

Joshua Lew McDermott | Curriculum Vitae November 2020

Department of Sociology • University of Pittsburgh
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Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, 2016-2021 (Expected) – University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
Areas of Study: Labor, Social Movements, Urban Studies, West Africa

M.A. in Political Science, 2014-2016 – New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM
Thesis Title: A Case Study of Sierra Leone’s African Socialist Movement

B.A. in English, 2010-2013 – Utah State University, Logan, UT
Minor in Political Science

Research and Teaching Interests

Social Movements, Informal Labor, Globalization, Inequality, Urbanization, Policing and Crime, Gentrification, International Political Economy, Development, Race, Postcolonialism, Ethnography, West Africa, Mexico, Labor Movements, Theory

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Duck, Waverly, Devin Q. Rutan, Joshua McDermott, Daniel McClymonds, Shayna Yogman, WeiJun Yuan. “A Food Oasis as Gentrification: A Case Study of East Liberty, Pittsburgh.” Forthcoming at *Sociological Perspectives*.

McDermott, Joshua. 2019. “Towards an Icon Model of Gentrification: Global Capitalism, Policing, and the Struggle for Iconic Spaces in Mexico City.” *Urban Studies* 56 (16).

Papers Under Review

McDermott, Joshua. “The Forgotten Class: Informal Workers, Socialist Politics, and Class Consciousness in West Africa.” Revise and Resubmit at *Review of African Political Economy*.

McDermott, Joshua. “Searching for the Informal Labor Movement: Theorizing Class Location and Collective Action among Informal Workers in the Global South” Under review at *Review of Radical Political Economy*.

McDermott, Joshua. “The Political Economy of Informal Workers: Giving Africa’s Workers Their Due.” Under review at *Third World Quarterly*.

Editorials, Journalism, and Featured Blog Posts

McDermott, Joshua. 2019. "Who are the Workers? The Legacy of Precarious Labor in Pittsburgh's Artistic Heritage." Department of History of Art & Architecture. Blog/Newsletter. University of Pittsburgh.

McDermott, Joshua. 2019. "Between Developing and Defending the Cuban Revolution." *The Hampton Institute*. Online.

McDermott, Joshua. 2016. "Extracting Democracy." *Jacobin Magazine*. Online.

McDermott, Joshua. 2015. "Ebola: A Symptom of Global Capitalism in West Africa." Published in various national and continental Africa news outlets, including *AllAfrica.com*, *Pambazuka Press*, and *The Concord Times* (Sierra Leone). Print and Online.

Book Reviews

McDermott, Joshua. 2015. Book Review: *The Ebola Outbreak in West Africa: Corporate Gangsters, Multinationals, and Rogue Politicians* (by Chernoh Alpha M. Bah). *Pambazuka Press*.

Papers in Progress

McDermott, Joshua. "Informal Workers in Different Urbanisms: From Freetown to Mexico City." Anticipated completion in Winter 2020.

McDermott, Joshua. "Rentier States and Informality: Do Countries with Extractive Economies have Higher Rates of Informality?" Anticipated completion in Winter 2020.

Presentations

Paper Presentations

McDermott, Joshua. 2019. "Searching for the Informal Labor Movement: Theorizing Class Location and Collective Actions among Informal Workers in the Global South." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2019. New York.

McDermott, Joshua. 2019. "Connecting the Post-Development, Social Movement, and Informality Literatures" Paper presented at Department of Sociology PhD Candidates Annual Colloquium 2019, University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

McDermott, Joshua. 2018. "Spectre: James Bond and the Policing of Symbolic Gentrification in Mexico City." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2018. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

McDermott, Joshua. 2018. "Contesting Development." Paper presented at the Cultural Studies Annual Graduate Student Colloquium 2018: Cultural Production and Uneven Development, University of Pittsburgh. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

McDermott Joshua. 2017. "Elections in the Shadow of Ebola: Sierra Leone's African Socialist Movement and the Struggle for Democracy." Paper presented at Social Practice of Human Rights Conference, University of Dayton. Dayton, Ohio.

Invited Talks

McDermott, Joshua. 2019. "Informal Workers and Urbanism in Context: from Freetown to Mexico City." Presented as part of a workshop with various civil society and informal workers' groups in Mexico City.

