

# ALEXANDRA K. MURPHY

University of Michigan  
Department of Sociology  
murphyal@umich.edu

500 South State Street  
Room 3115, LSA Building  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

## EMPLOYMENT

---

Current            University of Michigan  
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology (since 2014)  
Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center (PSC) (since 2014)  
Courtesy Appointment, Ford School of Public Policy (since 2014)  
Faculty Expert Affiliate, Poverty Solutions (since 2016)  
Faculty Affiliate, Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics (since 2019)

2012-2014    University of Michigan  
Postdoctoral Fellow, National Poverty Center  
Postdoctoral Affiliate, Population Studies Center (PSC)

## EDUCATION

---

PhD., Sociology & Social Policy, Princeton University, 2012

M.A., Sociology & Social Policy, Princeton University, 2008

B.A., Urban Studies, Barnard College, Columbia University, 2003  
*Magna Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

## PUBLICATIONS

---

### **Books:**

Murphy, Alexandra K. *Where the Sidewalks End: Poverty, Race, and Community in an American Suburb*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. (Under Contract)

Duneier, Mitchell, Philip Kasinitz, and Alexandra K Murphy (Eds). 2014. *The Urban Ethnography Reader*. New York: Oxford University Press.

### **Articles:**

Murphy, Alexandra K., Karina MacDonald-Lopez, Natasha Pilkauskas, and Alix Gould-Werth. 2022. "Transportation Insecurity in the United States: A Descriptive Portrait." *Socius*.

Murphy, Alexandra K, Alix Gould-Werth, and Jamie Griffin. 2021. "Validating the Sixteen Item Transportation Security Index in a Nationally Representative Sample: A Confirmatory Factor Analysis" *Survey Practice*.

- Murphy, Alexandra K., Colin Jerolmack, and DeAnna Smith. 2021. "Ethnography, Data Transparency, and the Information Age." *Annual Review of Sociology*.
- Gould-Werth, Alix, Jamie Griffin, and Alexandra K. Murphy. 2018. "Defining a New Measure of Transportation Insecurity: An Exploratory Factor Analysis." *Survey Practice*, 11:2, pp. 1-36.
- Jerolmack, Colin and Alexandra K. Murphy. 2017. "The Ethical Dilemmas and Social Scientific Trade-offs of Masking in Ethnography." *Sociological Methods & Research*, 48(4): 801-827.
- Murphy, Alexandra K. 2012. "Litterers: How Objects of Physical Disorder are used to Construct Subjects of Social Disorder in a Poor Suburb." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 642:1, 210-227.
- Murphy, Alexandra K. and Danielle Wallace. 2010. "Opportunities for Making Ends Meet & Upward Mobility: Differences in Organizational Deprivation across Urban and Suburban Poor Neighborhoods." *Social Science Quarterly*, 91:5, 1164-1186.
- Murphy, Alexandra K. 2010. "The Symbolic Dilemmas of Suburban Poverty: Challenges & Opportunities Posed by Variations in the Contours of Suburban Poverty." *Sociological Forum*, 25:3, 541-569.  
 \* Community & Urban Sociology Section Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention (2009)
- Murphy, Alexandra K. 2007. "The Suburban Ghetto: The legacy of Herbert Gans on our Understanding of the Transformation of Urban Poverty." *City & Community*, 6:1, 21-37.
- Murphy, Alexandra K and Sudhir Venkatesh. 2006. "Vice Careers: The Changing Contours of Sex Work in New York City." *Qualitative Sociology*, 29:2, 129-154.  
 \* Translated into Spanish and reprinted in *Acción e Interpretación en la Sociología Cualitativa Norteamericana*. 2011. Javier Auyero and Rodrigo Hobert (Eds). Quito-Buenos Aires: FLACSO-EPC.

***Manuscripts Under Review:***

- MacDonald-Lopez, Karina, Alexandra K. Murphy, Jamie Griffin, Michael Bader, Alix Gould-Werth, and Nicole Kovski. "A Driver in Health Outcomes: Developing Discrete Categories of Transportation Insecurity" (Revise and Resubmit at the *American Journal of Epidemiology*)

***Chapters:***

- Murphy, Alexandra K. and Katherine Newman. 2009. "Children and Work." In *The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion*. (Ed) Richard Shweder. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Venkatesh, Sudhir and Alexandra K. Murphy. 2006. "Policing Ourselves: Law and Order in the American Ghetto." In *Youth, Globalization, and the Law*. (Eds) Sudhir Venkatesh and Ronald Kassimir. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 124-157.

