**Tess Starman** (she/they) is a PhD Candidate in Sociology at Howard University. Her research specializes on intersections of race, gender, sexuality, and power at the nexus of religion and politics. She studies progressive Christian attitudes, religious exiting, and religion's impact on political attitudes and engagement. Her dissertation examines the social and political identity formation of ex-Christians, with focus on changing attitudes during and after leaving religion. She serves as the Research Assistant for Howard University's Initiative on Public Opinion. Tess is the co-chair of the American Sociological Association's Student Advisory Board and serves on the Pedagogy Committee of *Sociological Forum*.