

BRITTANY PEARL BATTLE
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EDUCATION:

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
Doctoral Candidate, Expected Completion May, 2019
Department of Sociology

Rutgers University, New Brunswick, New Jersey
Master of Arts, January, 2015
Department of Sociology
Qualifying Paper: “Deservingness, Deadbeat Dads, and Responsible
Fatherhood: Rhetorical Conceptualizations of Poverty, Welfare, and the
Family and Child Support Policy in the United States”

Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Master of Arts, May, 2012
Department of African American Studies
Comprehensive Exams: History of the Discipline, African Aesthetics, and
African Literature

University of Delaware, Newark, Delaware
Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, August, 2009
Departments of Sociology (Law and Society Concentration) & Black American
Studies; Women’s Studies Program

DISSERTATION:

“Deadbeat Dads, Single Moms, and Broken Homes?: Parents’ Experiences in the
Child Support System”

This project examines the experiences of parents involved with the child support system. I conduct ethnographic field research in a child support system in Central Virginia including observations of 300+ child support hearings and 75+ hours in child support related sites, as well as 50+ formal and informal interviews with parents and individuals working in the system child support system officials in Virginia and New Jersey (i.e. judges, mediators, and Division of Child Support Enforcement staff). I also analyze a diverse collection of cultural artifacts (i.e. federal, state, and municipal statutes; news articles and video clips; and political rhetoric). Using a sociocognitive theoretical framework, I examine the ways that involvement with the system impacts the conceptualization of the family and parenthood. My observations and interviews illuminate the ways that shame and stigma are pervasive in social interactions, how parents both resist and reinforce the implications of the system’s bureaucratic apparatus, and the collateral consequences of enforcement practices. Ultimately, I demonstrate that the child support system is a neoliberal construct at the intersection of the welfare and criminal justice systems which reinforces cultural messages about

deservingness, morality, responsibility, and the desirability of traditional family structures. Committee: Chair – Eviatar Zerubavel, Board of Governors and Distinguished Professor of Sociology; Ethel Brooks, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women’s and Gender Studies; Lenna Nepomnyaschy, Associate Professor of Social Work and Planning and Public Policy; Outside Reader – Maureen Waller, Associate Professor of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

American social policy, poverty and (un)deservingness, child support policy, parenthood, courts (criminal and family), culture and cognition.

PUBLICATIONS:

Battle, Brittany Pearl. In Press. “War Widows and Welfare Queens: The Semiotics of Deservingness in the American Welfare System.” *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*. Editors Wayne Brekhus and Gabe Ignatow.

Battle, Brittany Pearl. 2018. “Deservingness, Deadbeat Dads, and Responsible Fatherhood: Child Support Policy and Rhetorical Conceptualizations of Poverty, Welfare and the Family.” *Symbolic Interaction*. Online First.

WORKS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION AND IN PROGRESS:

Battle, Brittany Pearl. “‘They Look at You Like You’re Nothing:’ Shame and Stigma in the Child Support System.” Revise and Resubmit. *Symbolic Interaction*.

Battle, Brittany Pearl “‘It’s Not Like I’m a Deadbeat:’ Examining the Collateral Consequences of Child Support System Involvement.” In Progress.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

2018-2019	Fellow, Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowship Program
October, 2017	Travel Award, Office of Sponsored Programs, Diversity & Grants Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
June, 2017	Matilda White Riley Published Article Award, Sociology Department Rutgers University – New Brunswick
2017-2018	Fellow, Minority Fellowship Program, American Sociological Association & Sociologists for Women in Society
2017-2018	Honorable Mention, Ford Doctoral Fellowship Award
2016-2017	Alternate, Minority Fellowship Program, American Sociological Association
2016-2017	Honorable Mention, Ford Doctoral Fellowship Award
January, 2016	Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Professional Development Award

Spring 2016 Diversity Fellowship, Rutgers University – New Brunswick

October, 2015 Travel Award, Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Fall 2016 Sociology Department Special Fellowship, Rutgers University – New Brunswick

