

CHRISTOPHER MELE, PHD

Abridged Curriculum Vitae

Department of Sociology
University at Buffalo
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EMPLOYMENT

2017- Professor of Sociology and Adjunct Professor of Geography, University at Buffalo -SUNY
2000-2017 Associate Professor of Sociology, University at Buffalo -SUNY
1996-2000 Assistant Professor of Sociology, University at Buffalo -SUNY

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND HONORS

2022 National Endowment for the Humanities-Mellon Fellowship for Digital Publication
2022 Research Fellow, Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility, Swarthmore College
2022 Research Scholar-in-Residence at the Pennsylvania Humanities Council
2022 Leedom B. Morrison Award, Heritage Commission of Delaware County, PA
2014 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching
2004-2005 Fulbright Lecturing and Research Fellowship, University of Hong Kong
2003-2004 American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship
2001 College of Arts and Sciences Award for Excellence in Teaching in Social and Behavioral Sciences, State University of New York at Buffalo

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Urban and community development; race and ethnicity; digital storytelling; culture of American cities/metropolitan life; gentrification; urban social history; urbanism; Asian cities; urban theory; urban environmental sociology; law and social policy; housing and the built environment

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Academic Books

Christopher Mele. 2017. *Race and the Politics of Deception: The Making of an American City*. New York University Press.

Reviewed in *National Review of Black Politics*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *City & Community*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Contexts*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, *City & Society*, *Antipode: A Radical Journal of Geography*, *Criminal Law and Criminal Justice Books*.

Featured in *New Books Network*, *New York Times*.

Christopher Mele. 2000. *Selling the Lower East Side: Culture, Real Estate, and Resistance in New York City*. University of Minnesota Press.

Robert Adelman and Christopher Mele (editors). 2015. *Race, Space, and Exclusion: Segregation and Beyond in Metropolitan America*. New York: Routledge. Reviewed in: *Choice Reviews Online* (P. J. Venturelli, 2015, 53:1567); *City & Community* (Len Albright, 2015, 14:435-437).

Jan Lin and Christopher Mele (editors). 2012. *The Urban Sociology Reader*, 2nd edition. New York: Routledge (first edition, 2005).

Christopher Mele and Teresa Miller (editors). 2005. *Collateral Penalties, Social Consequences: Civil Punishment in the Wars on Drugs and Terror*. New York: Routledge.

John Eade and Christopher Mele (editors). 2002. *Understanding the City: Contemporary and Future Perspectives*. New York: Blackwell.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Brittany Blizzard and Christopher Mele. 2018. "Changing Representations of Race and Place: A Socio-Historical Meta-Synthesis of Gentrification in Regent Park, Toronto." *SAGE Research Methods Cases*. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526444271>

Christopher Mele. 2018. "The Strategic Uses of Race to Legitimize 'Social Mix' Urban Redevelopment." *Social Identities*, DOI: 10.1080/13504630.2017.1418603

Christopher Mele. 2017. "The Family Unit in the Regulation of Urban Space in Singapore." *Urban Geography* 38(7): 1084-1108.
<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/02723638.2016.1187372>

Fuwei Chen and Christopher Mele. 2017. "Film-Induced Tourism and Contested Heritage Space in Taipei City." *City, Culture and Society* 9: 31-38. DOI: 10.1016/j.ccs.2016.02.001.

Christopher Mele. 2016. "Using' Race in the Politics of Siting Environmentally Hazardous Facilities." *Environmental Sociology* 2(2): 166-179.

Brett Goldstein and Christopher Mele. 2016. "Governance within Public Private Partnerships and the Politics of Urban Development." *Space and Polity* 20(2): 194-211.

Christopher Mele. 2016. "Revisiting the Citadel and the Ghetto: Legibility, Race and Contemporary Urban Development." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 2(3): 354-371. DOI: 10.1177/2332649215608874.

Christopher Mele, Megan Ng and May Bo Chim. 2015. "Urban Markets as a 'Corrective' to Advanced Urbanism: The Social Space of Wet Markets in Contemporary Singapore." *Urban Studies* 52(1): 103-120.

Christopher Mele. 2013. "Neoliberalism, Race, and the Redefining of Urban Redevelopment." *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 37(2): 598-617.

--2018 featured article, Race, Justice, and the City, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. <http://www.ijurr.org/spotlight-on-overview/race-justice-and-the-city/>

Christopher Mele. 2011. "Casinos, Prisons, Incinerators and Other Fragments of Neoliberal Urban Development." *Social Science History* 35(3): 423-452.

