

KARYN LACY
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EDUCATION

HARVARD UNIVERSITY	Ph.D. Sociology	2000
TEMPLE UNIVERSITY	M.A. Sociology	1993
	M.A. African American Studies	1991

CURRENT APPOINTMENT

University of Michigan
Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, 2010-present

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS

University of Michigan
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and the Center for Afro-American and African Studies, 2004-2010.

Associate Professor, Department of Afro-American and African Studies, 2010-2017.

Emory University, Atlanta, GA
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, 2000-2004
Associated Faculty, African American Studies, 2000- 2004
Core Faculty Member, Alfred P. Sloan Center for Myth and Ritual in American Life, 2002- 2004

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting Scholar, 1999-2000

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

2020	<i>Blue-Chip Black</i> selected for the Zora Canon
2014	Michigan Humanities Award
2013	Associate Professor's Fund Fellowship
2009	Rackham Faculty Research Grant
2008	Oliver Cromwell Cox Best Book Award
2008	Rackham Summer Grant, University of Michigan
2003-2004	Visiting Scholar, Russell Sage Foundation
2003-2004	Post-Doctoral Fellow, Ford Foundation (Elijah Anderson, Faculty Sponsor),
2001	Institute for Comparative and International Studies Curriculum Development Grant, Emory University
2001	Emory College Online Grant
1997	Harvard Graduate Society Dissertation Research Fellowship
1995, 1996	Distinction in Teaching Award, Harvard University
1993-4, 1997	Harvard Prize Fellowship
1993	Consortium on Institutional Cooperation Pre-doctoral Fellowship (CIC), declined

RESEARCH

Publications

Books

Blue-Chip Black: Race, Class, and Status in the New Black Middle-Class. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press. June 2007.

*Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award, 2008

*[Zora Canon](#) 100 Best Books, 2020

Black Like Us, (in preparation), Russell Sage Foundation.

Articles and Book Chapters

“Is There an Urban Sociology without Black Scholars?” In *Oxford Handbook of Urban Sociology*, L. Nevarez (ed), forthcoming.

“Achieving the American Dream: How Middle-Class Black Parents Socialize their Children To Make It to the Top.” In *The Routledge Handbook of the American Dream*, R. Hauhart and M. Sardoc (eds), 2023, pp. 151-63.

“The Missing Middle Class: Race, Suburban Ethnography, and the Challenges of ‘Studying Up.’” In *Urban Ethnography: Legacies and Challenges*, Richard Ocejo (ed), 2019.

“Problems, Puzzles, and the Production of Knowledge: Harnessing Census Data in the Age of Trump.” *City & Community*, September 2018.

“The New Sociology of Suburbs.” 2016. *Annual Review of Sociology* 42:369-84.

“Race, Privilege and the Growing Class Divide.” 2015. *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 38(8):1-5.

“Education for Mobility or Status Reproduction?” In *Emerging Trends in the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Robert A. Scott and Stephen Kosslyn, (eds) May 2015.

“Lessons from Detroit.” *City & Community*, June 2015.

“Is Voluntary Segregation Voluntary?” in *Race and Real Estate*, Kim Lane Scheppele and Valerie Smith,(eds), 2015.

“All’s Fair?: The Foreclosure Crisis and Middle-Class Black (In)Stability,” 2012 *American Behavioral Scientist* 56: 1565-80.

“The Research As...” in *Sociologists Backstage*, Sarah Fenstermaker and Nikki Jones, (eds), 2010

“Black Middle Class” published in *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, 2010.

Lacy, Karyn and Angel Harris. 2008. “Breaking the Class Monolith: Understanding Class Differences in Black Adolescents’ Attachment to Racial Identity.” In Dalton Conley and Annette Lareau (eds) *Social Class: How Does It Work*. NY: Russell Sage Foundation.

“Black Spaces, Black Places: Strategic Assimilation and Identity Construction in Middle-class Suburbia.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 2004.

Reprinted (2006) in Patricia and Peter Adler (eds) *Sociological Odyssey: Contemporary Readings in Introductory Sociology*. NY: Wadsworth Publishing.

