

Leonard Nevarez
Curriculum vita
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Department of Sociology
Vassar College
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USA

Current position

Professor, Sociology, Vassar College, 2012-present.
Associate Professor, Sociology, Vassar College, 2006-12.
Assistant Professor, Sociology, Vassar College, 1999-2006.

Chair, Department of Sociology, Vassar College, 2013-16, 2020-present.
Supervised departmental self-study/external review, 2013-14.
Supervised search for visiting assistant professor, 2016.

Tatlock Chair of Multidisciplinary Studies, Vassar College, 2013-16.
Co-chaired multidisciplinary hiring taskforce, 2014-16.
Executive committee on architectural competition for Center for
Multidisciplinary Studies building, 2013-15.

Director, Program in Urban Studies, Vassar College, 2006-10.
Supervised program self-study/external, 2009-10.
Co-chaired joint Art/Urban Studies job search committee, 2006-07.

Education

Ph.D. University of California, Santa Barbara, 1999. Sociology.
M.A. University of California, Santa Barbara, 1994. Sociology.
B.A. University of California, Los Angeles, 1990. Sociology.

Areas of Academic Specialization

Urban sociology, political economy, social theory, food systems, popular music,
environmental sociology.

Publications

Books

The Oxford Handbook of Urban Sociology (co-edited with Ryan Centner).
Under contract.

Pursuing Quality of Life: From the Affluent Society to the Consumer Society.
2011. New York: Routledge.

New Money, Nice Town: How Capital Works in the New Urban Economy.
2003. New York: Routledge.

Articles / Book Chapters

* denotes refereed publication.

* “Small-City Dualism in the Metro Hinterland: The Racialized ‘Brooklynization’ of the Hudson Valley” (co-authored with Joshua Simons). Pp. 16-43 in *City & Community*. Volume 19. Issue 1. March 2020.

- Selected among 50 articles published in official American Sociological Association journals for open access to readers seeking to develop responses to, and cope with, the crisis (see <https://www.asanet.org/covid-19-asa-journals>).

* “Food Acquisition in Poughkeepsie, NY: Exploring the Stratification of ‘Healthy Food’ Consciousness in a Food-Insecure City” (co-authored with Kathleen Tobin and Eve Waltermauer). Pp. 19-44 in *Food, Culture & Society*. Volume 19. Issue 1. March 2016.

- Reprinted in *Food Practices and Social Inequality: Looking at Food Practices and Taste Across the Class Divide*, edited by Jennifer Maguire. New York: Routledge, 2018.

“Sound in 70 Cities: The European Urbanism of Simple Minds.” In *Unsichtbare Landschaften: Populäre Musik und Räumlichkeit / Invisible Landscapes: Popular Music and Spatiality*, edited by Giacomo Bottà. Munich: Waxmann, 2016.

* “How Joy Division Came to Sound like Manchester: Myth and Ways of Listening in the Neoliberal City.” Pp. 56-76 in *Journal of Popular Music Studies*. Volume 25. Number 1. March 2013.

“Efficacy or Legitimacy of Community Power? A Reassessment of Corporate Elites in Urban Studies.” Pp. 379-396 in *Understanding the City: Contemporary and Future Perspectives*, edited by John Eade and Christopher Mele. London: Blackwell, 2002.

* “Corporate Philanthropy in the New Urban Economy: The Role of Business-Nonprofit Realignment in Regime Politics.” Pp. 197-227 in *Urban Affairs Review*. Volume 36. Number 2. November 2000.

* “Working and Living in the Quality-of-Life District.” Pp. 185-215 in *Research in Community Sociology*. Volume 9. 1999.

* “Just Wait Until There’s a Drought: Mediating Environmental Crises for Urban Growth.” Pp. 246-272 in *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*. Volume 28. Number 3. July 1996.

Book Reviews

“David-William Gibson, *The Edge Becomes the Center: An Oral History of Gentrification in the Twenty-First Century*” (book review). Pp. 97-99 in *Urbanities: Journal of Urban Ethnography*. Volume 8. Number 2. November 2018.

“Adrienne Brown and Valerie Smith (eds.), *Race and Real Estate*” (book review). Pp. 300-302 in *City & Community*. Volume 17. Number 1. March 2018.

