

**Dr. Ellen Berrey** is [Associate Professor](#) of Sociology at the University of Toronto. She also is an [affiliated scholar](#) of the American Bar Foundation and a faculty affiliate of [DAIR](#) (Distributed AI Research Institute). She received her Ph.D. in Sociology from Northwestern University. Her research investigates how organizations and movements advance, and thwart, progressive social change through law, discourse, and organizational practices in the United States and Canada. She is particularly curious about how cultural ideals – diversity, fairness, sustainability – get invoked, contested, and institutionalized. See also: [www.ellenberrey.com](http://www.ellenberrey.com) and [www.rightsontrial.org](http://www.rightsontrial.org)

Dr. Berrey is the author of two award-winning law and society books. *The Enigma of Diversity: The Language of Race and the Limits of Racial Justice* (U of Chicago Press 2015) received the prestigious Herbert Jacob Book Prize of the Law & Society Association, among other awards, and was profiled in *The New Yorker*. Her related *Salon* article, “Diversity Is for White People,” has been circulated on social media more than 33,000 times. Coauthored with Robert Nelson and Laura Beth Nielsen, *Rights on Trial: How Workplace Discrimination Law Perpetuates Inequality* (U of Chicago Press 2017) features online [audio recordings](#) of interviewees, which brings to life their experiences of discrimination. She has published related articles as well as her research on affirmative action policy and politics, corporate diversity management, and corporate sustainability law in *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, *Chicago-Kent Law Review*, *Du Bois Review*, *Law & Society Review*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Tennessee Journal of Business Law, Theory & Society*, and other academic journals.

Dr. Berrey’s current research projects interrogate how people politically mobilize protest movements and their dynamic interactions with organizations, government, and police. Motivated by the goals of understanding and supporting anti-racism movements, Dr. Berrey’s current study with Alex Hanna (DAIR) investigates campus protest and responses by university administrations and police in the United States and Canada in the 2010s, with funding from the National Science Foundation and the Social Sciences and Humanities Council. Her study of an anti-sustainability movement examines how conspiracy theory and property rights rhetoric get politically mobilized by white, conservative, suburban homeowners and adopted in local government.