**Bio | B. Brian Foster, Ph.D.**

B. Brian Foster is an Assistant Professor of Sociology. He earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the **University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**.

Professor Foster studies Black community life in the post-Soul (i.e., post-1960's) United States, with attention to rural communities in the U.S. South. That has translated to a research agenda centered on neighborhood effects, economic development, racial attitudes and "epistemologies," culture, and placemaking.

In his book, ***I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life***,Professor Foster takes his research agenda to the Mississippi Delta. The book follows Black residents in the town of Clarksdale both as they navigate the on-the-ground impacts of substantial demographic restructuring in the Delta region and as they make sense of the town's attempt to use blues and heritage tourism as a tool to rebuild the town's economic infrastructure. Along the way, Foster theorizes the "backbeat" as an analytic and interpretive tool for theorizing Black counter-subjectivities (e.g., absence, avoidance, dislike, doubt, dread, exhaustion, skepticism).

Professor Foster values collaboration and public sociology. He is the co-editor of ***Sociology of Race and Ethnicity***, one of the premier outlets for sociological scholarship focused on race and ethnicity; and he is working with Guggenheim-award-winning photographer Rich Frishman on ***Ghosts of Segregation***, a book project exploring the vestiges of segregation in the vernacular environment of the U.S. Professor Foster's public writing and award-winning creative work have appeared in local, regional, and national outlets, including **Washington Post, CNN, Veranda, Esquire, Bitter Southerner, Gravy, and Oxford Magazine**.