

B. Brian Foster, Ph.D.

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Lamar Hall, Office 521

University of Mississippi

University, Mississippi 38677-1848

b.brian.foster@gmail.com | bbrianfoster.com

—EDUCATION—

- Ph.D.** **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**
Sociology, 2017
Dissertation: “I Don’t Like the Blues.”: Stories of Memory, Race, and Regional Futures from the Mississippi Delta
Advisor: Karolyn Tyson
- MA** **University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill**
Sociology, 2013
- BA** **University of Mississippi**
African-American Studies, Cum Laude, 2011

—EMPLOYMENT—

- 2016-** **University of Mississippi**
Assistant Professor of Sociology and Southern Studies
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Center for the Study of Southern Culture

—AREAS OF RESEARCH INTEREST—

Race and Place; Racial Stratification/Inequality; Black Racial Attitudes; Qualitative Methods

—SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS—

Books

Foster, B. Brian. 2020. *I Don’t Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

Foster, B. Brian. 2014. “Everybody Gotta Have a Dream’: Rap-centered Aspirations among Young Black Males Involved in Rap Music Production.” *Issues in Race and Ethnicity: An Interdisciplinary Global Journal* 2(2):25-47.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

Foster, B. Brian. 2018. “Rewriting Wright: A Note on Perspective in Method and Writing.” in *The New Black Sociologists: Historical & Contemporary Perspectives*. New York: Routledge.

—WORKS IN PROGRESS—

In Preparation

Foster, B. Brian. *Casino Town: Race and Makeshift(ing) Economies in the Rural South*.

Foster, B. Brian. “Was there life after the pain?: A meditation on Betty Wright, Southern Soul, and Black Mourning.” In *After Life: Death and Loss in 2020 America*.

Foster, B. Brian. "Come Back to Me: A Post-Soul Note on the Blues Epistemology" To be submitted for consideration in *Journal of Black Studies*.

—PUBLIC WRITING AND CREATIVE WORK—

- 2021 "Drive and Listen." *Esquire*.
- 2021 "We'll be going home." *Mississippi Today*.
- 2020 "We Travel" (Short Film). Southern Foodways Alliance
*Award Winner - Berlin Independent Film Festival
- 2020 "How We Got Here: Four Stories from a Mississippi Family." *Gravy*.
- 2020 "Black Families of Yalobusha County Oral History Project Underway." *North Mississippi Herald*.
- 2019 "Cedric Burnside: As Real as the Mississippi Hills." *Bitter Southerner*.
*Named "Best of 2019" by *Bitter Southerner*
- 2018 "Not Studying the Blues." *Oxford Magazine*.
- 2017 "Confederate monuments are more than reminders of our racist past. They are symbols of our racist present." *Washington Post*.
- 2017 "The Black Women who Demanded the Surrender of the University of Mississippi's State Flag." *CNN*.
- 2017 "This Ain't Just a Blues Place." *CNN*.
- 2017 "But you listen: A Black Woman Artist-Musician Sings of Pentecost (and Hill Country)." *Mississippi Folk Life*.

—GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS—

Awarded

- \$5,000 College of Liberal Arts Junior Faculty Grant for Research and Creative Achievement, University of Mississippi. 2020.
- \$5,000 Summer Course Development Grant, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College, University of Mississippi. 2018.
- \$7,500 College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Grant, University of Mississippi. 2018.
- \$7,500 College of Liberal Arts Summer Research Grant, University of Mississippi. 2017.
- \$18,000 American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship. 2015.
- \$7,850 Off-Campus Dissertation Fellowship, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill Graduate School. 2015.
- \$34,000/yr National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. 2012-15.

\$37,180 NICHD/Carolina Population Center Pre-doctoral Fellowship. 2011.

—HONORS AND AWARDS—

- 2020 “Teacher of the Year.” Mississippi Humanities Council.
- 2020 “Faculty Person of the Year” (for serving as chapter advisor for UM chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.). University of Mississippi Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- 2018 “Faculty Person of the Year” (for serving as chapter advisor for UM chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.). University of Mississippi Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life.
- 2018 Chapter Advisor of the Year. Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc. State of Mississippi.
- 2016 Honorable Mention. Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship.
- 2014 Graduate Student Paper Award. Association of Black Sociologists.
- 2013 Graduate Student Paper Award. Association of Black Sociologists.
- 2012 Honorable Mention. Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship.

—PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & CONFERENCE ACTIVITY (SINCE 2016)—

Papers Presented

- 2019 “That’s for the White Folks: Black Racial Attitudes and Place Unmaking in the Rural South.” Presented at the Centre on Dynamics of Ethnicity Workshop: Investigating Institutional Ethnic Inequalities: an International Perspective. Manchester, England.
- 2018 “That’s for the White Folks: Black Racial Attitudes and Place Unmaking in the Rural South.” Presented at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 “That’s for the White Folks: Black Racial Attitudes and Place Unmaking in the Rural South.” Presented at the 2018 W. E. B. DuBois-Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium on Race. Atlanta, GA.
- 2017 “‘Never been to a blues show’: Black Racial Epistemologies in a Southern Town.” Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Greenville, SC.
- 2016 “‘Never been to a blues show’: Development Debates and Racial Epistemologies in a Rural Southern Town.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Association of Black Sociologists. Memphis, TN.
- 2016 “‘Never been to a blues show’: Racial Projects and Epistemologies in a Rural Southern Town.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Seattle, WA.

- 2016 “Born by the River: Race, Place-Making, and the Post-Blues Mississippi Delta.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Atlanta, GA.
- 2016 “The Impact of Discordant School Attitudes on Long-term Educational Attainment.” Presented at the 2016 Race in Higher Education Conference. Durham, NC.

Panel Participation

- 2021 **Panelist.** “Deep Rivers: The Arts & Music of Racial Reckoning.” Black Communities Conference. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 2018 **Critic.** “*Citizen Outsider: Children of North African Immigrants in France.*” Author-Meets-Critics Session at 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 **Panelist.** “Southern Sociology in the Era of Trump?” Thematic Session at 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 **Panelist.** “Truth and Lies: Race, Media, and Politics.” Panel Discussion at Parren Mitchell Symposium, University of Maryland. College Park, MD.

Discussant/Presider

- 2018 **Presider.** “Race and Place” Session at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, LA.
- 2018 **Discussant.** Chocolate Cities Symposium, Rhodes College and Center for Southern Literary Arts. Memphis, TN.
- 2018 **Discussant.** Scholars Roundtable at the Southern Music Symposium, hosted by the Center for the Study of Southern Culture at the University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2018 **Discussant.** Black Leadership and Academic Conference, Western Kentucky University. Bowling Green, KY.

—CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL TALKS AND WORKSHOPS (SINCE 2016)—

- 2021 “Introductions, Conclusions, and Abstracts” Thesis Workshop. Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. University of Mississippi.
- 2020 “Whose Blues.” Virtual Conversation. Center for the Study of Southern Culture. University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2020 “On This Occasion.” Keynote. Black Student Union Black History Month Gala. University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2019 “Emmett Till: A Discussion on Race, Memory, and Responsibility.” Panel. Emmett Till Legacy Alliance. University, MS.
- 2019 “The Black Fantastic.” Keynote. Black Male Leadership Summit. Delta State University. Cleveland, MS.

- 2019 “Jukebox: The Sound of 300 Voices (and Memories).” Keynote. Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Spring Honors Convocation. University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2018 “Listening and Finding Myself Through the Blues.” TedxUniversity of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2018 “‘Some things never change, and I’m glad about it.’: The Cultural Significance of Black History Month.” Keynote. Center for Inclusion and Cross-Cultural Engagement Black History Month Celebration. Oxford, MS.
- 2017 “We Ain’t the Blues no mo: Black Southern Stories of Memory and Desire.” Brown Bag. University of Mississippi Department of Sociology and Anthropology. University, MS.
- 2017 “Dreamville: Geographies of Desire in Southern Rap.” Special Lecture. Delta Psi Fraternity Special Lecture Series. University, MS.
- 2017 “That’s for the White Folks: Black Racial Attitudes and Place Unmaking in the Rural South.” Brown Bag. University of Mississippi, Center for the Study of Southern Culture. University, MS.
- 2017 “There are no small things.” Keynote. University of Mississippi, Mississippi Outreach to Scholastic Talent (MOST) Conference. University, MS.
- 2017 “When the South STILL Got Something to Say: A Conversation between Kiese Laymon and Regina Bradley About Hip Hop in the South.” Center for the Study of Southern Culture Lecture Series. Oxford, MS.

—PUBLIC/COMMUNITY TALKS (SINCE 2016)—

- 2021 “I Don’t Like the Blues: A Conversation on Race, Place, and Mississippi.” Northeast Mississippi Community College.
- 2021 A Conversation with Dr. William Ferris. Square Books. Oxford, MS.
- 2020 Conversation with Kiese Laymon. Powell Books. Portland, OR.
- 2020 Inaugural Juneteenth Commemoration for the town of Clarksdale, Mississippi. The Echo Project. Clarksdale, MS.
- 2020 “Engaging a Community.” Workshop. Mississippi Teacher Corps. University of Mississippi. University, MS.
- 2019 “Engaging a Community.” Workshop. Freedom Summer Collegiate (Non-Profit Organization). Milsaps College. Jackson, MS.
- 2019 “Stories of Place.” Workshop. Spring Initiative, Inc. (Mississippi Delta Non-Profit Organization). University, MS.

