

# Cassi L. Pittman

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2014 - Present      Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology  
Case Western Reserve University
- 2012- 2014          Social and Behavioral Sciences Diversity Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology  
The Ohio State University

## EDUCATION

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- MA & PhD (2012)    **Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA  
Sociology and Social Policy  
*Race, Class, and Social Context: How Race Structures the Consumption Preferences and Practices of Middle and Working-Class African Americans*  
William Julius Wilson (Chair), Michèle Lamont, Orlando Patterson and Juliet Schor
- BA (2005)            **University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA  
Sociology and Urban Studies, *magna cum laude*  
*Honors Thesis*: "Segregating Today? The Disjuncture Between the Racial Residential Reality in Post-Apartheid South Africa and the Ideology of Non-Racialism" (supervised by Prof. Tukufu Zuberi)

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

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Race & Ethnic Relations	Stratification & Social Inequality	Neighborhoods & Urban Sociology
Economic Sociology	Sociology of Consumption	Qualitative Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Welburn, Jessica S. and **Cassi L. Pittman**. 2012. "Stop 'Blaming the Man': Perceptions of Inequality and Opportunities for Success in the Obama Era Among Middle-Class African Americans." *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 35 (3): 523-540.
- Pittman, Cassi L.** 2011. "Ethnicity/Race." Encyclopedia of Consumer Culture. Edited by Dale Southerton. Thousand Oaks, California: Sage.
- Pittman, Cassi L.** 2008. "Use of Social Capital in Borrower Decision-Making." Cambridge, MA: Joint Center for Housing Studies, Working Paper. Harvard University.

## UNDER REVIEW AND IN PROGRESS

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*Black Privilege: Black Consumers Managing Race and Racial Stigma*. (Book Manuscript in Progress).

"Shopping While Black: Middle and Working Class Blacks' Cultural Responses to Racial Discrimination in Retail Establishments." (Under Review).

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“The Doctor and the Drug Dealer: How Race and Class-Based Cultural Preferences Influence Middle and Working Class Blacks’ Perceptions of Neighborhood Desirability.” (In Progress).

“Blacks’ Continued Marginality in the Mortgage Market: Examining Black Borrowers Experiences Acquiring Mortgage Financing During the Height of the Subprime Market.” (In Progress).

### **AWARDS, GRANTS, & FELLOWSHIPS**

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The Ohio State University Office of Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Research Grant (Co-PI Rachel Dwyer).	2013
Graduate Society Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University.	2011-2012
Student Travel Grant, European Sociological Association, Consumption Research Network.	2010
Mellon Mays Travel and Research Grant, Social Science Research Council.	2009
Joint Center for Housing Studies and NeighborWorks® America Emerging Leader in Economic and Community Development Fellowship, Harvard University.	2007
Mellon Mays Pre-doctoral Research Grant, Social Science Research Council.	2007

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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“How Cultural Affinities and Racial Identity Inform Blacks’ Racial Residential Preferences,”  
Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 2013, New York, NY.

“Shopping While Black.”  
Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, March 2013, Boston, MA.

“The Doctor and the Drug Dealer: How Race, Class, and Gender Identities Affect How Middle and Working Class African-Americans Experience Their Neighborhoods.”  
Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, February 2012, New York, NY.

“Race, Class, Social Context and Consumption: A Case Study of How Middle Class African Americans Use Goods in the Workplace.”  
Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 2010. Atlanta, GA.

“Theorizing Racial Minorities’ Consumption.”  
Interim Meeting of the European Sociological Association’s Consumption Research Network. August 2010. Tartu, Estonia.

“The Use of Social Capital in Black Borrowers’ Decision Making.”  
Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 2008. San Francisco, CA.  
Annual Meeting of the Association of Black Sociologists. May 2008. New Orleans, LA.  
Policy Briefing hosted by the Joint Center for Housing Studies and Neighborworks America©. August 2007. Washington, DC.

### **INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS**

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“The Doctor and the Drug Dealer: How Cultural Affinities and Racial Identity Inform Blacks’ Racial Residential Preferences.” The Ohio State University, Department of Sociology, Form/Huber Colloquia Series, March 2013.

“Race in the City,” AAAS 2201: Major Readings in African American & African Studies, The Ohio State University, Spring 2013.

“New Technologies in Qualitative Research,” SOC 209: Qualitative Social Analysis, Harvard University, Fall 2012.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA  
*Research Assistant and Interviewer*, Department of Sociology 2008 – 2011  
PI: Professor Michèle Lamont, Project Title: “African-American Responses to Racism and Discrimination.”
- Research Assistant*, Department of African and African American Studies and Social Studies 2008  
PI: Professor Kimberly McClain DaCosta, Project Title: “Black Magic: African American Advertisers and the Production of Social Identity”
- Florida A & M University**, Tallahassee, FL 2003  
*Research Assistant*, School of Architecture  
PI: Professor Laverne Wells-Bowie, Project Title: “Race, Culture, and Architecture in Cuba”
- University of Pennsylvania**, Philadelphia, PA 2002  
*Interviewer*, Department of Sociology  
PI: Professor Frank Furstenberg and the Chapin Hall Center for Children (University of Chicago), Project Title: “The Child Development in the Context of Residential Education Project”

## TEACHING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

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- Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA  
Department of Sociology  
*Head Teaching Fellow*, Fall 2007, Fall 2008  
Caribbean Societies: Socioeconomic Change and Cultural Adaptation,” with Prof. Orlando Patterson  
*Teaching Fellow*, Fall 2008, Spring 2010  
Money, Work, and Social Life with Prof. Filiz Garip  
*Teaching Fellow*, Spring 2007, Spring 2008  
Introduction to Sociology with Prof. Timothy Nelson  
Committee on Degrees in Social Studies  
*Undergraduate Honors Thesis Reviewer*, Spring 2009, Spring 2010
- Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture**, New York Public Library, New York, NY  
*Graduate Fellow* at the Schomburg-Mellon Humanities Summer Institute, Summer 2006

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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- Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology* 2013
- Article Editor, *Sage Open* (a peer-reviewed open access journal, <http://sgo.sagepub.com/>) 2012
- Discussant, The Leadership Alliance National Symposium, “The Future of Research: Developing Leaders in Academia and Beyond,” Greenwich, CT. 2011
- Discussant, Institute for Research on the African Diaspora in the Americas and the Caribbean (IRADAC), The Graduate Center, CUNY and the Schomburg Center for Research on Black Culture Annual Conference. “The State of African American and African Diaspora Studies: Methodology, Pedagogy, and Research.” New York, NY. 2011
- Graduate Student Coordinator, Sociology Colloquium Series, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. 2010
- Graduate Student Coordinator, Race, Identity and Inequality Workshop, Department of Sociology and Harvard Humanities Center, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. 2007-2009
- Steering Committee Member, W.E.B. Du Bois Graduate Student Society, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA. 2007-2010
- Member, University Committee on Pluralism, University of Pennsylvania 2002-2003

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**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Sociological Association (ASA)  
Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)  
Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)

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**REFERENCES**

William Julius Wilson (Dissertation Chair)  
Lewis P. and Linda L. Geysler University Professor  
Harvard University  
John F. Kennedy School of Government  
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Cambridge, MA 02138  
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Michèle Lamont  
Professor of Sociology and African and African  
American Studies, Harvard University  
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Cambridge, MA 02138  
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Rachel Dwyer  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
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