

**Assistant Professor  
Sociology and Urban Studies  
Barnard College-Columbia University**

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**EDUCATION:****2019****University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Ph.D., Sociology

Dissertation: "Power, Privilege, and Peril: Governing in a Suburban Majority-Black and Middle-Class County—a Regional Perspective"

Dissertation committee: Chenoa Flippen (chair), Dorothy Roberts, Karyn Lacy, and Daniel Gillion

**2015****University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

M.A., Sociology

Thesis: "Black-White Racial Stratification among Neighborhoods: Parenting Effects in the Cleveland, Ohio, Metropolitan Area"

**2006****University of Texas-Austin**, Austin, Texas

M.A., Public Policy, Barbara Jordan Fellow

Thesis: "Charter Schools: Are They Effective at Closing the Black-White Academic Achievement Gap?"

**2004****William and Mary**, Williamsburg, Virginia

B.A., Government, Sharpe Community Service Fellow

**AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION:**

Race/racism, Black middle class, suburbs, metropolitan areas, political economy, fiscal and social policy, economic development

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

**2019-** Assistant Professor, Sociology Department and Urban Studies Program, Barnard College-Columbia University

**2006-2013** Presidential Management Fellow and Legislative Analyst, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the United States President

**PUBLICATIONS:**

Simms, Angela. 2023. "Fiscal Fragility in Black Middle-class Suburbia and Consequences for K-12 Schools and Other Public Services." *The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 9(1):204-225.

Simms, Angela. 2021. "COVID-19, Black Jurisdictions, and Budget Constraints: How Fiscal Footing Shapes Fighting the Virus." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 44(5):836-850.

Simms, Angela. 2019. "The 'Veil' of Racial Segregation in the 21st Century: The Suburban Black Middle Class, Public Schools, and Pursuit of Racial Equity." *Phylon* 56(1):81-110.

Simms, Angela and Elizabeth Talbert. 2019. "Racial Residential Segregation and School Choice: How a Market-Based Policy for K-12 School Access Creates a 'Parenting Tax' for Black Parents." *Phylon* 56(1):33-57.

Simms, Angela. "How the Housing Act of 1949 Widened the Black-White Wealth Gap," *Journal of the American Planning Association* 90(4):783.

**WORK IN PROGRESS:**

Simms, Angela. *Fighting for a Foothold: How Government and Markets Undermine Black Middle-class Suburbia*, book project (advanced contract with Russell Sage Foundation)

Simms, Angela and Ankit Rastogi. "Whites Americans' Resource Hoarding in Metropolitan Areas: Measuring the 'Relative Regional Burden' Black Jurisdictions Bear," being prepared for *City & Community*

**PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS (\*indicates invited lecture):****2025**

"Governing in a Majority-Black and Middle-Class County—a Regional Perspective," Citizens for Accountability in Governance, Prince George's County, Maryland, February\*

**2024**

"Black Liberation," Black History Month, Bronx High School for Writing and Communication Arts, February\*

"Fighting for a Foothold: How Government and Markets Undermine Black Middle-class Suburbia," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August

Fighting for a Foothold: How Government and Markets Undermine Black Middle-class Suburbia," Faculty Talks, Barnard College, November

**2023**

"How Government and Markets Undermine Schools in Black Suburbia," Suburban Schools, Urban Realities Conference, Johns Hopkins University, Washington, D.C., November\*

"Fighting for a Foothold: How Government and Markets Undermine Black Suburbia," Race and Public Space Working Group, New York University, October\*

"Fighting for a Foothold: How Government Undermines Suburban Black Middle-class Neighborhoods," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August

"Fighting for a Foothold: How Government Undermines Suburban Black Middle-class Neighborhoods," Race and Ethnicity Workshop, New York University, May

"Fighting for a Foothold: How Government Undermines Suburban Black Middle-class Neighborhoods," Department of Sociology, Rice University, April\*

"Fighting for a Foothold: How Government Undermines Suburban Black Middle-class Neighborhoods," Eastern Sociological Society, February