**Book Reviews:**

"Beyond the Case: The Logics and Practices of Comparative Ethnography" Edited by Corey M. Abramson and Neil Gong. *Contemporary Sociology*. (2022), 52:1, pp. 27-28 (w/Erin Ice)

"Driving After Class: Anxious Times in an American Suburb" by Rachel Heiman. *American Journal of Sociology*. (2016), 122:3, pp. 989-991.

"The New American Suburb: Poverty, Race, and the Economic Crisis" by Katrin Anacker (Ed). *Journal of Urban Affairs*. (2016), 38:2.

"Confronting Suburban Poverty in America" by Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube. *City & Community*. (2014), 13:3, pp. 279-281.

"Living the Drama: Community, Conflict, and Culture among Inner-City Boys." by David Harding. *Sociological Forum*. (2011), 26:4, 966-970.

**Research Reports:**

Thukral, Juhu, Melissa Ditmore, and Alexandra K. Murphy. 2005. "Behind Closed Doors: An Analysis of Indoor Sex Work in New York City." New York: Urban Justice Center.

Venkatesh, Sudhir, Isil Celimli, Douglas Miller, Alexandra K. Murphy, and Beauty Turner. 2004. "Chicago Public Housing Transformation: A Research Report." New York: Center for Urban Research and Policy, Columbia University.

**Other Writings:**

Murphy Alexandra K., Karina Lopez-McDonald, Jamie Griffin, and Alix Gould-Werth. 2022. "Establishing Discrete Categories of Transportation Insecurity Using the Transportation Security Index." *University of Michigan Poverty Solutions Working Paper*.

Murphy, Alexandra K. and Alix Gould-Werth. 2021. "The Transportation Security Index: A New Measurement to Deepen our Understanding of the Relationship Between Transportation Insecurity and Poverty." *ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Newsletter Symposium on New Methodological Approaches to Capturing Inequality, Mobility, or Poverty*.

Murphy, Alexandra K. and Colin Jerolmack. Spring 2016. "Ethnographic Masking in an Era of Data Transparency." *Contexts Magazine*.

Murphy, Alexandra K. and Scott W. Allard. 2015. "The Changing Geography of Poverty." *University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty's Focus*, 32:1, pp. 19-23.

Murphy, Alexandra K. 2013. "The Diversity of Suburban Poverty: Challenges and Opportunities Facing the New Geography of American Poverty." A research brief commissioned and published by The Gulen Institute at the University of Houston.

Panchok-Berry, Andrea, Alejandro Rivas, and Alexandra K. Murphy. 2013. "Shifting Settlement Patterns & Mismatched Resources: The Landscape of Immigrant Organizations in Urban and Suburban Philadelphia." *Social Science Research Network*, pp. 1-60. <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2318088>

## **FELLOWSHIPS & DISTINCTIONS**

---

- 2020 University of Michigan Sociology Graduate Student Faculty Recognition Award
- 2018 University of Michigan College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Individual Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education
- 2017-2018 University of Michigan Institute for Humanities Faculty Fellowship
- 2014 University of Pennsylvania Social Science & Policy Forum Postdoctoral Fellowship (Declined)
- 2011-2012 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation/American Council of Learned Societies Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2011-2012 Barnard College Alumnae Fellowship for Graduate Study
- 2010-2012 Center for African American Urban Studies & the Economy (CAUSE) Fellow, Carnegie Mellon
- 2009 Community and Urban Sociology Section Graduate Student Paper Award - Honorable Mention
- 2007-2012 Princeton University Multi-disciplinary Program in Social Policy, Doctoral Fellow
- 2005-2008 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship

## **GRANTS**

---

### ***External Funding***

- 2017 Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality, "Transportation Insecurity Winter Survey" (\$20,000)
- 2016 Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality New Scholars Grant. "What About Transportation?" (\$10,000)

