

## **MATTHEW DESMOND**

Society of Fellows  
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### **Academic Appointments**

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Assistant Professor of Sociology and Social Studies, Harvard University, 2012 –

Junior Fellow, Society of Fellows, Harvard University, June 2010 –

### **Education**

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Ph.D., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2010

Committee: Mustafa Emirbayer (Chair), Robert Hauser, Ruth López Turley, Felix Elwert,  
Jane Collins, Timothy Smeeding

Dissertation: “Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty”

*Winner of the Lumpkin Dissertation Award, University of Wisconsin- Madison*

M.S., Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2004

B.S., Justice Studies, Arizona State University, 2002

B.S., Communication, Arizona State University, 2002

*Outstanding Graduate of the College of Public Programs  
Summa Cum Laude*

### **Research & Teaching Interests**

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Race & Ethnicity, Urban Sociology, Poverty, Housing, Organizations & Work, Theory,  
Ethnography, Research Methods

## Books

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Emirbayer, Mustafa, and Matthew Desmond, *The Racial Order*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, *forthcoming*.

Desmond, Matthew, and Mustafa Emirbayer, *Racial Domination, Racial Progress: The Sociology of Race in America*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2009.

Desmond, Matthew, *On the Fireline: Living and Dying with Wildland Firefighters*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.

*Winner of the Max Weber Award for Distinguished Scholarship*  
*Winner of the Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award*  
*C. Wright Mills Award Finalist*

Reviewed or profiled in: *Science* · *Choice* · *Library Journal* · *The Chronicle of Higher Education* · *San Francisco Chronicle* · *History Wire* · *Campaign for the American Reader* · *Teaching Sociology* · *Wildlandfire.com* · *Communication Matters* · *The British Journal of Sociology* · *Sociological Forum* · *Work and Occupations* · *Journal of Risk Research* · *Contemporary Sociology* · *Administrative Science Quarterly* · *Rural Sociology* · *Social Forces* · *Canadian Journal of Sociology* · *American Journal of Sociology* · *International Journal of Sociology*

## Articles

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Emirbayer, Mustafa, and Matthew Desmond, "Race and Reflexivity," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *forthcoming* as the lead article in a symposium.

Desmond, Matthew, and Mustafa Emirbayer, "To Imagine and Pursue Racial Justice," *Race, Ethnicity and Education*, *forthcoming*.

Desmond, Matthew, "Making Firefighters Deployable," *Qualitative Sociology*, *forthcoming*.

Turley, Ruth López, and Matthew Desmond, "Contributions to College Costs by Married, Divorced, and Remarried Parents," *Journal of Family Issues*, *forthcoming*.

Turley, Ruth López, Matthew Desmond, and Sarah Bruch, "Unanticipated Educational Consequences of a Positive Child-Parent Relationship," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 72 (2010): 1377-90.

Martin, John Levi, and Matthew Desmond, "Political Position and Social Knowledge," *Sociological Forum* 25 (2010): 1-26. (Lead article)

Desmond, Matthew, and Mustafa Emirbayer, "What is Racial Domination?" *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 6 (2009): 335-55.

Desmond, Matthew, and Ruth López Turley, "The Role of Familism in Explaining the Hispanic-White College Application Gap," *Social Problems* 56 (2009): 311-34.

Desmond, Matthew, "Becoming a Firefighter," *Ethnography* 7 (2006): 387-421. (Lead article)

- ◆ Reprinted in Richard Hobbs (Ed.), *Ethnography in Context* (London: Sage, 2011).

Desmond, Matthew, "Des morts incompetents," *Actes de la recherche en sciences sociales* 165 (2006): 8-27. (Lead article)

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## Essays

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Desmond, Matthew, "Housing Crisis in the Inner City," *Chicago Tribune*, April 18, 2010.

Desmond, Matthew, "Who's Helping the Evicted?" *Everyday Sociology*, June 13, 2009.

Desmond, Matthew, "The Real W-2 Problem is Stagnant Pay," *Wisconsin State Journal*, April 11, 2008.

Desmond, Matthew, "Bottoms Up," *Contexts* 8 (2009): 69-71.

- ◆ Nominated for the Claude S. Fisher Award for Excellence in *Contexts*

Desmond, Matthew, "The Lie of Heroism," *Contexts* 7 (2008): 56-58.

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## Policy Reports

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Desmond, Matthew. 2010. *Evictions in Milwaukee County 2008 – 2009: Estimating the Impact of Aid from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act*. Commissioned by Community Advocates, Milwaukee, WI.

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## Surveys Designed

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Milwaukee Area Renters Study (MARS), 2009-2010. Principal Investigator.

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## Awards

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| 2011 | Lumpkin Dissertation Award, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Madison  |
| 2010 | Nominated for the Claude S. Fisher Award for Excellence in <i>Contexts</i>  |
| 2009 | Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy Research Program Finalist (declined)  |
| 2009 | Max Weber Award for Distinguished Scholarship, ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work Best Book Prize                                    |
| 2009 | Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy, Eli Ginzberg Award, "for a project involving solutions to major health and welfare problems in urban settings" |

- 2009 University of Wisconsin Graduate School, Multicultural Graduate Network, Graduate Student Mentor Award
- 2008-09 University of Wisconsin System Institute on Race and Ethnicity Graduate Scholars Associates
- 2008 C. Wright Mills Award Finalist, Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2008 Genevieve Gorst Herfurth Award for Outstanding Research in Social Studies, University of Wisconsin—Madison
- 2007 James D. Thompson Award, ASA Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work Best Graduate Student Paper, for “Making Workers Deployable”
- 2006 Distinction, Preliminary Examination in Comparative-Historical Sociology
- 2004 University of Wisconsin-Madison Innovation in Teaching Award
- 2004 Excellence in Teaching by a Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology
- 2004-05 Institute for Research on Poverty Graduate Research Fellow

