

ABIGAIL MARIAM

Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology and Social Policy

<https://scholar.harvard.edu/abigailmariam>

Harvard University

abigailmariam@g.harvard.edu

EDUCATION

Expected 2023	Ph.D. in Sociology and Social Policy Harvard Kennedy School/Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University Dissertation: <i>The Worldbuilders: Pedagogy, Practice, and Politics in Black Power-era Independent Schools</i> Committee: Jocelyn Viterna (Chair), Jarvis Givens, Mario Luis Small (Columbia University)
2020	M.A. in Sociology Harvard Kennedy School/Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University Thesis: <i>Caring for the Whole Person: Weekly Meal Programs and their Interorganizational Ties with Homeless Service Providers</i>
2015	B.A. in Government Harvard University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Race and Ethnicity
Social Movements

Education
Social Policy

Qualitative Methods
Archival Methods

Political Sociology
Gender and Sexuality

PUBLICATIONS

- 2022. Mariam, A., Luna, Z., and Pirtle, WL. "Remembering, Learning, and Envisioning as the Work: A conversation with the editors of *Black Feminist Sociology*." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. Vol 8(3). 423-429.
- 2016. "Ethiopian Diaspora Social Media Protest Mobilization: The Case of Ethiopian Migrant Workers in Saudi Arabia." *International Journal of Ethiopian Studies*. Vol X, No. 182 (November).
- 2014. "There Goes the Neighborhood, Thanks to Gentrification." *Harvard Political Review*. August 5.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

- "Discovering Oneself and One's Place in the World: A Theory of Collective Identity Development in Race-Based Social Movements" at *Mobilization: An International Quarterly*. Available upon request.

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Teaching

- Derek C. Bok Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching of Undergraduates (May 2021)
 - One of five graduate student teachers selected from all graduate student teachers across the Faculty of Arts and Sciences for a record of exemplary teaching
 - Nominated by both the Sociology and Social Policy departments
- Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching (Fall 2019, Fall 2020, and Spring 2021 semesters)

Research

- Mellon Mays Graduate Studies Enhancement Grant (August 2019 and November 2020)
- Malcolm Hewitt Wiener PhD Scholar in Poverty and Justice Fellowship (May 2019)
- Student Research Support Program Grant, Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University (April 2019)
- Graduate Student Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University (March 2019)

Scholarship

- Distinction in Qualifying Examinations in Harvard Sociology Department, Race and Ethnicity Exam (August 2017)

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TEACHING

- 2020-2021 **Undergraduate Sociology Senior Thesis Advisor**
- 2021 **Teaching Fellow**, “Student Leadership and Service in Higher Education” online due to COVID-19 Note: this course was supported by the Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship, which provides support for classes that incorporate experiential learning
- 2020 **Head Teaching Fellow**, “Conflict, Justice, and Healing” online due to COVID-19 Note: this course was supported by the Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship
Teaching Fellow, “Sex, Gender, and Sexuality”
- 2020 **Founder**, the Community Classroom
Instructor, “Radical Roots: A Beginner’s Entry into Black Radicalism of the United States in the 20th Century” six-week online course due to COVID-19. Syllabus available upon request.
- 2019 **Teaching Fellow**, “Conflict, Justice, and Healing” Note: this course was supported by the Mindich Program in Engaged Scholarship
- 2018-2020 **Academic Advisor** for Undergraduate Students
- 2018-2021 **Sociology Advisor** for Undergraduate Students

PANELS AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Black Power, Black Schools, Black Freedom: Pedagogy as an Adaptable Tool for Resistance in Black Power-Era Independent Schools.” Paper presentation at the Social Science Historical Association Conference in Chicago, IL. November 2022.
- “Education By Us, For Us: A Historical Analysis of Centering Racial Identity in Black Student Learning” Paper presentation in the Ethnicity, Migration and Rights Dissertation Working Group at Harvard University. November 2022.
- “Discovering Oneself and One’s Place in the World: A Theory of Collective Identity Development in Race-Based Social Movements” presentation in the Contemporary Study of Race and Ethnicity Workshop at Harvard University. September 30, 2022.
- “Gendered Racial Schemas and Immigrant Ethno-Racial Identity Choice” Comparative Research Workshop at Yale University, April 12, 2022
 - Served as Discussant with presenter Anjanette Chan Tack

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Blueprint to Thrive

Artist and Workshop Facilitator

- Designed and facilitated an interactive, creative virtual workshop called “Words Create Worlds: Storytelling as a tool for Healing” open to Black, Latino, Asian, and Native American/Indigenous participants, LGBTQ+ and disabled participants, and survivors of sexual assault.

