

**BRITTANY PEARL BATTLE**  
Department of Sociology  
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**EDUCATION:**

**Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
PhD, May, 2019  
Department of Sociology

**Rutgers University**, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
Master of Arts, January, 2015  
Department of Sociology

**Temple University**, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
Master of Arts, May, 2012  
Department of African American Studies

**University of Delaware**, Newark, Delaware  
Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, August, 2009

**ACADEMIC POSITIONS:**

2019-Present      **Assistant Professor**, Sociology Department  
Wake Forest University

**DISSERTATION:**

“‘They’re Stealing My Opportunity to Be a Father’: The Child Support System and State Intervention in the Family”

This project examines the experiences of parents involved with the child support system. I conducted ethnographic field research in a child support system in Central Virginia including observations of 300 child support hearings and 75+ hours in child support related sites, as well as 50 formal and informal interviews with parents and individuals working in the system child support system officials in Virginia and New Jersey (i.e. judges, mediators, and Division of Child Support Enforcement staff). I also analyzed a diverse collection of cultural artifacts (i.e. federal, state, and municipal statutes; news articles and video clips; and political rhetoric). Using a sociocognitive theoretical framework, I examined the ways that state intervention in the family vis-à-vis involvement with the system impacts the conceptualization of the family and parenthood. My observations and interviews illuminate the ways that stigma and shame are pervasive in social interactions, how parents both resist and reinforce the implications of the system’s bureaucratic apparatus, and the collateral consequences of enforcement practices. Ultimately, I demonstrate that the child support system is a neoliberal construct at the intersection of the welfare and criminal justice systems which reinforces cultural messages about deservingness, morality, responsibility, and the desirability of traditional family structures. Committee: Chair – Eviatar Zerubavel,

Updated July 2019 1

Board of Governors and Distinguished Professor of Sociology; Ethel Brooks, Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies; Lenna Nepomnyaschy, Associate Professor of Social Work and Planning and Public Policy; Outside Reader – Maureen Waller, Associate Professor of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University

### **RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

American social policy, poverty and (un)deservingness, child support policy, parenthood, courts (criminal and family), culture and cognition.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

Battle, Brittany Pearl. 2019. “‘They Look at You Like You’re Nothing’: Stigma and Shame in the Child Support System.” *Symbolic Interaction*. Online First (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/symb.427>).

Battle, Brittany Pearl. 2019. “War Widows and Welfare Queens: The Semiotics of Deservingness in the American Welfare System.” Pp. 583-603 in *The Oxford Handbook of Cognitive Sociology*. Editors Wayne H. Brekhus and Gabe Ignatow.

Battle, Brittany Pearl. 2018. “Deservingness, Deadbeat Dads, and Responsible Fatherhood: Child Support Policy and Rhetorical Conceptualizations of Poverty, Welfare and the Family.” *Symbolic Interaction* 41(4):443-464.

### **WORKS SUBMITTED FOR PUBLICATION AND IN PROGRESS:**

“‘They’re Stealing My Opportunity to Be a Father’: The Child Support System and State Intervention in the Family.” Book Manuscript. In Progress.

“‘Your Most Important Bill is to Your Child’: Conceptualizing Responsibility in the Child Support System.” In Progress.

“‘It’s Not Like I’m a Deadbeat’: Examining the Collateral Consequences of Child Support System Involvement.” In Progress.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:**

June, 2019	Anne Foner Dissertation Award for Outstanding Dissertation, Sociology Department Rutgers University – New Brunswick
2018-2019	Fellow, Ford Foundation Doctoral Fellowship Program
October, 2017	Travel Award, Office of Sponsored Programs, Diversity & Grants Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology
June, 2017	Matilda White Riley Published Article Award, Sociology Department Rutgers University – New Brunswick

