

MEGAN R. UNDERHILL

Curriculum Vitae
January 2021

EMPLOYMENT

2016-Present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology,
University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville North Carolina

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

2008 M.A., Anthropology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado

2002 B.S. Anthropology, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race and Ethnicity; Whiteness; Social Inequality; Families; Communities; Social Theory

SCHOLARLY WORK

Journal Articles

2021 Underhill, Megan R. "Managing Difference: White Parenting Practices in Socioeconomically Diverse Neighborhoods." *City and Community*.

2020 Brunnsma, David L., Nathaniel G. Chapman, Joong Won Kim, J. Slade Lellock, Megan R. Underhill, Erik T. Withers, and Jennifer Padilla Wyse. "The Cultures of White Spaces: On the Racialized Production of Meaning." *American Behavioral Scientist*.

2019 Underhill, Megan R. "Diversity is Important to Me: White Parents and Exposure-to-Diversity Parenting Practices." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

✦ 2016 James E. Blackwell Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award recipient, Racial and Ethnic Minorities section of the American Sociological Association

2018 Randolph, Antonia, Victor E. Ray; Megan R. Underhill and David Luke. "Response to Weddington: More Lessons from Afropessimism." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

2017 Underhill, Megan R. "Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents' Silence." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

✦ 2020. Reprinted in *Race and Ethnicity: Moving from Sociological Imagination to Sociological Mindfulness* (Cognella Academic Publishing), edited by Jacqueline D. Brooks and Aya Kimura Ida.

- 2017 Ray, Victor, Antonia Randolph, **Megan R. Underhill**, and David Luke. "Critical Race Theory, Afropessimism, and Racial Progress Narratives." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.
- 2014 Reczek, Corrine, Mieke Beth Thomeer, Amy C. Lodge, Debra Umberson and **Megan Underhill**. "Diet and Exercise in Parenthood: A Social Control Perspective." *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Book Chapters

- 2018 **Underhill, Megan R.**, David L. Brunsmas and W. Carson Byrd. "White Privilege and American Society: The State, White Opportunity Hoarding, and Inequality." In *White Education: How Privilege, Power and Prejudice are Destroying School and Society*, ed. Jeffrey Brooks and George Theoharis. Routledge.
- 2009 **Underhill, Megan**. "The Invisible Toll of Katrina: How Social and Economic Resources are Altering the Recovery Experience of Katrina Evacuees in Colorado." In *The Political Economy of Hazards and Disasters*, ed. Eric C. Jones and Arthur D. Murphy. AltaMira Press.

Book Reviews and Encyclopedia Entries

- 2018 **Underhill, Megan R.** Book Review. Whitewashing the South, White Memories of Segregation and Civil Rights. *Contexts*.
- 2014 **Underhill, Megan**. "Marital Quality of Adult Children and Parental Influence." *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research*, eds. Alex C. Michalos.

Newspaper Articles

- Underhill, Megan R.** 2018. "[White Parents Teach Their Children to be Colorblind. Here's Why That's Bad for Everyone.](#)" *The Washington Post*, October 5.
- Underhill, Megan R.** 2018. "[The Criminalization of Blackness—And What We Can Do About It.](#)" *The Washington Post*, July 20.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 "White Parenting During the Era of #BlackLivesMatter." *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, Louisiana. *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2021 "Classists-in-Training: How Middle-Class Parents Teach Their Children to Fear and Distrust the Working-Class and Poor."
- 2020 "Managing Difference: White Parenting Practices in Diverse Neighborhoods." *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, San Francisco, California.
- 2019 "Interrogating Privilege: White Parents' Reflections on Raising Privileged Children." *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, Atlanta, Georgia.

