor Pedagogical Certification (<i>Universitetspedagogisk basiskurs</i>), University of Agder
2019-2020	90 ECTS credits, Cand. theol. Program, Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo

Selected Presentations

Discussant (Profs. Oliver Marchart and Carl Death), “Political Imaginaries and Social Transformation Workshop,” University of Agder (2024); “Dialectical Criminology” (panel paper) and “Pierre Bourdieu, Dialectician Without Synthesis” (Roundtable Presentation), EUROCRIM2023, European Society of Criminology Annual Conference, Florence, Italy; “Human rights in a ‘changing world’?,” SCANDMUN, International School of Stavanger (2023); “Open prisons: What are they—and how are they experienced?,” UCLouvain Université Saint-Louis Bruxelles (2023); “Democracy and Citizenship: Future Prospects,” Democracy@UiA network meeting, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Agder (2023); Discussant, Comparative Historical Crime and Punishment Workshop, Department of Economic History, Lund University (2022);

“Comments on Paul the Apostle and Philosophy,” Faculty of Theology (TF), University of Oslo (2022); “Space Privatization Call with Senator Sanders,” U.S. Senate/Office of Senator Bernie Sanders (2022); “What is Race?” Norwegian Sociological Association Winter Conference (2020); “Nordic Exceptionalism 10 Years On,” Invited Roundtable Participant, University of Agder/Cambridge University (2019); “Staging Sovereignty: Punitivity, Xenophobia, and the Frail Society,” Security and Morality Conference, University of Oslo (2019); “Staging Sovereignty,” Dept. of Criminology and Sociology of Law, University of Oslo (2018), “Introduction to Marx’s *Capital*,” Norwegian Parliament (2018); “Trial Lecture: The Norwegian Penal Field,” Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oslo; “Burying Mont Pèlerin,” Stanford University (2017); invited discussion partner (“Putting Bourdieu to Theoretical Work for Criminology”) and panel presentation (“Bourdieu’s Five Lessons for Criminologists”), American Society of Criminology, New Orleans (2016); “Towards an Analytic Ethnography of Fields,” British Society of Criminology, Nottingham Trent University, UK (2016); chair, co-convenor, and presenter on “Bourdieu’s Field Theory,” Journal of Youth Studies Conference, Copenhagen University, Denmark (2015); talk on “Penal Populism,” Athens University, Greece (2015); “Neoliberal Punitiveness,” Stockholm University (2015); 16 x 3-hour lectures on the welfare state, “Contemporary Norwegian Society,” Oslo International Summer School (2013); talk, “The Pains of Freedom? Dissecting Norway’s Experiment in Late-Modern Penal Confinement,” Oslo-Cambridge Prison Research Symposium (2013); panel debate, Norwegian Prison Officers’ Academy (2012); Prison Research Workshop, Center for Alcohol and Drug Research, Aarhus University, Denmark (2012); “Pains of Freedom,” Stein Rokkan Centre, University of Bergen (2012).

Peer Review

- 86 [verified peer review](#) records (Web of Science)
- Reviewer for multiple funding bodies and publishers including European Research Council (ERC), Routledge, Palgrave Macmillan, Hart Publishing, Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO/Research Foundation Flanders), and Scandinavian University Press
- Peer review for academic journals (in alphabetical order): *Acta Sociologica*, *Agora: Journal for metafysisk spekulasjon*, *Archiwum Kryminologii*, *Bergen Journal of Criminal Law & Criminal Justice*, *Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health*, *Criminological Encounters*, *Critical Criminology*, *Current Sociology*, *Dansk Sociologi*, *Diametros*, *Distinktion: Journal of Social Theory*, *European Journal of Criminology*, *European Journal of Probation*, *Financial Innovation*, *Gender & History*, *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, *Incarceration*, *Internasjonal Politikk*, *International Criminal Justice Review*, *International Journal of Comparative and Applied Criminal Justice*, *Journal of Extreme Anthropology*, *Journal of Youth Studies*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *Law & Society Review*, *Nordic Journal of Criminology*, *Nordic Journal of Social Research*, *Nordic Welfare Research*, *Norsk sosiologisk tidsskrift*, *Palgrave Communications*, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, *Punishment & Society*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Space Policy*, *The Sociological Review*, *Sustainability: Science, Practice, and Policy*, *Urban Research and Practice*, *Tidsskrift for velferdsforskning*.

