

MEGAN R. UNDERHILL

January 2025

EMPLOYMENT

- 2024-Present** Chair of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Carolina Asheville,
Asheville North Carolina
- 2022** Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology,
University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville North Carolina
- 2016-2022** Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology,
University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville North Carolina

EDUCATION

- 2016** Ph.D., Sociology, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2008** M.A., Anthropology, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado
- 2002** B.S. Anthropology, College of Charleston, Charleston, South Carolina

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race and Ethnicity; Racial Socialization; Whiteness; Social Inequality; Families; Communities

SCHOLARLY WORK

Books

Megan R. Underhill and Reilly Kinkaid. *A Moment or a Movement? Antiracist White Parenting Amid a Racial Reckoning*. Under Contract with Stanford University Press.

Journal Articles

- 2024** Kinkaid, Reilly and **Megan R. Underhill**. "Go Ask Mom: The Gendered Dynamics of Color-Conscious Racial Socialization Among White Parents." *Social Problems*.
- 2023** Mayorga, Sarah, **Megan R. Underhill**, and Lauren Crosser. "Aisle Inequality: How Racism and Classism Shape Grocery Shopping." *Contexts*.
- 2022** Mayorga, Sarah, **Megan R. Underhill**, and Lauren Crosser. "I Hate that Food Lion: Grocery Shopping, Racial Capitalism, and Everyday Disinvestment." *City and Community*.
- ★ 2023 *Outstanding Article Award* recipient, Poverty, Class, and Inequality division of The Society for the Study of Social Problems

Underhill, Megan R. and Lauren Simms. "Parents of the White Awakening." *Contexts*.

- 2021 **Underhill, Megan R.** “Managing Difference: White Parenting Practices in Socioeconomically Diverse Neighborhoods.” *City and Community*.
- 2020 Brunsma, David L., Nathaniel G. Chapman, Joong Won Kim, J. Slade Lellock, **Megan R. Underhill**, Erik T. Withers, and Jennifer Padilla Wyse. “The Culture of White Spaces: On the Racialized Production of Meaning.” *American Behavioral Scientist*.
- 2019 **Underhill, Megan R.** “Diversity is Important to Me: White Parents and Exposure-to-Diversity Parenting Practices.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.
- ✦ 2016 *James E. Blackwell Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award* recipient, Racial and Ethnic Minorities section of the American Sociological Association
- 2018 Randolph, Antonia, Victor E. Ray; **Megan R. Underhill** and David Luke. “Response to Weddington: More Lessons from Afropessimism.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.
- Underhill, Megan R.** “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence.” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.
- ✦ 2020. Reprinted in *Race and Ethnicity: Moving from Sociological Imagination to Sociological Mindfulness* (Cognella Academic Publishing), edited by Jacqueline D. Brooks and Aya Kimura Ida.
- 2017 Ray, Victor, Antonia Randolph, **Megan R. Underhill**, and David Luke. “Critical Race Theory, Afropessimism, and Racial Progress Narratives.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.
- 2014 Reczek, Corrine, Mieke Beth Thomeer, Amy C. Lodge, Debra Umberson and **Megan Underhill**. “Diet and Exercise in Parenthood: A Social Control Perspective.” *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

Other Publications

- 2024 Kinkaid, Reilly and Megan R. Underhill. “How Antiracism Became a ‘Mom Topic’ in White Families.” Council on Contemporary Families Blog at *The Society Pages*. (July 30, 2024).
- 2023 **Underhill, Megan R.** and Makenna Clark. “Antiracism is a Verb: The Promise and Pitfalls of Antiracist White Parenting.” In *Racial/Ethnic Inequalities in the U.S.: Family Socialization around Race/Ethnicity and Racism*, ed. Susan M. McHale, Valarie King, and Dawn Witherspoon. Springer.
- Hagerman, Margaret and **Megan R. Underhill**. “Addressing Racism with White Children.” In *Addressing Racism in Pediatrics*. American Academy of Pediatrics.
- 2019 **Underhill, Megan R.**, David L. Brunsma and W. Carson Byrd. “White Privilege and American Society: The State, White Opportunity Hoarding, and Inequality.” In *Whitencation: How Privilege, Power and Prejudice are Destroying School and Society*, ed. Jeffrey Brooks and George Theoharis. Routledge.
- 2018 **Underhill, Megan R.** “[The Criminalization of Blackness—And What We Can Do About It.](#)” The Washington Post, July 20.