"The Suburban Black Middle Class: A Window into Race, Class, and Regional Inequities," Frontiers of Justice course, Columbia University, February\*

**2022**

"Undesigning the Redline and Black Feminist Activism," Wright State University, February\*

"The Suburban Black Middle Class: A Window into Race, Class, and Regional Inequities," Frontiers of Justice course, Columbia University, October\*

**2021**

“The Suburban Black Middle Class and Public Schools: Promise Amidst Fiscal Precarity,” Russell Sage Foundation, November

“Resource Inequity in Suburbs: How Anti-Black Racism Shapes Counties’ Fiscal Fates,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August

“Privilege, Promise, and Peril: Fiscal Precarity in a Majority-Black and Middle-class Suburban County,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August

“Whites’ Resource Hoarding in Metropolitan Areas: Measuring the ‘Relative Regional Burden’ Black Jurisdictions Bear,” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, May

“Power, Privilege, and Peril: Governing in a Majority-Black and Middle-Class County—a Regional Perspective,” Prince George’s County Council, Prince George’s County, Maryland, March

**2020**

“Whites’ Resource Hoarding in Metropolitan Areas: Measuring the ‘Relative Regional Burden’ Black Jurisdictions Bear,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August

“Methods for Doing Policy-related Research,” Inequality and Policy Online Workshop, Columbia Population Research Center, April

**2019**

“The ‘Color Line’ in the 21st Century: Pursuing Social Justice Despite Persistent White Resistance to Integration,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August

“Power, Privilege, and Peril: The Suburban Black Middle Class, and Metropolitan Area Inequities,” Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, August

**2018**

“Power, Privilege, and Peril: Governing in a Majority Black and Middle-Class County,” University of Pennsylvania Urban Studies Graduate Student-Faculty Colloquium Series, November

“Power, Privilege, and Peril: Governing in a Majority Black and Middle-Class County,” Metropolitan Policy Center, American University, September

“Competing for a Slice of the Pie: Fiscal Politics in a Majority Black and Majority Middle Class Suburban County,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August

“Racial Residential Segregation and School Choice: How a Market-Based Policy for K-12 School Access Creates a ‘Parenting Tax’ for Black Parents, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August

“Power, Privilege, and Peril: Class Politics in a Majority Black and Middle-Class Suburb,” University of Pennsylvania Fels Policy Research Initiative Doctoral Student Seminar Series, March

“Can We Move on Up Together?: The Constraints Black Policy Officials Face as They Pursue Economic Development and Socio-Economic Inclusion in a Suburban County,” Symposium Examining Race and Economic Inequality on the 150th Anniversary of the Birth of W.E.B. Du Bois and the 50th Anniversary of the Assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., Clark Atlanta University, February

“Sankofa and Pan African Solidarity: The Political Conditions Necessary for Unity,” The Anniversary of the All African People’s Conference, 1958-2018, Lincoln University, January

**2017**

“School Choice, Neoliberalism, and Racial Inequality: How Black and White Parents Manage Schooling in the Cleveland, Ohio, Metropolitan Area,” Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Cluster of the Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, April

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:**

**2023-2024**

Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar

**2018**

University of California, Berkeley, Center for Engaged Scholarship, Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences, Dissertation Completion Fellowship

University of Pennsylvania, Gertrude and Otto Pollak Summer Research Fellowship

**2017**

University of Pennsylvania, Gertrude and Otto Pollak Summer Research Fellowship

University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Sciences, Dissertation Research Fellowship

**PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS:**

American Sociological Association (Racial and Ethnic Minorities and Community and Urban Sociology Sections)

Association of Black Sociologists

Association for Public Policy and Management

Columbia Population Research Center

Earth Institute, Environmental Justice and Climate Justice Cities Network, Columbia University

Eastern Sociological Society

National Center for Professional Development and Diversity

Population Association of America

The Du Boisian Scholar Network

**DISSERTATION COMMITTEE:**

Sandra Okonofua, Yale University, Sociology

**UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT:**

Race, Ethnicity & U.S. Society (lecture)