Volunteer Work/Service

- Editorial Board Member, *Humanities & Social Sciences Communications* (Springer Nature), 2025–present
- Editorial Board Member, *Nordic Journal of Criminology* (Taylor & Francis), 2024–present
- Deputy Leader, Norwegian National Academic Council for Sociology (*Nasjonalt fagorgan for sosiologi, Universitets- og høyskolerådet*), 2023–2024
- Member, Norwegian National Academic Council for Sociology, 2023–present
- Member, Network for Comparative Research on Innovative Detention Policies and Practices (Funded by the Research Foundation Flanders – FWO), 2021–2025
- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Extreme Anthropology*, 2018–2024
- Member, Scandinavian Studies of Confinement Research Network (SSC), 2016–2021
- Member, Diaconal Committee, Sagene and Iladalen Parish, Church of Norway, 2020–2024

Teaching Experience

- University of Agder (UiA):
 - *SV-427 The Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu* (30 students), Fall 2021 and Fall 2022
 - *SV-133 Introduction to Sociology* (150 students), Fall 2021
 - *ME-110 Practical Research Methods*, Fall 2022 (180 students)
 - *SV-303 Bachelor's Thesis in Sociology* (30 students), Spring 2023
 - PhD Course: *SV-600 The French Tradition: From Durkheim to Deleuze* (w/ Prof. Iver B. Neumann), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Agder, October 2024
- University of Oslo (UiO):
 - *SOS2305 Deviance, Crime, and Punishment* (2x guest lectures, Fall 2023);
 - *SVMET1010 Qualitative Methods*
 - *SOS1000 Introduction to Sociology*
 - *SOS1001 Invitation to Sociology*
 - *SOS2003 Marginalization and Crime*
 - *SOS4010 Qualitative Methods*
 - *Contemporary Norwegian Society*, International Summer School (ISS), University of Oslo, Summer 2013
- Volunteer Tutor (English, Mathematics), San Quentin State Prison, California; Teach in Prison (TIP) Program, Spring 2011

Publications

Books and Theses

(in progress) *Bourdieu and Criminology: An Introduction*. Palgrave Macmillan.

(2017) *Prisons of Welfare: Incarceration, Social Democracy, and the Sociology of Punishment*. 2020. Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Oslo.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

Shammas, V. L. (2026) "Punishment and technocracy: Penal populism, elitism, and the 'buffered ideal' in the sociology of punishment." In: Corda, A. (ed.), *Research Handbook on Penal Policy*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Shammas, V. L. (2025) "Straffen: Kriminalomsorg mellom soning og forsoning." In: Lauritzen, S., Stålsett, S., Løland, O. J., & Kloster, S-T. (eds.), *Hellig makt*. Oslo: Cappelen Damm.

Shammas, V. L. (2025) "Stuart Hall: Kulturteoretiker, marxist og «kollektiv» intellektuell." In: Leiulfsrud, H. et al. (eds.), *Sosial teori*.

Shammas, V. L. and Øversveen, E. (2025) "Kritisk teori." In: Leiulfsrud, H. et al. (eds.), *Sosial teori*.

Shammas, V. L. (2024) "The global hinterland of social democracy: On the limits of Norwegian welfare capitalism." *Nordisk välfärdsvetenskap/Nordic Welfare Research*.

Shammas, V. L. (2023) "Om Marx' metode." In: Roger Hestholm & Ove Skarpenes (eds.), *Sosiologisk analyse*. Oslo: Fagbokforlaget.

Shammas, V. L. (2023) "Parallax theology: Reframing compensation theodicy." *Religions* 14(8), 1003; DOI:10.3390/rel14081003.

Shammas, V. L. & Sandset, T. (2020) "Reproduction and the welfare state: Notes on Norwegian biopolitics." *Nordic Journal of Social Research* 11(1): 1-18.

Shammas, V. L. (2019) "Penal elitism: Anatomy of a professorial category." *Critical Criminology* 28:759-774.

Shammas, V. L. (2019) "The perils of parole hearings: California lifers, performative disadvantage and the ideology of insight." *Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 42(1): 142-160.

Shammas, V. L. (2019) "The parrhesia of neo-fascism." *International Journal of Žižek Studies* 13(3): 1-14.

Shammas, V. L. (2019) "Staging sovereignty: Punitivity, xenophobia, and the frail society." *Journal of Theoretical and Philosophical Criminology* 11:39-52.