Underhill, Megan R. “[White Parents Teach Their Children to be Colorblind. Here’s Why That’s Bad for Everyone.](#)” *The Washington Post*, October 5.

Underhill, Megan R. Book Review. “Whitewashing the South, White Memories of Segregation and Civil Rights. *Contexts*.

2014 Underhill, Megan. “Marital Quality of Adult Children and Parental Influence.” *Encyclopedia of Quality of Life and Well-Being Research*, eds. Alex C. Michalos.

2009 Underhill, Megan. “The Invisible Toll of Katrina: How Social and Economic Resources are Altering the Recovery Experience of Katrina Evacuees in Colorado.” In *The Political Economy of Hazards and Disasters*, ed. Eric C. Jones and Arthur D. Murphy. AltaMira Press.

Editorial Contributions

2021-23 Lambert-Swain, Ainsley and **Megan R. Underhill**, co-editors, “Theorists and Thinkers,” *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, edited by John Solomos. London: Routledge. In preparation.

FELLOWSHIP AND GRANTS

2022 COVID Scholarly and Creative Activity Recovery Award, University of North Carolina Asheville

2020 University Service Council Grant, University of North Carolina Asheville

2017 Teaching Enhancement Grant, University of North Carolina Asheville

2015-16 Taft Dissertation Fellow, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center

Taft Graduate Enhancement Fellowship, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center

Kunz Center Graduate Student Research Award, Kunz Center for Social Research

2014 Kunz Center Graduate Student Research Award, Kunz Center for Social Research

Taft Graduate Enrichment Award, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center

Undergraduate Summer Mentor, SUMR-UC, University of Cincinnati

2013 Taft Graduate Enhancement Fellowship, Charles Phelps Taft Research Center

HONORS

2024 Distinguished Scholarship Award, *University of North Carolina Asheville*.

2023 *Outstanding Article Award* for “I Hate that Food Lion: Grocery Shopping, Racial Capitalism, and Everyday Disinvestment.” Awarded by the Division of Poverty, Class, and Inequality, The Society for the Study of Social Problems.

2021-22 Excellence in Teaching by an Untenured Faculty Member Award, *University of North Carolina Asheville*.

- 2017** Dissertation Award Nominee, *American Sociological Association*.
- 2016** James E. Blackwell Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award for “Diversity is Important to Me: White Parents and Exposure-to-Diversity Parenting Practices.” Awarded by the *Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, American Sociological Association*.
- Outstanding Ph.D. Student, *University of Cincinnati, Sociology Student Lyceum*.
- 2015** Graduate Student Teaching Award, *University of Cincinnati, Sociology Student Lyceum*.
- 2014** High Pass on Specialty Preliminary Exam, *University of Cincinnati, Department of Sociology*.
- Mentorship Recognition, *University of Cincinnati, Darwin T. Scholars Program*.
- 2002** Outstanding Undergraduate, *College of Charleston, Department of Anthropology*.

TEACHING

University of North Carolina Asheville (2016-present)

- Introduction to Sociology
- Social and Cultural Inquiry (Social Theory)
- Race, Identity, Belonging and Cultures in the Americas
- Sociology of Race
- Whiteness: Interrogating Power and Privilege
- Difference and Inequality
- Class, Power, and Inequality
- The Great Resignation and the Sociology of Work
- Urban Sociology
- Senior Seminar in Sociology

University of Cincinnati (2011-2016)

- Introduction to Sociology
- Survey of Sociological Theory
- Sociology of Race

MENTORSHIP

Undergraduate Thesis Advisor

2018-2022

- *Theresa Edwards-Capen*: “Education and Grief”
- *Jeremy James*: “Mentorship in Western North Carolina: The Need to Know the African American Experience”