“James S. Duncan and Nancy G. Duncan, *Landscapes of Privilege*” (book review). Pp. 100-102 in *City & Community*. Volume 4. Number 1. March 2005.

“Valerie C. Johnson, *Black Power in the Suburbs: The Myth or Reality of African American Suburban Political Incorporation*” (book review). Pp. 499-501 in *American Journal of Sociology*. Volume 109. Number 2. September 2003.

“Joel Kotkin, *The New Geography*, and Richard Florida, *The Rise of the Creative Class*” (book reviews). Pp. 395-398 in *City & Community*. Volume 1. Number 4. December 2002.

“Competition and Culture in the New Geography” (book review essay). Pp. 597-600 in *Urban Affairs Review*. Volume 37. Number 7. March 2002.

Encyclopedia Entries

“Neo-Marxian Analysis.” In *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies*, edited by Anthony Orum. Oxford: John Wiley & Sons, 2019.

“The City.” In *Wiley-Blackwell Essential Concepts of the City*, edited by J. Michael Ryan. Oxford: Wiley Blackwell, 2019.

“Urban Political Economy.” In *Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, 2nd ed., edited by George Ritzer. Oxford: John Wiley & Sons, forthcoming.

- *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online*, 2017 update
- *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online*, 12th ed., 2011
- *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology Online*, 11th ed., 2009
- *Concise Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, 2009
- *Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, 1st ed., 2004

“Affluent Society.” In *Wiley Blackwell Encyclopedia of Social Theory*, edited by Bryan S. Turner, Chang Kyung-Sup, Cynthia Epstein, Peter Kivisto, William Outhwaite, and J. Michael Ryan. Oxford: John Wiley & Sons, 2017.

“Gentrification.” In *Encyclopedia of Community: From the Village to the Virtual World*, edited by Karen Christensen and David Levensen. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage, 2003.

Research Reports / Discussion Briefs

“Poughkeepsie Plenty: A Community Food Assessment.” Co-authored with Susan Grove, KT Tobin and Joshua Simons. Center for Research, Regional Education and Outreach, State University of New York at New Paltz. Discussion Brief #11. Winter 2014.

Petroleum Extraction in Santa Barbara County: An Industrial History. Co-authored with Harvey Molotch, Randolph Bergstrom, and Perry Shapiro. OCS Study MMS 98-0048, under Contract No. 14-35-0001-30796. Camarillo, CA: U.S. Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service, Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Region. 1998.

San Luis Obispo County: A Major Switching. Co-authored with Harvey Molotch and William Freudenburg. OCS Study MMS 96-96-0037, under Contract No. 14-35-001-30663. Camarillo, CA: U.S. Department of Interior, Minerals Management Service, Pacific Outer Continental Shelf Region. 1996.

Online Publications

Musical Urbanism (personal blog of scholarly research and critical commentary), musicalurbanism.org.

“A Poughkeepsie School of Urban Studies,” *Gathering Voices* [Vassar College faculty blog], March 5, 2012.

A Digital Tour of Poughkeepsie [producer]. Poughkeepsie, NY: Vassar College.

- Online edition (<http://digitaltourofpoughkeepsie.org>), 2010
- DVD documentary, 2006

Other publications – Limited Circulation

“Food Security and Choice: Poughkeepsie Plenty Community Food Assessment,” with Susan Grove. January 2012.

“Report to Building Bridges: Preliminary results of household survey and analysis of the City of Poughkeepsie’s food system,” with the students of my Community Development class at Vassar College. January 2011.

“Gender Impacts and Disparities in Faculty Life: Vassar Trends in Larger Perspective,” with Pinar Batur. April 2008;

“Multidisciplinary Challenges and Faculty in the New Academy: A Vassar Perspective,” with Pinar Batur. April 2008.

“Faculty and Discretionary Time: How Vassar College Compares to the Larger Picture,” with Pinar Batur. October 2006.

“Report to Center of the Square: Needs-Assessment Study of the Clinton School Catchment Area,” with my Community Development class at Vassar College. May 2005.

“Report to Hudson River Housing: Survey of Northside Residents,” with the students of my Community Development class at Vassar College. May 2003.

