

# Nadirah Farah Foley

---

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Washington University in St. Louis** St. Louis, MO  
Assistant Professor, Department of Education August 2023 – present  
Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity (CRE<sup>2</sup>)  
Faculty Affiliate, Interdisciplinary Program in Urban Studies

**New York University** New York, NY  
Postdoctoral Associate, NYU Steinhardt / Metro Center September 2021 – July 2023

**Harvard University** Cambridge, MA  
Visiting Fellow, Faculty of Arts and Sciences AY 2021-2022

## EDUCATION

**Harvard University** Cambridge, MA  
Ph.D., Education (Culture, Institutions, and Society) Graduation: May 2021

**University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education** Philadelphia, PA  
M.S.Ed, Higher Education Graduation: May 2014

**Princeton University** Princeton, NJ  
A.B., Classics Graduation: May 2011

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Peer-Reviewed Articles*

Lewis-McCoy, R. L'Heureux, Natasha Warikoo, Stephen A. Matthews, and **Nadirah Farah Foley**. (2023). "Resisting Amnesia: Renewing and Expanding the Study of Suburban Inequality." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*.

**Foley, Nadirah Farah** and Lewis-McCoy, R. L'Heureux. (2023). "Suburbanization." In *Oxford Bibliographies in African American Studies*. Ed. Gene Jarrett. New York: Oxford University Press.

### *Book Reviews*

Foley, N.F. (2019). When a School Isn't Just a School (Review of *Ghosts in the Schoolyard: Racism and School Closures on Chicago's South Side* by Eve L. Ewing). *Contexts*. 18(2), 54–56.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1536504219854721>

Foley, N. F. (2018). Review of the book *Negotiating Opportunities: How the Middle Class Secures Advantages in School*, by Jessica McCrory Calarco. *Harvard Educational Review*, 88(3), 407-411.

Foley, N. F. (2018). Review of the book *American Hookup: The New Culture of Sex on Campus*, by Lisa Wade. *Harvard Educational Review*, 88(1), 449-553.

Foley, N. F. (2017). Review of the book *Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy*, by Tressie McMillan Cottom. *Harvard Educational Review*, 87(4), 585-588.

# Nadirah Farah Foley

---

## *Selected Popular Press / Public Sociology*

Foley, N.F. (2021, October 25). Why do colleges use legacy admissions? 5 questions answered. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/why-do-colleges-use-legacy-admissions-5-questions-answered-169450>

Foley, N.F. (2020, March 31). Don't Forget About Graduate Students. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. <https://www.chronicle.com/article/dont-forget-about-graduate-students/>

Foley, N.F. (2019, March 22). Move Away from Meritocracy. *Public Books*. <https://www.publicbooks.org/virtual-roundtable-on-fairness-in-college-admissions/#foley>

Warikoo, N. K. and **Foley, N. F.** (2018, July 25). How Elite Schools Stay So White. *The New York Times*. <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/07/24/opinion/affirmative-action-new-york-harvard.html>

Foley, N. F. (2018, Jan. 30). A Radical Plan to Combat Inequality in College Admissions. *Pacific Standard*. <https://psmag.com/education/a-radical-plan-to-combat-inequality-in-college-admissions>

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

*Saying Race, Doing Class: Inequality Talk in a Suburban School* book under advance contract at University of California Press

*"You Can't See Class": Race Consciousness and Class Evasiveness in a Diverse Suburban School*. Sole-authored Manuscript in Progress

*"As Long as They Work": Elite College Students' Understandings of Immigrants' Contributions to the United States*. Sole-authored Manuscript in Progress

## **INVITED TALKS**

"Beyond Poverty: Notes on Socioeconomic Inequality in Suburbia, and What It Means for Schools," Weidenbaum Center Public Policy Forum 2024

"Poverty in the Promised Land," panel at Suburban Schools, Urban Realities: Policy and Possibility at the Urban Fringe, Johns Hopkins University / New York University 2023

"Saying Race, Doing Class: Color Consciousness and Class Evasiveness in an Affluent, Diverse Suburban School," presentation given at University of Pennsylvania Education and Inequality Workshop 2021