- 2011 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, “Doctoral Dissertation Research: The Social Organization of Suburban Poverty” (\$9,840)
- 2010 Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy (CAUSE), Carnegie Mellon University, “The Social Organization & Everyday Life of Suburban Poverty: A Community Study of the African American Poor Suburban Experience” (\$3,000)
- 2010 Allegheny Department of Human Services, “The Social Organization & Everyday Life of Suburban Poverty: A Household Survey of the Suburban Poor Experience on Three Blocks” (\$9,975)
- 2009 The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, “The Social Organization of Suburban Poverty: Poverty Dynamics in a Poor African American Suburb” (\$10,000)
- 2009 Department of Housing and Urban Development Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, “The Social Organization of Suburban Poverty: A Community Study of Poverty in the Suburbs” (\$24,975)
- 2008 Harvard University Hauser Center for Nonprofit Organizations Pre-Doctoral Grant, “Gaining Entrance Into New High-Poverty Spatial Markets: The Urban vs. Suburban Political Economy of Providing Services to the Poor.” (\$5,000)
- 2008 University of Pennsylvania Faculty Forum on Immigration, Race, and Urban Inequality (\$6,000)

***Internal Funding***

- 2022 University of Michigan MCity, “Transportation Insecurity: Deepening our Knowledge Base and Refining Measurement to Better Understand the Impact of Future Mobility Technologies” (\$210,000)
- 2017 University of Michigan Poverty Solutions, “Transportation Insecurity Index Winter Survey” (\$20,000)
- 2017 University of Michigan College of Literature, Arts, & Science Research Grants (\$10,000)
- 2017 University of Michigan Office of Research Small Scale and Preliminary Projects Grants (\$15,000)
- 2017 University of Michigan MCubed (w/ Lisa Molnar and Pascal Van Hentenryck) (\$60,000)

- 2017 University of Michigan Poverty Solutions Junior Faculty Small Grants Competition (\$19,905)
- 2015 University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy's Center for Public Policies in Diverse Societies Faculty-led Interdisciplinary Grant (w/Joe Grengs) (\$15,000)
- 2014 University of Michigan, Population Studies Center Pilot Grant (\$20,000)

### **SELECTED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS**

---

- "How Better Measurement can Improve Transportation Equity in Underserved Communities" (with Alix Gould-Werth and Aaron Steiner)  
University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty Webinar, November 2021 (Invited)
- "Transportation Insecurity: Using a New Concept and Novel Measurement Tool to Advance Transportation Equity" (with Karina Lopez & Alix Gould-Werth)  
Transportation Research Board Conference on Advancing Transportation Equity, September 2021
- "Transportation Insecurity in the United States: Identifying a New Mechanism of Poverty and Inequality" (with Karina Lopez & Alix Gould-Werth)  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2021
- "Neighborhoods in the Wake of COVID-19 Presidential Panel" Panelist  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2021 (Invited)
- "Transportation Insecurity & the Reproduction of Poverty" (with Karina Lopez & Alix Gould-Werth)  
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, April 2020 (Conference cancelled due to COVID)
- "Poverty in the Promised Land"  
Suburban Schools, Urban Realities Conference, Washington University in St. Louis, March 2020 (Invited: Conference cancelled due to COVID)
- "How is Racial & Ethnic Inequality Different in Suburban Communities?"  
The Changing Face of Suburban Inequality Radcliffe Institute Seminar, November 2019 (Invited)
- "Poverty in the Cul-De-Sac: Housing, Neighborhoods, Design, & Opportunity in the Suburbs"  
Sociology of Housing Conference, Georgetown University, October 2019 (Invited)
- "Where the Sidewalks End: Poverty in an American Suburb"  
Brown University Department of Sociology, April 2019 (Invited)

- “Transportation Insecurity in the Age of Autonomous Vehicles”  
University of Michigan Teach-Out, January 2019
- “Scarcity in a Place Designed for Abundance: Poverty in an American Suburb,”  
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2018  
(Invited presenter for the Special Session on “The Diversification of Suburbia”)
- “Neighboring in the Suburbs Then & Now”  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, February 2017  
(Invited presenter for the Regional Spotlight Session “The Levittowners at 50”)
- “When the Sidewalks End: The Creation of a Chocolate Suburb”  
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, February 2017  
(Invited presenter for the Presidential Session “Chocolate Cities”)
- “The Changing Geography of Poverty” (w/Scott W. Allard)  
University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty Webinar, May 2015 (Invited)
- “When the Sidewalks End”  
Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, August 2014 (Invited  
presenter for thematic session “Hard Times & Inequality in the Suburbs”)
- “When the Sidewalks End: Poverty & Isolation in an American Suburb”  
West Coast Poverty Center, Washington University, February 2015 (Invited)  
University of Chicago Department of Comparative Human Development, Nov 2013  
(Invited)  
University of Virginia Carter Woodson Institute for African American Studies, Nov 2013  
(Invited)  
University of Michigan Department of Sociology, Dec 2013 (Invited)  
University of Wisconsin, Madison School of Social Work, Dec 2013 (Invited)  
Hunter College Department of Sociology, Dec 2013 (Invited)  
University of New Hampshire Department of Sociology, Dec 2013 (Invited)  
University of California, Berkeley School of Social Welfare, Jan 2014 (Invited)  
University of Chicago Workshop on City, Society, & Space & Demography Workshop,  
May 2014 (Invited)
- “Litterers:’ How Objects of Physical Disorder are Used to Construct Subjects of Social  
Disorder in a Poor Suburb.”  
Cultures of the Suburbs Conference, Hofstra University, 2013  
Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, 2011  
Yale University Ethnography Conference, 2010 (Invited)
- “Urbanism versus Suburbanism as a Way of Life? How Experiences of Urban Poverty are  
Reproduced in the Suburbs.”  
Annual Meeting of the Organization of Urban Historians, 2013 (Invited)

