

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2023-present Postdoctoral Research Associate, The Broad Center at Yale School of Management
Yale University, New Haven, CT

EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA (2023)
Sociology Dissertation: “Mobility Ideologies: Precarity and Meaning-Making in the College-for-All Generation”; Committee: Michael Burawoy (chair), Tolani Britton, Marion Fourcade, and Tianna Paschel

Qualifying fields: Sociological Theory, Economic Sociology, Gender & Emotion

M.A. University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA (2018)
Sociology

B.A. Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA (2005)
International Relations (hon.) *Magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa
French

RESEARCH INTERESTS

inequality, education, race and ethnicity, culture, social psychology, emotion, economic sociology, debt

PUBLICATIONS

Payne, Sarah. 2023. “Equalization or Reproduction? ‘Some College’ and the Social Function of Higher Education.” *Sociology of Education* 96(2):104-128. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380407221134809>.

- Honorable Mention, Robert D. Mare Graduate Student Paper Award, Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section, American Sociological Association (2023)

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Payne, Sarah. “Mobility Ideologies: College Outcomes, Meaning, and Social Motility among Low-Income Black Youth.” Under review.

Payne, Sarah and coauthors. “Transformations in Socializing Organizations.” (Working title.) Manuscript in preparation.

Payne, Sarah. “The Affect System.” Working paper.

BOOK

American Dreaming: Mobility and Ideology after College (Working title.) Manuscript in preparation.

- Book proposal under review
- Ethnographic and life-story interview-based study follows low-income, first-generation, Black-identifying youth from New Orleans, LA, as they navigate early adulthood after college. Despite similar backgrounds and struggles, “gardener,” “climber,” and “seeker” ideal-types describe differing “mobility ideologies” that shape diverging selfhoods, practices, and mobility trajectories.

OTHER WRITING

Payne, Sarah and Jayanti Owens. 2023. "Auburn Public Schools (B): Racial and Ethnic Disparities in School Discipline." Yale School of Management. Yale Case 23-030.

Payne, Sarah and Jayanti Owens. 2023. "Auburn Public Schools: Racial and Ethnic Disparities in School Discipline." Yale School of Management. Yale Case 23-026.

Payne, Sarah, Elizabeth Ridlington, and Phineas Baxandall. 2010. "Georgia's Transportation Crossroads: Why the Peach State Should Invest in Transit for the 21st Century." Frontier Group and U.S. PIRG Education Fund.

Payne, Sarah and Michael Russo. 2009. "Cutting Red Tape in Health Care: How Streamlining Billing Can Reduce California's Health Care Costs." Frontier Group and CALPIRG Education Fund.

Payne, Sarah, Tony Dutzik, and Emily Figdor. 2009. "The High Cost of Fossil Fuels: Why Americans Can't Afford to Depend on Dirty Energy." Frontier Group and Environment America Research and Policy Center.

Payne, Sarah, Travis Madsen, Sandra Glaze, and Rob Thompson. 2008. "Going Smoke Free: Good for the Public Health and Safe for the Bottom Line." Frontier Group and Georgia PIRG Education Fund.

Payne, Sarah, Tony Dutzik, and Bernadette Del Chiaro. 2008. "On the Rise: Solar Thermal Power and the Fight Against Global Warming." Frontier Group and Environment California Research and Policy Center.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (UNDERGRADUATE)

Instructor of Record, "Feeling Inequity: Emotion, Culture, and Power in Society," Spring 2022. Senior capstone seminar (UC Berkeley). Evaluation: 6.56/7 for overall instructor effectiveness (department mean = 6.07), 78% response rate.

Reader, "Embodying Inequality: Sociology of Stratification and the Body," Fall 2019. Instructor: Lindsay Berkowitz (UC Berkeley). Not evaluated.

Graduate Student Instructor, "Contemporary Social Theory," Spring 2018. Instructor: Michael Burawoy (UC Berkeley). Evaluation: 4.9/5 for overall GSI effectiveness (department GSI mean = 4.6), 88% response rate.