- *Emily Navarro*: “Working towards a Pedagogy of Activism: How Whites Approach Issues of Social Justice Interpersonally”
- *Olivia Patterson*: “Diversity in Children’s Literature: An Examination of Books Available in a Southern City”
- *Lauren Simms*: “Interrogating Educational Inequities: An Analysis of White Perceptions of the Opportunity Gap in Asheville, NC”
- *Daniel Suber*: “Environmental Pathways for Students of Color”
- *Christina Young*: “Discussions of Sexual Violence”

2021-2022

- *Megan Kanzinger*: “Renter’s Understanding of the Housing Crisis in Wilmington, N.C”
- *Breanna McClure*: “The Effects of Media Bias and Political Polarization regarding Critical Race Theory in K-12 Education”
- *Sierra Ross*: “The Effect of COVID 19 on Pharmacy Staff”
- *Corey Demon Thomas*: “Black Representation in the Media”
- *Emily Weatherspoon*: “Exploring Body (Dis)Satisfaction in Transgender Emerging Adults”
- *Makenna Clark*: “White Mothers Raising Multi-Racial Children: Dedicated Methods of Color-Conscious Racial Socialization”

INVITED LECTURES

2022 “Anti-Racist White Parents.” *30th Annual National Symposium in Family Issues, Racial/ Ethnic Inequalities in the U.S.: Family Socialization around Race/Ethnicity and Racism*. Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pennsylvania.

“Keeping our Children Safe: Contextualizing the Racial Socialization Practices of Black and White Families. *Common Word Community Read*, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2021 “Becoming Woke: White Racial Socialization During the Era of Black Lives Matter.” *University of Colorado Boulder*, Boulder, Colorado.

“Socially Just Design Momentum: Next Steps Towards a More Just and Equitable Postsecondary System.” *Gardner Institute*, Brevard, North Carolina.

[“Woke White Parents: Learning and Unlearning Whiteness in the Time of ‘Black Lives Matter.’](#) *Duke Race Workshop*, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

[“The Power of Motherhood.”](#) *Conversations for an Equitable South*, E Pluribus Unum Fund.

[“The Fallacy of Colorblindness.”](#) *Conversations for an Equitable South*, E Pluribus Unum Fund.

“How Caregivers Talk about Race.” *Claxton Elementary*, Asheville, North Carolina.

2020 “Let’s Talk about White Supremacy and Tone Policing” *Antiracist Student Organization*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.

2019 “What is Race?” *Asheville Middle School*, Asheville, North Carolina.

- “The Karma of Race in America.” *Anattasati Magga Buddhist Sangha*, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 2017** “Studying Racism: The Science of Racial Prejudice and Discrimination.” *Science Pub Lecture Series*, Asheville Museum of Science, Asheville, North Carolina.
- “What is Racial Battle Fatigue?” *Professional Development Series*, Western North Carolina Diversity Engagement Coalition, Asheville, North Carolina.
- “From Allyship to Advocacy: Repurposing Your Privilege.” *Black Lives Still Matter: The Revival*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.
- “Racial Battle Fatigue.” *Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Week*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 2016** “What White People Don’t Get about Race in America.” *Race and Violence Teach-In*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.
- “Good Diversity, Bad diversity: White Parents’ Assessments of their Low-Income Neighbors.” *Kunz Center for Social Research*, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio
- 2014** “Racial Socialization among White Parents?” *Department of Sociology Graduate Student Colloquium*, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2006** “Life after Katrina: Struggles to Regain Control and Culture” *Women’s Studies Colloquium*, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024** “Go Ask Mom: The Gendered Dynamics of Color-Conscious Racial Socialization Among White Parents.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Montreal, Canada.
- 2023** “Taking Stock of White Parents’ Racial Awakening Three Years Post-Floyd.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- “Expert Guided Antiracism among Progressive White Parents in the South.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.
- 2022** “Moving Beyond the (White) Book Club: Obstacles to Anti-Racist Action Among Socially Progressive White Parents.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, Birmingham, Alabama.
- 2021** “Parents of the White Awakening.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Chicago, Illinois.
- “White Parenting During the Era of #BlackLivesMatter.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- “Classists-in-Training: How Middle-Class Parents Teach Their Children to Fear and Distrust the Working-Class and Poor.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, Louisiana.

