

John N. Robinson III

Department of Sociology
Princeton University
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021- Assistant Professor, Dept of Sociology, Princeton University
 Associated Faculty, Dept of African American Studies, Princeton University
2017-2021 Assistant Professor, Dept of Sociology, Washington University/St Louis
2016-2017 Postdoctoral Fellow, Dept of Sociology, Washington University/St Louis

EDUCATION

PhD NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
 Sociology, 2016

MA GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
 Sociology, 2010

BA HAMPTON UNIVERSITY
 Sociology (Major), Political Science (Minor), 2006

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Economic Sociology, Social Policy, Urban Sociology, Law and Society, Race and Poverty, Public Finance, Housing, Neighborhoods

PUBLICATIONS

Book Manuscript (In-Progress)

DESPERATE MEASURE: RACIAL STORMS, FINANCIAL HAVENS AND THE STORY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN THE AFTER TIMES

Journal Articles

- Forthcoming* John N. Robinson III (with Spencer Headworth and Shai Karp). [“Performing Social Control: Poverty Governance, Public Finance, and the Politics of Visibility,”](#) in *Sociological Theory*
- Forthcoming* John N. Robinson III (with Max Besbris and Hillary Angelo). [“A Sociology of Real Estate: Polanyi, Du Bois, and the Relational Study of Commodified Land in a Climate-Changed Future,”](#) in *Annual Review of Sociology*
- 2023 John N. Robinson III (with Max Besbris and Elizabeth Korver-Glenn). [“Social Psychology and Racial Capitalism: A Note for Future Research Directions,”](#) in *Social Psychology Quarterly*
- 2021 John N. Robinson III (with Josh Pacewicz). [“Pocketbook Policing: How Race Shapes Reliance on Fines and Fees in Suburban Chicago,”](#) in *Socio-Economic Review*. 19(3): 975-1003
- American Sociological Association’s Section on Community and Urban Sociology’s Jane Addams Article Award (2021)
- 2021 John N. Robinson III. [“Surviving Capitalism: Affordability as a Racial Wage in Contemporary Housing Markets,”](#) in *Social Problems*. 68(2):321-339
- 2020 John N. Robinson III. [“Making Markets at the Margins: The Racial Politics of Credit Expansion,”](#) in *American Journal of Sociology*. 125(4):974-1029
- American Sociological Association’s Section on Economic Sociology’s Granovetter Best Article Award (2021)
 - American Sociological Association’s Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology’s Charles Tilly Award for Best Article (2021)
 - Society for the Study of Social Problems, Social Problem Theory Division’s Outstanding Article Award (2021)
 - Race in the Marketplace (RIM) Network’s Geraldine Henderson Excellence in Research on Race and Inclusion (GERRI) Award (2021)
- 2020 John N. Robinson III. [“Capitalizing on Community: Affordable Housing Markets in the Age of Participation,”](#) in *Politics & Society*. 48(2):171-198 [LEAD ARTICLE]
- 2019 John N. Robinson III. [“Fair Housing after ‘Big Government’: How Tax Credits are Reshaping the Legal Fight against Racial Segregation,”](#) in *Housing Policy Debate*. 29(5): 752-768
- 2017 John N. Robinson III. [“Negotiating the \(Legal\) Right to the City: Public Housing Demolition and Federal Courts in Two Postindustrial Cities,”](#) in the *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 39(2): 277-290
- 2016 John N. Robinson III. [“Race, Poverty and Markets: Urban Inequality after the Neoliberal Turn,”](#) in *Sociology Compass*.10(12):1090-1101

- 2016 John N. Robinson III. [“Welfare as Wrecking Ball: Constructing Public Responsibility in Legal Encounters Over Public Housing Reform,”](#) in *Law and Social Inquiry*. 41(3): 670-700
- 2009 John N. Robinson III. [“Coloring the Blind Spot: The Urban Black Community as an Object of Racial Discourse in the Age of Obama,”](#) in the *Western Journal of Black Studies*. 33(3): 212-223

