

# LOUISE SEAMSTER

## Curriculum Vita

Postdoctoral Teaching Associate  
Sociology Department  
University of Tennessee-Knoxville  
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Knoxville, TN 37996-0490

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## EDUCATION

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2016	Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology, Duke University Dissertation: "Race, Power and Economic Extraction in Benton Harbor, Michigan"
2013	M.A., Sociology, Duke University
2008	M.A., Liberal Studies, The New School for Social Research
2005	B.A., English, Vassar College (with honors)

## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

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2017—Present      Postdoctoral Teaching Associate, Department of Sociology, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

2015-2017          Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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Seamster, Louise (forthcoming). "WHEN DEMOCRACY DISAPPEARS: Emergency Management in Benton Harbor." *Du Bois Review*.

Seamster, Louise and Victor Ray (forthcoming). "Against Teleology in the Study of Race: Towards the Abolition of the Progress Paradigm." *Sociological Theory*.

Charron-Chénier, Raphaël and **Louise Seamster** (2018). "(Good) Debt is an Asset." *Contexts* 17(1), 88-90.

Seamster, Louise and Raphaël Charron-Chénier (2017). "Predatory Inclusion and Education Debt: A New Approach to the Growing Racial Wealth Gap." *Social Currents* 4(3):199-207.

Henricks, Kasey, and **Louise Seamster** (2017). "Mechanisms of the Racial Tax State." *Critical Sociology* 43(2), 169-179.

Ray, Victor and **Louise Seamster** (2016). "Rethinking Racial Progress: A Response to Wimmer." *Racial and Ethnic Studies* 39(8), 1361-1369.

Seamster, Louise (2015). "The White City: Race and Urban Politics." *Sociology Compass*, 9(12), 1049-0165.

Seamster, Louise, and Kasey Henricks (2015). "A Second Redemption? Racism, Backlash Politics, and Public Education." *Humanity & Society*, 39(4), 363-375.

Seamster, Louise and Eduardo Bonilla-Silva (2011). "Introduction: Examining, Debating, and Ranting about the Obama Phenomenon." *Political Power and Social Theory* (22), 3-15.

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo with **Louise Seamster** (2011). "The Sweet Enchantment of Color Blindness in Black Face: Explaining the 'Miracle,' Debating the Politics, and Suggesting a Way for Hope to be 'For Real' in America." *Political Power and Social Theory* (22), 139-175.

## **GUEST-EDITED SPECIAL ISSUES**

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Christian, Michelle, Victor Ray and Louise Seamster (Eds.) (forthcoming) "New Directions in Critical Race Studies 1: Sociological Imaginations and Theoretical Insights." *American Behavioral Scientist*.

Christian, Michelle, Victor Ray and Louise Seamster (Eds.) (forthcoming) "New Directions in Critical Race Studies 2: The Empirical Landscape of Critical Race Studies." *American Behavioral Scientist*.

Henricks, Kasey and **Louise Seamster** (Eds.) (2016). "Taxing Racism: Racial Hoarding, Redistribution, and Contestations of 'The Public.'" *Critical Sociology*.

Seamster, Louise and Kasey Henricks (Eds.). 2015. "Racializing the Public: The Post-Civil Rights Retreat from Public Education." *Humanity & Society*, 39(3).

Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo, and **Louise Seamster** (Eds.). 2011. *Political Power and Social Theory: Special Section on the Obama Phenomenon*, vol. 22.

## **BOOK CHAPTERS**

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Bonilla-Silva, Eduardo, **Louise Seamster**, and Victor Ray (2015). "Unpacking the Imperialist Knapsack: White Privilege and Imperialism in Obama's America." In *I Don't See Color*, eds. Bettina Bergo and Tracey Nicholls. Pennsylvania State University Press, 146-166.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

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"All Credentials Aren't Created Equal" (2018). Review of *Lower Ed* by Tressie McMillan Cottom. *Contexts* 17(1): 74-75.

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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“Black Debt, White Debt.” Invited submission under peer review at *Contexts*.

Purifoy, Danielle and **Louise Seamster**. “Creative Extraction: Black Towns in White Space.”

Christian, Michelle, Victor Ray, and **Louise Seamster**. “Introduction to Special Issue #1: New Directions in Critical Race Studies: Sociological Imaginations and Theoretical Insights.” *American Behavioral Scientist*.

