B. Brian Foster, Ph.D.

Department of Sociology and Anthropology
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—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, Place, and Space; Racial Stratification; Black Racial Attitudes; Culture; Qualitative Methods; Neighborhood Effects

—SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

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." *The New Black Sociologists: Historical & Contemporary Perspectives*. New York: *Routledge*.

—WORKS IN PROGRESS

In Press

Foster, B. Brian. 2020. *I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life.* In Press with University of North Carolina Press. (Release Date: December 14, 2020)

In Preparation

Foster, B. Brian. *Casino Town.* To be submitted for consideration to University of Chicago Press.

Foster, B. Brian. *Hills*: The Life of R. L. Burnside. To be submitted for consideration to University of North Carolina Press.

Foster, B. Brian. *Siggers*: The Life and Afterlives of an American High School. To be submitted for consideration to Oxford University Press.

Foster, B. Brian. "'I see it as a heart issue: religious frames in black (southern) racial epistemologies." To be submitted for consideration in *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity.*

Foster, B. Brian. "I'm Brickyard: Participatory Mapping and Ethnographic Methods" To be submitted for consideration in *Qualitative Methods*.

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

2020 "How we imagine ourselves: Living Notes, From Back to Mississippi Futures." *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*.

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

Pending

$697,283 "(Participatory) Mapping the "Village": An Innovative Methodological Approach for Studying Neighborhood Effects in Rural Residential Contexts." National Science Foundation, Early Career Development Program (CAREER). Role: Sole/Principal Investigator

$311,025 "Creating Opportunities for Equitable Parks and Green Spaces in a COVID-19 Context." Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Equitable Parks and Green Spaces in Small and Mid-Size Cities Planning Grant Program. PI: Anne Cafer (University of Mississippi). Role: Co-Principal Investigator.

Awarded

$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	"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————————-

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

2018 **Participant**. "Overcoming Hurdles in the University-Community Relationship: A Discussion." 50th Anniversary, Poor People's Campaign Conference. University, MS.

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 **Participant**. "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———————

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 SERVICE———————————————————————

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 "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 Comparative Perspectives on the Mississippi Delta and Appalachia • 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

—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

2020- **Co-Editor,** *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*
2019- **Member,** Publications Committee, Southern Sociological Society
2018- **Member**, Editorial Board, *Social Problems*
2017-18 **Member**, Nominations Committee, Southern Sociological Society
2015-18 **Board Member**, Spring Initiative (Youth and Family Programs)

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

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.

2019-20 **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 **Faculty Mentor**. Jamireia Hampton. "Cries from Queens: Audience Responses to Stereotypes of African American Women in *Dear White People*." Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

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 its Effect on Academic Achievement." Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program.

SELECTED MEDIA FEATURES

Andrews, B.. 2020. "The Racism of 'Ole Miss' is Hiding in Plain Sight". *Mother Jones*. July 1.

Witz, B. 2019. "Kneeling During the Anthem at Ole Miss: 'I needed to Stand Up for My Rights." *New York Times*. Feb. 27.

Scioneaux, M. 2019. "Brian Foster urges students to 'think deeply' about memories at Honors Convocation." *Daily Mississippian.* Feb. 20.

Alsup, B. 2017. "Southern studies professor asks students to 'mix' things up." *Daily Mississippian.* Feb. 24.

Schnugg, A. 2017. "Remembering both sides of MLK." The Oxford Eagle. Jan. 17.

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
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