



National Research Center on Poverty and Economic Mobility
Early-Career Mentoring Institute
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Participant Bios

Daniel Auguste is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology at Florida Atlantic University. Daniel earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he also served as an Associate Editor of *Social Forces*. His research interests include inequality, stratification, economic and organizational sociology, and entrepreneurship. More specifically, his research agenda seeks to understand the structural forces determining who gets what, who participates and to what level they participate in the capitalist production process. To this end, his research incorporates stratification theory into the study of entrepreneurship and organizations to bring new insights to questions about sources of inequality in the capitalist production process.

Laura Bellows is an IES Postdoctoral Fellow with the School of Education & Human Development at the University of Virginia. Laura is a social policy scholar who studies the persistence of intergenerational inequality by race, ethnicity, and class. In their current research, Dr. Bellows focuses on describing how U.S. social policies stabilize, or destabilize, children's lives. In recent studies, they examine the impacts of immigration enforcement and income instability on children's test scores and attendance. Currently, they are working with novel data from Louisiana to estimate rates of turnover among early childhood teachers.

Zibei Chen is an Assistant Professor at the University of Southern Mississippi School of Social Work. She is a poverty scholar with a research agenda centered on understanding financial lives and decision making of low-to-moderate income families and developing evidence-based interventions that promote financial capability and economic prosperity. Her current research projects include identifying characteristics of the unbanked and underbanked groups and examining access to basic financial services and products, with a particular focus on the roles of race, gender, income.

Jennifer Daniels is a Ph.D. candidate in the Urban Affairs and Public Policy Program in the Biden School of Public Policy and Administration at the University of Delaware (UD). Her research interests include evaluating institutionalized racism and the actualization of social equity in policy and program design and implementation. Currently, Jennifer is involved with research projects investigating how racial attitudes and the discretionary decision-making of policy actors mediate objective inequality and program access for low-income populations in social welfare programs.

Arianna Gard is an Assistant Professor of Developmental Psychology, Faculty Affiliate in the Program in Neuroscience and Cognitive Neuroscience (NACS), Social Data Science Center, and the Maryland Population Research Center, and Director of the Growth And Resilience across Development (GARD) Lab at the University of Maryland, College Park. Together with her students and collaborators, she studies how environmental adversity and promotive factors shape children's brain and behavioral development – with a particular focus on how features of the neighborhood context and the parent-child relationship guide risk and resilience processes.

Christal Hamilton is a Postdoctoral Research Scientist in the Center on Poverty and Social Policy at the Columbia University School of Social Work. Her research interests include poverty, inequality, social policy, education policy, program evaluation and policy analysis.

Briana S. Last is a doctoral candidate in clinical psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. She employs quantitative and qualitative methods to research the social determinants of mental health disorders and mental health service provision. In addition to her doctoral research, she writes about the history of psychiatry and the political economy of mental health care and social services.

Tenesha Littleton is an assistant professor at the University of Alabama School of Social Work. Littleton previously worked as a Clinical Social Worker for 10 years providing services to children and families within the child welfare, mental health, and educational systems. Her areas of interest and expertise are child and family social policy, social maltreatment, housing, neighborhood effects and poverty and inequality.

Aresha Martinez-Cardoso is an interdisciplinary public health researcher and Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at the University of Chicago. Her research integrates theoretical perspectives from the social sciences with epidemiological methods in public health to examine how social inequality in the US shapes population health, with a particular focus on the health of racial/ethnic groups and immigrants. Martinez-Cardoso's work interrogates how race and social inequities have been deeply embedded into our nation's culture and institutions and traces the biosocial mechanisms by which these inequities get "under the skin" to affect health across the lifecourse.

Tanya Sanabria is an assistant professor of Sociology at California State University-Los Angeles. She studies the long-term impacts of failing courses on student persistence and labor market outcomes through quantitative research methods, focusing on how these impacts might differentially affect historically disadvantaged groups.

Taura Taylor is an assistant professor of Sociology at Morehouse College. She holds a B.B.A. Finance degree from Howard University, and both an M.A. and a Ph.D. degree in Sociology from Georgia State University. Taura's research interests are diverse, including: sociology of education, social determinants of health; social movements; and entrepreneurship; all of which converge into her express interest in intersectionality and micro-level resistance. Her dissertation—*Hair That Moves: Black Solidarity, Cognitive Pluralism and The Natural Hair Movement*—contributes to what we know about everyday social movements. In addition, her study increases sociological knowledge about Black women's perceptions and ideologies about collective consciousness, collective action, health, and social change.

Liwei Zhang is a research assistant professor at the Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis. Her research focuses on understanding how the complex interactions of economic resources, community contexts, and public policies affect parental behaviors and child well-being. Her research goal is to advance effective, culturally competent policy and practices to prevent child maltreatment and support families in need, particularly low-income, racial/ethnic minority, and immigrant families.