

**Sean J. Drake, Ph.D.**  
**Assistant Professor of Sociology**  
**Senior Research Associate, Center for Policy Research**  
**Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs**  
**Syracuse University**

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## **EDUCATION**

***University of California, Irvine***

Ph.D., Sociology, 2017

Dissertation: “Academic Segregation: The Criminalization of Misfits and the Institutionalization of Ethnic Capital”

Dissertation Committee: Jennifer Lee (chair), David A. Snow, Gilberto Q. Conchas, and Jacob Avery

M.A., Sociology, 2015

***Stanford University***

B.A. (with honors), Psychology, 2007

## **APPOINTMENTS**

***University of Michigan, Ann Arbor***

2022- Faculty Affiliate, Center For Equitable Family & Community Well-Being, School of Social Work

***Syracuse University***

2021- Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs

2021- *Senior Research Associate*, Center for Policy Research, Maxwell School of Citizenship & Public Affairs

***New York University***

2019-2021 Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology and Education  
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

2017-2019

Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow, Sociology of Education  
Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development

### AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION AND RESEARCH

Race and Ethnicity; Schools and Education; Neighborhood Organization and Inequality;  
Refugee Youth; Immigrant Incorporation; Poverty and Homelessness; Ethnographic Methods

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Book

**Drake, Sean J. 2022.** *Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb*. Oakland, CA: University of California Press.

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520381377/academic-apartheid>

\* **Winner, SSSP Educational Problems Division's 2024 Outstanding Book Award**

\* Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*:

<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/full/10.1086/727699>

\* Reviewed in *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/23326492221145194>

\* Reviewed in *Social Forces*:

<https://academic.oup.com/sf/article-abstract/102/1/e2/7030634>

\* Reviewed in *Contemporary Sociology*:

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/00943061231191421j>

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

**Drake, Sean J. 2020.** "The Segregation of 'Failures': Unequal Schools and Disadvantaged Students in an Affluent Neighborhood." *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (JESPAR)* 25 (3): 201-224

<https://doi.org/10.1080/10824669.2019.1687301>

**Drake, Sean J. 2019.** "Academic Segregation and the Institutional Success Frame: Unequal Schooling and Racial Disparity in an Integrated, Affluent Community." In *Asian Migration and Education Cultures in the Anglosphere*, ed. M. Watkins, C. Ho, and R. Butler. New York, NY: Routledge. (This volume was originally published in 2017 as a special issue of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*.)

Lee, Jennifer, **Sean J. Drake**, and Min Zhou. **2019.** "The 'Asian F' and the Racialization of Achievement." In *Education & Society*, ed. T. Domina, B. Gibbs, L. Nunn, and A. Penner. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.

**Drake, Sean J. 2017.** "Academic Segregation and the Institutional Success Frame: Unequal Schooling and Racial Disparity in an Integrated, Affluent Community." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 43 (14): 2423–2439.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2017.1315868>

**Drake, Sean J.,** Gilberto Q. Conchas, and Leticia Oseguera. **2015.** "'I Am Not the Stereotype': How an Academic Club in an Urban School Empowered Black Male

Youth to Succeed.” In *Inequality, Power, and School Success: Case Studies on Racial Disparity and Opportunity in Education*, ed. G. Q. Conchas and M. A. Gottfried. New York, NY: Routledge.

**Drake, Sean J.**, Gilberto Q. Conchas, Briana M. Hinga, and Michael A. Gottfried. **2015**. “Inequality, Power, and School Success.” In *Inequality, Power, and School Success: Case Studies on Racial Disparity and Opportunity in Education*, ed. G. Q. Conchas and M. A. Gottfried. New York, NY: Routledge.

Conchas, Gilberto Q., Alex R. Lin, Leticia Oseguera, and **Sean J. Drake**. **2015**. “Superstar or Scholar? African American Youth’s Perceptions of Opportunity in a Time of Change.” *Urban Education* 50 (6): 660-688.

Alex R. Lin, **Drake, Sean J.**, and Gilberto Q. Conchas. **2015**. “Conceptualizing Disparity and Opportunity in Education as a Racial Project: A Comparative Perspective.” In *Inequality, Power, and School Success: Case Studies on Racial Disparity and Opportunity in Education*, ed. G. Q. Conchas & M. A. Gottfried. New York, NY: Routledge.

#### **Manuscripts Under Review**

**Drake, Sean J.** and Jeffrey Guhin. “The Achievement Narrative and Alienation in School: A Typology of Academic Disconnection.”

\* Revise and resubmit to *Sociology of Education*

Cureton, Ashley E. and **Sean J. Drake**. “I’m Terrified to go to School”: Refugee Youths’ Perceptions of Gun Violence in Schools.”

Cureton, Ashley E., **Sean J. Drake**, Michelle Bellino, Katie Lopez, and Shima Sadaghiyani. “Higher Learning: An Exploration of the Welcome Corps on Campus Program to Support Refugee Youths’ Access to College in the U.S.”