- 2018 “White Anxiety: Why Whites Call the Police on Black People in Public Spaces.” *Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology*, Detroit, Michigan.
- 2018 “Diversity is Important to Me”: White Parents and Exposure-to-Diversity Parenting Practices.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2018 “Constructing a Good White Identity via Exposure-to-Diversity Parenting Practices.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2017 “Inequality Talk: Examining Parent-Child Discussions of Racial and Class Inequality.” *Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology*, Havana, Cuba.
- 2017 “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Silence.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 “We Don’t Like to Speak with our Kids about Race: Interrogating White Racial Silence.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, Greenville, South Carolina.
- 2016 “Policing the Boundaries of Acceptable Middle-Class Whiteness.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2016 “Diversity is Good, Except Sometimes...” *Joint Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society and the North Central Sociological Association*, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2016 “Uncivilized “Others”: Middle-Class Whites and Racial and Class Boundary Making.” *Charles Phelps Taft Research Center HumanitiesNOW Graduate Conference*, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2015 “The Racialized Consequences of Intensive Parenting.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Chicago, Illinois.
- 2015 “The Transmission of Racial Knowledge among White Families: Does Neighborhood Context Matter?” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2015 “Cultural Studies in St. Croix: More than a Hurricane Defines a People.” (Poster) *Graduate Student Expo and Poster Forum*, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2014 “Becoming White: The Racial Socialization Practices of White Parents.” *Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association Conference*, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2013 “Looking at Oneself through the Eyes of Others: A Critical Analysis of the Racial Formation Literature.” *Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association Conference*, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- 2007 “The Invisible Toll of Katrina: How Social and Economic Resources are Altering the Recovery Experience Katrina Evacuees in Colorado.” *Annual Meeting for the Society of Economic Anthropology*, Greensboro, North Carolina.
- 2006 “Disaster Displacement and Social Capital: The Role of Social Capital in the Recovery of Katrina Evacuees in Colorado.” *Katrina Research Symposium*, New Orleans, Louisiana.

2006 “Resettlement After Disaster: How Katrina Evacuees in Colorado Negotiate a Changed Habitus.” *31st Annual Workshop on Hazards Research and Application*, Boulder, Colorado.

2006 “Reconstituting Life After Disaster: Testimonies of Hurricane Katrina Evacuees Living in Denver, Colorado.” *Annual Meeting for the Society of Applied Anthropology*, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2021 “How Caregivers Talk about Race.” *Claxton Elementary*, Asheville, North Carolina.

2020 “Let’s Talk about White Supremacy and Tone Policing” *Antiracist Student Organization*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.

2020 “Mitigating Implicit Bias in University Searches.” *University of North Carolina School of Arts*, Winston Salem, North Carolina.

2019 “The Case for Diversity: Mitigating Bias in Faculty Searches.” *University of North Carolina School of Arts*, Winston Salem, North Carolina.

2019 “What is Race?” *Asheville Middle School*, Asheville, North Carolina.

2019 “The Karma of Race in America.” *Anattasati Magga Buddhist Sangha*, Asheville, North Carolina.

2017 “Studying Racism: The Science of Racial Prejudice and Discrimination.” *Science Pub Lecture series*, Asheville Museum of Science, Asheville, North Carolina.

2017 “What is Racial Battle Fatigue?” *Professional Development Series*, Western North Carolina Diversity Engagement Coalition, Asheville, North Carolina.

2017 “From Allyship to Advocacy: Repurposing Your Privilege.” *Black Lives Still Matter: The Revival*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.

2017 “Racial Battle Fatigue.” *Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.

2016 “What White People Don’t Get about Race in America.” *Race and Violence Teach-In*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.

2016 “Good Diversity, Bad diversity: White Parents’ Assessments of their Low-Income Neighbors.” *Kunz Center for Social Research*, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio

2014 “Racial Socialization among White Parents?” *Department of Sociology Graduate Student Colloquium*, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.

2006 “Life after Katrina: Struggles to Regain Control and Culture” *Women’s Studies Colloquium*, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

FELLOWSHIP AND GRANTS

- 2020 University Service Council Grant, University of North Carolina Asheville (\$500)
- 2017 Teaching Enhancement Grant, University of North Carolina Asheville (\$735)
- 2015-16 Taft Dissertation Fellow, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center (\$17,500)
- 2015 Taft Graduate Enhancement Fellowship, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center (\$2,000)
- 2015 Kunz Center Graduate Student Research Award, Kunz Center for Social Research (\$500)
- 2015 Travel Award, Graduate Student Governance Association, University of Cincinnati (\$400)
- 2014 Kunz Center Graduate Student Research Award, Kunz Center for Social Research (\$450)
- 2014 Taft Graduate Enrichment Award, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center (\$2,475)
- 2014 Undergraduate Summer Mentor, SUMR-UC, University of Cincinnati (\$3,000)
- 2013 Taft Graduate Enhancement Fellowship, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center (\$2,000)
- 2013 Taft Graduate Student Travel Grant, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center (\$250)

HONORS

- 2017 Dissertation Award Nominee, *American Sociological Association*
- 2016 James E. Blackwell Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award, *Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, American Sociological Association*
- 2016 Outstanding Ph.D. Student, *University of Cincinnati, Sociology Student Lyceum*
- 2015 Graduate Student Teaching Award, *University of Cincinnati, Sociology Student Lyceum*
- 2014 High Pass on Specialty Preliminary Exam, *University of Cincinnati, Department of Sociology*
- 2014 Mentorship Recognition, *University of Cincinnati, Darwin T. Scholars Program*
- 2002 Outstanding Undergraduate, *College of Charleston, Department of Anthropology*
- 2002 Magna Cum Laude, *College of Charleston*