- 2020** “Managing Difference: White Parenting Practices in Diverse Neighborhoods.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, San Francisco, California.
- 2019** “Interrogating Privilege: White Parents’ Reflections on Raising Privileged Children.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, Atlanta, Georgia.
- 2018** “White Anxiety: Why Whites Call the Police on Black People in Public Spaces.” *Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology*, Detroit, Michigan.
- “Diversity is Important to Me”: White Parents and Exposure-to-Diversity Parenting Practices.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- “Constructing a Good White Identity via Exposure-to-Diversity Parenting Practices.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2017** “Inequality Talk: Examining Parent-Child Discussions of Racial and Class Inequality.” *Annual Meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology*, Havana, Cuba.
- “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Silence.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Montreal, Canada.
- “We Don’t Like to Speak with our Kids about Race: Interrogating White Racial Silence.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, Greenville, South Carolina.
- 2016** “Policing the Boundaries of Acceptable Middle-Class Whiteness.” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, Atlanta, Georgia.
- “Diversity is Good, Except Sometimes...” *Joint Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society and the North Central Sociological Association*, Chicago, Illinois.
- “Uncivilized “Others”: Middle-Class Whites and Racial and Class Boundary Making.” *Charles Phelps Taft Research Center HumanitiesNOW Graduate Conference*, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2015** “The Racialized Consequences of Intensive Parenting.” *Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association*, Chicago, Illinois.
- “The Transmission of Racial Knowledge among White Families: Does Neighborhood Context Matter?” *Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- “Cultural Studies in St. Croix: More than a Hurricane Defines a People.” (Poster) *Graduate Student Expo and Poster Forum*, University of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2014** “Becoming White: The Racial Socialization Practices of White Parents.” *Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association Conference*, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- 2013** “Looking at Oneself through the Eyes of Others: A Critical Analysis of the Racial Formation Literature.” *Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association Conference*, Indianapolis, Indiana.

- 2007** “The Invisible Toll of Katrina: How Social and Economic Resources are Altering the Recovery Experience Katrina Evacuees in Colorado.” *Annual Meeting for the Society of Economic Anthropology*, Greensboro, North Carolina.
- 2006** “Disaster Displacement and Social Capital: The Role of Social Capital in the Recovery of Katrina Evacuees in Colorado.” *Katrina Research Symposium*, New Orleans, Louisiana.
- “Resettlement After Disaster: How Katrina Evacuees in Colorado Negotiate a Changed Habitus.” *31st Annual Workshop on Hazards Research and Application*, Boulder, Colorado.
- “Reconstituting Life After Disaster: Testimonies of Hurricane Katrina Evacuees Living in Denver, Colorado.” *Annual Meeting for the Society of Applied Anthropology*, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

TRAININGS ORGANIZED

- 2021** “Anti-Racist Pedagogy Workshop.” *Summer Institute: Center for Teaching and Learning*, University of North Carolina Asheville, Asheville, North Carolina.
- 2020** “Mitigating Implicit Bias in University Searches.” *University of North Carolina School of Arts*, Winston Salem, North Carolina.
- 2019** “The Case for Diversity: Mitigating Bias in Faculty Searches.” *University of North Carolina School of Arts*, Winston Salem, North Carolina.
- 2017** “Diversity Search Advocate Training.” *University of North Carolina Asheville*, Asheville, North Carolina.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2023** Program Committee Member for the Southern Sociological Society (2023) annual meeting.
- 2022-25** Editorial Board Member of *Humanity and Society*.
- Sociological Practice Committee Member, Southern Sociological Society.
- 2021-24** Editorial Board Member of *Social Forces*.
- 2021** Consultant, “Socially Just Design: The Momentum Chapter.” The Gardner Institute, Brevard, North Carolina.
- 2020-24** Executive Committee Member, Southern Sociological Society.
- 2018-21** Editorial Board Member of *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.
- 2018** “Addressing the Complexities of Diversity,” Facilitator, Annual Meeting for the Association for Humanist Sociology.
- “Navigating the Job Market and the Publication Process in the 21st Century,” Co-Organizer, Annual Meeting for the Association for Humanist Sociology.