- “Poverty & Nonprofit Service Delivery in Pittsburgh’s Suburbs.”  
Forbes Fund Annual Tropman Research Conference, 2012 (Invited)
- “Getting Around: Transportation & the Everyday Lives of the Poor in One Suburb.”  
Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, 2012 (Invited)
- “The Social Organization of Suburban Poverty: A Community Study.”  
University of Pittsburgh Urban & Regional Brown Bag Research Series, 2012 (Invited)
- “I Stay to Myself.”  
Suburbs & the 2010 Census Conference, George Mason University, 2011  
Columbia University Craft of Ethnography Workshop, 2010
- “The Symbolic Dilemmas of Suburban Poverty: Challenges & Opportunities Posed by  
Variations in the Contours of Suburban Poverty.”  
Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, 2009  
Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, 2009

## **TEACHING & ADVISING**

---

### ***Graduate Courses***

Sociology 522, Qualitative Research Practicum I  
Sociology 523, Qualitative Research Practicum II  
Sociology 595, Urban and Community Sociology  
Sociology 595, From Ethnography to Social Policy (Co-taught with Sandra Danziger)  
Public Policy 750, Qualitative Methods (Co-taught w/ Kristin Seefeldt and Jessica Welburn)

### ***Undergraduate Courses***

Sociology 335, Urban Inequality  
Sociology 105, Poverty in America  
Sociology 498, Senior Thesis Course Part II  
Sociology 499, Senior Thesis Course Part III

### ***Dissertation Committees***

Spencer Garrison (2021)  
Lisa Larance (2021)  
Dana Nickson (University of Michigan, School of Education) (2020)  
Jessica Gillooly (2020)  
Cheyney Dobson (2019)  
Mikell Hyman (2018)  
Sarah Seelye (2017)  
Meagan Elliott (2017)  
Morgan Purrier (2022)  
Matthew Alemu (2022)  
Lydia Wileden (2022)  
Erin Ice (Co-Chair)



Karina MacDonald-Lopez (Co-Chair)  
Giovanni Roman Torres  
Anne Blumenthal  
Nelson Saldana

***Publishable Paper Committees:***

DeAnna Smith (2021)  
Giovanni Roman Torres (2021)  
Karina MacDonald-Lopez (Co-Chair) (2022)

***Graduate Student Advisees***

Jasmine Rivera  
Marnay Avant  
Parker Martin

***Undergraduate Advisees***

Briahna Thomas (Social Theory and Practice Individual Concentration) (2018)  
Max Lubell (Sociology Senior Thesis, 2018)  
Caleb Foerg (Sociology Senior Thesis 2019)  
Sara Jax (Sociology Senior Thesis 2021)  
John Stollard (Sociology Senior Thesis 2022)

**SERVICE**

---

***University of Michigan Department of Sociology***

Sociology Social Work Liaison (2022-2023)  
Undergraduate Director (2019-2022)  
Lecturer Review Committee (2016-2017, 2019- 2022)  
Panelist, Mentorship/Collaboration Panel (2021)  
Co-Organizer of the Ethnography Workshop (2020-2021)  
Race, Ethnicity, & Immigration Preliminary Exam Committee (2017-2018, 2020-2023)  
Presenter, Talking Teaching Series (2019)  
Personnel Committee (2018-2019)  
Lecturer Review Committee (2016 - 2017)  
Presenter, Graduate School and Beyond (2016)  
Co-Organizer of the Urban & Community Workshop (2015-2017)  
Committee on Academic Graduate Affairs (2015-2016)  
Presenter, Conversations in Sociology Speaker Series (2015)  
Graduate Admissions Committee (2014-2015)