COURSES TAUGHT

- ANTH 101 Human Origins and Variation (*Colorado State University*)
- SOC 101 Introduction to Sociology (*University of North Carolina Asheville; University of Cincinnati*)
- SOC 178 Urban Studies (*University of North Carolina Asheville*)
- SOC 221 Sociology of Race (*University of North Carolina Asheville; University of Cincinnati*)

- SOC 225 Social and Cultural Inquiry (*University of North Carolina Asheville*)
- SOC 3005 Survey of Sociological Theory (*University of Cincinnati*)
- SOC 374 Whiteness: Interrogating Power and Privilege (*University of North Carolina Asheville*)
- SOC 378 Class, Power, and Inequality (*University of North Carolina Asheville*)
- HUM 414 The Individual and the Contemporary World (*University of North Carolina Asheville*)
- SOC 420 Difference and Inequality (*University of North Carolina Asheville*)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020-23** Executive Committee Member, Southern Sociological Society
- 2018-21** Editorial Board Member of *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*
- 2018** “Addressing the Complexities of Diversity,” Facilitator, Annual Meeting for the Association for Humanist Sociology
- 2018** “Navigating the Job Market and the Publication Process in the 21st Century,” Co-Organizer, Annual Meeting for the Association for Humanist Sociology
- 2018** “White Racial Socialization” Paper Session Organizer, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting
- 2017-20** Membership Committee Member, Southern Sociological Society
- 2012-** Reviewer for *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, *Social Problems*, *Sociology Compass*, *Sociological Focus*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2021** Co-Chair of the Sociology Fellowship Search Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2020** Search Committee Member, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2018** Search Committee Member, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2018 -** Steering Committee Member, Diversity Action Council, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2018 -** Advisory Board Member for Human Rights Certificate Program, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2018 -** Master Planning Subcommittee Member, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2017 -** Diversity Advocate Program Member, University of North Carolina Asheville

- 2016-18 Diversity Action Council Committee Member, University of North Carolina Asheville
- 2016 Search Committee Member, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Carolina Asheville

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2019 Facilitator, “Strengthening (or Starting) Your GSA.” 2019 *Western North Carolina GSA Summit*. Asheville NC, April 6, 2019. Sponsored by *Youth OUTright WNC* and the *Campaign for Southern Equality*.
- 2018-19 Facilitator, *Exploring our Privilege* book club series organized by *Asheville City Schools Foundation*, Asheville, North Carolina

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2020 “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence” cited in the article [“Most White Parents Don’t Talk with their Kids about Racism”](#) published by *The Conversation*.
- 2020 Research featured in a *Harvard Business Review* article entitled [“Academia isn’t a Safe Haven for Conversations about Race and Racism”](#)
- 2020 Teaching featured in a *University of North Carolina Asheville* article entitled [“Research as a Form of Activism: UNC Asheville Sociology Courses Explore Inequalities and Solutions”](#)
- 2020 Quoted in a *Slate* publication entitled [“I Think I’ve Screwed up the Ways My Kids Think about Race”](#)
- 2020 “White Parents Teach their Children to be Colorblind...” Featured on the *National Hockey League’s* [Committing to Change](#) resource guide.
- 2018 “Police Calls for #LivingWhileBlack Have Gotten Out of Hand. Here’s What We Can Do About It” featured on *The Society Pages* website in an article entitled [“Recognizing Racism and Implicit Bias”](#).
- 2018 Featured on [“Sociologists on Sociology,”](#) an educational video created by the *American Sociological Association*.
- 2018 “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence” featured on *Tanner Higgen, PHD* website in an article entitled [“White Teachers Must Fight White Supremacy: Here’s How”](#).
- 2018 Interview with KCBS Radio in San Francisco, CA. July 23.
- 2018 “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence” featured on *Pod Save the People*, an Apple Podcast by Crooked Media in a segment entitled [“Historic Wins”](#) .
- 2018 “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence” featured on *The Society Pages* website in an article entitled [“Families Talk about Race \(or Don’t\).](#)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (Section member: Family; Racial and Ethnic Minorities)
Association for Humanist Sociology
Southern Sociological Society

REFERENCES

Jennifer Malat

Dean of Humanities and Sciences
Virginia Commonwealth University
jennifer.malat@gmail.com

Sarah Mayorga

Associate Professor of Sociology
Brandeis University
mayorga@brandeis.edu

David Brunsmad

Professor of Sociology
Virginia Tech
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Lori Peek

Professor of Sociology
University of Colorado
Lori.peek@colorado.edu