- Shammas, V. L. & Holen, T. B. (2019) "One giant leap for capitalistkind: Private enterprise in outer space." *Palgrave Communications* 5(10): 1-9.
- Shammas, V. L. (2019) "The state as God: On Bourdieu's political theology." *Journal of Extreme Anthropology* 2(2): 61-77.
- Shammas, V. L. (2019) "The pains of sovereignty: On the joyous passion of the self-punishing subject." *Journal of Extreme Anthropology* 2(2): 111-117.
- Shammas, V. L. (2018) "Surplus populations and the state: A criminological view." *International Journal for Crime, Justice and Social Democracy* 8(1): 131-146.
- Shammas, V. L. (2018) "The dissolution of social democracy: How law and order came to Norway." *Federal Sentencing Reporter* 31(1): 85-89.
- Shammas, V. L. (2018) "Burying Mont Pèlerin: Milton Friedman and neoliberal vanguardism." *Constellations* 25(1): 117-132.
- Shammas, V. L. (2018) "Bourdieu's five lessons for criminology." *Law and Critique* 29(2): 201-219.
- Shammas, V. L. (2018) "The Arab body." *Rhizomes*, no. 34. DOI:10.20415/rhiz/034.e09.
- Shammas, V. L. (2017) "Superfluity and insecurity: Disciplining surplus populations in the Global North." *Capital & Class* 42(3): 411-418.
- Shammas, V. L. (2017) "Prisons of labor: Social democracy and a triple transformation of the politics of punishment in Norway, 1900-2014." In: Ugelvik, T. and Smith, P. S. (eds.) *Scandinavian Penal History, Culture and Prison Practice*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 57-80.
- Shammas, V. L. (2016) "Who's afraid of penal populism? Technocracy and 'the people' in the sociology of punishment." *Contemporary Justice Review* 19(3): 325-346.
- Shammas, V. L. (2016) "The rise of a more punitive state: On the attenuation of Norwegian penal exceptionalism in an era of welfare state transformation." *Critical Criminology* 24(1): 57-74.
- Shammas, V. L. and Sandberg, S. (2016) "Habitus, capital, and conflict: Bringing Bourdieusian field theory to criminology." *Criminology and Criminal Justice* 16(2): 195-213.

Shammas, V. L., Sandberg, S., and Pedersen, W. (2014) "Trajectories to mid- and higher-level drug crimes: Penal misrepresentations of drug dealers in Norway." *British Journal of Criminology* 54(4): 592-612.

Shammas, V. L. (2014) "The pains of freedom: Assessing the ambiguity of Scandinavian penal exceptionalism on Norway's Prison Island." *Punishment & Society* 16(1): 104-123.

Essays and Book Reviews

Shammas, V. L. (2023) "Sociodicy." *Critical Legal Thinking* (criticallegalthinking.com).

Shammas, V. L. (2021) "Book review: Magnus Hörnqvist: *The Pleasure of Punishment*." *Punishment & Society*.

Shammas, V. L. (2018) "Rethinking Axel Honneth's *The Idea of Socialism*." *Continental Thought & Theory*.

Shammas, V. L. and Holen, T. B. (2018) "Leaving the twenty-first century: A conversation with McKenzie Wark." *Continental Thought & Theory* 2(3): 297-329.

Shammas, V. L. (2018) "Critical remarks on Jan-Werner Müller's *What is Populism?*" *Continental Thought & Theory* 2(2): 159-163.

Shammas, V. L. (2018) "Notes on Guy Standing's *The Corruption of Capitalism*." *Continental Thought & Theory* 2(1): 372-385.

Shammas, V. L. (2017) "Book review: Jamie Peck and Nik Theodore: *Fast Policy: Experimental Statecraft at the Thresholds of Neoliberalism*." *Political Studies Review* 15(3): 475-476.

Shammas, V. L. (2017) "Book review: David Garland: *The Welfare State: A Very Short Introduction*." *Theoretical Criminology* 21(2): 255-258.

Shammas, V. L. (2017) "Pains of imprisonment." In: Kerley, K. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Shammas, V. L. (2017) "*The Society of Captives* (Gresham Sykes)." In: Kerley, K. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Shammas, V. L. (2017) "*The Jail* (John Irwin)." In: Kerley, K. (ed.), *Encyclopedia of Corrections*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.