#### **Manuscripts In Progress**

“Onward and Upward: Race and Refugee Youth in a Rust Belt City.”

“Black in White Sororities and Frats: How Students of Color Experience Greek Life Membership at a Predominantly White Institution.”

#### **Policy Briefs**

Conchas, Gilberto Q. and **Sean J. Drake**. **2011**. “From Truancy and Alienation to School Fluency and Graduation: Increasing Student Engagement by Bridging Institutions.” *University of California Center for Latino Policy Research (eScholarship)*.

#### **Book Reviews**

**Drake, Sean J.** **2024**. “The Culture Trap: Ethnic Expectation and Unequal Schooling for Black Youth.” *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* (53) 5: 470-473.

**Drake, Sean J.** **2019**. “Exposing the Rules of Racial Inequality.” *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* (48) 2: 173-174.

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- 1) Working title: “Precarious Hope: Refugee Youth and Cultural Change in a Rust Belt City.” An ethnographic study of Muslim refugee youth in Syracuse, NY, focused on their racial socialization, school experiences, and the role that a neighborhood community center plays in their lives
- 2) An interview-based study focused on college students of color who join historically-White fraternities and sororities on campus
- 3) With colleagues at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, a review piece focused on how campuses across the United States have implemented innovative programs and practices to aid refugees and other vulnerable communities as they access higher education
- 4) With colleagues at the Syracuse University School of Education, a qualitative study of racism in high school sports

## HONORS AND AWARDS

2024	SSSP Educational Problems Division’s 2024 Outstanding Book Award
2024-2025	Syracuse University Appleby-Mosher Fund for Faculty Research (\$2,000)
2023-2025	Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant (\$30,000)
2022-2023	Syracuse University Appleby-Mosher Fund for Faculty Research (\$1,500)
2017-	Diversity Scholar, National Center for Institutional Diversity
2016-2017	Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship (\$25,000)
2016	UC Irvine Sociology Department Summer Research Grant (\$1,400)
2014-2017	Yale University Urban Ethnography Project Junior Fellowship
2015	UC Irvine Sociology Department Summer Research Grant (\$1,400)
2014-2015	UC Irvine Faculty Mentor Program Fellow (\$20,000)
2014	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (honorable mention)
2014	UC Irvine School of Social Sciences Associate Dean’s Fellowship (\$5,000)
2014	UC Irvine Sociology Department Summer Research Grant (\$1,400)
2014	UC Irvine Mentor Excellence Program Certificate of Completion
2013	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (honorable mention)
2003-2007	Stanford University Dean’s List (multiple academic quarters)

## PRESENTATIONS

2024	“How Local and Regional Development Patterns in Affect Neighborhood and School Inequality.” Presented at the Smart Growth in CNY Conference, Syracuse, NY
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- 2024 “Precarious Hope: Refugee Youth and Cultural Change in a Rust Belt City.” Presented at the Northside Symposium, Assumption Catholic Church, Syracuse, NY
- 2024 “Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb.” Author Meets Critics session at the Association for Humanist Sociology 2024 Annual Meeting, Rochester, NY
- 2024 “Precarious Hope: Refugee Youth and Cultural Change in a Rust Belt City.” Presented at the Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Capstone Conference, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2024 “Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb.” Book talk at the Syracuse University Maxwell School Black History Month Event, Syracuse, NY
- 2023 “Precarious Hope: Race and Refugee Youth in a Rust Belt City.” Presented at the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- 2023 “What’s at Stake for Colleges and Students in the Wake of the Supreme Court’s Affirmative Action Decision.” Presented at the Center for Policy Research in the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse NY
- 2023 “Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb.” Book talk at The University of Michigan School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI
- 2023 “Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb.” Book talk at the New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, NM
- 2022 “Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb.” Book talk at the Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) Upstate Seminar, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
- 2022 “Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb.” Book talk at the Workshop in Urban Ethnography, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- 2022 “Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb.” Book talk at the Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA) Downstate Seminar, New York, NY
- 2022 “The Northside: Race and Refugee Youth in an American City” Presented at the All-In: Co-Creating Knowledge for Social Justice Conference, UC Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz, CA