“‘A Part of the Neighborhood?’: Managing Black-White Boundaries in American Suburbs.” *International Journal of Sociology and Public Policy* 22:39-70, 2002.

Unpublished Papers

“An Evaluation of Boston Freedom Summer.”

Op-Eds, Book Reviews and Comments

“How Democrats and Republicans Could Be Getting the Suburbs Wrong.” *NBCNews*, November 4, 2022.

“Suicide of Man Who Spent Youth in Rikers Shows Devastation of Racially Biased Justice System.” *USA Today*, June 8, 2022.

Review of Isabel Wilkerson. 2021. *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

“Why We Shouldn’t Try to Erase America’s Racist Past,” *Public Seminar*, August 2020

“How to Convince a White Realtor You’re Middle Class,” *New York Times*
published online January 21, 2020
print edition, January 22, 2020

“Failing Flint: Lessons from the Water Crisis,” *Learn, Speak, Act LSA Blog*, November 2017.

“Auditioning for the Role of Colleague,” *Chronicle of Higher Education*, November 10, 2016.

“Looking into the Racial Wealth Gap.” *Society Pages*, August 2014.

“The Vulnerable and the Comfortable,” *New York Times*, July 25, 2011.

Review of *Members Only: Elite Clubs and the Process of Exclusion*. *Contemporary Sociology* 39:171-72.

“Black Spatial Patterns in Atlanta.” *Community and Urban Sociology Section Newsletter*. July, 2003:3-5.

Gallagher, Charles and Karyn Lacy. “The Changing Face of Atlanta.” *Footnotes* January 2003:1,6.

Review of Douglas Massey and Elijah Anderson (eds). 2002. *Problem of the Century: Racial Stratification in the United States*. *Social Forces* 81:352-3.

Works in Progress

“Is It the Economy?: Understanding Support for Trump among Voters.”

“Ahead of the Pack: Does Possession of Cultural Capital Matter for Economic Mobility?”

“Jeopardy or Just Fine? Black Middle Class Occupational Attainment in the Post-Civil-Rights Era”

“Assessing the Impact of the Foreclosure Crisis in Black Middle Class Suburbs”

Media

<https://about.bgov.com/news/what-to-know-in-washington-maryland-suburbs-flex-election-clout/>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2019-11-07/the-changing-demographics-of-america-s-suburbs> (November 2019)

<https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/how-black-americans-view-their-racial-identity/> (June 2020)

<https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/elections/2020/09/19/michigan-women-suburbs-election-2020-trump-biden-presidency/5814853002/> (Sept 2020)

<https://apnews.com/article/election-2020-virus-outbreak-race-and-ethnicity-joe-biden-donald-trump-a0e8c8f5332151cb74e6333e87eab920> (October 2020)

<https://www.axios.com/2021/01/13/schools-segregation-increasing> (Jan 2021)

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/life/health-wellness/2022/03/22/ketanji-brown-jackson-motherhood-comments-husbands-tears-importance/7131789001/> (March 2022)

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2022/06/29/dept-of-data-prince-georges-richest-black-county/> (June 2022)

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/07/13/anthropologist-sociologist-and-philosopher-money-doesnt-make-you-middle-class-heres-what-does.html> (July 2022)

Podcasts

Gimme Shelter: <https://soundcloud.com/matt-levin-4/trump-and-the-suburbs-with-sociologist-karyn-lacy>

Property Radar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0M2Morq3iM>

Conference Presentations

Panelist, Book Salon, *Mothering While Black*, Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, August 2020.