- 2018 “Overcoming Hurdles in the University-Community Relationship: A Discussion.” 50th Anniversary, Poor People’s Campaign Conference. University, MS.
- 2018 “Engaging a Community.” Workshop. Freedom Summer Collegiate (Non-Profit Organization). Milsaps College. Jackson, MS.
- 2018 “Remembering Elwood Higginbottom.” Planning and MC. Lynching Memorialization for Mr. Elwood Higginbottom. Equal Justice Initiative and William Winter Institute. University, MS.
- 2017 “Dr. King’s ‘Quiet’ Legacy of Resistance.” Keynote. Lafayette—Oxford—University Dr. Martin Luther King Day Community Service Awards Keynote. Oxford, MS.

—TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE—

- 2014-15 **Visiting Scholar**, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Mississippi.
- 2014 **Teaching Assistant**, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Science Research, University of Michigan. Mosi Ifatunji.
- 2011-14 **Research Trainee**, Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.
- 2011 **Research Assistant**, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Anthony Perez.

Teaching Interests

Race and Ethnicity; Race, Place, and Space; Ethnographic Methods and Writing; Methods for Studying Neighborhoods; Qualitative Methods; Sociology of Music

Courses Taught

- Sociology** Graph: Ethnographic Methods and Fieldwork (Graduate) • The Race Maps: The Black American Experience • The Inquisitors: Introduction to Sociology
- Southern Studies** Mississippi Jukebox: A Masterclass on Interviewing and Storytelling (Honors) • ‘Sipp: Mississippi Culture and History since 1960 • The Southern Protest Mixtape (Honors) • The Underground: Methods and Writing in Southern Studies (Graduate) • The S.O.U.T.H.x Tour: Music and Southern Society • Traces of History: Oral History of Southern Social Movements

—SERVICE TO DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY, AND DISCIPLINE—

Department and University

- 2020- **Director**, The Mississippi Hill Country Oral History Collective
- 2019- **Member**, Publicity Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

- 2018- **Faculty Sponsor**, Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College Minority Engagement Council, University of Mississippi.
- 2018- **Faculty Sponsor**, Emmett Till Legacy Alliance, University of Mississippi.
- 2018- **Member**, Fraternal Leadership and Learning Advisory Committee, University of Mississippi.
- 2017-18 **Co-Chair**, University of Mississippi Critical Race Studies Group, University of Mississippi.
- 2017- **Advisor**, Eta Beta Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., University of Mississippi.

Discipline

- 2021- **Co-Editor**, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*
- 2021- **Member**, Editorial Board, *Social Currents*
- 2019- **Member**, Publications Committee, Southern Sociological Society
- 2018- **Member**, Editorial Board, *Social Problems*
- 2017-18 **Member**, Nominations Committee, Southern Sociological Society

Reviewing (since 2014)

The High School Journal, Princeton University Press, Rowman and Littlefield, *Social Forces*, *Social Problems*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *Urban Review*

—STUDENT MENTORING—

Individual Graduate Student Work

- 2021- **Committee Chair**, Rhondalyn Peairs. Black Communities of Lafayette County, MS. Master’s Thesis in Southern Studies.
- 2020- **Committee Chair**, Brittany Brown. “The Yalobusha County Oral History Project: A Multimedia Exhibit.” Final Project for Southern Studies Master of Fine Arts, Documentary Expression.
- 2019- **Committee Member**, Keon Burns. Fortner Grocery. Master’s Thesis for Southern Studies.
- 2019-20 **Committee Member**, Tierney Bamrick. “Holding Space: Learning from a Black Art Organization.” Master’s Thesis in Sociology.
- 2019-20 **Committee Member**, Zaire Love. “The Men I know.” Final Project for Southern Studies Master of Fine Arts, Documentary Expression.
- 2019-20 **Committee Member**, Andrea Morales. Final Project for Southern Studies Master of Fine Arts, Documentary Expression.
- 2019-20 **Committee Member**, Kelly Spivey. Master’s Thesis in Southern Studies.

- 2019-20 **Committee Member**, Olivia Terenzio. “Feijoada and Hoppin’ John: Comparing Foodways of the African Diaspora in Brazil and the United States.” Master’s Thesis in Southern Studies.
- 2017-19 **Committee Member**, Denae Bradley. “School and Community Factors that Contribute to Educational Resiliency among African American Students.” Master’s Thesis in Sociology and Anthropology.
- 2017-18 **Committee Member**, Kyle Chandler. An internship with the Center for Inclusion and Cross Cultural Engagement. Master’s Thesis/Internship in Sociology.
- 2017-18 **Committee Member**, Je’Monda Roy. “Birds of a Feather: The Effects of Segregation Preservation in Rural Mississippi Public School Systems.” Master’s Thesis in Southern Studies, University of Mississippi.

