

George Thomas Weddington
Curriculum Vitae

Ph.D. Candidate
Department of Sociology
University of Pittsburgh
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Education:

Ph.D. **University of Pittsburgh**
Sociology (2021 expected)

Dissertation title: “Becoming Black Lives Matter”

Committee: Suzanne Staggenborg (Chair), Tarun Banerjee, Joshua Bloom, Michael Murphy, Marcus Rediker (University of Pittsburgh Department of History)

M.A. **St. John’s University**
Government and Politics (2014)
Concentration in International Relations
Certificate in International Law

Thesis: Feminist Security and Women’s Participation in the PKK: A Call to Focus on Gender in Creating Insecurity

Advisors: Dr. Barbara Koziak; Dr. Fred Cocozzelli

B.A. **University of Rochester**
International Relations (2012)
Minors in Arabic and Spanish
University of Jordan – Amman
Studied Modern Standard Arabic and Levantine Dialect (Spring 2011)

Research and Teaching Interests:

Critical Race Theory, Black Studies, Black activism and social movements, Black Lives Matter and racial politics in the United States.

Peer Reviewed Publications:

“Political Ontology and Race Research: A Response to ‘Critical Race Theory, Afro-pessimism, and Racial Progress Narratives” published in *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* online July 20, 2018.

Other Publications:

“The Fall of 2014: Recovering the Roots of the Black Lives Movement” blog post at *Race, Politics, Justice* online September 1, 2018.

<https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/soc/racepoliticsjustice/2018/09/01/the-fall-of-2014-recovering-the-roots-of-the-black-lives-movement/>

Working Papers:

“Toward an Apositional Ethnography” - The article builds on Fred Moten and Nahum Chandler’s considerations of Blackness as paraontological to offer a distinct mode of doing ethnography through a political ontological framework.

“Beyond Repression: Policing, Protest and Foucault’s Carceral Continuum” – The article argues that mass incarceration not only represses and prevents protest behavior, but also that activists protest policing practices, sentencing, and prison conditions.

Research Experience:

Fieldwork – Black Lives Matter in Local Contexts

Conducting interviews with activists in Baltimore, Maryland and Albany, New York who have participated in the larger Black Lives Matter movement in their respective cities.

Black Lives Matter Protest Dataset

Spearheading a project since January 2016 to gather information about Black Lives Matter protests events using local and national media sources. Tasks included analyzing online media reporting, statistical analysis, and dataset production.

University of Rochester Rare Books Collection

Translated AIDS education and public health posters from various Arabic-speaking countries from Arabic to English. Translation work was part of the Rare Books Collection’s initiative to catalogue and archive the posters.

Awards and Honors

New York State Political Science Association – Best Paper Award 2014

Paper title: “Expanding the debate on Human Security: The Kurdish Case”

K. Leroy Irvis Fellow 2014-2015 Academic Year

Recipient World History Center Graduate Travel Award Summer 2015

Recipient K. Leroy Irvis Summer Research Award Summer 2015 and Summer 2016
 Recipient Social Science Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2017-2018 Academic Year
 University of Pittsburgh Sociology Summer Research Fellowship Summer 2018
 K. Leroy Irvis Fellow 2018-2019 Academic Year

Academic Appointments:

Teaching Fellow in Sociology Summer 2019: Social Theory
 Teaching Fellow in Sociology Summer 2016: Global Sociology
 Teaching Assistant in Statistics Spring 2016: Introduction to Statistics
 Teaching Fellow Fall 2016: Wealth and Power
 Research Assistant in Sociology Spring 2016: Assistant Editor for *The Journal on World-Systems Research*
 Teaching Assistant in Sociology Fall 2015: Wealth and Power

Conferences and Presentations:

“Organizing in and Against the Penal State” presented at the Notre Dame Center for the Study of Social Movements Young Scholars Conference May 3, 2019

“In the Shadow of the Prison: Police Brutality and Black Mobilization in the Movement for Black Lives” presented at The Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on August 9, 2018

“Organizing as Black Lives Matter” presented at *Mobilization* conference at San Diego State University on May 5, 2018

“Calling All Voices: Race, Inclusion, Expression, Protest, and Civility” panel at National Communications Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on November 13, 2016

“From Birmingham to Black Lives Matter” panel at University of Pittsburgh on October 20, 2016

“Intersectional Analysis of Social Movements: Beyond Organizations” presented at North Central Sociological Association 2016 annual meeting in Chicago, Illinois

“Race, Ideological Contention, and Organizational Change” accepted at *Mobilization* conference (canceled) at San Diego State University in 2020.

Professional Affiliations:

American Sociological Association

Sections: Section on Race and Ethnic Minorities, Collective Behavior and Social Movements

Association of Black Sociologists

References:

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