Book Chapters

Christopher Mele. 2018. "Urban Uneven Development." *The International Encyclopedia of Geography*, edited by Douglas Richardson, Noel Castree, Mike M. Goodchild, Audrey Kobayashi, Weidong Liu and Richard A. Martson. New York: John Wiley & Sons, Ltd. DOI: 10:1002/9781118786352.wbieg0158

--*Choice's* award for Outstanding Academic Title 2018

Christopher Mele and Matthew McLeskey. 2017. "Pro-Growth Urban Politics and the Inner Workings of Public Private Partnerships." Forthcoming in *Handbook on Spaces of Urban Politics*, edited by Andrew E G Jonas, Byron Miller, Kevin Ward and David Wilson. New York: Routledge.

Christopher Mele. 2015. "Contemporary Urban Development and Compounded Exclusion." Pp. 75-89 in *Race, Space, and Exclusion: Segregation and Beyond in Metropolitan America*, edited by Robert Adelman and Christopher Mele. New York: Routledge.

Christopher Mele and Robert Adelman. 2015. "Racial Exclusion and Spatial Inequality in Metropolitan America." Pp. 1-18 in *Race, Space, and Exclusion: Segregation and Beyond in Metropolitan America*, edited by Robert Adelman and Christopher Mele. New York: Routledge.

Christopher Mele. 2010. "Forging the Link between Culture and Real Estate: Urban Policy and Real Estate Development." Pp. 127-132 in *The Gentrification Debates: A Reader*, edited by Japonica Brown-Saracino. New York: Routledge.

Christopher Mele. 2007. "Gentrification and the Production of Desire." Pp 37-56 in *Resistance: A Radical Political and Social History of the Lower East Side*, edited by Clayton Patterson. New York: Seven Stories Press.

Christopher Mele and Teresa A. Miller. 2005. "Collateral Civil Penalties as Techniques of Social Policy." Pp. 9-26 in *Collateral Penalties, Social Consequences: Civil Punishment in the Wars on Drugs and Terror*, edited by Christopher Mele and Teresa A. Miller. New York: Routledge.

GRANTS

2022 Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy
Conference Grant: *Revisiting CRCQL v. Seif: Community-Based Environmental Movements and Legal Remedies*

2022 National Endowment for the Humanities-Mellon Foundation Fellowship for Digital Publication
Home, Neighborhood and Community in the Context of Urban Decline

- 2018-2020 Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy
Art-based Community Development: Challenges to Urban Policy
- 2018 American Sociological Association Community Action Research Initiative Grant
Community Arts and Urban Development: Opportunities and Challenges in the 21st Century.
Anne Bowler, Co-PI. Not awarded.
- 2016 Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy
The Entrepreneurial Turn in Housing Policy: Effects on the Provision of Affordable Rental Housing.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- “Learning from Title VI.” Looking Back, Moving Forward: Law, Policy and Environmental Justice, April 22, 2022.
- “Race as a Construct in Urban Political Economy.” Department of Political Science, University of Southern Mississippi, February 9, 2022.
- “Resisting Racialization from Outside: The Importance of Community-based Representation.” Swarthmore College, January 31, 2022.
- “Engaged Scholarship through Digital Technologies.” Swarthmore College, January 31, 2022.
- “Art, Appropriation and Neoliberal Development.” Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice. University of Delaware. November 29, 2021.
- “Participatory Digital Archiving and Academic-Community Collaboration.” Digital Scholarship Studio and Network, University at Buffalo, November 10, 2021.
- “Learning from Digital Storytelling.” Lang Center for Civic & Social Responsibility, Swarthmore College. October 25, 2021.
- “Integrating Meaningful Collaboration in Qualitative Research Methodology.” Swarthmore College. September 20, 2021.
- “Digital Storytelling as Community- Created Knowledge.” Keystone Digital Humanities Conference, July 15, 2021.
- “Racial Economy and Decline Redevelopment: Rust Belt Cities.” Co-organizer and Discussant, Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting. April 8, 2021.
- “Using History in Social Science Research” Swarthmore University, February 22, 2021.
- “Immigrant Entrepreneurship, Cultural Diversity and Rustbelt Revitalization: A Critical Analysis.” With Aysegul Balta Ozgen. Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, February 27 – March 1, 2020.

“Digital Storytelling, Voice and Urban Ethnography.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, February 27 – March 1, 2020.

“Sociology as Vocation: The Legacy of Janet Abu-Lughod.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, February 27 – March 1, 2020.

“Prospect and Perils of Digital Storytelling for Vulnerable Communities.” Chicago Colloquium on Digital Humanities and Computer Science, University of Chicago, November 10, 2019.

