

Demetrius Miles Murphy

Boston College • Department of Sociology • Chestnut Hill, MA
demetrius.murphy@bc.edu • [Google Scholar](https://www.google.com/scholar/citations?id=10117723326492241267220) • www.demetriusmurphy.com

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2025 - Assistant Professor of Sociology and African & African Diaspora Studies, Boston College

EDUCATION

- 2025 **Ph.D., Sociology**, University of Southern California (USC), Los Angeles, CA
Dissertation: *Flourishing in Los Angeles: Black Social Infrastructure in an Anti-Black Metropolis*
Committee: Jody Agius Vallejo, Hajar Yazdiha, Manuel Pastor, Robeson Taj Frazier, Mary Pattillo
Areas of Specialization (Qualifying Exams): Race and Ethnicity; Urban Sociology
- 2019 **M.A., Latin American Studies**, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
Thesis: *Doing Business in the Black: Afro-Brazilian Entrepreneurship as Resistance to Anti-Blackness in Brazil*
- 2015 **B.B.A., Management Consulting and Africana Studies**, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Race and Ethnicity; Urban Sociology; Culture; Class and Status; Economic Sociology; Mental Health;
Flourishing; Joy; Pleasure; The Good Life; Utopia; Leisure; Freedom; Social Media; The Americas

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. 2024. "Affirming Blackness in a "Colorblind" Anti-Black Nation: How Brazilians Negotiate Police Killings of Afro-Brazilians." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*. doi: [10.1177/23326492241267220](https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492241267220)
❖ Winner, SSSP Global Division Student Paper Competition Award (2023)
- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. 2023. "Quem pode ser a dona?: Afro-Brazilian Women Entrepreneurs and Gendered Racism." *Gender, Work & Organization* 1-17. <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwao.13090>
❖ Winner, SSSP Kauffman Foundation Best Student Paper Award in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation (2022)
- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. 2022. "Aquilombamento, Entrepreneurial Black Placemaking in An Anti-Black City." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 8(2):235 – 49. doi: [10.1177/23326492221077945](https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492221077945) (Podcast Episode)
❖ Winner, Devon T. Wade Student Paper Award from the Association of Black Sociologists (2022)
❖ Winner, James E. Blackwell Graduate Student Paper Award from ASA Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities (2022)
❖ Honorable Mention, Cristina Maria Riegos Distinguished Student Paper Award from ASA Latina/o Sociology Section (2022)

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Murphy, Demetrius Miles. "Time, Money, and Love Can Revitalize Crenshaw: Urban Health and Reparative Development on a Black Commercial Corridor in Los Angeles." (Revise & Resubmit)

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Books

Murphy, Demetrius Miles. *Affirming Blackness: Brazilian Race-making and Resistance in the Digital Age*.
Murphy, Demetrius Miles. *A Place to Flourish: Black Social Infrastructure, Wellbeing-Making, and Futurity in Los Angeles County*.

Articles

Murphy, Demetrius Miles and Corey J. Miles. "Feeling Pynk: Placemaking and a Queerpolitick in the P-Valley South"
Murphy, Demetrius Miles. "Black Joy Transcends Corporal Limitations: How Black Twitter Creates Collective Effervescence."

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

External

2025	The Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Grant - \$3,000
2025 – 2019	USC Provost's Fellowship Top Off
2024 – 2023	USC Equity Research Institute Community-Engaged Research Fellow - \$5,000
2024 – 2023	ASA Minority Fellowship Program, Cohort 50, - \$20,000
2024 – 2023	Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship - \$26,000
2024 – 2023	Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant - \$10,000
2024 – 2020	USC Boot Camp Fellowship - \$1,000 (2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020)
2023, 2022	USC Graduate School Summer Research and Writing Grant - \$2,000
2023, 2022	USC PhD Academy Scholarship and Research Fund Award - \$500
2023	The Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Grant - \$2,500
2022	National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute - \$2,850
2021	USC Center for the Changing Family - \$3,300
2020	The Summer Institutes in Computational Social Science (SICSS) - \$3,050
2019 – 2018	Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (AY 2019-2018, Summer 2018, AY 2017-2018)

AWARDS & HONORS

External

2025 – 2021	USC W.E.B. Du Bois and Ida B. Wells-Barnett Graduate Student Scholars Award
2023	SSSP Global Division Student Paper Competition Award
2023	Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention
2022	Association of Black Sociologists Devon T. Wade Student Paper Award
2022	ASA Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities James E. Blackwell Graduate Student Paper Award
2022	ASA Latina/o Sociology: Cristina Maria Riegos Distinguished Student Paper Award, Honorable Mention
2022	SSSP Kauffman Foundation Best Student Paper Award in Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation
2022	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention
2019	U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship (Declined) (Summer 2019)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS: BOOK REVIEWS, PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP, AND CREATIVE WRITING

- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. 2024. Sage Sociology Podcast: Sociology of Race and Ethnicity - Affirming Blackness in a "Colorblind" Anti-Black Nation: How Brazilians Negotiate Police Killings of Afro-Brazilians. [Link](#)
- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. Forthcoming. Book Review: B. Brian Foster, *I Don't Like the Blues: Race, Place, and the Backbeat of Black Life*. *Humanity & Society*
- Auldridge-Reveles, Trevor and **Demetrius Miles Murphy**. 2023. "We Need a Sociology of Flourishing." *Contexts*. <https://contexts.org/blog/sociology-of-flourishing/>
- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. 2023. Book Review: Kevin Quashie, *Black Aliveness, Or A Poetics of Being*. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 10(2), 293-294. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492231210923>
- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. 2023. "Dear Black Sociology and Black Studies." *The Griot: The Newsletter for The Association of Black Sociologists*. See [pdf](#)
- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. 2022. "The Making of Modern Brazil Podcast - Episode 1." Behner Stiefel Center for Brazilian Studies San Diego State University. [Link](#)
- Murphy, Demetrius Miles. 2017. "Felizes para sempre," *Furman* 217 n° 4.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 "Flourishing Activities: Black Social Infrastructure, Organizational Practices, and Well-Being," Boston College
- 2024 "Flourishing Activities: Black Placemaking, Organizational Practices, and Well-Being," Johns Hopkins University

- 2024 "Flourishing Activities: How Black Third Places Enhance Well-Being," The Racial Justice Initiative Invited Speaker Series, Pitzer College
- 2024 "A Theory of Racial Flourishing," University of Notre Dame
- 2024 "Black Placemaking in the Anti-Black Metropolis: A Theory of Flourishing Activities," Invited Speaker at the Black Studies Symposium, MiraCosta College
- 2024 "Black Well-Being in the Anti-Black Metropolis: A Theory of Flourishing Activities," New York University
- 2024 Invited panelist to Author-Meets-Curious-Reader for *Vibe: The Sound and Feeling of Black Life in the American South*, Southern Sociological Society
- 2024 Invited Speaker to the *Plenary Panel - Role of Racial Capitalism*, Pacific Sociological Association
- 2024 "From Urban Renewal to Repair: Examining the Promises and Perils of Reparative Development in Black Los Angeles," Invited Speaker to the Racism and Racial Experiences (RARE) workgroup, Rice University
- 2023 "Joy in the Midst of it All: The Sociology of Black Well-Being," Invited Panelist on *Rethinking Race in the 21st Century*, American Sociological Association
- 2020 "#BlackLivesMatter, A Tale of Two Americas: Anti-Blackness in Brazil and the United States," Invited Panelist on *A Comparative and Interdisciplinary Discussion on Race in Brazil*, Vanderbilt University

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 "From Urban Renewal to Urban Repair: Examining Reparative Development and Its Temporality in Black Los Angeles," Panelist on *Theory and The World's Problems: Perspectives on Using Sociology to Create Change*, American Sociological Association
- 2024 "Black Placemaking in the Anti-Black Metropolis: A Theory of Flourishing Activities," Panelist on *Minority Fellowship Program (MFP) Research Session I*, American Sociological Association
- 2023 "Affirming Blackness in a "Colorblind" Anti-Black Nation: How Brazilians Negotiate Police Killings of Afro-Brazilians," Panelist on *Social Justice in the Global South*, The Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2023 "Quem pode ser a dona?: Afro-Brazilian Women Entrepreneurs and Gendered Racism," Panelist on *CRITICAL DIALOGUE: Social Entrepreneurship and Innovation*, The Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 2022 "Flourishing in the Black Metropolis: Toward a Positive Sociology of Race," Panelist on *Study Race*, Association of Black Sociologists; Panelist on *Unlearning Core Concepts in Urban/Community Sociology*, American Sociological Association
- 2021 "A Hashtag of Two Americas: The Significance of #BlackLivesMatter in Brazil," Panelist on *Racial Equity, Repair, and the Global Movement for Black Lives*, American Sociological Association
- 2020 "Aquilombamento, Black Placemaking in an Anti-Black City," Panelist on the *Black Community, Entrepreneurship and Resistance at Work*, American Sociological Association; Panelist on *Radical Homemaking* at Berkeley Black Geographies Symposium: The Black Geographic, University of California, Berkeley
- 2019 "Doing Business in Wakanda: Futuristic Possibilities of Freedom through Black Entrepreneurship," Panelist on *Wakanda University: Academic Discourse on Marvel Studios' Black Panther*, Clark Atlanta University
- 2018 "Doing Business in the Black: Afro-Brazilian Entrepreneurship as Resistance to Anti-Blackness in São Paulo, Brazil," Panelist on *Contemporary Cultures of Black Impossibility*, Princeton University (2018)