“What Is a Suburb?,” The Changing Face of Suburban Inequality, Harvard University, November 2019

Panelist, “Blackness around the City: Black Suburban Experiences,” Annual Meetings of the Association of Black Sociologists, August 2019

- Discussant, "Comparative and International Perspectives on the Black Middle Class." Annual Meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 2019
- "The Path to Economic Success." Workshop on Elites Research, Boston, March 2019
- "Is It the Economy?: Understanding Support for Trump among Voters," Annual Meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, April 2018
- Invited Session, "Ahead of the Pack: Does Possession of Cultural Capital Matter for Economic Mobility?," Class and Culture Mini Conference, Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, February 2018
- Invited Session, "Status-Based Identities: Protecting and Reproducing Middle Class Status," Annual Meetings of the American Studies Association, November 2017
- Invited Session, "Jeopardy or Just Fine? Black Middle Class Occupational Attainment in the Post-Civil-Rights Era," *Ethnic and Racial Studies* Anniversary Conference, Warwick, 2017
- Invited Session, "Rock Bottom: How the Foreclosure Crisis has Transformed Metropolitan Detroit," Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, August 2014
- Invited Session, "Breaking the Class Monolith," Eastern Sociological Society, February 2014
- ASA Thematic Session, "Field Research and the New Politics of Representation," Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, 2011
- Panelist, Author Meets Critics Session, *Unanticipated Gains*, Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, Nevada, 2011
- Invited Session, "The Dynamics of Racial/Ethnic Identity and Identification." Annual Meetings, Southern Sociological Society, Jacksonville, Florida, 2011
- Discussant, Choosing Homes, "Choosing Schools" Mini-Conference, Eastern Sociological Society, February 2012
- Discussant, "Identity and Meaning in Everyday Life," Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, 2010
- Discussant, "Suburban Visions," Annual Meetings of the Organization of American Historians, Washington, DC, 2010
- Invited Session, "Race and Real Estate" Conference, Princeton, 2009
- Invited Session, "The Next Forty Years of Fair Housing" Conference, Chicago, 2008

Author Meets Critics Panel: *Blue-Chip Black*, Annual Meetings of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, 2007

Author Meets Critics Panel: *Blue-Chip Black*, Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York, 2007

Invited Session, "Ethno-Spatial Diffusion and Local Governance in the United States" Conference, Ithaca, 2006

Invited Session, Social Class: How Does it Work? Conference, NYU, 2006

Invited Session, Amitai Etzioni's "Ways We Celebrate: The Sociology of Holidays and Rituals." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, 2003

"Identity Dilemmas: Middle-class Blacks Respond to Perceptions of Discrimination in the Public Sphere." Annual Meetings of the Southern Sociological Association, New Orleans, March 2003.

"'We Should Fall in the Middle': Middle-Class Blacks and the Construction of a Class-Based Identity." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, 2002

"Identity Dilemmas: Middle Class Blacks' Responses to Racial Discrimination in the Public Sphere." MARIAL Center Symposium, 2002

Author Meets Critics Panel: Michele Lamont's, *The Dignity of Working Men*, Annual Meetings of the Social Science History Association, Chicago, 2001

Invited Session, "Identity Dilemmas: Middle-Class Blacks' Responses to Racial Discrimination in the Public Sphere." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, 2001

"Negotiating Black Identities: The Construction and Use of Social Boundaries Among Middle-Class Black Suburbanites." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Washington, D.C., 2000

"The Impact of Federal Policy on Black-White Spatial Patterns." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, 1998

"The Representation of Blacks in Children's Books, 1938-1990." Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, 1996

"The Role of Homeownership in Whites' Attitudes toward Residential Segregation." Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, 1995 (co-authored with Monica

McDermott)

Invited Talks

“‘Are We Black?:’ Strategic Assimilation in Middle-Class Suburbia.” Public Lecture, Oberlin College, November 2021.

“Sociology Speaks: Experts Explain the Executive Order on Race and Sex Stereotyping.” ASA Webinar, October 2020.

“Embracing Black Middle-Class Culture,” Elites Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, October 2018

“Racial Socialization in A Children’s Social Club,” University of Texas, Austin, October 2018

“Racial Socialization in A Children’s Social Club,” Ohio State University, September 2018

2017 Black Experiences Lecture, Bucknell University, September 2017

“Racial Socialization in a Children’s Social Club,” Culture Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, April 2016

“Racial Collisions: Race, Status, and Interactional Failure” Emory University, March 2015

“Growing Up Around Blacks: Strategic Assimilation in Middle-Class Suburbia,” University of Kentucky, March 2014

“Racial Collisions,” Race Workshop, Princeton University, May 2013

“Growing Up Around Blacks: Strategic Assimilation in Middle-Class Suburbia,” Spelman College, May 2012

