

MELANIE JONES GAST

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. University of California, Davis (UC Davis), Sociology, 2010 (filed December 2009)
Dissertation Title: “Class and College Knowledge: How Black Youth Navigate College Options” (Melanie T. Jones)
Dissertation Committee: Mary Jackman (Co-chair), Dina Okamoto (Co-chair), Bruce Haynes, Eric Grodsky (University of Wisconsin, Madison), Patricia Gándara (University of California, Los Angeles)
- M.A. UC Davis, Sociology, 2004
M.A. Thesis: “Equality in the Classroom?: Race and Social Class in Classroom Participation”
- B.A. University of Oregon, Sociology, 2000
Cum laude with Departmental Honors Distinction.
Honors thesis: “Dropping Out: The Perceptions of Latino Students on Dropping out of High School”

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2016-present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Louisville
- 2011-16 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, DePaul University
- 2014-16 Affiliate Faculty, African and Black Diaspora Studies Program, DePaul University
- 2010-11 Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for Research on Educational Opportunity and Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame
- 2010 Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis, Funded by the William T. Grant Foundation

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

- 2014-15 DePaul University Undergraduate Research Assistant Program Grant with Payton Zemke, Justin Murray, and Florence Xia: \$2,400
- 2014 DePaul University Faculty Research Leave Grant (\$15,500) and Summer Research and Development Grant (\$4,200), for “Convergence or Divergence?: Social Class and Black Student and Parent Approaches to School-Support Systems”

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS (Continued)

- 2010 West Coast Poverty Center, Poverty and Policy Grant, for “Creating Ties for Mobility: The Role of Community Organizations for Immigrant Parents in Urban, Poor Neighborhoods,” Co-PI with Dina G. Okamoto: \$15,000
- 2008-11 William T. Grant Foundation Award for “Immigrant Youth and Ethnic Ties to Community-Based Organizations,” with Dina G. Okamoto: \$60,000
- 2006, 2007 Dissertation Improvement Grant, Institute of Governmental Affairs, UC Davis

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles and Chapters

- Gast, Melanie Jones.** Forthcoming. ““They Give Teachers a Hard Time”: Symbolic Violence and Intersections of Race and Class in Interpretations of Teacher-Student Relations.” *Sociological Perspectives*.
- Gast, Melanie Jones, Dina Okamoto, and Valerie Feldman.** 2017. ““We Only Speak English Here”: English Dominance in Language Diverse, Immigrant After-School Programs.” *Journal of Adolescent Research*. 32: 94–121.
- Gast, Melanie Jones.** 2017. “Researcher as College Coach: Dilemmas and Possibilities in Fieldwork with Adolescents.” *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth* 22: 103-124.
- Gast, Melanie Jones.** 2016. ““You’re Supposed to Help Me”: The Perils of Mass Counseling Norms for Working-Class Black Students.” *Urban Education*. Advance online publication. doi: 10.1177/0042085916652178
- Gast, Melanie Jones and Okamoto, Dina G.** 2016. “Moral or Civic Ties?: Deservingness and Engagement Among Undocumented Latinas in Non-Profit Organizations.” *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 42: 2013-2030.
- Hillman, Nicholas W., **Melanie Jones Gast**, Casey George-Jackson. 2015. “When to Begin?: Socioeconomic and Racial/Ethnic Differences in Financial Planning, Preparing, and Saving for College.” *Teachers College Record* 117: 1-28.
- George-Jackson, Casey and **Melanie Jones Gast**. 2014. “Addressing Information Gaps: Disparities in Financial Awareness and Preparedness on the Road to College.” *Journal of Student Financial Aid* 44: 202-34.
- Okamoto, Dina G. and **Melanie Jones Gast**. 2013. “Racial Inclusion or Accommodation?: Expanding Community Boundaries among Asian American Organizations.” *Du Bois Review* 10: 131-153. Re-printed in *Beyond Black and White: A Reader on Contemporary Race Relations*, edited by Zulema Valdez. SAGE Publications.
- Jones, Melanie T., Amy E.L. Barlow, and Merna Villarejo.** 2010. “Importance of Undergraduate Research for Minority Persistence and Achievement in Biology.” *The Journal of Higher Education* 81: 82-115.
- Grodsky, Eric and **Melanie T. Jones**. 2007. “Real and Imagined Barriers to College Entry: Perceptions of Cost.” *Social Science Research* 36: 745-766.