2017-2018	Fellow, Minority Fellowship Program, American Sociological Association & Sociologists for Women in Society
2017-2018	Honorable Mention, Ford Doctoral Fellowship Award
2016-2017	Alternate, Minority Fellowship Program, American Sociological Association
2016-2017	Honorable Mention, Ford Doctoral Fellowship Award
January, 2016	Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Professional Development Award
Spring 2016	Diversity Fellowship, Rutgers University – New Brunswick
October, 2015	Travel Award, Rutgers University – New Brunswick
Fall 2016	Sociology Department Special Fellowship, Rutgers University – New Brunswick
November, 2014	Travel Award, Rutgers University – New Brunswick
August, 2013	Travel Award, Rutgers University – New Brunswick
2012-2014	Ralph Johnson Bunche Distinguished Graduate Fellow, Rutgers University 2 year award

**GRANTS:**

April, 2015	Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Sociology Department Small Grant Award \$500
October, 2014	Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Sociology Department Small Grant Award \$500
March, 2013	Rutgers University – New Brunswick, Project Advancing Graduate Education at Rutgers (AGER), National Science Foundation Innovation through Institutional Integration (I-cubed) “Multi-Generational Mentoring (MGM) Program” Co-Principal Investigator with Professor Deborah Carr \$2,500

**INVITED PRESENTATIONS:**

May, 2012	<b>Convocation Address</b> Black American Studies Convocation Ceremony University of Delaware
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**CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS:**

August, 2018	<b>American Sociological Association Annual Meeting</b> “‘They Look at You Like You’re Nothing:’ Shame and Stigma in the Child Support System” Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
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- August, 2017      **American Sociological Association Annual Meeting**  
 “War Widows and Drive-By Widows: The Politics of Boundaries Shaping Deservingness in the U.S. Welfare System”  
 Invited Session: The Cognitive Sociology of Inclusion and Exclusion – Kai Erikson, Wayne Brekhus, Mara Loveman, and **Brittany Battle**  
 Montréal, Québec
- February, 2017      **Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting**  
 “Flooding the Gates: Increasing Minority Representation in Doctoral Programs through Multigenerational Mentoring”  
 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- November, 2016      **American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting**  
 “‘It’s Not Like I’m a Deadbeat’: Examining the Collateral Consequences of Child Support System Involvement”  
 New Orleans, Louisiana
- February, 2015      **Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting**  
 “War Widows and Welfare Queens: The Semiotics of Deservingness in American Poverty”  
 New York, New York
- August, 2014      **American Sociological Association Annual Meeting**  
 “The End to Welfare as We Know It”  
 San Francisco, California
- November, 2013      **American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting**  
 “What Impacts Bail Decisions?: Examining Courtroom Organization and Community Ties in Bail”  
**Brittany Battle** & Brian Chad Starks  
 Atlanta, Georgia
- March, 2012      **National Council for Black Studies Annual Conference**  
 “The Wilmington Street PAR Project: Examining Community Violence through Participatory Action Research”  
 Atlanta, Georgia
- June, 2008      **The Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues National Conference**  
 “Cope, Conform or Resist? How Black College Students Think About Double Consciousness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”  
 Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle**, Mamawa Fofana, Lamar Gibson, Thea Ogunusi & Carl Suddler  
 Roosevelt University
- April, 2008      **Theorizing Blackness National Conference**  
 “Cope, Conform or Resist? How Black College Students Think About Double Consciousness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”  
 Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle**, Mamawa Fofana, Lamar Gibson, Thea Ogunusi & Carl Suddler  
 Graduate Center – City University of New York

## CAMPUS AND DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS:

- March, 2018                    **Graduate Student Open House Research Panel**  
“‘They Look at You Like You’re Nothing’: Shame and Stigma in the Child Support System”  
Sociology Department, Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- May, 2008                    **Academy of Lifelong Learning Spring Lecture Series**  
“Cope, Conform or Resist? How Black College Students Think About Double Consciousness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”  
Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle**, Mamawa Fofana, Lamar Gibson, Thea Ogunusi & Carl Suddler  
Arsht Hall: Wilmington Campus  
University of Delaware
- May, 2007                    **Transformation Grant Presentation for the Dean**  
“BAMS PAR Project: A Preliminary Discussion of The Lived Experiences of Black Faculty and Students at the University of Delaware”  
Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle**, Mamawa Fofana, Lamar Gibson, Thea Ogunusi & Carl Suddler  
Trabant University Center  
University of Delaware