Works in Progress

- John N. Robinson III (with Todd Swanstrom). [“Suffering in Silence: The Structural Harm of Home Deterioration and the Promise of Repair”](#)
- John N. Robinson III (with Lillian Leung). [“Housing Poor Suburbia: The Financialization of Affordable Renting in Suburban Chicago,”](#)
- John N. Robinson III (with Josh Pacewicz, Davon Norris, Clark Randall). [“The Politics of Municipal Debt: the Case of Pension Liabilities”](#)

Book Chapters

- 2016 John N. Robinson III (with Mary Pattillo). “Poor Neighborhoods in the Metropolis,” in *Oxford Handbook of the Social Science of Poverty*, edited by Linda Burton and David Brady. New York, NY: Oxford University Press
- 2016 John N. Robinson III. “‘There’s No Home for You Here’: Containment, Displacement and the Legacy of Public Housing in the Lives of Low-income Black Americans,” in *Public Space, Public Policy and Public Understanding of Race and Ethnicity in America: An Interdisciplinary Approach*, edited by Teresa Booker. Akron, OH: University of Akron Press
- 2012 John N. Robinson III. (with Katie Kerstetter). “Preserving Affordable Housing and Building Wealth in an Economic Recovery: Limited-Equity Cooperatives as an Alternative to Tenant Displacement.” Pp. 87-100 in *Agenda for Social Justice: Solutions 2012*, edited by Glenn W. Muschert, et al. Knoxville, TN: Justice 21 Committee of the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)
- 2008 John N. Robinson III. “Home Court Advantage: Strategies of Symbolic Attainment in Pickup Basketball.” Pp. 1-9 in *Diversity at Mason: Student Research on Student Identity*, edited by Karen E. Rosenblum, Naliyah K. Kaya and John N. Robinson III. Fairfax, VA: The Diversity Research Group, George Mason University

Invited Book Reviews

- Forthcoming* John N. Robinson III. “Race Brokers: Housing Markets and Segregation in the Twenty-first Century,” by Elizabeth Korver-Glenn in *British Journal of Sociology*
- 2019 John N. Robinson III. “Cycles of Segregation: Social Processes and Residential Segregation.” by Maria Krysan and Kyle Crowder in *Contemporary Sociology*
- 2017 John N. Robinson III. “Exiled in America: Life on the Margins in a Residential Motel.” by Christopher P. Dum in *American Journal of Sociology*
- 2012 John N. Robinson III. “The Wire: Urban Decay and American Television.” by Tiffany Potter and C.W. Marshall, in *Media, Culture and Society*. 34(2):250-252
- 2011 John N. Robinson III. “American Multiculturalism after 9/11: Transatlantic Perspectives.” by Derek Rubin and Jaap Verheul in *Qualitative Sociology Review*. 7(3):102-104
- 2010 John N. Robinson III. “Anti-Apartheid and the Emergence of Global Civil Society.” by Hakan Thorn in *Qualitative Sociology Review*. 6(2): 185-187
- 2009 John N. Robinson III. Review of “More Than Just Race.” by William Julius Wilson, in *Qualitative Sociology Review*. 5(2):116-118

Research Reports

“No Place Like Home: The Need for, and Effectiveness of, Home Repairs Among Older Homeowners in St. Louis,” co-produced with the University of Missouri’s Community Innovation and Action Center (December 2022)

“Death by the State: Police Killings and Jail Deaths in St. Louis,” co-produced with the Arch City Defenders, a holistic legal defense agency (January 2021)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS and GRANTS

- 2023 **Jacqueline Johnson Jackson Early Career Scholar Award**, The Association of Black Sociologists
- 2022 **Justice Project Research Network Fellowship**, University of Chicago
- 2021 **Junior Scholar Award**, Geraldine Rosa Henderson Excellence in Research on Race and Inclusion (GERRI) Symposium, Race in the Marketplace (RIM) Network
- 2021 **Jane Addams Best Article Award**, Section on Community and Urban Sociology, American Sociological Association
- 2021 **Mark Granovetter Best Article Award**, Section on Economic Sociology, American Sociological Association
- 2021 **Charles Tilly Best Article Award**, Section on Comparative-Historical Sociology, American Sociological Association