"Class, Dismissed: Facing Race and Evading Socioeconomic Inequality in an Affluent, Diverse Suburban School," presentation given at Princeton University's Education Research Section Seminar Series 2022

"Saying Race, Doing Class: Color Consciousness and Class Evasiveness in an Affluent, Diverse Suburban School," presentation given at Harvard Graduate School of Education Doctoral Colloquium 2020

# Nadirah Farah Foley

---

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Continuous Improvement and Laissez-Faire Equity Work” paper accepted for presentation at the American Educational Research Association annual meeting 2024
- “Becoming an Anti-racist School District” paper accepted for presentation at the American Educational Research Association annual meeting 2024
- “Class, Dismissed: Facing Race and Evading Socioeconomic Inequality in an Affluent, Diverse Suburban School,” presentation given at British Sociological Association Early Career Forum on “Racing Class/Classing Race: New Directions in the Sociology of Education” at Brunel University, London 2022
- “This is Not For Me: A Place-Sensitive Exploration of Working-Class Youth’s Belonging in an Affluent Suburb,” paper presented at the Sociology of Education Association conference 2021
- “Broke in the Burbs: Class, Place, and Social Networks for Low-Income Youth in an Affluent Suburb,” paper presented at the Penn Ethnography in Education Research Forum 2020
- “Elite College Students’ Understandings of Immigrants’ Contributions to the United States,” paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting 2020
- “As Long As They Work”: Meritocratic Logics in Elite College Students’ Attitudes toward Immigrants,” paper accepted for presentation at the American Educational Research Association annual meeting 2020
- “Diversity, Meritocracy, and the Necessity of Dismantling Hegemonic Ideologies,” paper presented on an Author Meets Critics panel, Association of Black Sociologists 2019

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Washington University in St. Louis** St. Louis, MO  
*Assistant Professor* Fall 2023 - present
- EDUC 453B: Sociology of Education (Fall 2023, Spring 2024)
  - EDUC 4310: Sociology of Higher Education (Spring 2024)
- New York University** New York, NY  
*Instructor* AY 2021-22, 22-23
- SOED-GE 2163: Sociology of Higher Education (Spring 2022, Spring 2023)
- Harvard University Graduate School of Education** Cambridge, MA  
*Instructor* AY 2018-2019
- EDU T010F: Reconsidering Merit(ocracy) in K-12, Higher Education, and Beyond (Spring 2019)
- Teaching Fellow* Fall 2017 – Spring 2019
- EDU A412: The History of American Higher Education (Fall 2017)
  - EDU S510F: Qualitative Research Methods in Practice (Spring 2018)
  - EDU H610R: Integrating Knowledge into Practice (Spring 2018)
  - EDU T015-A: Equity in Practice: Exploring Race and Identity in Education (Fall 2018)

# Nadirah Farah Foley

---

- EDU A133: Cultural Explanations for Racial and Ethnic Inequality (Fall 2018)
- EDU S521: Qualitative Investigations of Educational Inequalities (Fall 2018)
- EDU 527: Ethnographic Methods (Spring 2019)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

### Departmental Service

Doctoral Studies Committee, WUSTL Department of Education Aug. 2023 - present  
Speakers Committee, WUSTL Department of Education Jan. 2024 - present

### Service to the Field

Editorial Board Member, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* Jan. 2024 - present

## ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Scatterplot

Contributor virtual Oct. 2018 – present

- Write blog posts providing commentary and insights on recent research and public discussions of race, inequality, culture, merit and meritocracy, and education

### Harvard University

Coordinator, *Contemporary Studies of Race and Ethnicity Workshop* Cambridge, MA  
Aug. 2018 – May 2020

### Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Board Member, *Harvard Educational Review* Cambridge, MA  
June 2016 – June 2018  
Content Editor June 2017 – June 2018

## HONORS and AWARDS

Harvard Graduate School of Education Doctoral Research Grant (2019)  
Harvard University Presidential Scholar (2015-2021)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Education Research Association  
American Sociological Association  
Sociology of Education Association  
Association of Black Sociologists  
Society for the Study of Social Problems