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Summer 2013,  
2014, 2015                    **“Community Bail Project,”** Project Coordinator  
Principal Investigator: Professor Brian Chad Starks  
Project examined pre-trial processes in two large urban U.S. cities. Assisted with the creation of a data set from two sets of extensive courtroom ethnography and documents. Data set consists of over 400 cases with more than 25 legal and extra-legal variables about bail outcomes. Supervised undergraduate research assistants. Assisted in data analysis.
- October, 2009 –  
November, 2010                    **“Safe Communities Employment and Training Project,”** Co-Project Director  
Principal Investigator: Professor Yasser Payne  
Project funded through \$235,000 in grants from the First State Community Action Agency and Delaware United Way and organized 15 individuals from low-income neighborhoods in Wilmington, DE into a Participatory Action Research team to document and study community violence in their neighborhood. Responsible for organizing training materials, instructing team in research methods and the development of a literature review, conducting interviews, assisting in the collection of over 500 surveys, and analyzing data.  
Wilmington Hope Commission, Christina Cultural Arts Center, Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League, University of Delaware, Wilmington University & Delaware State University
- September, 2006 –  
September, 2008                    **Transformation Grant: “The Lived Experiences of Black Faculty and Students at the University of Delaware,”** Research Associate  
Principal Investigators: Professors Yasser Payne & James M. Jones  
Participatory action research project, funded by 2-year \$25,000 university transformational grant, to study the experiences of Black students, staff, and faculty.

Responsible for conducting interviews and focus groups, organizing action events, and analyzing data.

University of Delaware

### **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:**

Fall 2018 - **Academic Support Services for Student Athletes**, Tutor & Learning Specialist  
Spring, 2019 Rutgers University – New Brunswick

January, 2016 - **BCS & Associates Consulting Firm**, Consultant  
May, 2018 Created and coordinated implicit bias and diversity training for K-12 school districts, law enforcement agencies, fire departments, city governments, institutions of higher education, and other agencies.  
Lynchburg, Virginia

Fall 2014 - **Aresty Undergraduate Research Program**, Project Advisor  
Spring 2016 Mentored three undergraduate research assistants.  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Spring 2012 - **Multi-Generational Mentoring (MGM) Program**, Program Founder/Director  
Present Launched and directed program matching undergraduate Sociology students with graduate student mentors to assist in preparing for and applying to graduate programs. Developed Writing Clinic and Graduate Application Boot Camp to provide additional support for students. Program has served over 100 students from Rutgers University and other colleges and universities in the tri-state area.  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

September, 2011 - **Ronald E. McNair Program**, Graduate Assistant  
May, 2012 Worked directly with undergraduate McNair Scholars, offering research and academic counsel, graduate school advisement, and academic and professional conference preparation assistance. Prepared and taught relevant workshops. Developed Temple McNair Scholars research journal. Coordinated cultural events and trips. Assisted in the preparation of the grant application.  
Temple University

### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

July, 2019 - **Liaison to ASA Minority Fellowship Program**  
Present Sociologists for Women in Society

April, 2018 - **Summer Meeting Program Committee**  
August, 2018 Sociologists for Women in Society

October, 2017 - **Steering Committee**  
April, 2018 **“Climbing the Ladder to Success: Promoting Mentoring, Diversity, and Inclusion” Workshop**  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick

Fall 2017 - **Ad Hoc Committee on Mentoring**  
Summer 2018 Crime, Law, and Deviance Section  
American Sociological Association

- Fall 2014                    **Diversity Committee**, Student Representative  
Sociology Department, Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- April, 2014                 **Criminal Justice Organization Career and Networking Workshop**, Panelist  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- February, 2013            **McNair Program Navigating Graduate School Panel**, Panelist  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- March, 2012                **Temple Undergraduate Research Forum & Creative Works Symposium**, Review  
Board Member  
Temple University