- 2021 **Outstanding Article Award**, Social Problems Theory Division, The Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2020 **Research Grant** (with Todd Swanstrom), “Home Repair Program Study in St. Louis,” RRF Foundation for Aging (\$179,466.10)
- 2020 **Faculty Research Grant**, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government and Public Policy at Washington University in St. Louis (\$10000)
- 2019 **Faculty Fellowship/Membership**, Institute for Advanced Study, School of Social Science in Princeton, NJ (*Declined*)
- 2019 **Junior Scholar Award**, Law and Society Association
- 2017 **Early Career Award**, Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
- 2015 **Pathways Fellowship**, Office of Public Finance and Economic Development, US Department of Housing and Urban Development (Policy Research and Development division)
- 2015 **Dissertation Research Grant**, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy (\$7500)
- 2015 **Special Trustees Award for Most Outstanding Project**, Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy (\$5000)
- 2015 **Economy and Society Travel Fellowship**, Paris Institute of Political Studies (\$1450)
- 2013 **Visiting Scholar Grant**, Paris Institute of Political Studies (\$4000)
- 2012 **Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship**, The Ford Foundation, National Academies
- 2012 **ASA Minority Fellowship**, American Sociological Association (alternate)

INVITED TALKS

- **Featured Event Speaker:**
 - “Race and Housing Policy,” Racial Foundation of Public Policy Speaker Series, University of Michigan’s Gerald Ford School of Public Policy, November 2022
 - “Race and Political Economy,” The Network for a New Political Economy, University of California-Berkeley, June 2022
 - “Racial Capitalism: The Political Economy of Ordinary Black Life,” Racial Race & Ethnicity Graduate Training Workshop, University of Notre Dame, April 2022
 - “Making the Black Quotidian: Race and Capitalism in Spectacular Times,” G.E.R.R.I. Symposium, Race in the Marketplace Network, June 2021

- **Colloquia/Workshop Speaker**
 - “Municipal Trouble: Punitive Revenue, Pensions and the Paradox of Black Suburbanization”
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, Northwestern University, February 2022
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, Stanford University, March 2022
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, University of Southern California, March 2022
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, University of Pennsylvania, October 2022
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, CUNY Graduate Center, December 2022

- “Making Markets on the Margins: The Racial Politics of Credit Expansion”
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, University of Texas-Austin, April 2021
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, Colby College, April 2021
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, Princeton University, December 2020
- “*Liquid City: From Redlining to Tax Credits*”
 - The Comparative-Historical Social Science Workshop at Northwestern University, May 2021
 - “American Policy and American Finance” event at Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society at the University of Chicago, May 2018
 - “Globalizing Racial Capitalism” panel, Racing the International series at the Center for Race, Politics and Culture, University of Chicago, April 2017
- “Pocketbook Policing: How Race Shapes Local Reliance on Fines and Fees in Suburban Chicago”
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, Johns Hopkins University, May 2021
 - “Criminal system Costs and Public Finance,” Harvard and Yale Law Schools, October 2020
 - “Money and Punishment: Five Years after Ferguson,” Liman Colloquium at Yale Law School, April 2020
 - Speaker Series, the American Bar Foundation, February 2020
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, University of Iowa, February 2020
 - St. Louis Metropolitan Research Exchange weekly colloquium, February 2020
- “Opportunity or Disinvestment? Race, Place and Affordable Housing in the Age of Finance”
 - Political Economy, Rebooted, Institute for Advanced Study, May 2020 (canceled)
 - Economy and Society Workshop, Princeton University, April 2020 (canceled)
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, University of Chicago-Illinois, April 2020 (canceled)
 - “Suburban Schools, Urban Realities? A Conference on Suburban Diversity and Opportunity,” Washington University in St Louis, March 2020 (canceled)
 - “Sociology of Housing” Conference, Georgetown University in Washington, DC, October 2019
- **Discussant/Panelist**
 - Author Meets Critics Session for Max Besbris’ *Upsold: Real Estate Agents, Prices and Neighborhood Inequality*, Annual Meeting for the Eastern Sociological Society, March 2022
 - Author Meets Critics Session for Sarah Quinn’s *American Bonds: How Credit Markets Shaped a Nation*, Annual Meeting for the American Sociological Association, August 2021
 - Special Invited Session (sponsored by the Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities) on “The Suburban Black Middle Class in Metropolitan Area Context,” Annual Meeting for the American Sociological Association, August 2021
 - “Reimagining the Public Role in Housing Finance,” Rebuilding the American Working Class Panel Discussion, Problem-Solving Sociology Collective, April 2021
- **President**, Author Meets Critics Session for Max Besbris’ *Upsold: Real Estate Agents, Prices and Neighborhood Inequality*, Annual Meeting for the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, June 2021
- “Filtering Out Cabrini: Affordable Housing and the Politics of Racial Boundaries”
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, Purdue University, March 2019
 - Department of Sociology colloquium, University of Washington, January 2019
 - Department of Sociology colloquium at Brown University, Providence, RI, October 2018
 - Workshop on Public Space and Cities at the German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, March 2018