“What Difference Does Differentiation Make?,” Policy Conference, Princeton University, April 2011

“Growing Up Around Blacks: Strategic Assimilation in Middle-Class Suburbia,” Colgate University, April 2011

“Saving Face: Race, Status and Interactional Failure.” Race and Immigration Workshop, Stanford University, February 2011

“Saving Face: Race, Status and Interactional Failure.” Culture Workshop, Harvard University, November 2010

- “When Ethnographers Fail,” Ethnography Workshop, Yale University, February 2010
- “Growing Up Around Blacks: Strategic Assimilation in Middle-Class Suburbia,” Department of Sociology, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, March 2009
- “Growing Up Around Blacks: Strategic Assimilation in Middle-Class Suburbia,” Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, 2009
- “When Ethnographers Fail: Lessons from Cross-Race Fieldwork in Middle-Class Suburbia,” Ethnography Workshop, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University, October 2008
- “No ‘Silver Spoons:’ Status Maintenance and Reproduction in Middle-Class Suburbia,” MARIAL Center, Emory University, April 2008
- Panelist, *The Black Middle Class: The Politics of Race and Class in Cities and Suburbs*, University of Michigan, March 2008
- “Growing Up Around Blacks: Strategic Assimilation in Middle-Class Suburbia,” Department of Sociology, NYU, January 2008
- University of Notre Dame, Department of Sociology, “Identity Construction in Middle-Class Suburbia,” September 2007
- University of Maryland, Department of Sociology Qualitative Methods Research Group, “Understanding the Impact of Differences in Suburban Residence on Identity,” February 2007
- “Understanding Micromechanisms in the Acquisition of Cultural Capital.” Presented at the conference *Practicing Pierre Bourdieu: In the Field and Across the Disciplines*, University of Michigan, September 2006
- “Breaking the Class Monolith: Understanding Class Differences in Black Adolescents’ Attachment to Racial Identity.” Presented at the conference *Social Class: How Does it Work?* NYU, April 2006
- Brown University, Department of Sociology, “Black Spaces, Black Places: Identity Construction in Middle-Class Suburbia,” March 2005
- Emory University, American Studies Program, “Constructing Racial Identities: The Role of Black Spaces and Places,” March 2005
- New York University, Center for Advanced Social Science Research, “Black Spaces, Black Places: Identity Construction in Middle-Class Suburbia.” October 2004
- Princeton University, Culture and Inequality Workshop, “Uncovering Micromechanisms in the Negotiation of Racial Stigma,” April 2004

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Sociology, “Uncovering Micromechanisms in the Negotiation of Racial Stigma,” April 2004

University of California at Berkeley, Department of Sociology, “Uncovering Micromechanisms in the Negotiation of Racial Stigma,” March 2004

CUNY Graduate Center, Department of Sociology, “Uncovering Micromechanisms in the Negotiation of Racial Stigma,” March 2004

CUNY Graduate Center, Workshop on Urban Ethnography, “The Ethnography of Middle Class Blacks in America,” March 2004

University of Virginia, Department of Sociology, “Invoking Cultural Capital: Middle-Class Blacks Respond to Perceptions of Discrimination in the Public Sphere,” November 2003

Duke University, Department of Sociology, “Identity Dilemmas: Middle-Class Blacks Respond to Discrimination in the Public Sphere,” October 2002

EDITORIAL BOARDS

Deputy Editor, *American Sociological Review*, 2019-2020; January 2022-present

American Sociological Review, 2018-December 2020

American Journal of Sociology, 2015-2017

Contemporary Sociology, 2010-2013

City and Community, 2010-2015

Ethnic and Racial Studies, 2009-present

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, 2015-2017

AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION ELECTED POSITIONS

Member, American Sociological Association Council, 2013-2016

Council Member, Community and Urban Sociology Section (2011-2014)

Council Member, Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities (2010-2013)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

ASA

Co-Chair, ASA Task Force on the State of the Art in Sociological Scholarship on Race, 2021-2023.