Individual Undergraduate Student Work

- 2020-21 **Faculty Mentor** Tyler Roy. “Out of the Cell, Into the Open: The Black Panthers, The Carceral State, and the Surveillance of Blackness, A Case Study.” Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.
- 2020-21 **Faculty Mentor**. Zy’Miria Thompson. “Re-Imagining Pleasure as Self Care: An Examination of Dirty Computer Through the Lens of the Erotic.” Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.
- 2019-20 **Faculty Mentor**. Ke’shunta Drake. “When will they see us?: Black Woman(ism), Me, Myself, and the Life and Times of Assata Shakur.” Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.
- 2019-20 **Committee Member**. Kendall Kern. “Teaching Leaders: A Literature Review of Culturally Responsive Teaching and the Achievement Gap.” Honors Thesis for Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.
- 2019-20 **Faculty Mentor**. Latrice Johnson. “‘My name is Latrice.’: Negotiating Racial Politics and Navigating Discrimination through Black Names and Naming.” Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.
- 2019-20 **Committee Member**. Rachel Winstead. “Basements Below the Sanctuary: A Story of the Church School.” Honors Thesis for Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College. (Award Winner)
- 2018-20 **Committee Member**. Leah Davis. “Making it Make Sense: Black Undergraduate’s Attitudes and Lived Experiences of LGBTQ+ Christian Identity and Inclusivity for the Black Church.” Honors Thesis for Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.
- 2018-19 **Committee Member**. Devna Bose. “Mississippi in Technicolor: Portraits of Strength.” Honors Thesis for Sally McDonnell Barksdale Honors College.

- 2018-19 **Faculty Mentor.** Makayela Bouldes. “The Blacker the Berry: Race, Colorism, and Social Media.” Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.
- 2017-18 **Faculty Mentor.** Deja Boler. “Black Racial Identity and Academic Achievement.” Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

—SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2021 “Can America’s Blackest State Go Blue.” Media Appearance. AJ+.
- 2021 “A Pea for the Past, A Pea for the Future.” Gravy Podcast. Southern Foodways Alliance.
- 2021 [Radio Interview.](#) Let’s Grab Coffee with Dr. SunAh Laybourn.
- 2021 “I Don’t Like the Blues” [Book Profile.](#) New Books Network.
- 2020 [Mississippi Arts Hour Podcast Interview.](#) *Mississippi Public Broadcasting.*
- 2020 “The Big River and the Delta.” *Southern Art/Wider World Series.* Walter Anderson Museum.
- 2020 Andrews, Becca. “The Racism of ‘Ole Miss’ is Hiding in Plain Sight”. *Mother Jones.* July 1.
- 2019 Witz, Billy. “Kneeling During the Anthem at Ole Miss: ‘I needed to Stand Up for My Rights.’” *New York Times.* Feb. 27.
- 2019 Henderson, Sarah. “Brian Foster urges students to ‘think deeply’ about memories at Honors Convocation.” *Daily Mississippian.* Feb. 20.
- 2017 Alsop, Blake. “Southern studies professor asks students to ‘mix’ things up.” *Daily Mississippian.* Feb. 24.

—PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association; Association of Black Sociologists; Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.; Southern Sociological Society; Society for the Study of Social Problems

—REFERENCES

Karolyn Tyson, Ph.D.

Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Associate Chair
 University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
 Department of Sociology
 155 Hamilton Hall, CB #3210
 Chapel Hill, NC 27599
 P. 919.962.5601 | E. kdytson@email.unc.edu

Zandria Robinson, Ph.D.

Associate Professor of African American Studies
 Georgetown University

Department of African American Studies
37th and O Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.
P. 202.687.8015 | E. zr83@georgetown.edu

Kenneth “Andy” Andrews, Ph.D.

Mason Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Department Chair
University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
Department of Sociology
155 Hamilton Hall, CB #3210
Chapel Hill, NC 27599
P. 919.843.5104 | E. ktal@email.unc.edu

Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, Ph.D.

James B. Duke Professor of Sociology
Duke University, Department of Sociology
Box 90088
Durham, NC 27708
P. 919-660-5607 | E. eps@soc.duke.edu

Kiese Laymon

Hubert H. McAlexander Chair of English
University of Mississippi, Department of English
Bondurant Hall, P.O. Box 1848
University, MS 38677
P. 662-915-7439 | E. kiesel195@gmail.com