Graduate Student Instructor, "Classical Social Theory," Fall 2017. Instructor: Michael Burawoy (UC Berkeley). Evaluation: 5/5 for overall GSI effectiveness (department GSI mean = 4.4), 90% response rate.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (GRADUATE)

Course preparation and teaching assistance, "Inequality, Systems, and Society," Fall 2023 and Spring 2024. Instructor: Jayanti Owens (Yale University).

Course preparation and teaching assistance, "Understanding and Reducing Bias in Organizations," Spring 2024. Instructor: Jayanti Owens (Yale University).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Associate, P.I. Jayanti Owens (2023-present)

Graduate Student Research Assistant, P.I.s Cristina Mora and Tianna Paschel, *California Colorlines* and associated projects (2019-2020)

Graduate Student Research Associate, P.I. Jerome Karabel, *Outlier Nation: The Roots of American Distinctiveness and How it Shapes Us Today* (2018-2020)

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2022 Fall Fellow, Center for Democracy and Organizing, Institute for Governmental Studies, UC Berkeley
2021 David P. Gardner Fellow, Center for Studies in Higher Education, UC Berkeley
2021 Dissertation Fellowship, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, UC Berkeley
2021 Summer Research Grant, UC Berkeley Dept. of Sociology
2020 Lowenthal Fellowship, UC Berkeley Dept. of Sociology
2019 Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, UC Berkeley Dept. of Sociology
2018 Small Research Grant, UC Berkeley Dept. of Sociology
2016 Graduate Research Fellowship Program, National Science Foundation
2016 Berkeley Social Justice Fellowship, UC Berkeley Dept. of Sociology
2006 Rhodes Scholarship Finalist
2004 Beth K. Smith Public Service Award Grant, Wellesley College
2002 Lumpkin Family Stipend for the Environment , Wellesley College

PRESENTATIONS

“I Was Just in Free-Fall: After-College Experiences Among Black Youth in New Orleans.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. August 2024.

“The Affect System: Feeling Neoliberal Insecurity.” Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics Annual Meeting. June 2024.

“Mobility Ideologies: Precarity and Meaning-Making Among Young New Orleanians.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. March 2024.

“Narrating Mobility and Inequality After College: Precarity and Meaning-Making Following College Access in New Orleans.” Sociology of Education Association Annual Meeting. February 2024.

“Mobility and Ideology.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. August 2023.

“Mobility Ideologies: Precarity, the Hegemony of Self-Blame, and Strategic Action in New Orleans.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. August 2022.

“Some College’ and Financial Hardship: The Mediating Role of Educational Debt.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. March 2022.

“Returns or Reproduction? College Non-Completion and the Social Function of Higher Education.” Sociology of Education Association Annual Meeting. February 2020 (remote).

“Returns or Reproduction? College Non-Completion and the Social Function of Higher Education.” California Sociological Association Annual Meeting. November 2020 (remote).

“Paying to Earn Less? The Financial Consequences of College Non-Completion.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. August 2020 (remote).

“Does It Pay to Try? Analyzing the Financial Consequences of College Dropout.” Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics Annual Meeting. June 2018.

SERVICE

Member, Robert D. Mare Graduate Student Paper Award Selection Committee, Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section, American Sociological Association (2024)

Leadership Team Fellow, Sociology Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity Grant, UC Berkeley Dept. of Sociology (2021-2022)

Member, Anti-Racism Working Group, Sociologists of Color and Allies, UC Berkeley Dept. of Sociology (2020-present)

Graduate Student Representative, Climate Equity and Environmental Justice Senior Faculty Search Hiring Committee, UC Berkeley (2020)

Mentor, Social Science Research Program, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, UC Berkeley (2021-2022)

Mentor, NavCal Fellowship Program, Women of Color Research Group, UC Berkeley (2020)

Mentor, Honors Thesis Mentoring Program, UC Berkeley Dept. of Sociology (2019, 2023)

Co-founder and Board Member, College Beyond, *New Orleans, LA* (March 2015-present)

- Co-founded 501(c)3 organization to help Pell-eligible high school graduates from the greater New Orleans region enroll and persist in college (www.collegebeyond.org); wrote and secured grants for \$250k seed funding
- Current Board Member

SKILLS

Stata; MS Office Suite. French language competency.