Moderated/Organized Events and Panels

Bah, Chernoh Alpha M. and Chernoh Leigh. 2020. "The Struggle for Socialism in Sierra Leone." University of Pittsburgh Department of Sociology Speaker Series.

Public Appearances

Joshua McDermott, Fatmata Barrie, Aminata R. Sei, Winston Ojukutu Macaulay Jr. 2020. Television Panel: The U.S. Election and What it Means to Africa. Sierra Gem Media.

Joshua McDermott, Chernoh Alpha M. Bah. 2015. The Ebola Outbreak and Elections in West Africa. New Mexico State University.

Poster Presentations

McDermott, Joshua. 2017. "Pittsburgh Human Rights Initiative." Poster session presented at ABCE Community Engagement Conference, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Teaching Experience

Courses Designed and Taught

- Summer 2019: Social Research Methods, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
- Spring 2019: Globalization, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh.
- Fall 2018: Globalization, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh.
- Summer 2018: Societies (Introduction to Global Sociology), Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh.

Recitations Conducted

- Fall 2017: Globalization, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Mohammed Bamyeh
- Spring 2017: Societies, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Mike Epitropoulos
- Fall 2016: Introduction to Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Nancy Fultz
- Spring 2016: Introduction to Political Theory, Department of Government, New Mexico State University. Dr. Greg Butler

- Fall 2015: American Political Thought, Department of Government, New Mexico State University, Dr. Greg Butler
- Spring 2015: Contemporary Political Thought, Department of Government, New Mexico State University, Dr. Greg Butler

Student evaluation results are available upon request

Professional Experience

- Co-Founder/Managing Editor, 2019-Present - Line Rider Press
-Manage the daily operations of the online poetry and cultural commentary website and book publisher Line Rider Press
- College Instructor, 2018-Present – Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
-Design and teach undergraduate courses
- Editor, 2015-2020 - Africanist Press
-Co-editor at the Africa-focused news/analysis website and book publisher Africanist Press, which specializes in press freedom issues in West Africa and around the continent.
- Managing Editor, 2017-2018 – *Journal of World-Systems Research*, the official journal of the PEWS section of the American Sociological Association, hosted by University of Pittsburgh
-Oversaw daily production tasks; facilitated communication with authors and reviewers; organized and formatted publication; oversaw and designed promotional efforts and materials
- Teaching Assistant, 2016-2017 – Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
-Designed and taught recitation courses, assisted professor, graded student work
- Graduate Assistant, 2014-2016 – Department of Government, New Mexico State University
-Assisted a faculty professor in lecturing, grading, and researching
- Writing Tutor/Writing Fellow, 2011-2013 – Utah State University
-Worked one-on-one with students from diverse backgrounds, disciplines, and countries to improve their academic and professional writing skills

Research Awards, Fellowships, and Scholarships

- 2020-2021: Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Awarded \$24,000 for field work and dissertation writing. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2019: Collective Knowledge Pittsburgh Stipend, Awarded \$2,000 for study of labor history in Pittsburgh through art and architecture in preparation for *Working Thought*, an art exhibition at the Carnegie Museum of Art. Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.
- 2019-2020: Andrew Mellon Predoctoral Fellowship, Awarded \$23,698 for dissertation fieldwork in West Africa. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences, University of Pittsburgh

- 2017: Summer Research Fellowship, Awarded \$3,000. Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
- 2015: Roque M. Lujan Scholarship for Community Involvement and Academic Excellence, Awarded \$500. Department of Government, New Mexico State University
- 2012: Brian Andreen Student Research Fellowship, Awarded \$1000. Utah State University

Grants and Travel Awards

- 2019: World History Center Travel Fund, Awarded \$1000 for travel to Sierra Leone. World History Center, University of Pittsburgh.
- 2018: PBC Conference Presentation Grant, Awarded \$600. Office of Graduate Studies, College of Arts & Science, University of Pittsburgh
- 2017: Research Methods Training Grant. Awarded \$1200 to attend Coding and Analyzing Qualitative Data intensive course with Dr. Johnny Saldana, Odum Institute for Research in Social Science, University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill. Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh
- 2017: SSSP Annual Conference Travel Grant, Awarded \$200. Society for the Study of Social Problems.
- 2016: Duck, Waverly, Jackie Smith, Joshua McDermott. "Cities and Social Inclusion in Global Perspective," Proposal for Research in Diversity Grant. Awarded \$4800. Office of the Provost and the University Research Council, University of Pittsburgh
- 2015: Nick Franklin Scholarship for Student Research, Awarded \$500. Department of Government, New Mexico State University