Christian, Michelle, Victor Ray, and **Louise Seamster**. “Introduction to Special Issue #2: New Directions in Critical Race Studies: The Empirical Landscape of Critical Race Studies.” *American Behavioral Scientist*.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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Seamster, Louise, Derek Galyon, Nichole Proctor, and Patrick Sonnenberg (2017). “Flint, Mich. Water Crisis: How Much is Gov. Snyder Responsible?” *The Root*, June 27. Available at <http://www.theroot.com/flint-water-crisis-how-much-is-gov-snyder-responsible-1796457891>

Seamster, Louise (2017). “Why You Need a Writing Group.” *Chronicle Vitae*, June 15. Available at <https://chroniclevitae.com/news/1829-why-you-need-a-writing-group>

Seamster, Louise and Jessica Welburn (2016). “How a Racist System Has Poisoned the Water in Flint, Mich.” *The Root*, January 9. Available at [http://www.theroot.com/articles/politics/2016/01/how\\_a\\_racist\\_system\\_has\\_poisoned\\_the\\_water\\_in\\_flint\\_mich.html](http://www.theroot.com/articles/politics/2016/01/how_a_racist_system_has_poisoned_the_water_in_flint_mich.html) (quoted in the New Yorker, US Uncut, and the American Constitutional Society’s blog).

## BOOK REVIEWS

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“All Credentials Aren’t Created Equal.” Review of *Lower Ed* by Tressie McMillan Cottom in *Contexts* (Winter 2018).

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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2018            Temple Hoyne Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation’s Buell Center Research Prize for an Independent Project in American Architecture, Urbanism, and Landscape, for “The Right to Infrastructure,” with Danielle Purifoy (\$30,000)

- 2018 Award from the College of Arts and Sciences, Joint Institute for Computational Sciences Collaborative Funding (\$40,000)
- 2014 American Sociological Association’s Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline award for “No Vacancy: Discrimination in an Online Rental Market,” with Victor Ray and Matthew Hughey (declined-\$6,000)
- 2014 First Place recipient (with Kasey Henricks and Leighton Kenji Vila), Mid-South Sociological Association Graduate Student Paper Competition
- 2014 Dissertation Support for Work on Altruism, Charitable Giving and the Nonprofit Sector, Center for the Study of Philanthropy and Voluntarism, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University, Durham, NC (\$11,265)
- 2014 Domestic Dissertation Travel Award, Duke University, Durham, NC (\$1,800)
- 2014 Law and Social Science Fellowship, American Bar Foundation, Chicago, IL (declined)
- 2013 Rethinking Regulation Graduate Research Award, Kenan Institute for Ethics, Durham, NC (\$1,800)
- 2013 Dissertation Research Support, The Graduate School, Duke University (also in 2014)
- 2012 Summer Research Fellowship, The Graduate School, Duke University, Durham, NC (also in 2013, 2015 and 2016)
- 2010 James B Duke University Fellowship
- 2008 Pass with Honors for graduate thesis, New School for Social Research
- 2005 Phi Beta Kappa

## **INVITED TALKS AND APPEARANCES**

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2018 “Uneven Development and Racial Housing Inequality.” Invited speaker at NAACP Affordable Housing Group, AME Clinton Chapel, Knoxville, TN.

2018 “The Algorithmic Reproduction of Racial Inequality” (with Travis Wilson) Invited panelist at thematic session on “Race, Technology and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Inequality,” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.

2018 “Creative Extraction: Black Towns in White Space.” Invited panelist with Danielle Purifoy at “Bridging the Gap: Race and the Environment,” ASA mini-conference, Philadelphia, PA.

2018 “Black Debt, White Debt.” Invited panelist at the 5th Parren J. Mitchell Symposium, “Race and Wealth Inequality,” College Park, Maryland.

2018 “When Democracy Disappears: Emergency Management in Benton Harbor.” Invited lecture, Africana Studies Spring 2018 Symposium, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

2018 “Emergency Management and the Extraction of Infrastructure.” Invited panelist at “Legacies of Emergency Management: Looking Back and Looking Forward” (workshop co-organizer), co-hosted by Columbia University Buell School of Architecture and the University of Michigan Taubman School of Architecture and Urban Planning. Detroit and Ann Arbor, MI.

2018 “Black Debt, White Debt.” Invited Panelist at University of California-Irvine Law Center on Law, Equality and Race (CLEAR) symposium, “Race, Debt, and Inequality,” Irvine, CA.

2017 “Against Teleology in the Study of Race: Towards the Abolition of the Progress Paradigm.” Invited lecture with Victor Ray at Intersectionality Community of Scholars Workshop, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN.

2017 “Infrastructure and Emergency Powers.” Invited panelist at Buell Center for the Study of American Architecture, Columbia University, New York, NY.

2013 “Conversation on Racism and Capitalism.” Invited panelist, Howard University, Washington DC.

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

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“The State’s Role in the Flint Water Crisis.” Paper presented at Southern Sociological Society Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, April 7, 2018.

“Creative Extraction: Black Towns in White Space.” Paper presented with Danielle Purifoy at “Freedom Dreams in White Structures: Contemporary Dynamics of Black Space” (session organizer), Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, Maryland, February 25, 2018.