- “Pocketbook Policing: How Race Shapes Local Reliance on Fines and Fees in Suburban Chicago”
 - “Progressing Reform of Fees and Fines: Towards A Research and Policy Agenda,” at Harvard University Law School, September 2019
 - “American Dream, Corrupted” panel at the Annual Conference for the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, June 2019
- “Affordable Housing and the Politics of Racial Equity”
 - “Diversity, Inequality and Place in the Divided City” panel at the City/Cite conference, Webster University, October 2018
- “Reimagining Suburbia: Housing the Poor in an Age of Decline”
 - Urban Inequality Workshop at Boston University’s Department of Sociology, Boston, MA, March 2018
- “Fair Housing after ‘Big Government’: How LIHTC is Reshaping the Legal Fight against Racial Segregation”
 - Research Symposium on Fair Housing at the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA May 2018
- “Fighting for Value: Community Reinvestment and the Battleground of Racial Capitalism”
 - Social Science Research Council’s Race and Capitalism Retreat, Murlo, Italy, June 2018
- “Financing the Unaffordable City”
 - Department of Sociology, Boston College, October 2015
 - Department of Sociology, Washington University-St. Louis, November 2015
 - Department of Sociology, Drexel University, November 2015
 - Department of Sociology, Colby College, November 2015

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2019
 - “Pocketbook Policing: How Race Shapes Municipal Reliance on Punitive Fines and Fees in the Chicago Suburbs,” Annual meeting for the American Sociological Association, August 2019
- 2017
 - “Racializing the Invisible Safety Net: The Case of Tax Credit Housing”
 - Annual meeting for the American Sociological Association. Panel on “New Directions in Urban Sociology.” Montreal, Canada, August 2017
 - Annual meeting for the Law and Society Association. Panel on “Reimagining Access: Institutional Experiments in the Postindustrial City” (organizer and presenter). Mexico City, Mexico, June 2017
 - Annual meeting for the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics. Panel on “Social Exclusion and Welfare States.” Lyon, France, June 2017
- 2016
 - “Managing the Urban Crisis: Race and Finance in ‘Black Freedom’ Era Chicago, 1960-1975”
 - “Can Comparative Historical Sociology Save the World?” Mini-Conference of the Comparative Historical Section. Seattle, WA, August 2016
 - Annual meeting of the Social Science History Association. “The Technologies of Bureaucracy and their Politics” panel. Chicago, IL, November 2016

- Economy and Society mini-conference at the Paris Institute for Political Studies Reims, FR, July 2015
- 2015
 - “Financing the Unaffordable City,” Urban/Communities Workshop, Northwestern University, October 2015
 - “Re-envisioning the City: The Limits and Possibilities of Property,” Moderator at the annual meeting for the Law and Society Association. May 2015
 - “Shady Markets: Moral Politics and the Business of Poverty in Housing,” Annual meeting for the Law and Society Association. May 2015
 - “The City as Investment Portfolio: Social Finance and the Changing Racial Politics of Urban space,” Law in Motion: Race and Property conference, Northwestern University Legal Studies Program. May 2015