Organizer, American Sociological Association Webinar, “Teaching Sensitive Topics to High School and First-Year College Students.” September 2022.

Organizer, American Sociological Association Special Session, “The Diversification of Suburbia,” Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, 2018

Member, Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award Selection Committee, American Sociological Association, 2018-2020.

Chair, Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award Selection Committee, American Sociological Association, 2019-2020.

Member, Robert and Helen Lynd Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2016

Organizer, American Sociological Association Webinar, “Getting Your Paper in the American Sociological Association Program,” November 2016

Member, Culture Section Book Award Committee, American Sociological Association, 2015

Organizer, Regular Session, “Qualitative Methods,” Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, 2015

Chair, Park Paper Award Committee, American Sociological Association Community and Urban Sociology Section, 2013

Organizer, Regular Session, “Blacks and African Americans,” Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, 2012

Chair, Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award Committee, American Sociological Association, Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, 2011

Member, Robert and Helen Lynd Lifetime Achievement Award Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2008

Organizer, Thematic Session: “The Boundaries of the Black Middle Class,” Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, 2006

Organizer, Housing Session, Community and Urban Sociology Section, Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, 2003

Chair, Park Paper Award Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2003

Co-Chair, Regional Spotlight Committee, American Sociological Association, Program Committee, Atlanta, 2003

Organizer, Housing Session, Community and Urban Sociology Section, Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, 2003

Member, Park Paper Award Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2002

Member, Park Paper Award Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section, American Sociological Association, 2002

Moderator and Discussant, “Culture and Inequality” Session, Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, 2001

Moderator and Discussant, “Culture and Inequality” Session, Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, 2001

THE DISCIPLINE

Deputy Editor, *American Sociological Review*, January 2019-present

Editorial Board, *American Sociological Review*, January 2018-December 2020

Faculty Mentor, Summer Institute on Tenure and Professional Advancement, 2017-2018

Faculty Mentor, Woodrow Wilson Career Enhancement Program, 2017-2018

Associate Editor, *City and Community*, 2014-2015

Member, National Science Foundation Advisory Panel, 2012-2016

Chair, C. Wright Mills Book Award Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), 2012

C. Wright Mills Book Award Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), 2011

Member, Cultural Contact Advisory Committee, Russell Sage Foundation, 2006-2016

Member, C. Wright Mills Book Award Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), 2005

Member, Faculty Advisory Board, Kenneth Cole Community Fellows Program, Emory University, 2001- 2003

Project Reviewer: National Science Foundation

Manuscript Reviewer: *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Social Forces, Ethnic and Racial Studies, Social Psychology Quarterly, Social Problems, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Gender and Society, City and Community, Sociological Forum, DuBois Review, Sociological Inquiry, Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Qualitative Sociology, Poetics, Sociology of Education*, Russell Sage Foundation Press, University of California Press, Stanford University Press, Oxford University Press, NYU Press, Pine Forge Press, Routledge Press, Temple University Press.

UNIVERSITY

Elected member, LSA College Curriculum Committee, 2022-present

Sociology Liaison, Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program (MICHHERS), 2017-2019

Chair, Community Outreach, LSA Bicentennial Committee, 2015-2017

Member, Provost's Committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, 2014-2015

DEPARTMENT

Member, Admissions Committee, 2005, 2021, 2022

Member, Committee on the Administration of Graduate Affairs (CAGA), Sociology, 2017-2019

Member, Personnel Committee, Sociology, 2011-2013, 2016-2017

Chair, Personnel Committee, Sociology, 2016

Member, Executive Committee, Sociology, 2006-2007, 2009-2010, 2014-2016

Member, Executive Committee, Department of Afro-American and African Studies (DAAS),
2011-2012, 2014-2016

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Afro-American and African Studies (DAAS),
2014-2015, 2016

Member, Department of Afro-American and African Studies (DAAS) Racial Climate Task
Force, 2014-2016

Co-Chair, Urban Studies Cluster Search, Department of Afro-American and African Studies
(DAAS), 2011

Faculty Mentor, Emory Mentoring for Excellence Program, 2001- 2003

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Association of Black Sociologists
Eastern Sociological Society
Southern Sociological Society
Scholars Strategy Network