“The City as an Extraction Machine.” Paper presented at “Freedom Dreams in White Structures: Contemporary Dynamics of Black Space” (session organizer), Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, Maryland, February 25, 2018.

“The State’s Role in the Flint Water Crisis.” Paper presented at “Disasters, Displacement and Human Rights” conference, University of Tennessee, Feb 11, 2018.

“Digital Scholarship in Undergraduate Research.” Presentation on ongoing research with Nichole Proctor at OIT Community of Practice Workshop, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN, Oct 25, 2017.

“Settler Colonialism, Place and Racialized Citizenship.” Paper presented at American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada, August 14, 2017.

“Against Teleology in the Study of Race and Ethnicity.” Paper presented with Victor Ray at New Directions in Critical Race and Ethnicity, Knoxville, TN, April 28, 2017.

“Racialized Organizations Theory: A Case Study of Airbnb.” Invited presenter with Victor Ray at Eastern Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, Feb 26, 2017.

“Rethinking Racial Progress: Racism as a Fundamental Cause.” Paper presented with Victor Ray at American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, August 23, 2016.

“When Democracy Disappears: Emergency Management in Benton Harbor.” Paper presented at Southern Sociological Society Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 15, 2016.

Invited panelist for Author Meets Critics, “Behind the White Picket Fence: Power and Privilege in Multiethnic Neighborhoods,” by Sarah Mayorga. Southern Sociological Society Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 14, 2016.

“Forgetting the Cycle of Creative Destruction: The Construction of Disaster in a Michigan City.” Paper presented at Disasters, Displacement, and Human Rights (DDHR): “Bridging the Collaborative Gap,” Knoxville, TN, September 27, 2015.

“Race, Space, Integration, and Inclusion.” Presider at Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities Invited Session, American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL, August 23, 2015.

“The Impact of Emergency Management.” Invited paper discussion at Rethinking Regulation Workshop, Kenan Institute, Duke University, November 20, 2014.

“Backlash: Racialized Anti-Public Sentiment in the Post-Civil Rights Era.” Panel co-organizer, Society for the Study of Social Problems, San Francisco, CA, August 17, 2014.

“Disenfranchisement and Urban Redevelopment in a New Company Town.” Paper presented at “The Color of Citizenship: Continuing Racial/Ethnic Inequality in Citizenship Rights and Representations” (session organizer), Southern Sociological Society Conference, Charlotte, NC, April 5, 2014.

“Disenfranchisement and Urban Redevelopment in a New Company Town.” Paper presented at Place, (Dis)Place, & Citizenship Conference, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI, March 22, 2014.

“Public Goods? Privatization and Local Disenfranchisement in Michigan.” Paper presented at Association for Humanist Sociology (session co-organizer), Arlington, VA, October 13, 2013.

## **EDITORIAL SERVICE**

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- 2018 Associate Editor, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*
- 2013-present Associate Editor, *Humanity and Society*
- 2015 Student Advisory Board Member, *Social Problems*

Referee: *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Sociological Spectrum*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Humanity and Society*

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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### **Conference Organization**

- 2018 Co-organizer, “Legacies of Emergency Management: Looking Back and Moving Forward” (two-day workshop), March 22-23, Detroit & Ann Arbor, MI
- 2018 Co-organizer, “That Used to be Our Neighborhood” community event series on development and displacement in Knoxville\*  
\*project awarded a “Ready for the World” grant, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, for panel discussion, “Development in Knoxville: From Community Displacement to Community Restoration” (\$1,600)
- 2017 Co-organizer, New Directions in Critical Race and Ethnicity Conference, April 27-29, Knoxville, TN
- 2012 Co-organizer, Triangle Race Conference (“Research and Resistance: Race Across the Disciplines”), March 30-31, Durham & Chapel Hill, NC\*  
\*project awarded a Kenan-Biddle Partnership Grant (co-winner with members of Triangle Race Workshop), Kenan Charitable Trust & Mary Duke Biddle Foundation, Durham & Chapel Hill, NC (\$5000)

### **Departmental and University Service**

- 2013-2014 Graduate Policy Committee, Student Representative
- 2010-2014 Coordinator, Race Workshop, Sociology Department, Duke University
- 2006-2007 Liberal Studies Representative in the Graduate Faculty Student Senate, NSSR

## **Community Service**

2017-present Member, City Council Movement

## **COURSE PREPARATION**

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Research Methods

Applied Research: Flint Study

Applied Research: Gentrification

Introduction to Critical Race and Ethnicity

Social Inequalities

## **MEDIA INTERVIEWS**

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2017 Invited guest, *The Mildred Gaddis Show* (WCHB Detroit).

2016 Invited guest, "The Flint Water Crisis." *Voices from the Frontlines* (KPFK 90.7) with Eric Mann (host) and Jessica Welburn (co-panelist).

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Sociological Association

Southern Sociological Society

Eastern Sociological Society