PUBLICATIONS (Continued)

Book Chapters, Entries, and Reviews

- Gast, Melanie Jones**, Ervin (Malik) Matthew, and Derrick Brooms. Forthcoming. ““Diversity” Goals and Faculty Pedagogy: Supporting Racial Inclusion and Awareness in General-Education Courses” in *“Intersectionality and Higher Education: Identity and Inequality on College Campuses,”* edited by W. Carson Byrd, Sarah M. Ovink, and Rachelle J. Brunn-Bevel. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.
- Gast, Melanie Jones** and W. Carson Byrd. Forthcoming. “Review of *The Diversity Bargain and Other Dilemmas of Race, Admissions, and Meritocracy at Elite Universities*, by Natasha K. Warikoo.” *American Journal of Sociology*.
- Gast, Melanie Jones**. 2016. “Review of *Choosing Homes, Choosing Schools*, Edited by Annette Lareau and Kimberly Goyette.” *Contemporary Sociology* 45: 626-628.
- Gast, Melanie Jones**. 2013. “Savings for College/Education.” *Sociology of Education: An A-to-Z Guide*, edited by James Ainsworth. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Policy Reports and Briefs

- Okamoto, Dina G., Valerie Feldman, and **Melanie Jones Gast**. 2013. “Immigrant Mothers, Community Organizations and Poverty.” Davis, CA: University of California Davis Center for Poverty Research.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Journal Articles In Progress

- Gast, Melanie Jones**, Dina G. Okamoto, and Emerald Nguyen. “Navigating Civic and School Networks: How Immigrant Parents Access Information Across Local Institutions”
- Gast, Melanie Jones**, Dina G. Okamoto, and Valerie Feldman. “Addressing Racial and Ethnic Diversity in After-School Programs”
- Gast, Melanie Jones**, “Black Adolescents, Social Class, and the Instruction Manuals for Approaching College Pathways”
- Gast, Melanie Jones** and Dina G. Okamoto. ““A Safe Place To Go:” Barriers to Grassroots Organizing For Filipina/o and Latina/o Youth and Families”

On-Going Projects

- “The Role of Community-Based Organizations in the Lives of Immigrant and Second-Generation Youth” with Dina G. Okamoto (Funded by the William T. Grant Foundation)
- “Creating Ties for Mobility: Community Ties Among Immigrant Parents in Urban, Poor Neighborhoods” with Dina G. Okamoto (Funded by the West Coast Poverty Center)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2018 “Navigating Civic and School Involvement: How Immigrant Parents Translate Involvement Across Local Institutions” to be presented at Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Monterey Bay, CA
- 2017 “They Make Their Own Barriers:” Explaining Racial Disparities in the Context of Colorblindness,” Northwestern Ethnography Workshop, Evanston, IL
- 2016 “Latina/o Parents and Approaches to School and Community Program Involvement,” presented at the Midwest Sociology of Education Conference, Bloomington, IN
- 2016 ““A Safe Place to Go:” Latina/o Youth and Parents and the Benefits of Politically Minded Community Organizations,” presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.
- 2015 “Racism or Colorblindness? Diverse Attitudes Among Black Students in a Stratified School,” presented at the Association of Black Sociologists Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2015 “Achievement- or Discipline-Oriented Attitudes: Racialized Discipline and Heterogeneous Black Student Attitudes toward Teachers,” presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2015 “Racism in Schools: Colorblindness, Discipline, and Stratification among Black Adolescents” presented at Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Monterey Bay, CA
- 2014 “Civic Barriers, Moral Duties, and “Giving Back:” Low-Income, Undocumented Mothers and Negotiating Barriers to Local Programs” presented May 16, 2014 at the DePaul University “Activism, Social Justice, and Community Development: Latina/o Transnational Movements” Conference, Chicago, IL
- 2013 “Racial/Ethnic and Socioeconomic Inequalities in Planning, Preparing, and Saving for College” presented November 14, 2013 at the Association for the Study of Higher Education Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO
- 2013 “Barriers to Public Programs: How Low-Income, Latina Mothers Negotiate Access and Opportunity to Local Public Resources” presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY.
- 2012 “Managing Racial/Ethnic Differences and Commonalities in Community-Based Youth Organizations” presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2011 “Social Class and the “Instruction Manuals” For College Pathways,” presented at the Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Monterey Bay, CA
- 2010 “Gaining Respect: Negotiating Race and Class in Black Student Relations with School Officials” presented at the Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Monterey Bay, CA
- 2009 “Fragmented or Reliable Information: Use of College Information Sources among African Americans” at the Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Monterey Bay, CA.
- 2009 “The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly: ATLAS.ti Qualitative Software” at the William T. Grant Foundation Mixed Methods Conference, Santa Monica, CA.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (Continued)

- 2006 “Strengths of Using Mixed Methods in Evaluating an Educational Enrichment Program” (with Amy Barlow, Gina Holland, and Merna Villarejo) at the American Evaluation Association Annual Meeting, Portland, OR.
- 2006 “Race/Ethnicity and Teacher Expectations of College Attendance” at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec.
- 2006 “Interest or Ideology?: Pan-Racial Work among Asian American Organizations” (with Dina G. Okamoto) at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, Quebec.