Shammas, V. L. (2016) "Book review: Dominique Moran: *Carceral Geography: Spaces and Practices of Incarceration*." *Punishment & Society* 19(5): 653-655.

Shammas, V. L. (2016) "Book review: Robert W. Sussman: *The Myth of Race: The Troubling Persistence of an Unscientific Idea.*" *International Sociology* 31(2): 199-203.

Shammas, V. L. (2015) "A prison without walls: Alternative incarceration in the late age of social democracy." *Prison Service Journal* (January): 3-9.

Shammas, V. L. (2015) "Denying the danger of difference: Notes on the pacification of inmate social relations in an era of ethnoracial diversity." *Prison Service Journal* (May): 5-10.

Shammas, V. L. (2015) "Book review: Franklin Zimring: *The City that Became Safe: New York's Lessons for Urban Crime and Its Control.*" *Acta Sociologica* 58(1): 95-96.

Shammas, V. L. (2014) "Book review: Erica Weiss: *Conscientious Objectors in Israel: Citizenship, Sacrifice, Trials of Fealty.*" *Social Anthropology/Anthropologie sociale* 22(4): 518-519.

Selected Writings in Scandinavian Languages

Shammas, V. L. (2024) "Opp-ned-filosofen" [Review of Slavoj Žižek's *Freedom: A Disease Without a Cure*]. *Agora: Journal for metafysisk spekulasjon*.

Shammas, V. L. (2023) "Bitterhetens politikk" [Review of Joseph Vogl's *Capital & Ressentiment*]. *Agora* 41(3): 399-409.

Shammas, V. L. (2022) "Den heterodokse insider: Om Loïc Wacquants forfatterskap." *Nytt Norsk Tidsskrift* 39(3): 226-230.

Shammas, V. L. (2022) "Etter oss, informasjonsfloden" [Review of McKenzie Wark's *Capital is Dead*]. *Agora* 22(2-3): 530-543.

Shammas, V. L. (2021) "Paulus med/uten Kristus." *Agora* 21(3): 282-291.

Shammas, V. L. (2021) "Bokanmeldelse: Stuart Halls Rase, etnisitet, nasjon." *Tidsskrift for samfunnsforskning* 62(4): 382-387.

Shammas, V. L. (2020) "Kritikk av den liberale populismekritikk." *Agora* 20(1-2): 115-131.

Shammas, V. L. (2020) "Opp alle jordens bundne sosialdemokrater!" *Agora* 20(1-2): 347-356.

Shammas, V. L. (2019) “En tenker uten trelldommens ånd” [Review of Mark Fisher’s *K-Punk*]. *Agora* 19(3-4): 272-279.

Shammas, V. L. (2019) “Den kritiske venn.” *Agora* 19(2): 249-257.

Shammas, V. L. (2018) “Mesterbyggeren Bourdieu” [Review of Pierre Bourdieu, *Sociologie générale, tome deux*]. *Agora* 18(4): 258-268.

Shammas, V. L. and Holen, T. B. (2018) “Etter det 21. århundret: En samtale med McKenzie Wark” [After the 21st century: A conversation with McKenzie Wark]. *Agora* 18(4): 197-219.

Shammas, V. L. (2018) “Samtalens umulighet” [Review of Axel Honneth and Jacques Rancière, *Recognition or Disagreement*]. *Agora* 18(2-3): 320-327.

Shammas, V. L. (2014) “Den fiktive kategorien.” [Review of Robert W. Sussmann, *The Myth of Race*]. *Agora* 14(3-4): 234-239.

Shammas, V. L. (2012) “Okkupasjonen av byrommet” [Review of David Harvey, *The Right to the City*]. *Agora* 12(1): 263-270.

Shammas, V. L. (2012) “Revolusjonens uår” [Review of Slavoj Žižek, *The Year of Dreaming Dangerously*]. *Agora* 12(2-3): 327-332.

Shammas, V. L. (2011) “Straffens nyliberale fest” [Review of Loïc Wacquant, *Punishing the Poor*]. *Agora* 11(1): 252-260.

Shammas, V. L. (2011) “Ghetto, *banlieue*, *favela*, problemområde: Når bydeler går i oppløsning” [Review of Loïc Wacquant, *Urban Outcasts*]. *Agora* 11(1): 261-269.