

SHARON CORNELISSEN, Ph.D.

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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 sociology, race and ethnicity, sociology of culture, social inequality,
housing, sociological theory, qualitative methodology

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*.
Online First 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.” Book chapter for *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.” [Chapter of second book]

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 United States 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. Taught hybrid in-person, online, and asynchronous online.

- [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 of Design (February 2020)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

“Shades of Green: Urban Farmers, Tall Grass, and Bucolic Blight in Detroit,” Transatlantic Rust
Belts Symposium, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany (online), September 2021

“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](#).