

ALEXANDRA K. MURPHY

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EMPLOYMENT

2014- University of Michigan
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center (PSC)

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

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Urban & Community Sociology, Ethnography, Poverty & Inequality, Policy, Organizations,
Social Interaction & Social Psychology, Race & Ethnicity, Culture

PUBLICATIONS

Books:

Murphy, Alexandra K. *When the Sidewalks End: Poverty in an American Suburb*. (Under contract with Oxford University Press)

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

Articles:

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.

Under Review:

Murphy, Alexandra K. "I Stay to Myself: What People Say Versus What They Do in a Poor Black Neighborhood." (Revise and Resubmit at the *American Journal of Sociology*)

Panchok-Berry, Andrea, Alejandro Rivas, and Alexandra K. Murphy. "Shifting Settlement Patterns & Mismatched Resources: The Landscape of Immigrant Organizations in Urban & Suburban Philadelphia." (Under review at the *Urban Research Journal*)

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:

"Confronting Suburban Poverty in America" by Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube. *City & Community*. (Forthcoming)

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

Research Reports:

Murphy, Alexandra K. "Suburban Poverty and Social Service Provision in a Pittsburgh Suburb." Pittsburgh: Allegheny County Department of Human Services. (Forthcoming)

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. 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.

FELLOWSHIPS & DISTINCTIONS

- 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

- 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

- 2010 Princeton University, Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2009 Princeton University, Department of Sociology Dissertation Grant (\$1,000)
- 2009 Princeton University, Dean's Fund for Scholarly Travel Grant (\$500)
- 2008 Princeton University, Dean's Fund for Scholarly Symposia, "Wealth & Inequality: Building Assets for the Poor," Seminar Series (\$2000) (w/Daniel Schneider)
- 2008 Princeton University, Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, "Wealth & Inequality: Building Assets for the Poor," Seminar Series (\$1000) (w/Daniel Schneider)
- 2008 Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School, "Wealth & Inequality: Building Assets for the Poor," Seminar Series (\$1000) (w/Daniel Schneider)

SELECTED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

“When the Sidewalks End”

Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, scheduled for August 2014 (Invited presenter for thematic session “Hard Times & Inequality in the Suburbs”)

“When the Sidewalks End: Poverty & Isolation in an American Suburb”

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)

“Difficulties Accessing the Suburban Safety Net.”

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

Covering Suburban Poverty: A Journalism Training Conference, National Center for Suburban Studies, Hofstra University, September 2013 (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, Las Vegas, 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, San Francisco, 2013 (Invited)

“Neighborhood Organizing in a Poor Suburb.”

Harvard University Urban Social Processes Workshop, 2013 (Invited)

“Frozen in Time: Service Provision in a Poor Suburb.”

University of Michigan School of Social Work Learning Community on Poverty & Inequality, 2012 (Invited)

“Poverty & Nonprofit Service Delivery in Pittsburgh’s Suburbs.”

Forbes Fund Annual Tropman Research Conference. Pittsburgh, 2012 (Invited)

“Getting Around: Transportation & the Everyday Lives of the Poor in One Suburb.”
Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association. Pittsburgh, 2012 (Invited)

“The Social Organization of Suburban Poverty: A Community Study.”
Allegheny County Department of Human Services, Pittsburgh, 2011 (Invited)
University of Pittsburgh Urban & Regional Brown Bag Research Series, 2012 (Invited)
Hillman Foundation, Pittsburgh, 2010 (Invited)

“I Stay to Myself.”
Suburbs & the 2010 Census Conference, George Mason University, 2011
Columbia University Craft of Ethnography Workshop, 2010

“Shifting Immigrant Settlement Patterns & Mismatched Organizational Resources.”
Suburbs & the 2010 Census Conference, George Mason University (w/Andrea Panchok-Berry and Alejandro Rivas), 2011
Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Boston (w/Alejandro Rivas), 2010 (Invited)

“The Symbolic Dilemmas of Suburban Poverty: Challenges & Opportunities Posed by Variations in the Contours of Suburban Poverty.”
Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, 2009
Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Chicago, 2009

TEACHING

Graduate Courses

Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
Sociology 523, Qualitative Research Practicum II

Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
Public Policy 750, Qualitative Methods
(Co-taught with Kristin Seefeldt and Jessica Welburn)

School of Social Work, University of Michigan
Social Work 874, Social Work & Sociology
(Co-taught with Sandra Danziger)

Undergraduate Courses

Department of Sociology, Princeton University
FRS 153 The Ghetto (2006)
(Co-taught with Mitchell Duneier)

Teaching Assistant

Department of Sociology, Princeton University

SOC 250, The Western Way of War (2008)

SOC 210, Urban Sociology: The City & Social Change in Latin America (2006)

SERVICE

Institutional

Princeton University

Co-Organizer, "Wealth & Inequality: Building Assets for the Poor" Seminar Series (w/Daniel Schneider) (2007-2008)

Department of Sociology Graduate Student Advisory Council Representative (2005-2006)

Professional

Panel Co-organizer for "Urban and Community Sociology Beyond the Metropolis," American Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Denver CO (w/Japonica Brown-Saracino) (2012)

Panel Organizer for "Doing Community Studies at Different 'Levels' of Community," Urban Ethnography Mini-Conference, Eastern Sociological Society Meeting, Baltimore MD (2011)

Student Representative (Elected Position). ASA Race, Gender, & Class Section (2006-2008)

Occasional Reviewer For: *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*; *Urban Geography*; *Du Bois Review*; *Social Science and Medicine*

Community

Consultant to the Allegheny County Department of Human Services (2010-)

AFFILIATIONS AND ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (2002-Present)

Urban Affairs Association (2008-Present)

Eastern Sociological Society (2008-Present)

MEDIA COVERAGE

- January 2014 “Majority of Pittsburgh’s Poor Are in Suburbs”
Pittsburgh Post Gazette
- October 2013 “Equal Footing: The Disconnect Between Poverty and Transportation”
Abilene Reporter-News
- August 2012 “‘We Buy Houses:’ Decline and Opportunity in Pittsburgh’s East Suburbs”
Atlantic Cities
- November 2011 “Poverty has Taken Root in Suburbs” *Pittsburgh Tribune Review.*
- October 2011 “A 53% Surge in Poverty Rate is Reshaping the Suburbs” *New York Times.*
- April 2007 *Atlantic Monthly.* The paper “Vice Careers” was featured in the “Primary Sources” section of the magazine.
- March 2007 “Welcome to Slumurbia.” *Winnipeg Free Press.*