November, 2014 Travel Award, Rutgers University – New Brunswick

August, 2013 Travel Award, Rutgers University – New Brunswick

2012-2014 Ralph Johnson Bunche Distinguished Graduate Fellow, Rutgers University
2 year award

March, 2012 James A. Inciardi Fellowship, Department of Sociology and Criminal Justice,
University of Delaware (declined)

GRANTS:

April, 2015 Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Sociology Department Small Grant Award
\$500

October, 2014 Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Sociology Department Small Grant Award
\$500

March, 2013 Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Project Advancing Graduate Education at
Rutgers (AGER), National Science Foundation Innovation through Institutional
Integration (I-cubed)
“Multi-Generational Mentoring (MGM) Program”
Co-Principal Investigator with Professor Deborah Carr
\$2,500

INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

May, 2012 **Convocation Address**
Black American Studies Convocation Ceremony
University of Delaware

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:

August, 2018 **American Sociological Association Annual Meeting**
“‘They Look at You Like You’re Nothing:’ Shame and Stigma in the Child
Support System”
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

August, 2017 **American Sociological Association Annual Meeting**
“War Widows and Drive-By Widows: The Politics of Boundaries Shaping
Deservingness in the U.S. Welfare System”
Invited Session: The Cognitive Sociology of Inclusion and Exclusion – Kai
Erikson, Wayne Brekhus, Mara Loveman, and **Brittany Battle**
Montréal, Québec

- February, 2017 **Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting**
 “Flooding the Gates: Increasing Minority Representation in Doctoral Programs through Multigenerational Mentoring”
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- November, 2016 **American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting**
 “‘It’s Not Like I’m a Deadbeat:’ Examining the Collateral Consequences of Child Support System Involvement”
 New Orleans, Louisiana
- February, 2015 **Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting**
 “War Widows and Welfare Queens: The Semiotics of Deservingness in American Poverty”
 New York, New York
- August, 2014 **American Sociological Association Annual Meeting**
 “The End to Welfare as We Know It”
 San Francisco, California
- November, 2013 **American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting**
 “What Impacts Bail Decisions?: Examining Courtroom Organization and Community Ties in Bail”
Brittany Battle & Brian Chad Starks
 Atlanta, Georgia
- March, 2012 **National Council for Black Studies Annual Conference**
 “The Wilmington Street PAR Project: Examining Community Violence through Participatory Action Research”
 Atlanta, Georgia
- June, 2008 **The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues National Conference**
 “Cope, Conform or Resist? How Black College Students Think About Double Consciousness in the 21st Century”
 Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle**, Mamawa Fofana, Lamar Gibson, Thea Ogunusi & Carl Suddler
 Roosevelt University
- April, 2008 **Theorizing Blackness National Conference**
 “Cope, Conform or Resist? How Black College Students Think About Double Consciousness in the 21st Century”
 Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle**, Mamawa Fofana, Lamar Gibson, Thea Ogunusi & Carl Suddler
 Graduate Center – City University of New York

CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS:

- March, 2018 **Graduate Student Open House Research Panel**
 “‘They Look at You Like You’re Nothing:’ Shame and Stigma in the Child Support System”
 Sociology Department, Rutgers University – New Brunswick

- May, 2008 **Academy of Lifelong Learning Spring Lecture Series**
 “Cope, Conform or Resist? How Black College Students Think About Double
 Consciousness in the 21st Century”
 Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle**, Mamawa Fofana, Lamar Gibson, Thea Ogunusi & Carl
 Suddler
 Arsht Hall: Wilmington Campus
 University of Delaware
- May, 2007 **Transformation Grant Presentation for the Dean**
 “BAMS PAR Project: A Preliminary Discussion of The Lived Experiences of Black
 Faculty and Students at the University of Delaware”
 Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle**, Mamawa Fofana, Lamar Gibson, Thea Ogunusi & Carl
 Suddler
 Trabant University Center
 University of Delaware