**CONFERENCE SESSIONS MODERATED:**

- April, 2012                 **Session 2E: “Of Vision and Visionaries”**  
Temple University Undergraduate Research Forum and Creative Works Symposium  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
- November, 2011            **Session #1-A**  
National McNair Research Conference  
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:**

- October, 2011, 2017      **The Institute On Teaching And Mentoring**  
The Compact for Faculty Diversity  
Atlanta, Georgia
- July, 2013-2017            **Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network**  
Ohio State University & Rutgers University – Newark
- Summer 2012              **GradFund Summer Mentoring Program on Applying for External Funding**  
Rutgers University – New Brunswick
- January, 2012              **Planning For Qualitative Research: Design, Analysis and Software Integration**  
Temple University

**CERTIFICATIONS:**

- August, 2016                Advanced Grant Proposal Writing  
Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg, Virginia
- July, 2016                    Starting a Non-Profit  
Central Virginia Community College, Lynchburg, Virginia

**COMMUNITY SERVICE:**

- January, 2018 -  
March, 2018                **Ocean City Historical Museum**, Ocean City, New Jersey  
Guest Curator  
Developed Black History Month exhibit for museum.

- September, 2017      **“Reimagining the Black Family” Community Event**, New Brunswick, New Jersey  
Panelist
- January, 2017 - Present      **Ocean City Juneteenth Organization**, Ocean City, New Jersey  
Founding Member, Board of Directors  
Organization hosts community events focusing on the history and culture of African Americans.
- June, 2016 - November, 2016      **Progressive Release Program**, Interfaith Outreach, Lynchburg, Virginia  
Volunteered with reentry program providing life skills to incarcerated women in two local jails.
- August, 2011      **Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation**, Somers Point, New Jersey  
Coordinated several fundraisers, including a car wash and bake sale raising over \$1,000, for Alex’s Lemonade Stand Foundation.
- Winter 2011, 2012      **Black History Month Presentation**, Ocean City, New Jersey  
Presented a lesson on Black history from slavery to Jim Crow to three classes of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students at Ocean City Intermediate School.
- April, 2006      **The People’s Hurricane Relief Fund**, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Provided outreach services and completed ethnographic interviews of displaced residents of New Orleans returning to their homes in the Iberville Housing Project after Hurricane Katrina.
- 2005 - 2007      **Boys and Girls Club**, Atlantic City, New Jersey and Wilmington, Delaware  
Assisted students with homework, participated in after-school activities, and coordinated meals for students at the club.

**LECTURES ORGANIZED:**

- February, 2008      David Banner AKA Lavell Krump, Rap Artist  
Pearson Hall Auditorium  
University of Delaware
- October, 2006      Scholars at Risk  
Organized student discussion with at-risk scholar from Rwanda focusing on challenges facing academics in his native country.  
McDowell Hall  
University of Delaware

**PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:**

- 2019 – Present      **Member**, Association of Black Sociologists
- 2017 – Present      **Member**, Sociologists for Women in Society
- 2015 – Present      **Member**, Eastern Sociological Society
- 2013 – Present      **Member**, Racial Democracy, Crime and Justice Network



- 2012 – Present      **Member**, American Society of Criminology  
                                 Division of People of Color and Crime
- 2011 – Present      **Member**, American Sociological Association  
                                 Race, Gender and Class Section; Crime, Law and Deviance Section;  
                                 Culture Section; Family Section
- 2011 – 2012        **Member**, National Council of Black Studies

**MEDIA APPEARANCES:**

- November, 2010      **Local TV – Channel 28. Mind Matters**  
                                 Hosts: Ruth Baker & Jasmine Washington  
                                 Yasser Payne, **Brittany Battle** & Brian Chad Starks  
                                 Comcast Studios, Wilmington, Delaware