“White Racial Socialization” Paper Session Organizer, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting.

2017-20 Membership Committee Member, Southern Sociological Society.

2012- Reviewer for *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*; *American Sociological Review*; *City and Community*; *Ethnic and Racial Studies*; *Identities*; *Journal of Child and Family Studies*; *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics*; *Pediatrics*; *Sociological Inquiry*; *Social Problems*; *Social Sciences*; *Sociology Compass*; *Sociological Focus*; *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2024 Liberal Arts Curriculum Task Force, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2023-26 Academic Appeals Board Member, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2023-25 LA 378: Race, Identity, Belonging, and Culture in the Americas Course Coordinator, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2023 Annual Teaching Awards Committee Member, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2022 Co-Chair of Sociology and Anthropology Search Committee, University of North Carolina Asheville.

Search Committee Member, Psychology Department, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2021 Co-Chair of the Sociology Fellowship Search Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2020 Search Committee Member, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2018 Search Committee Member, Department of Political Science, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2018 - Steering Committee Member, Diversity Action Council, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2018 - Advisory Board Member for Human Rights Certificate Program, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2017 - Diversity Advocate Program Member, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2016-18 Diversity Action Council Committee Member, University of North Carolina Asheville.

2016 Search Committee Member, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of North Carolina Asheville.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

- 2021** Discussant, “Socially Just Design Reboot.” Sponsored by *The Gardner Institute*, Brevard, North Carolina.
- 2019** Facilitator, “Strengthening (or Starting) Your GSA.” 2019 *Western North Carolina GSA Summit*. Asheville NC, April 6, 2019. Sponsored by *Youth OUTright WNC* and the *Campaign for Southern Equality*.
- 2018-19** Facilitator, *Exploring our Privilege* book club series organized by *Asheville City Schools Foundation*, Asheville, North Carolina.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- 2024** Scholarship award featured in a *UNCA Stories* article entitled [“Award Winning Faculty and Staff 2024.”](#)
- 2021** Quoted in *The Red & Black* article entitled [“Sociology Should be a UGA Graduation Requirement.”](#)
- Podcast discussing *City and Community* article, [“Managing Difference: White Parenting Practices in Socioeconomically Diverse Neighborhoods.”](#) *Sage Sociology Podcasts*.
- 2020** “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence” cited in the article [“Most White Parents Don’t Talk with their Kids about Racism”](#) published by *The Conversation*.
- Research featured in a *Harvard Business Review* article entitled [“Academia isn’t a Safe Haven for Conversations about Race and Racism.”](#)
- Teaching featured in a *University of North Carolina Asheville* article entitled [“Research as a Form of Activism: UNC Asheville Sociology Courses Explore Inequalities and Solutions”](#)
- Quoted in a *Slate* publication entitled [“I Think I’ve Screwed up the Ways My Kids Think about Race.”](#)
- “White Parents Teach their Children to be Colorblind...” Featured on the *National Hockey League’s* [Committing to Change](#) resource guide.
- 2018** “Police Calls for #LivingWhileBlack Have Gotten Out of Hand. Here’s What We Can Do About It” featured on *The Society Pages* website in an article entitled [“Recognizing Racism and Implicit Bias”](#).
- Featured on [“Sociologists on Sociology.”](#) an educational video created by the *American Sociological Association*.
- “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence” featured on *Tanner Higgen, PHD* website in an article entitled [“White Teachers Must Fight White Supremacy: Here’s How”](#).
- Interview with KCBS Radio in San Francisco, CA. July 23.
- “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence” featured on *Pod Save the People*, an Apple Podcast by Crooked Media in a segment entitled [“Historic Wins”](#).
- “Parenting During Ferguson: Making Sense of White Parents’ Silence” featured on

The Society Pages website in an article entitled [“Families Talk about Race \(or Don’t\).](#)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (Section member: Family; Racial and Ethnic Minorities)
Association for Humanist Sociology
Society for the Study of Social Problems
Southern Sociological Society