Conference Papers and Participation

Co-organizer of Community and Urban Sociology Section open sessions and presider at “Implementing Racial Inequality in Urban Policy” session at the 2019 meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York, New York, August 10, 2019.

“Urban Lift-off Amid the Rural Amenity Economy: Poughkeepsie and the ‘Brooklynization’ of the Hudson Valley.” To be presented at the 2018 meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, Maryland, February 2018.

“Metro Music: Networks and Meanings of Creative Scene Development in Toronto’s Queen Street West.” Presented at the 2017 meetings of the American Sociology Association, Montreal, Quebec, August 12, 2017.

Co-organizer (with Miriam Greenberg and Hillary Angelo) and discussant at paper session, “New Directions in Urban Theory” at the 2017 meetings of the American Sociology Association, Montreal, Quebec, August 14, 2017.

“Author Meets Critics: Jonathan R. Wynn, *Music/City: American Festivals and Placemaking in Austin, Nashville, and Newport* (University of Chicago Press, 2015). Critic/panelist at Eastern Sociological Society meetings, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, February 25, 2017.

“Healthy Food Acquisition in a Food-Insecure City: An Examination of Socioeconomic and Food-Security Predictors” (co-authored with Kathleen Tobin and Eve Waltermauer). Presented at the 2014 meetings of the American Sociology Association, San Francisco, California, August 16, 2014.

Discussant at paper session, “Space, Place and Inequality” at the 2014 meetings of the American Sociological Association at San Francisco, CA.

“Healthy Food Acquisition in a Food-Insecure City: An Examination of Socioeconomic and Food-Security Predictors” (co-authored with Kathleen Tobin and Eve Waltermauer). Presented at the ASFS/AFHVS conference, Burlington, Vermont, June 21, 2014.

Moderated conference panel, “Success Stories: Farm Food for Strengthened Families and Communities,” at the “Mid-Hudson Agriculture: Growing our Economy and our Communities” conference at SUNY-New Paltz, NY, March 1, 2013.

Co-organized paper session, “‘Lifestyle,’ Community and Place,” with Amin Ghaziani at the 2012 meetings of the American Sociological Association at Denver, CO.

- “How Joy Division Came to Sound Like Manchester.” Presented at the International Association for the Study of Popular Music/EMP Pop Conference, New York University, New York, March 25, 2012.
- “Food Security and Social Justice in an Urban Food System: The Case of Poughkeepsie, NY.” Presented at the New York State Sociological Association meetings, Siena College, Loudonville, NY, October 14, 2011.
- “Pursuing ‘Quality of Life’ in Liquid Modernity.” Presented at “Rethinking Global Society,” inaugural conference of the Bauman Institute, University of Leeds, England, September 6-7, 2010.
- “‘Quality of Life’ as a Social Problem.” Presented at American Sociological Association meetings, Atlanta, Georgia, August 14-17, 2010.
- “Toward a Sociological Understanding of ‘Quality of Life.’” American Sociological Association meetings, New York, New York, August 13, 2007.
- “It’s a Matter of Time: Discretionary Time and Faculty in the New Academy” (co-authored with Pinar Batur). Association of American Colleges and Universities’ Network for Academic Renewal Conference, Chicago, Illinois, November 9-11, 2006.
- “Quality of Life as ‘Contexts for Place.’” Invited paper at thematic session: “Place as context for Quality of Life.” Eastern Sociological Society meetings. Boston, Massachusetts. February 25, 2006.
- “Issues of Community Coalition Building.” Invited participant on thematic panel. Eastern Sociological Society meetings. Boston, Massachusetts. February 24, 2006.
- “The Local Accomplishment of the Neoliberal Community Development Consensus” (co-authored with Jonah Evans, Taddy Fick, and James Williams). American Sociological Association meetings. San Francisco, California. August 15, 2004.
- Organized thematic session, “Sociology of the Creative Class,” at the 2003 American Sociological Association meetings in Atlanta, GA.
- “Quality of Life as Labor Control: How Manager-Talent Conflict Builds Cities and Regions.” Canadian Association of Geographers conference. Victoria, British Columbia. May 2003.