Metropolitics of Race and Place (lecture)

Suburbs, Racism, and U.S. Opportunity Structures (seminar)

Advanced Topics in Race and Ethnicity (seminar)

Black Americans and Development Politics (seminar)

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS ADVISING:**

Brianna Sturkey (2019-2020)

Emily Ndiokho (2021-2022)

Makeen Zachery (2021-2022)

**ACADEMIC SERVICE:****2025**

Editorial board member, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity Journal, American Sociological Association

Committee co-chair, Columbia Population Research Center, Working Group on Urbanism and Neighborhoods, 2023-

Search committee member, Geography and Global Information Systems Lecturer, Urban Studies Program

**2024**

Committee member, Elections 2024 Planning Committee, Barnard College

**2022**

Committee member, Curriculum Development Committee, Urban Studies Program

Panel organizer and moderator, "Black and Latinx Americans' Access to Health Care and Social Services in Urban Settings," Columbia Population Research Center

Invited keynote speaker, Columbia University's Black Graduation

Invited keynote speaker, Barnard Organization of Soul Sisters Annual Family Dinner

Faculty sponsor, Athena Fellows Program, Athena Center for Leadership, Barnard College

Committee member, Barnard's Undesign the Redline exhibit on how racism affects New York City housing

**2021**

Committee member, Faculty Search Committee (environmental justice), Urban Studies Program

Committee member, Curriculum Development Committee, Urban Studies Program

Committee member, Barnard's Undesign the Redline exhibit on how racism effects New York City housing

Faculty sponsor, Barnard UrbanEx, student-led video presentations about their social and built environments

Panelist, Barnard's Center for Engaged Pedagogy, Teaching Environmental Justice and Climate Change

Panel organizer and moderator, "The Suburban Black Middle Class in Metropolitan Area Context," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

Committee member, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Program Committee

Committee member, Eastern Sociological Society (ESS), Selection Committee for Robin Williams Lecturer

Graduate student mentor, University of Pennsylvania, Nana Adjeiwaa-Manu

**2020**

Moderator, 2020 Cooper-Walsh Colloquium: “The Impact of the Financial Crisis on Urban Environments: Past, Present, and Future,” Fordham University, October

**2019**

Committee member, Fontaine Society for Under-represented Doctoral Students

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

Commission member, Baltimore’s Mount Clare at Carroll Park Commission, guiding theme “Journey to Jubilee: Return, Remembrance, and Reconciliation,” January 2021-present

Workshop facilitator, “Why Does ‘Blackness’ Matter?”: The Socio-historical Context of Racism in America,” for academic institutions and civic organizations, July 2020-present

Workshop facilitator, “Race in the Black Atlantic,” Pan-African Connections, 2016 to 2018

High school mentor, Jubilee Housing Teen Program, Washington, D.C., 2008 to 2012

**MEDIA:****2024**

Academic expert for documentary “Displaced from the Birthplace of America,” The Village Initiative, February 4

Academic expert for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Rally, sponsored by Pray March Act, January 15

**2021**

Quoted in “Black Women and the Wealth Gap: Best Cities to Flourish Financially,” by Erin P. Perkins, *Money Geek*, May 27

Quoted in “Relocations at Prince George’s Schools Enflames Long-Standing Racial Inequities,” by Dominique Maria Bonessi, National Public Radio (WAMU), April 30

**2020**

Quoted in “Thanks to Trump, U.S. No Longer in Denial about Racism,” by Otis R. Taylor Jr., *San Francisco Chronicle*, November 20

Quoted in “Blackfishing, Influencers and Cancel Culture: A Tangled Web,” by Jill Donato, *Huffington Post*, August 20

**2019**

Co-authored op-ed “Trump’s Shutdown Will Hit Black Americans the Hardest,” *Huffington Post*, January 4

Interviewed on “Monday Morning QB,” WPFW-FM, Washington, D.C., regarding effects of December 2018-January 2019 federal government shutdown on Black Americans, January 14