Accolades/Awards

- 2019. Norman P. Hummon Research Award. Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh. Awarded to best graduate student research paper in the department.
- 2016. Most Exceptional Graduate Student Award. College of Arts & Sciences, New Mexico State University. Awarded to the top graduate student in the college, as nominated and chosen by a committee of administrators and professors. Awarded \$500.

Skills and Methods

Software Proficiencies

- Stata
- NVivo
- Microsoft Office Suite
- Adobe Photoshop
- Adobe InDesign
- WordPress

Methods

- Archival Research
- Ethnography

- Comparative Analysis
- Proficient in Social Statistics

Skills

- Grant Writing
- Budget Management
- Proposal Writing
- Project Management
- International Project Management
- Research
- Research in a team setting
- Strong Interpersonal Skills
- Strong communicator
- Expert in navigating the challenges and complexities of international travel and work

Languages

- Krio
- Spanish
- English

Professional Service and Memberships

Professional Service

- 2017-2019. Board Member of Graduate Council, Dietrich School of Arts and Science, University of Pittsburgh.
- Served as a member of the Council's Teaching Assistant Review Committee, which reviews and offers recommendations on departmental policies related to the training of graduate students for teaching roles
- 2017-2018. Co-President, Sociology Graduate Student Organization, Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh. Student representative at departmental faculty meetings and Dietrich School of Arts and Science Association of Graduate Students meetings
- 2015-2016. President, Government Student Organization, Department of Government, New Mexico State University. Student representative at departmental faculty meetings. Coordinator of annual community charity project with Road Runner Food Bank of Dona Ana Country, New Mexico

Professional Memberships

2016-Present: American Sociological Association:

Labor and Labor Movements Section

Sociology of Development Section

Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section

Political Economy of the World System Section

2016-Present: Society for the Study of Social Problems

Advocacy and Volunteer Work

- 2016-2020. General advocacy work on behalf of informal workers, via conversations with government and civil society members, in Sierra Leone and Liberia West Africa
- 2016-2020. Co-founder, co-editor, and website designer of Africanist Press, an Africa-focused news/analysis website and book publisher which specializes in reporting on and advocating for press freedom issues around the continent
- 2017-2018. Co-founder and organizer of the Pittsburgh Community Advisory Board, a working group that facilitates University of Pittsburgh faculty and student engagement in local community social justice issues
- 2015. Board Member of Ayotzinapa Caravana Organizing Committee. Worked with local, national, and international volunteers to facilitate a leg of the publicity tour for parents of the 43 student victims of forced disappearance in Iguala, Mexico. Las Cruces, New Mexico
- 2014-2016. Involved in various campaigns to protect and advocate for immigrant and worker rights in the border communities of El Paso, Texas, Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico
- 2014-2015. Editor and Administrator for Emergency Ebola Community Updates. Worked with Sierra Leonean journalists and community members in areas impacted by the West African Ebola Outbreak to publish and disseminate emergency updates on the outbreak to isolated communities without access to traditional emergency notification outlets

Artistic Publications:

Books

McDermott, Joshua. 2019. *Codex*. Hand to Mouth Press: Walla Walla, WA. Poetry.

Poems

McDermott, Joshua. 2014. "Snow." *Arthur Magazine*. Online.

McDermott, Joshua. 2013. "Castle in Montana." *Party Like Yr Not the 99%*. Green Panda Press. Print Anthology.

McDermott, Joshua. 2013. "Logan, Utah #3." *The Dipper Magazine* 3(3). Stokes Nature Center. Print and Online.

McDermott, Joshua. 2012. "A Confirmation of Spatial Orientation in a Physical World." *Outrageous Fortune* 4(2). Mary Baldwin University. Online.

McDermott, Joshua. 2011. "Terrene and the Seasons." *Scribendi Literary Magazine* 4(1). Utah State University. Print.

References and Student Evaluations Available upon Request