“Co-Curation of Local Stories in Vulnerable Communities.” Presentation to Pennsylvania Humanities Council Digital Colloquium. October 14, 2019.

“Creative Placemaking: Art and Gentrification in the Age of Neoliberalism.” With Anne Bowler. American Sociological Association, New York, August 10-13, 2019.

“Ownership and Co-Creation of Storytelling Content.” Oral History Training Institute, Center for Oral History, Philadelphia, PA, July 8-12, 2019.

“Race and Creative Placemaking.” Urban Affairs Association, Los Angeles, April 24-27, 2019.

“Imagining the Past and Designing for the Future: The Role of Race and Ethnicity in Placemaking.” Urban Affairs Association, Los Angeles, April 24-27, 2019.

“Sports & Entertainment as Urban Development Strategy.” Conference on Power, Pleasure and Space: Planning 21st Century Cities. Drexel University, Philadelphia, October 22-23, 2018.

“Race & Space in the Philadelphia Region: Lessons in Segregation, Exclusion and Integration.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, August 11-14, 2018.

“ASA Rose Series. *Sites Unseen: Uncovering Hidden Hazards in American Cities* by Scott Frickel and James R. Elliott.” American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, August 11-14, 2018.

“Pragmatic Racialization and Urban Development.” American Association of Geographers, New Orleans, April 10-14, 2018.

“The Politics of Racialized Urban Development.” Urban Affairs Association, Toronto, April 4-7, 2018.

“Theories and Methods in the Intersections of Race and Neoliberal Urban Development.” Sociology Department, Drexel University, Philadelphia, October 23, 2018.

“Racial Narratives of Urban Change: Chester.” Widener University, Chester, PA. November 16, 2017.

“Positionality in Urban Research.” Social Science Research Methods Meeting, Committee on Diversity, Widener University, Chester, PA. November 16, 2017.

“Pragmatic Racialization.” Wright State University, Dayton, OH. October 26, 2017.

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

“Chester Justice Celebration.” MJ Freed Theater, Chester, PA., July 30, 2022.

“Documenting Women’s Social Activism through Digital Storytelling” YES Center, March 23, 2022.

“Beyond Commemoration: Black History as Argument and Action.” Panel on Black History Month, Chester Made & the YES Center, Chester, PA., February 24, 2022.

“Implications of the Vote and Disenfranchisement for Urban Governance.” Fellowship for Urban Suburban Engagement (FUSE). Media, PA. October 11, 2021.

“The Great Migration and the Racial Segregation of Housing and Education” The YES Center, Chester, PA. February 25., 2021

“Civil Rights & School Segregation in Chester, PA 1960's” Delaware County Historical Society, February 23, 2021.

“Linking Housing and School Segregation in Postwar Urban America.” Making A Change Group Live Broadcast, February 11, 2021.

“Challenges to Arts-Based Urban Development in Medium-Sized Cities.” Workshop on Community Development, Artist Avenue Station, Wilmington, DE April 13, 2019.

“Penn Landed Here, and There...” Video presentation, *Chester Made*. Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Chester, PA. January 4, 2019.

“City Visionaries: Lessons from Chester, Chicago and Detroit.” Participant, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, Chester, PA, Friday, March 16 and Saturday, March 17, 2018.

“Race as a Strategy for Urban Redevelopment.” Video interview, *Chester Made*. Pennsylvania Humanities Council. Philadelphia, January 23.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Research Advisor, Pennsylvania Humanities Council, 2018 -
Board Member & Advisor, YES Center, Chester, PA 2021 -

Service to the Discipline

Peer reviewer for *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Forum*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *City & Community*, *Urban Studies*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Urban Geography*, *Geoforum*, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Environmental Sociology*, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* and *Social Science History*.

Book proposal and manuscript reviewer for University of Chicago Press, Temple University Press, Rutgers University Press, Routledge, Polity Press, NYU Press, University of California Press, Oxford University Press, MIT Press and the University of Minnesota Press.

Departmental Service

2019-2022	Grievance Committee, Sociology
2015-2018	Executive Committee, Sociology
2014 (summer)	Director, <i>Global Sociology in NYC</i> program
2014 (spring)	Acting Chair, Sociology
2013 (spring)	Director, <i>UB Semester in London</i> program
2012-2015	Committee on Assessments

University Service

2022	Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy Conference Awards Committee
2018	Panelist, “Mid-Career Workshop/An Open Conversation With Recently Promoted Full Professors Across The University.” Office of Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, April 17.
2015-	Member, Faculty Senate Equity and Diversity Committee
2015-	Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy Grants Awards Committee