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Summer 2013,
 2014, 2015 **“Community Bail Project,”** Project Coordinator
 Principal Investigator: Professor Brian Chad Starks
 Project examined pre-trial processes in two large urban U.S. cities. Assisted with the
 creation of a data set from two sets of extensive courtroom ethnography and
 documents. Data set consists of over 400 cases with more than 25 legal and extra-legal
 variables about bail outcomes. Supervised undergraduate research assistants. Assisted
 in data analysis.
- October, 2009 –
 November, 2010 **“Safe Communities Employment and Training Project,”** Co-Project Director
 Principal Investigator: Professor Yasser Payne
 Project funded through \$235,000 in grants from the First State Community Action
 Agency and Delaware United Way and organized 15 individuals from low-income
 neighborhoods in Wilmington, DE into a Participatory Action Research team to
 document and study community violence in their neighborhood. Responsible for
 organizing training materials, instructing team in research methods and the
 development of a literature review, conducting interviews, assisting in the collection of
 over 500 surveys, and analyzing data.
 Wilmington Hope Commission, Christina Cultural Arts Center, Metropolitan
 Wilmington Urban League, University of Delaware, Wilmington University &
 Delaware State University
- September, 2006 –
 September, 2008 **Transformation Grant: “The Lived Experiences of Black Faculty and
 Students at the University of Delaware,”** Research Associate
 Principal Investigators: Professors Yasser Payne & James M. Jones
 Participatory action research project, funded by 2-year \$25,000 university
 transformational grant, to study the experiences of Black students, staff, and faculty.
 Responsible for conducting interviews and focus groups, organizing action events, and
 analyzing data.
 University of Delaware

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- Summer 2018 **Instructor**
Writing and Research Methods
Paul Robeson Leadership Institute
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Spring 2017 -
Present **Part-Time Lecturer**
Introduction to Social Research Methods, Sociology of the Family, and Criminology
Sociology Department
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Fall 2014 -
Spring 2015 **Graduate Instructor**
Introduction to Social Research Methods
Sociology Department
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Spring
2013, 2015, 2018 **Teaching Assistant**
Research Methods in Planning, Public Policy, and Health
Professor Jane Miller
Taught lab section, graded assignments, assisted in lectures.
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Summer
2013, 2014 **Instructor**
Project L/Earn Undergraduate Summer Research Program
Taught research methods and statistics. Supervised students' research projects.
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Spring 2014 **Part-Time Lecturer**
Research Methods in Planning, Public Policy, and Health
Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- Summer 2012 **Instructor**
Summer Research Program
Developed six week research methods course for group of McNair Scholars in variety
of social science disciplines, covering both quantitative and qualitative methodologies
and data analysis. Facilitated GRE Verbal and graduate school preparedness sessions.
Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program
Temple University

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:

- Fall 2018 **Academic Support Services for Student Athletes, Tutor & Learning Specialist**
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- January, 2016 -
May, 2018 **BCS & Associates Consulting Firm, Consultant**
Created and coordinated implicit bias and diversity training for K-12 school districts,
law enforcement agencies, fire departments, city governments, institutions of

higher education, and other agencies.
Lynchburg, Virginia

Fall 2014 -
Spring 2016

Aresty Undergraduate Research Program, Project Advisor
Mentored three undergraduate research assistants.
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Spring 2012 -
Present

Multi-Generational Mentoring (MGM) Program, Program Founder/Director
Launched and directed program matching undergraduate Sociology students with graduate student mentors to assist in preparing for and applying to graduate programs. Developed Writing Clinic and Graduate Application Boot Camp to provide additional support for students. Program has served over 100 students from Rutgers University and other colleges and universities in the tri-state area.
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

September, 2011 -
May, 2012

Ronald E. McNair Program, Graduate Assistant
Worked directly with undergraduate McNair Scholars, offering research and academic counsel, graduate school advisement, and academic and professional conference preparation assistance. Prepared and taught relevant workshops. Developed Temple McNair Scholars research journal. Coordinated cultural events and trips. Assisted in the preparation of the grant application.
Temple University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

April, 2018 -
August, 2018

Summer Meeting Program Committee
Sociologists for Women in Society

October, 2017 -
April, 2018

Steering Committee
“Climbing the Ladder to Success: Promoting Mentoring, Diversity, and Inclusion” Workshop
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Fall 2017 -
Summer 2018