SELECTED HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2016 Outstanding Reviewer Award (the “Revise and Resubmit” Award), *Sociology of Education*
- 2015 National Center for Institutional Diversity (NCID) Exemplary Diversity Scholar Award
- 2011-12 Young Academic Fellow, Institute for Higher Education Policy and Lumina Foundation
- 2010 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Honorable Mention for “Gaining Respect: Negotiating Race and Class in Black Student Relations with School Officials,” American Sociological Association Children and Youth Section
- 2008-09 Dissertation-Year Fellowship, University of California Office of the President: \$31,400
- 2007-08 Dissertation Fellowship, University of California All Campus Consortium On Research for Diversity (UC ACCORD): \$20,000
- 2004-05 Graduate Student Research Mentorship Fellowship, Office of Graduate Studies, UC Davis: \$28,600

SELECTED PEDAGOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING OR SEMINARS

- 2016-present Inclusive Teaching Circle, University of Louisville
- 2017-18 “Embracing Active Learning in the Classroom Faculty Learning Community,” University of Louisville
- 2010 “Beyond the Basics: Course Design, Syllabus Creation, and Advanced Teaching at the College Level,” Teaching Resource Center, UC Davis
- 2009 William T. Grant Foundation Mixed Methods Conference, Santa Monica, CA
- 2008 Emergent Technologies for Qualitative Research, American Sociological Association Didactic Seminar, Boston, MA.
- 2008 Use of NVivo7 in Qualitative Social Research, American Sociological Association Didactic Seminar, Boston, MA.

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SERVICE – UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

- 2016-present Department Personnel Committee

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SERVICE – UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

- 2017-18 Diversity and Inclusivity Committee
- 2017-18 “Race and Ethnicity” Comprehensive Exam Standard Reading List Committee
- 2017-18 “Race, Class, and Gender” Comprehensive Exam Standard Reading List Committee

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING – UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

PhD Students – Dissertation Committees

- Kathryn Adamchik, Sociology
- Tonya Lanphier, Sociology
- Bridget Nickerson, Urban and Public Affairs

PhD Students – Comprehensive Exam Committees

- Eric Jordan, Sociology
- Jack Allen, Sociology
- Jamar Wheeler, Sociology

Masters of Arts (MA) Student Committees

- Assel Kuzembayeva, Sociology

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING – UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE

- Kala Brown, Honors thesis chair (2017-present), “Minority Youth Perceptions and Interpretations of Police Presence in Urban Schools”

COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE – DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

- 2013-16 Liberal Studies Program (LSP) Multiculturalism Committee
- 2014 College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Summer Advising

SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT SERVICE – DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

- 2015-16 Department “Challenge Document” Committee Member
- 2014-16 Graduate Program Committee Member
- 2011-16 Undergraduate Program Committee Member and recipient of “Best Annual Assessment Project (2013-14) in the Social Sciences”
- 2011-12 Personnel Committee Member
- 2013-14 Personnel Committee Member (alternate)

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING – DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

Masters of Arts (MA) Student Committees

- Alan Barnhart (2016, Chair), “Disadvantaged Parents’ Engagement and Empowerment In Chicago Public Schools’ Local School Councils”

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING – DEPAUL UNIVERSITY (Continued)

Masters of Arts (MA) Student Committees

- Nara Mistry (2015, Chair), “South Asian Immigrant Women in the U. S.: Assimilation, Gendered Expectations, and Generational Conflict”
- Vanessa Brown (2015, Chair), “The Role of Differential Asset Conversion in Four-Year Public vs. Four-Year For-Profit College Attendance”
- Shonta Durham (2015, Chair), “Consumption, What’s Your Function?: A Study Exploring the Racial and Social Identity Negotiations of African Americans Vis-à-vis the Consumption Landscape”
- Stuart Riepl (2014, Chair), “Loose Connections: An Examination of the Non-Static Identities of Today’s 1.5 and Second-Generation and Labor Market Integration”
- Samaneh Aghamiri (2013, Chair), “First Generation Iranian-American Women in the US: Discrimination, Cultural Behavior, and Social Relations”
- Nicholas Hayes (2015), “Beauty and the Tumblebeast: Tumblr, Self-Portraits, and Depictions of Masculinity”
- Colleen Keefe (2015, International Studies), “Labor Market Channels: Perceptions of Vietnamese Immigrants on Accessing Jobs in Chicago,” Thesis Project
- Hina Latif (2014), “Media Representation of Human Trafficking”
- Felicia Muhammad (2014), “Societal, Cultural, and Educational Factors in African American Student Relations with Teachers”
- Fatema Zohara (2013), “Discrimination and Ethnic Identity Construction among South Asian Muslims”
- Kenya Evans (2013), “High School Education and Low-Income Students: A Review of Catholic and Public School Systems”
- Glenance Green (2012), “The Criminalization of Youth of Color: Racial Composition and School Punitiveness”