### **Grants & Fellowships**

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- 2010 The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, “The Milwaukee Area Renters Study,” \$300,000
- 2010 The William F. Milton Fund, Harvard University, “Eviction and the Reproduction of Inner-City Poverty,” \$39,965
- 2009 Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy, “Eviction and the Reproduction of Inner-City Poverty,” \$5,000
- 2008 The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, “Eviction and the Reproduction of Inner-City Poverty,” \$152,000
- 2008 Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowship, National Research Council of the National Academies, \$21,000
- 2008 National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant, “Doctoral Dissertation Research: The Dynamics of Eviction in the Inner-City Housing Market,” \$7,500
- 2008 American Philosophical Society Franklin Research Grant, “The Dynamics of Eviction in Inner-City Milwaukee,” \$5,000
- 2007 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant, “The Causes and Consequences of Eviction,” \$25,000

- 2007 Institute for Research on Poverty Dissertation Grant, "The Causes and Consequences of Eviction," \$2,000
- 2006-09 Harvey Fellowship
- 2002-03 Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society Graduate Fellowship

### **Conference Papers**

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- Desmond, Matthew, "Disposable Ties and the Urban Poor," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta: August 13-17, 2010.
- Desmond, Matthew, "Eviction and the Feminization of Urban Poverty," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco: August 8-11, 2009.
- Emirbayer, Mustafa, and Matthew Desmond, "Race and Reflexivity," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco: August 8-11, 2009.
- Desmond, Matthew, "Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty," Urban Ethnography: Its Traditions and Its Future, Yale University, April 24-26, 2008.
- Desmond, Matthew, and Ruth López Turley, "Staying Home for College: An Explanation for the Hispanic-White Education Gap," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York City: August 11-14, 2007.
- Desmond, Matthew, "The Incompetent Dead," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal: August 11-14, 2006.
- Desmond, Matthew, "Becoming a Firefighter," Eighth Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference, Chicago: April 15, 2006.
- López Turley, Ruth, and Matthew Desmond, "Contributions to College Costs by Married and Divorced Parents," Institute for Research on Poverty Seminar, Madison: December 8, 2005.
- López Turley, Ruth, and Matthew Desmond, "Contributions to College Costs by Married and Divorced Parents," American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia: August 13-16, 2005.
- Desmond, Matthew, "The Logic of Risk: Tracing the Firefighting Habitus," Second Annual Putting Bourdieu to Work Conference, Berkeley: May 12-13, 2005.

### **Invited Presentations**

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- "Disposable Ties and the Urban Poor"  
Sociology Colloquium Series, The State University of New York at Buffalo, October 18, 2010  
Sociology Colloquium Series, Brandeis University, November 4, 2010

“Locked Up and Locked Out: Eviction, Race, and Poverty in the Inner City”  
Keynote Speaker, McGee Lecture Series  
*Race and Housing in Milwaukee: A Forum*  
Marquette University, October 11, 2010

“Eviction and the Law”  
Bucknell University, October 1, 2010

“Eviction and the Feminization of Poverty”  
Sociology Colloquium Series, University of Texas—Austin, September 10, 2009.  
University of Michigan, November 2, 2009  
Duke University, November 9, 2009  
Harvard University, November 16, 2009  
Rice University, November 19, 2009

“Are Poor Women Bearing the Brunt of the Eviction Crisis?”  
Institute for Research on Poverty, April 24, 2009.

“Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty”  
Colloquium Series, Purdue University, April 20, 2009.

“Eviction and the Reproduction of Urban Poverty”  
Ethnography Workshop, Northwestern University, March 31, 2009.

“Making Workers Deployable”  
Presented at an invited session of the British Sociological Association Annual Conference,  
Coventry, UK, March 28-30, 2008.

## **Research Experience**

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*Principal Investigator*, Milwaukee Area Renters Study

University of Wisconsin Survey Center, October 2007 – present

*Project Assistant*, Center for Demography and Ecology, University of Wisconsin

Principal Investigator: Ruth López Turley, October 2005 – August 2006

*Project Assistant*, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin

Principal Investigator: Ruth López Turley, June 2004 – September 2005

## **Teaching Experience**

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*Teaching Assistant*, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin

Courses taught, August 2002 – May 2004:

Sociology 131: Criminal Justice in America

Sociology 134: Problems of American Racial and Ethnic Minorities

Sociology 210: Survey of Sociology (writing intensive course)

The Civil Rights Movement (mini-course, traveled through the American South)

## **Service to the Profession**

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Editorial Board, *Sociological Theory*, 2010 -

Max Weber Award Committee, ASA Organizations, Occupations, & Work section, 2010

Thompson Award Committee, ASA Organizations, Occupations, & Work section, 2008

University of Wisconsin Department of Sociology Minority Recruitment & Retention Committee, 2003-2010

Department of Sociology Teaching Evaluation and Awards Committee, 2002-2003

Reviewer for *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Sociology of Education*, *Sociological Theory*, *Ethnography*, *Qualitative Sociology*, *Men & Masculinities*

## **Service to the Community**

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Research Consultant, Community Advocates, Milwaukee WI, 2010 -

Research Consultant, Legal Action of Wisconsin, Inc., Milwaukee, WI, 2009 -

## **Academic Memberships**

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American Sociological Association

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Midwest Sociological Society