Harvard University

Resident Tutor

Virtual

March 2022-June 2022

Cambridge, MA

August 2018-July 2020

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- Provided academic advising and personal support for Harvard undergraduate students residing in the undergraduate dorm known as Pforzheimer House.
- Served as a specialty advisor for public service careers and diversity, equity, and inclusion, and coordinated events to engage students in these areas.

Black Women Organized for Political Action (BWOPA)

Oakland, CA

Dezie Woods Jones Public Policy Fellow

February 2016-May 2017

- Conducted research, compiled reports, and authored a policy paper assessing the scope of the challenge of homelessness in Alameda County and the state of housing policy, from the federal to the local level.

Alameda County Supervisor Keith Carson's Office, District 5

Oakland, CA

Communications Coordinator and Housing Policy Assistant

October 2015-May 2017

- Developed strategies for District 5 and Alameda County housing policy and designed the first assessment of city and county programs and policies to address homeless encampments in District 5.

I, Too, Am Harvard

Cambridge, MA

Student Leadership Team Member

February-October 2014

- Created and executed an advocacy agenda for meeting the needs of students of color, which included collaborating with student leaders on campus and around the country, presenting proposals for diversity and inclusion programming to university administrator, and liaising with national press outlets.

Boston Refugee Youth Enrichment

Cambridge, MA

Director, BRYE 1-2-1 Mentoring Program

September 2012-May 2013

- Designed programming, coordinated logistics and managed a budget for recently immigrated youth aged 6-12 and their high school and college student mentors.

Senior Counselor

June-August 2012

- Designed and implemented a curriculum focused on English language learning, math enrichment, and civic engagement for recently immigrated youth.
- Organized several non-academic events and served as a community-building liaison for students and their families.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association

- Sociology of Education Section
- Collective Behavior and Social Movements Section
- Racial and Ethnic Minorities Section
- Teaching and Learning Section

Social Science Historical Association

Social Science Research Council (SSRC)-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program

- Graduate Student Fellow

MEDIA

- Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. "Abigail Mariam: 2021 Derek C. Bok Award Citation" July 30, 2021. Available here: <https://gsas.harvard.edu/news/stories/abigail-mariam-2021-derek-c-bok-award-citation>
- Interviewed on KDYA 1190 in Alameda County radio show "Pastors Forum" September 2016
- Interviewed on National Public Radio, "Black Students Gather At Harvard to Watch 'Dear White People'" October 2014. Available here: <https://www.npr.org/2014/10/16/356588437/black-students-gather-at-harvard-to-watch-dear-white-people>

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- Interviewed on National Public Radio, “‘I Too am Harvard’: A Mantra for Recognition Becomes an Anthem” March 2014. Available here: <https://www.npr.org/2014/03/14/290242412/i-too-am-harvard-a-mantra-for-recognition-becomes-an-anthem>

SERVICE

- Member, Harvard Sociology Department Committee for Engaged Sociology. September 2017-December 2019.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Poetry

- (In Press). “Children of Liminality: Black Women Pursuing Freedom at the Margins.” Collection of poems inspired by Saidiya Hartman’s *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*, part of the “Reading Work” collective art project.
- 2018. “grown woman self love” *The Dudley Review*. Volume 24
- 2016. “greatness (a poem)” *Abernathy Magazine*
- Several poems and a short story on my blogsite “mywhisperroars”. Available at <https://mywhisperroars.wordpress.com/>

Op-Eds

- 2016. “Get Involved in Alameda County Budget.” on behalf of Supervisor Keith Carson. *East Bay Times*. July 21.
- 2016. “Building Bonds to Build Homes.” on behalf of Supervisor Keith Carson. *East Bay Express*. January 6.

REFERENCES

- Jocelyn Viterna, Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Harvard University.
 - Email: jviterna@wjh.harvard.edu Phone: 617-495-7569
- Mario Luis Small, Quetelet Professor of Social Science, Department of Sociology, Columbia University.
 - Email: mario.small@columbia.edu Phone: 212-854-9790
- Jarvis Givens, Assistant Professor of Education, Graduate School of Education, Harvard University.
 - Email: Jarvis_givens@gse.harvard.edu Phone: 617-496-4827

SKILLS

- Data Analysis: Nvivo, transcription, archival coding, interview coding
- Languages: Amharic (conversational), Spanish (conversational)