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT/PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Professional Service
 - Steering Committee Member, Workshop on Housing Finance and Social Equity, jointly organized by Harvard University and MIT
 - Editorial Board Member, *Theory & Society* Journal
 - Editorial Board Member, *City & Community*, an American Sociological Association Journal
 - Editorial Board Member, *Civic Sociology*, a University of California Press Journal
 - Council Member, ASA’s Section on Economic Sociology
 - Co-organizer, “Racial Capitalism” Mini-conference at SASE’s annual 2022 conference
 - Session Organizer, ASA’s Economic Sociology Section, for the panel “Racial Processes in Economic Sociology”
 - Nominations Committee Member, ASA’s Section on Economic Sociology
 - Publications Committee Member, ASA’s Section on Community/Urban Sociology
 - Book Award Committee Member, ASA’s Section on Economic Sociology
 - Planning Committee Member, Yale University’s Liman Center’s “Fines, Fees and the Funding of Government Services” Workshop/Webinar series
- Organizational Affiliations
 - Board Member, Arch City Defenders (Holistic Legal Defense Agency)
 - Social Science Board Member, Poverty & Race Research Action Council
 - Faculty Affiliate, the Race and Capitalism Project
 - Scholar Affiliate, Progressive International’s Debt Justice Working Group
- Public Writing/Commentary
 - “Unmasking Racial Capitalism’s Public Face,” Roundtable forum by Just Money (Harvard University) and the Law and Economy Project (Yale University) on Destin Jenkins’ *The Bonds of Inequality*
 - “Debt as Racial Capitalism,” A Blueprint for Debt Justice, *Progressive International*
 - “How Credit Matters for Racial and Economic Justice,” *Work in Progress* blog
 - “COVID-19 Could Force a Rethink of America’s Safety Net,” *Futurity* (by Sara Savat)
 - “The ‘Defund the Police’ Debate is Being Warped by a False Choice,” *The Boston Globe*

- “W.E.B. DuBois and the Racial Economics of Inclusive Capitalism,” Social Science research Council’s *Items* Series
- “The Promise and Challenge of Moving Money into Black-Owned Banks,” *The Atlantic* (by Gillian B. White)
- “Banking Black: Can Divesting from America’s Big Financial Institutions Help Fix Racial Inequality,” *The New Republic* (by Kia Gregory)
- Participation in Symposia
 - “Policy Changes in the Time of Crisis,” episode of the *GovExec Daily* podcast with Adam Butler and Ross Gianfortune
 - Expert Witness Training, The Thurgood Marshall Institute at the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Duke University, May 2019
 - “Affordable Housing in the Age of Financialization,” episode of the *New Dawn* podcast with Prof. Michael Dawson, The Racial Capitalism Project
 - Guest Lecture in Catalina Freixas and Mark Abbott’s Segregation by Design course
 - “Housing Insecurity in the US,” panel discussion organized by Wash U Habitat for Humanity and Theta X

TEACHING AND ADVISING

2023-present	Instructor, Sociology 302: “Sociological Theory,” Princeton University
2020-present	Instructor , Sociology 4210: Race, Money and the Politics of Equity,” Washington University in St. Louis
2017-present	Instructor , Sociology 3001: “Social Theory,” Washington University in St. Louis
2016-present	Instructor , Sociology 3550: “Poverty and the New American City,” Washington University in St. Louis
2016	Instructor , Sociology 101: “Poverty and the New American City,” Northwestern University
2010-2012	Teaching Assistant , Department of Sociology, Northwestern University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sociology 101 ● Law and Society (200-level) ● Race and Society (300-level) ● Social Movements (300-level)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2013-	Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics
2011-	Law and Society Association
2010-	Midwest Sociology Society
2008-	Alpha Delta Kappa, Sociology Honors Society
2007-	Society for the Study of Social Problems
2007-	American Sociological Association

2007-

- Section memberships: Urban and Community, Race and Ethnic Minorities, Economic Sociology, Sociology of Law, Political Sociology, Comparative-Historical Sociology, Poverty, Inequality and Mobility
Association of Black Sociologists