- 2022 “Academic Apartheid: Race and the Criminalization of Failure in an American Suburb.” Book talk at the Center for Research on Educational Opportunity (CREO), University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN
- 2021 “Empty Achievement: How Achievement Ideology Alienates Successful Students.” Presented at the Syracuse University Sociology Department Ethnography Workshop, Syracuse, NY
- 2021 “Empty Achievement: How Achievement Ideology Alienates Successful Students.” Presented at the Syracuse Maxwell Center for Policy Research Education and Social Policy Working Group, Syracuse, NY
- 2021 “Academic Apartheid: Race, School Culture, and the Symbolic Criminalization of Failure.” Presented at the Le Moyne College Department of Anthropology, Criminology, and Sociology Social Seminary Series, Syracuse, NY
- 2021 “Academic Apartheid: Race, School Culture, and the Symbolic Criminalization of Failure.” Presented at the University of California, Berkeley Sociology Department Colloquium Series, Berkeley, CA
- 2020 “Understanding Student Homelessness in New York City.” Presented at the 2020 Beyond Housing Conference: A National Conversation on Child Homelessness and Poverty, New York, NY
- 2019 “School Desegregation and Resegregation in an Increasingly Diverse America.” Presented at the NYU Steinhardt Online EdD in Leadership and Innovation Residency Program, New York, NY
- 2018 “The Criminalization of ‘Failures.’” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA
- 2018 “Segregation without Borders: Race, Achievement, and the Criminalization of ‘Failures’ in an Integrated Neighborhood.” Presented at the Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development ASH Department Colloquium Series, New York University, New York, NY
- 2018 “Segregation without Borders: Race, Achievement, and the Criminalization of ‘Failures’ in an Integrated Neighborhood.” Presented at the Sociology Department Ethnography Workshop, New York University, New York, NY
- 2017 “Academic Segregation and the Criminalization of Misfits.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, Cincinnati, OH
- 2016 “Academic Segregation and the Institutional Success Frame: Unequal Schools and Racial Disparity in an Integrated, Affluent Community.” Presented at the 2016 Conference of Ford Fellows hosted by the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, DC

- 2016 “Mentoring Diverse Students: Lessons from the DECADE PLUS Program”  
Presented at the 2016 Fall Training Retreat for the UC Irvine School of Social Sciences First Generation – First Quarter Challenge Program, UC Irvine
- 2016 “Academic Apartheid: School Segregation and Racial Disparity in an Integrated, Affluent Community.” Presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA
- 2015 “Mentoring Across Differences: Awareness, Belief, and Communication”  
Presented during the 2015 Mentoring Excellence Program, UC Irvine, Irvine, CA
- 2015 “Academic Apartheid: Racializing Achievement and Criminalizing Failure in a Context of New Diversity.” Presented at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL
- 2015 “I Just Want to Change My Stereotype So Bad”: How an Academic Club in an Urban School Empowered Black Male Youth to Succeed.” Presented at the Critical Questions in Education Conference hosted by the Academy for Educational Studies, San Diego, CA
- 2014 “The Model Majority: How Achievement and Ethnoracial Diversity in High Schools Destabilize the Racial Order.” Presented at the Yale University Urban Ethnography Project Conference and Retreat, New Haven, CT

### PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2025–  
2023–2024 Editorial Board, *Sociology of Education*  
2023–2024 Chair, Syracuse University Scholars Selection Committee  
2023–2024 Syracuse University Chancellor’s “Syracuse Statement on Academic Freedom and Free Expression” Working Group  
2023–2024 Nominating Committee, ASA Section on Sociology of Education  
2023–2024 Faculty Advisor, Syracuse University Black Graduate Student Association  
2023– Syracuse University Project Advance (SUPA)  
2023–2026 Advisory Board Member on Addressing the Racial Wealth Gap in the United States, Lender Center for Social Justice, Syracuse University  
2022–2023 Syracuse University Scholars Selection Committee  
2022–2023 Executive Committee, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University  
2022–2023 Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology, Syracuse University  
2019–2020 Panelist and Mentor for NYU Steinhardt’s Faculty First Look Program  
2014–2017 UC Irvine Advisory Council on Diversity  
2014–2017 UC Irvine Social Sciences Dean’s Fellowship Advisory Committee  
2015–2016 Lead Mentor, UC Irvine Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience: Partnering in Leadership for Undergraduate Students (DECADE PLUS) Program  
2014–2015 Mentor, UC Irvine Diverse Educational Community and Doctoral Experience: Partnering in Leadership for Undergraduate Students (DECADE PLUS) Program

## COURSES TAUGHT

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity; Sociology of Education; Ethnographic Methods; Qualitative Methods in Sociology; Organizational Change; Introduction to Qualitative Methods; Education as a Social Institution; Research Approaches and Techniques in Education; Social Inequality and Education

## MEDIA APPEARANCES

- 2022 *Academic Apartheid* featured in New York Times op-ed on racial bias in education (November 1, 2022):  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/01/opinion/affirmative-action-asian-american-bias.html>
- 2022 Discussed *Academic Apartheid* on the FreshEd Podcast:  
<https://player.fm/series/freshed/freshed-284-academic-apartheid-sean-j-drake>
- 2022 Discussed *Academic Apartheid* on the New Books Network Podcast:  
<https://newbooksnetwork.com/academic-apartheid>
- 2022 Discussed *Academic Apartheid* on the BhD Podcast:  
<https://soundcloud.com/user-365850231/episode-205-academic-apartheid-w-dr-sean-drake>

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Sociological Association
- Eastern Sociological Society
- Society for the Study of Social Problems

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Volunteer tutor at the North Side Learning Center, Syracuse, NY
- Co-Director of Youth Speaking Circle Club, North Side Learning Center, Syracuse, NY
- Board Member, A Tiny Home For Good, Syracuse, NY