

**SHARON CORNELISSEN, Ph.D.**

[sharon\\_cornelissen@harvard.edu](mailto:sharon_cornelissen@harvard.edu) | [www.sharoncornelissen.com](http://www.sharoncornelissen.com)

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

---

2019-2022      **Postdoctoral Fellow**, Joint Center for Housing Studies,  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA

**EDUCATION**

---

2019      **PhD in Sociology**, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ  
Dissertation: The Unequal Neighborhood: Poverty and Privilege in Northwest Detroit  
Committee: Mitchell Duneier (chair), Paul DiMaggio, Douglas Massey, Matthew  
Desmond

2015      **MA in Sociology**, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ

2013      **MA in Sociology**, New School for Social Research, NYC, NY

2011      **BA in Liberal Arts**, University College Utrecht, The Netherlands

**RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS**

---

Urban ethnography, urban and community sociology, race & ethnicity, sociology of culture, sociological theory, social problems, social inequality, housing policy, qualitative methods

**PUBLICATIONS**

---

**Books**

Cornelissen, Sharon. *Cutting the Tall Grass: Hardship and Privilege in the Depopulated City*. Under Contract at The University of Chicago Press, Fieldwork Discovery and Encounters Series

**Peer-reviewed Articles**

Cornelissen, Sharon. 2021. ““Remember, this is Brightmoor:” Historical Violence, Neighborhood Experiences, and the Hysteresis of Street Life.” *Urban Affairs Review*. May 2021.

Cornelissen, Sharon. 2020. “National Politics, Neighborly Politics: Ethno-Nationalism and Racism in Detroit under Trump.” *Sociological Forum* (35)2: 419-442.

Cornelissen, Sharon. 2016. “Turning Distaste into Taste: Context-Specific Habitus and the Practical Congruity of Culture.” *Theory and Society* 46(6): 501-29.

**Work in Progress**

Cornelissen, Sharon and Christine Jang-Trettien. “Housing in the Context of Urban Decline.” Accepted book chapter at *The Sociology of Housing*, The University of Chicago Press. Edited by Brian McCabe and Eva Rosen.

Cornelissen, Sharon. “Brockton: New England’s First Black City.” [First chapter of second book project]

Cornelissen, Sharon and Alexander Hermann. “COVID-19’s Effects on Housing Insecurity: Pre-Pandemic and Pandemic Pathways to Racial Inequalities in Housing.” [Article]

Cornelissen, Sharon and Paul DiMaggio (equal co-authors). “On Cultural Coherence.” [Article]

## **RESEARCH GRANTS**

---

2020 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Research Partnership Grant, “First-Time Homeownership in Fringe Cities: A Case Study of Brockton, MA,” \$31,730

2018 Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy Research Grant and John L. Stanley Award for best project in History and Ethics, \$9,000

2016 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, \$10,740

2015 Princeton University American Studies Summer Grant, \$4,000

## **FELLOWSHIPS**

---

2018-2019 Princeton University Charlotte Elizabeth Procter Honorific Fellowship

2014-2018 Princeton University Yan Huo \*94 Graduate Fellowship

2011-2013 New School for Social Research Vera List Scholarship

2011-2013 The Netherlands Ministry of Education, National Huygens Talent Scholarship

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

---

**Visiting Lecturer**, University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Instructor of record of MA-level Urban Sociology track. Responsibilities included designing the course, choosing materials, leading all seminars and discussions, grading all assignments, and advising students.

- [Race, Racism, and the City](#) (Fall 2020)

**Teaching Assistant**, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ (2013-15)

Responsibilities included leading discussions, grading all assignments, and advising students.

- [Introduction to Sociology](#)
- [Sociology from E-Street: Bruce Springsteen’s America](#)

### **Guest Lectures**

Gentrification in Detroit, [Introduction to Urban Sociology](#), University of Indianapolis (November 2020)

De-Industrialization and Gentrification in Detroit, [Introduction to Urban Sociology](#), Amherst College (April 2020)

Mixed methods and Gentrification Research, [The Gentrification Debates](#), Harvard Graduate School of Design (February 2020)

Gentrification and Housing Dispossession in Detroit, [Global Perspectives on Shelter Insecurity and Displacement](#), Harvard Graduate School for Design (February 2020)

## **SELECTED PRESENTATIONS**

---

“Mourning Urban Decline: Everyday Life after Depopulation in Brightmoor, Detroit,” Eastern Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, February 2020

- “Disposable Houses: An Ethnography of ‘Unreal Estate’ in Detroit,” Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University, Housing Research Seminar Series, October 2019
- “On Cultural Coherence” *with Paul DiMaggio*, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, August 2018
- "National Politics, Neighborly Politics: Trump and Local Racial Projects in Northwest Detroit," Chicago Ethnography Conference, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 2018
- “Shades of Green: Conflicts over Nature in Northwest Detroit,” Eastern Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, February 2018
- "Finding 73,035 Blighted Homes in Detroit: The History of Urban Blight as a Technocratic Category," Sociology Brown Bag Works in Progress Series, New School for Social Research, New York, NY, February 2018
- “Urban Farmers in Northwest Detroit: Seeing the Bucolic in Blight,” American Sociological Association, Montreal, Canada, August 2017
- “Disciplinary Approaches to the Study of Detroit” Panelist, Detroit School Series, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, April 2017

## **PROFESSIONAL & PUBLIC SERVICE**

---

### **Leadership**

- President (elected), Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences Postdoctoral Association, 2020-21
- Co-organizer, Ethnography and Inequality Workshop, Harvard University, 2019-20
- Co-organizer, Green Cities: Inequality, Space, Sustainability Conference, Princeton University, 2018

### **Public Service**

- Organizational Plaintiff, *Morningside v. Sabree*, an ACLU Michigan and NAACP Legal Defense Fund lawsuit against the City of Detroit and Wayne County, 2016-18. [Press release](#).