“A Discussion of the Intersections of Cultural and Urban Studies.” Panel discussion organized by John Eade and Christopher Mele. Columbia University. October 24, 2002.

“A Lovely Place to Work: Aestheticization, Quality of Life, and Industrial Location in the New Economy.” American Sociological Association meetings. Chicago, Illinois. August 2002.

Organized roundtable paper sessions for the Community and Urban Sociology Section at the August, 2001 meetings of the American Sociological Association at Anaheim, CA.

“Practicing Multiple Knowledges with Information Technology: An Example from an Urban Theory Course.” American Sociological Association meetings. Anaheim, California. August 2001.

Participant in “Author Meets Critics” panel to discuss Charles Varano’s *Forced Choices*. Pacific Sociological Association meetings. San Francisco, California. March 2001.

Organized paper session, “The Symbolic Economy as a Force for Urban Production,” at the 2000 meetings of the American Sociological Association at Washington, D.C.

“How Software and Entertainment Firms Participate in Local Business Organizations and the Traditional Urban Business Community.” American Sociological Association meetings. Chicago, Illinois. August 1999.

“The Role of the Software Industry in Local Politics and Philanthropy: Does it Make a Difference?” Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara. April 1999.

“Business Philanthropy and Regime Realignment in Restructured Cities.” American Sociological Association meetings. San Francisco, California. August 1998.

“Quality of Life, Growth, and Place Dependence in Post-Industrial Localities.” American Sociological Association meetings. Toronto, Canada. August 1997.

“Understanding Environmental Concern: Why Place Matters” (co-authored with Krista Paulsen). American Sociological Association meetings. New York, NY. August 1996.

- “Environmental Concern for Offshore Oil Drilling: The Influence of Place” (co-authored with Harvey Molotch and Krista Paulsen). Western Social Science Association conference. Reno, NV. April 1996.
- “Understanding Sentiments about Offshore Oil Drilling: Why Place Matters” (co-authored with Harvey Molotch and Krista Paulsen). UC Toxics Research Symposium. Santa Cruz, CA. March, 1996.
- “Just Wait Until There’s a Drought: Mediating Environmental Crises for Urban Growth.” Pacific Sociological Association meetings. San Francisco, CA. April, 1995.
- “Cashing It In: Punk Rock and the Music Industry.” Mid West Popular Culture Association conference. Pittsburgh, PA October, 1994.
- “Offshore Oil in the Santa Barbara Channel: Roots of Opposition, Acquiescence and Support” (co-authored with Harvey Molotch and William Freudenburg). UC Toxics Research Symposium. San Diego, CA. October, 1994.
- “Employers, Employees, Interns, and the Workplace Culture at Upstart Records.” UCLA Undergraduate Sociology Conference. Los Angeles, CA. May, 1990. Awarded 1st place, microsociology division.

Invited Lectures

- “A Place to Get Away from it All: Lifestyle Pursuits and Conceptual Questions from the New Urban Economy.” Keynote address to the University of North Georgia Conference of Arts & Lectures, Dahlonega, Georgia, February 27, 2016.
- “Metro Music: Creativity, Place and Alienation in the Career of Martha and the Muffins.” Lecture at the Department of Sociology, University of Toronto, Ontario, May 1, 2015.
- “Pursuing Quality of Life: Happiness, Creativity and Place in These (Still) Neoliberal Times.” Lecture at the Department of Sociology, Queens College, New York, March 6, 2013.
- “Pursuing ‘Quality of Life’: A Critical Inquiry into an Idea.” Lecture at the Department of Science and Technology Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, New York, December 1, 2010.

“Reconstructing Urban Elites in the New Economy.” Cressey Award lecture at the Department of Sociology, University of California, Santa Barbara, November 2000.

Applied Research

Primary investigator on Poughkeepsie household food security survey (f.k.a. Building Bridges), supported by a USDA Food and Nutrition Service Hunger-Free Communities Assessment & Planning Grant (CFDA 10-583), 2018-present.

Primary investigator on Poughkeepsie Plenty community food assessment (f.k.a. Building Bridges), supported by a USDA Food and Nutrition Service Hunger-Free Communities Assessment & Planning Grant (CFDA 10-583), 2010-12.

Primary investigator in Vassar College Mellon Time Study (supported by Andrew W. Mellon Foundation), 2004-08.