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING – DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

- Florence Xia, Research Assistantship Mentor (2015-16)
- Sung Kim, Research Assistantship Mentor (2014-15)
- Justice Murray, Research Assistantship Mentor (2015)
- Payton Zemke, Research Assistantship Mentor, Honors Program Thesis (2014)
- Amanda Hormanski, Independent Study (2012)

ASSOCIATION SERVICE

Sociology of Education Association

2014-16 Elected to National Board of Directors

American Sociological Association

2017-18 James Coleman Award Committee, Sociology of Education Section

2014-15 Nominations Committee, Children and Youth Section

2010-12 Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, Children and Youth Section

2009-10 Nominations Committee, Children and Youth Section

ASSOCIATION SERVICE (Continued)

American Sociological Association (Continued)

- 2008-10 Elected Graduate Student Representative, Children and Youth Section Council
2007-09 Membership Committee, Children and Youth Section

Pacific Sociological Association

- 2007-08 Elected Graduate Student Representative, Pacific Sociological Association Council

MAJOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2015-17 Editorial Board, *Sociology of Education*

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Ad-Hoc Reviewer: *American Sociological Review, Social Problems, Social Currents, Sociological Perspectives, The Sociological Quarterly, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, American Educational Research Journal, Urban Education, Qualitative Sociology, The Journal of Higher Education, Educational Policy, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, and Youth and Society.*

- 2017 Panelist for the University of Louisville Writing Center Discussion on “Engaging Diverse Voices in Reading and Writing”
2017 Panelist for Louisville Racial Fairness Commission
2015-16 Co-Organizer for 2016 Chicago Ethnography Conference
2014-17 Reviewer of paper proposals submitted to Sociology of Education Association
2015 Presider, American Sociological Association regular session
2015 Sociologists for Women in Society Chicago Chapter panelist
2011-2013 Reviewer of papers submitted to Sociology of Education Section Sessions for the American Sociological Association
2007-2013 Reviewer of papers submitted to American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting
2012 Panelist for *Waiting for Superman* documentary discussion, sponsored by Pangea Educational Development student organization, DePaul University
2008 Organizer of Paper Sessions, Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Portland, OR

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

American Educational Research Association
National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity
National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan
Sociology of Education Association

MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS (Continued)

American Sociological Association
Section on Asia and Asian Americans
Section on Children and Youth
Section on International Migration
Section on Race, Class, and Gender
Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities
Section on Sociology of Education

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Louisville (2016-present)

SOC 210: Race in the U.S., core General Education Program course for “Diversity” requirement

SOC 472: Sociology of Education

SOC 702: Sociology of Education Independent Study

SOC 760: Social Stratification, core course for graduate program

HUM 651: Race and Identity Independent Study

DePaul University (2011-16)

LSP 200: Liberal Studies Program: The Immigrant Experience, core “multiculturalism” course for all DePaul undergraduates

LSP 200: Liberal Studies Program: Race and Ethnicity, core “multiculturalism” course for all DePaul undergraduates

HON 301: Honors Multiculturalism: Immigrants and Identity, core course for all Honors Program students

SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology, core undergraduate course for all DePaul undergraduates, meets “Self, Society and the Modern World” general curriculum

SOC 253: Slavery and Racialization, core undergraduate course for all DePaul undergraduates, meets “Understanding the Past” general curriculum

SOC 313/433: Sociology of Education

SOC 390: Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality in Education

SOC 390/495: Immigrants and Identity

SOC 399: Educational Inequality & Reform, independent study course

SOC 415: Writing A Research Paper, core course for graduate program

SOC 433: Sociology of Education, graduate course

University of Notre Dame (2010-11)

Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality in Education

University of California, Davis (2007-09)

Sociology of Education

Special Group Research Study, for advanced undergraduates

Introduction to Sociology, Teaching Assistant