RESEARCH/ TRAINING EXPERIENCE

- 2020 Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute in Computational Social Science at Duke University a two-week intensive introduction to computational social science, highlighting the use of digital-age data sources and computational methods to conduct social science research
- 2019 Kauffman Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp- a week-intensive introduction to entrepreneurship research at the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation
- 2018 *Doing Business in the Black: Afro-Brazilian Entrepreneurship as Resistance to Anti-Blackness in São Paulo, Brazil* Conducted ethnographic research and semi-structured interviews in Portuguese
- 2018 *Race, Genetic Ancestry, and Discourses of Belonging in Puerto Rico* (with Dr. Jada Benn Torres and Dr. Gabriel Torres Colón) - Collected DNA samples and conducted semi-structured interviews in Spanish

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

Fall 2025 AADS/SOCY 2600: *Black Placemaking in the United States and Brazil*

Teaching Assistant

Spr 2023 SOCI 313: *Sociological Research Methods* (USC, Karen Sternheimer and Dan Lainer-Vos)

Fall 2022 SOCI 100: *Los Angeles and the American Dream* (USC, Manual Pastor)

Spr 2022 SOCI 210: *Science, Technology, and Social Conflict* (USC, Dan Lainer-Vos)

Spr, Fall 2021 SOCI 155: *Immigrant America* (USC, Jody Agius Vallejo)

Fall 2020 SOCI 169: *Changing Family Forms* (USC, Tim Biblarz)

Fall 2018 AADS 3258: *Black Issues in Education* (Vanderbilt, Gilman W. Whiting)

Spr 2018 AADS 2178: *Global Africa* (Vanderbilt, Tiffany R. Patterson)

Guest Lectures

2024 "In Search of Black Flourishing," *Immigrant America*, USC

2023 "In Search of the Black American Dream," *Immigrant America*, USC

2023 "Can Businesses be Sites of Freedom? The Case of Black Businesses in São Paulo, Brazil," *Chattel Slavery and it's Afterlives in the Americas*, Occidental College

2022 "What is Black Joy?," *Introduction to Black Studies*, Swarthmore College

2022 "What Does Race (And Racism) Have to Do with Genetic Ancestry? Lessons From Latin America," *Science, Technology, and Social Conflict*, USC

2021 "The Black Middle Class Contains Multitudes: A Discussion of Immigrant Integration and Social Legibility," *Immigrant America*, USC

2021 "You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Kills You: Does #BlackLivesMatter Frame Racialized Violence in Brazil?," *Introduction to African American and Diaspora Studies*, Vanderbilt

2020 "Black Affluent Neighborhoods: Race, Income, and Wealth in the United States," *Changing Family Forms*, USC

2020 "#BlackLivesMatter, A Tale of Two Americas: Anti-Blackness in Brazil and the United States," *Introduction to African American and Diaspora Studies*, Vanderbilt

2018 "Black in Latin America: Brazil and Mexico," *Introduction to African American and Diaspora Studies*, Vanderbilt University

2017 "Why We Can't Wait to Travel: The Importance of Black and Brown Boys Seeing the World," *Why We Can't Wait Film Seminar*, Vanderbilt University

SERVICE

2026 – 2025 Co-Organizer, *Black Placemaking as Health-Making: Rethinking Health in Place*, Special Session, 2026 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association (ASA)

2026 – 2025 Co-Organizer, *Black Placemaking and Worldmaking: Space, Power, and Possibility* Mini-Conference, 2026 Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)

2024 – 2022 Association of Black Sociologists Student Representative (2022 – 2024)

Co-creator of the hashtag #BlackInSoc, a Twitter-based movement aiming to connect Black people throughout the discipline and highlight Black scholarship (2022)

2024 – 2021 University of Notre Dame Undergraduate Experience Advisory Council Young Alumni Representatives

2023 – 2020 Member of USC Department of Sociology's colloquium committee

2021 Discussant for *The Relevance of Racial Capitalism to Today's Moment* panel, The Society for the Study of Social Problems (2021)

2021 Presider for *Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity: Advocating for Morality and Prosociality in Unsettled Time* panel, American Sociological Association (2021)

2021 – 2020 Co-creator of The Social Theory Book Club, a special reading group for discussing "theory" texts in sociology and beyond between USC and Northwestern University (2020 – 2021)

Reviewer: *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity; City & Community; Social Problems; Socius*

ASSOCIATIONS

- 2023 - The Urban Affairs Association (UAA)
- 2022 - Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)
- 2020 - The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP)
 - Divisions: Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Global; Poverty, Class, and Inequality
- 2019 - American Sociological Association (ASA)
 - Sections: Racial and Ethnic Minorities; Community and Urban Sociology; Latino/a Sociology; Sociology of Culture; Communication, Information Technologies, and Media Sociology
- 2019 - Association of Black Sociologists (ABS)
 - Student Representative (2022 – 2024)
- 2017 - Brazilian Studies Association