Primary investigator on needs assessment study for Center of the Square (nonprofit Poughkeepsie service provider), Spring 2005.

Primary investigator on neighborhood revitalization survey for Hudson River Housing (nonprofit Poughkeepsie affordable housing developer), Spring 2003.

Awards and Honors

Donald Cressey Award by the Department of Sociology at the University of California at Santa Barbara (for best dissertation filed between 1997-2000), 2000.

Graduate Opportunity Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1996-97.

President’s Predoctoral Fellowship, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1992-96.

Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, Los Angeles chapter, 1990.

Grants

Research grant from Vassar College Research Committee to support book acquisitions on Toronto/Martha and the Muffins project, 2015.

United States Department of Agriculture, Hunger Free Communities grant (USDA Food and Nutrition Service [CFDA 10-583]) to support Building Bridges to a Hunger Free Poughkeepsie community food assessment, 2010-12.

Memberships in Professional Associations

American Sociological Association

Other Professional Activities

Editorial Board Membership

City & Community

Editorial board member: 2009-present.

Book review editor, 2005-09.

Award committees

Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award Selection Committee

American Sociological Association, 2020-23.

Robert E. Park Award for Best Book (chair)

Community & Urban Sociology Section of American Sociological Association, 2017.

Jane Addams Award for Best Article (chair)

Community & Urban Sociology Section of American Sociological Association, 2015.

Advisory committees

National Endowment for the Humanities

NEH Awards for Faculty panelist, 2020.

Regional Plan Association/Benjamin Center, SUNY New Paltz

“The Value of Preserving Land in the Mid-Hudson Valley Region”: Project advisory committee, 2016-2017.

Manuscript and Proposal Reviews

Continuum	<i>American Sociological Review</i>
NYU Press	<i>Celebrity Studies</i>
Oxford University Press	<i>City & Community</i>
Palgrave	<i>Environment</i>
Polity	<i>European Planning Studies</i>
Princeton University Press	<i>Food & Foodways</i>
Routledge	<i>Journal of Popular Music Studies</i>
Sage	<i>Local Environment</i>
SUNY Press	<i>Qualitative Sociology</i>
Temple University Press	<i>Social Problems</i>
University of California Press	<i>Sociological Perspectives</i>
University of Minnesota Press	<i>Sociological Spectrum</i>
Wayne State University Press	<i>Theory, Culture & Society</i>
	<i>Urban Affairs Review</i>
	National Science Foundation

Courses taught

Sociology

Urban Sociology
The New Economy
Quality of Life
Food Insecurity Research (non-classroom intensive)
Community Development
Corporate Power
Power and Global Capital (freshman writing seminar)
Introductory Sociology
Research Methods
Senior Thesis Seminar

Urban Studies

Urban Theory
Cities After Society
Musical Urbanism
Introduction to Urban Studies

Environmental Studies

Field Experiences in the Hudson Valley: Sustaining Local Agriculture
Field Experiences in the Hudson Valley: The Amenity Economy

Exploring Transfer

Poverty and Development in the Global Context

College Service

Faculty Committees

Committee on Academic Technologies, 2009-11, 2012-13.

Faculty Policy and Conference Committee, 2005-06.

Priorities and Planning Committee, 2005-06.

Committee on Housing, 2003-04.

Committee on Committees, 2002-03.

Steering Committees

Urban Studies, 1999-present.

Environmental Studies, 2000-05.

Science and Technology Studies, 2000-03.

Additional College Service

Served as college-appointed “equity advisor” representative on three tenure-track job searches in other departments beside my own, 2017-20.

Member of search committee for Director of Community-Engaged Learning, 2016-17.

Member of steering committee for the Environmental Cooperative at the Vassar Barns, 2015-present.

Member of search committee for Chief Information Officer, 2013.

Primary investigator, member of steering committee for Vassar College Mellon Time Study (grant obtained from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation by Vassar College Dean of Faculty’s Office), 2004-08.

Member of search committee for Director of Institutional Research, 2007.

Faculty co-chair of Research Subcommittee to College Store Advisory Committee, 2001-02.

Member of steering committee for Poughkeepsie Institute, 1999-2001.