***University of Michigan***

Poverty Solutions, GSRA Reviewer (2019-Present)  
Presenter, MCity Research Review (2022)  
Presenter, ISR MLK Symposium on the built environment and social justice (2022)  
Moderator, Real World Perspectives on Poverty Speaker Series (2021)  
College of Engineering MCity Visioning Committee (2021)

Presenter, Institute for the Humanities panel on neighborhoods and suburbs (2019)  
Presenter, um3detroit panel on “Future of Mobility in Detroit (2019)  
MICHHERS Faculty Mentor (2018, 2019)  
Participant, University-wide mobility strategy sessions (2017)  
Presenter, MICHHER Cutting Edge Research Seminar (2018)  
Presenter, Poverty Solutions Engagement Series (2018)  
Presenter, Learning Community on Inequality and Poverty (2017)  
Presenter, Conversations Across Disciplines (2016)  
Presenter, UMTRI Transportation Safety Research Symposium (2016)  
Presenter, Taubman College LunchUp Speaker Series (2019; 2015)  
Presenter, Detroit School Series (2015)  
Presenter, Population Studies Center Brownbag Speaker Series (2014)

### ***Professional Organizations***

Council (Elected Position), Community & Urban Sociology Section (ASA) (2018-2021)  
Member, Membership Committee, Inequality, Poverty, & Mobility Section (ASA) (2018-19)  
Organizer, Racial and Ethnic Inequality Session of the ASA (2016)  
Chair, Graduate Student Paper Award, Community & Urban Sociology Section (2015)  
Student Representative (Elected Position). ASA Race, Gender, & Class Section (2006-2008)

### ***Editorial***

Editorial Board, *Sociological Theory* (2019-present)

### ***Scientific Review***

Journals: *City & Community*; *Social Problems*; *Sociological Forum*; *Social Forces*; *Sociological Inquiry*; *Sociological Methods and Research*; *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*; *Criminology*; *Journal of Urban Affairs*; *Social Forces*; *Annual Review of Sociology*; *Urban Geography*; *Du Bois Review*; *Social Science and Medicine*; *Sociological Theory*

Books: University of California Press

Grants: National Science Foundation; Russell Sage Foundation

### ***Public Engagement***

Presented work on transportation insecurity to RE-AMP (December 2022)  
Presented work on transportation insecurity to the National Campaign for Transit Justice (October 2022)  
Interviewed for Streetsblog Talking Headways’ Podcast on “Measuring Transportation Insecurity” (May 2022)  
Interviewed for the Spotlight on Poverty and Inequality Spotlight Exclusive (October 2022)  
Presenter in a session on transportation/commuting, Census Bureau’s Committee on National Statistics Study Panel on Evaluation and Improvements to the Supplemental Poverty Measure (January 2022)  
Submitted response to the U.S. Department of Transportation’s “Request for Information on Transportation Equity Data” (2021)

Focus group participant and reviewer, National Quality Forum's "Driving Towards Change: Overcoming Transportation Insecurity through Healthcare Based Interventions" Implementation Guide (2021)

Consulted the following entities on using the Transportation Security Index in their transportation equity efforts: South Bend's (IN) Commuters Trust; Detroit (MI) Office of Mobility Innovation; Greater Madison (WI) Metropolitan Planning Organization; Institute to Transportation Engineers; Disability Rights of the State of Washington; Washington DC's Metropolitan Planning Authority; National Resources Defense Council; RMI's work on Washington State's Transportation Electrification Strategy; California Department of Transportation District 2; UCLA's Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies; Harvard's Dana Farber Cancer Institute Bona Lab; and many others.

Invited Presenter, Meeting of the Minds Mobility Summit (2018)

Consultant, The Pittsburgh Foundation (2016)

Consultant, Allegheny County Department of Human Services (2016)

Keynote speaker, U. of Pittsburgh's Institute of Politics' Elected Officials Retreat (2015)

Invited Speaker, Poverty and Service Delivery in Suburban America, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (2014)

Invited Presenter, Covering Suburban Poverty: A Poynter Institute Journalism Training Conference (2013)

Invited Presenter, Allegheny County Department of Human Services (2011)

Invited Presenter, Hillman Foundation (2010)

### ***Community***

Board Member, Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid-Michigan (2015 – Present)