Ad Hoc Committee on Mentoring
Crime, Law, and Deviance Section
American Sociological Association

Fall 2014

Diversity Committee, Student Representative
Sociology Department, Rutgers University – New Brunswick

April, 2014

Criminal Justice Organization Career and Networking Workshop, Panelist
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

February, 2013

McNair Program Navigating Graduate School Panel, Panelist
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

March, 2012

Temple Undergraduate Research Forum & Creative Works Symposium, Review Board Member
Temple University

CONFERENCE SESSIONS MODERATED:

- April, 2012 **Session 2E: “Of Vision and Visionaries”**
Temple University Undergraduate Research Forum and Creative Works Symposium
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- November, 2011 **Session #1-A**
National McNair Research Conference
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

INTERNSHIP:

- Winter 2007-2008 **New Castle County Family Court**, Wilmington, Delaware

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:

- October, 2011, 2017 **The Institute On Teaching And Mentoring**
The Compact for Faculty Diversity
Atlanta, Georgia
- July, 2013-2017 **Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network**
Ohio State University & Rutgers University – Newark
- Summer 2012 **GradFund Summer Mentoring Program on Applying for External Funding**
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- January, 2012 **Planning For Qualitative Research: Design, Analysis and Software Integration**
Temple University

CERTIFICATIONS:

- August, 2016 **Advanced Grant Proposal Writing**
Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg, Virginia
- July, 2016 **Starting a Non-Profit**
Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg, Virginia

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- January, 2018 - **Ocean City Historical Museum**, Ocean City, New Jersey
March, 2018 Guest Curator
Developed Black History Month exhibit for museum.
- September, 2017 **“Reimagining the Black Family” Community Event**, New Brunswick, New Jersey
Panelist
- January, 2017 - **Ocean City Juneteenth Organization**, Ocean City, New Jersey
Present Incorporator and Board of Directors
Organization hosts community events focusing on the history and culture of African Americans.

- June, 2016 - November, 2016 **Progressive Release Program**, Interfaith Outreach, Lynchburg, Virginia
Volunteered with reentry program providing life skills to incarcerated women in two local jails.
- August, 2011 **Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation**, Somers Point, New Jersey
Coordinated several fundraisers, including a car wash and bake sale raising over \$1,000, for Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.
- Winter 2011, 2012 **Black History Month Presentation**, Ocean City, New Jersey
Presented a lesson on Black history from slavery to Jim Crow to three classes of 7th grade students at Ocean City Intermediate School.
- April, 2006 **The People's Hurricane Relief Fund**, New Orleans, Louisiana
Provided outreach services and completed ethnographic interviews of displaced residents of New Orleans returning to their homes in the Iberville Housing Project after Hurricane Katrina.
- 2005 - 2007 **Boys and Girls Club**, Atlantic City, New Jersey and Wilmington, Delaware
Assisted students with homework, participated in after-school activities, and coordinated meals for students at the club.

LECTURES ORGANIZED:

- February, 2008 David Banner AKA Lavell Krump, Rap Activist
Pearson Hall Auditorium
University of Delaware
- October, 2006 Scholars at Risk
Organized student discussion with at-risk scholar from Rwanda focusing on challenges facing academics in his native country.
McDowell Hall
University of Delaware

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- 2017 – Present **Member**, Sociologists for Women in Society
- 2015 – Present **Member**, Eastern Sociological Society
- 2013 – Present **Member**, Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network
- 2012 – Present **Member**, American Society of Criminology
Division of People of Color and Crime
- 2011 – Present **Member**, American Sociological Association
Race, Gender and Class Section; Crime, Law and Deviance Section;
Culture Section; Family Section
- 2011 – 2012 **Member**, National Council of Black Studies

MEDIA APPEARANCES:

November, 2010

Local TV – Channel 28. Mind Matters

Hosts: Ruth Baker & Jasmine Washington

Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle** & Brian Chad Starks

Comcast Studios, Wilmington, Delaware