

## 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**, 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**. 2017. ““You’re Supposed to Help Me:” The Perils of Mass Counseling Norms for Working-Class Black Students.” *Urban Education*. 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.** 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**

**Gast, Melanie Jones,** Ervin (Maliq) Matthew, and Derrick Brooms. Forthcoming pending revisions. "Supporting Racial Inclusion and Dialogue in University Classrooms" in *Intersected Campuses: The College Experience from Different Identities and Positions,* edited by W. Carson Byrd, Sarah M. Ovink, and Rachelle J. Brunn-Bevel.

**Gast, Melanie Jones and W. Carson Byrd.** Forthcoming pending revisions. "Review of *The Diversity Bargain and Other Dilemmas of Race, Admissions, and Meritocracy at Elite Universities* by Natasha K. Warikoo." *American Journal of Sociology.*

### Journal Articles In Progress

**Gast, Melanie Jones.** "They Make Their Own Barriers: Black Students, Educators, and Explaining Racial Disparities in a Diverse High School"

**Gast, Melanie Jones,** Dina G. Okamoto, and Valerie Feldman. "Managing 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,** Dina G. Okamoto, and Emerald Nguyen. "'We're More Active:' Filipina and Latina Involvement in Civic Organizations"

**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

- 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.
- 2007 “Equality in the Classroom? Social Class and Classroom Participation” at the Sociology of Education Association Annual Conference, Monterey Bay, CA.
- 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.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS (Continued)**

- 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**

- 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**

- 2016-17 Department Personnel Committee

## **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, participant and recipient, “Best Annual Assessment Project (2013-14) in the Social Sciences”
2011-12	Personnel Committee Member
2013-14	Personnel Committee Member (alternate)

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING – UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE**

### PhD Students – Dissertation Committees

Bridget Nickerson, Urban and Public Affairs

## **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”

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**

Undergraduate Sociology Major Advisor (2012-present)  
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

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  
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, The Journal of Higher Education, Educational Policy, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, and Youth and Society.*

2017 Panelist for Louisville Racial Fairness Commission  
2015-16 Co-Organizer for 2016 Chicago Ethnography Conference  
2015 Presider, American Sociological Association regular session  
2015 Sociologists for Women in Society Chicago Chapter panelist  
2014-16 Reviewer of paper proposals submitted to Sociology of Education Association  
2011-2013 Reviewer of papers submitted to Sociology of Education Section Sessions for the American Sociological Association

## **SELECTED PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (Continued)**

- 2013-14 Informal advisor for the DePaul University Student Empowerment in Sociology (SES) student group
- 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  
Association of Black Sociologists  
National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity  
National Center for Institutional Diversity, University of Michigan  
Sociology of Education Association  
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., General Education “Diversity” requirement

SOC 472: Sociology of Education

SOC 702: Sociology of Education 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*



## **COURSES TAUGHT (Continued)**

### DePaul University (2011-16) - Continued

*SOC 390/495: Immigrants and Identity*

*SOC 399: Educational Inequality & Reform*, independent study course

*SOC 415: Writing A Research Paper*, core graduate course

*SOC 433: Sociology of Education*, graduate course

### University of Notre Dame (2010-11)

*Race, Ethnicity, and Inequality in Education* (Spring 2011)

### University of California, Davis (2007-09)

*Sociology of Education*

*Special Group Research Study*, for advanced undergraduates

*Introduction to Sociology*, Teaching Assistant