

Kiara Wyndham

(they/she)

Department of Sociology
Washington University in St. Louis
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Employment

2022 – Assistant Professor of Sociology, Washington University in St. Louis

Education

2022 PhD, Sociology, New York University

Dissertation: *The Diversity Contract: Constructing Racial Harmony in a Diverse American Suburb*
Committee: Ann J. Morning (chair), Michael Hout, Michael Emerson (UIC),
L'Heureux Lewis-McCoy, Sarah K. Cowan

2013 B.A., Psychology, Rice University

Summa Cum Laude. Minors: Sociology; Poverty, Justice, and Human Capabilities

Research Interests

Race and Racism • Community and Suburban Sociology • Demography • Health

Book

Wyndham, Kiara. 2026. *Diversityland: Hiding Racial Inequality in an American Suburb*. University of California Press.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Wyndham, Kiara and Sarah K. Cowan. 2024. "Estimating the Effect of a Universal Cash Transfer on Birth Outcomes." *American Sociological Review* 89(5):789–819. [\[Link\]](#)

Wyndham, Kiara. 2023. "Suburbs, Inc.: Exploring Municipal Incorporation as a Mechanism of Racial and Economic Exclusion in Suburban Communities." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 9(2): 226-248. [\[Link\]](#)

Cowan, Sarah K. and Kiara Wyndham. 2022. "Examining the Effects of a Universal Cash Transfer on Fertility." *Social Forces* 101(2):1003–1030. [\[Link\]](#)

Wyndham, Kiara, R. L'Heureux Lewis-McCoy, and Kimberley Johnson. 2021. "Visualizing Variation in Majority-Black Suburbs in the United States." *Socius* 7:1-3. [\[Link\]](#)

- Wyndham, Kiara. 2021. "The Diversity Contract: Constructing Racial Harmony in a Diverse American Suburb." *American Journal of Sociology* 126(6): 1347-1388. [\[Link\]](#)
Graduate Student Paper Award, ASA Community and Urban Sociology Section, 2022
Dennis Wrong Graduate Student Paper Award, NYU Sociology, 2021
- Wyndham, Kiara and Ethan J. Raker. 2021. "The Geography of Ethnoracial Low Birth Weight Inequalities in the United States." *SSM – Population Health* 15:100906. [\[Link\]](#)
- Wyndham, Kiara and Michael Hout. 2020. "Microaggressions in the United States." *Sociological Science* 7:528-543. [\[Link\]](#)
- Douds, Kiara, Heather A. O'Connell, and Jenifer L. Bratter. 2019. "The Racial Boundaries of Inequality: How Racial Hierarchies and White Identity Shape Whites' Explanations for Racial Inequality." *The Du Bois Review* 16(1):83-106. [\[Link\]](#)
- Wyndham, Kiara and Jie Wu. 2018. "Trust in the Bayou City: Do Racial Segregation and Discrimination Matter for Generalized Trust?" *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 4(4):567-584. [\[Link\]](#)
- Emerson, Michael O., Elizabeth Korver-Glenn, and Kiara Wyndham. 2015. "Studying Race and Religion: A Critical Assessment." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 1(3):349-359. [\[Link\]](#)

Under Review (+ indicates student coauthor)

- Wyndham, Kiara, Zhongze Wei⁺, and Jordan Duffin Wong⁺. "Built to Last: Zoning and the Production of Racial and Class Segregation." *Indicates equal authorship.

In Preparation (+ indicates student coauthor)

- Wyndham, Kiara and L'Heureux Lewis-McCoy. "Measuring Suburbs."
- Wyndham, Kiara and Armin Sauermann⁺. "The Relationship Between Racial and Economic Diversity in Suburbia."
- Wyndham, Kiara. "The Consequences of Suburbanization."

Grants and Fellowships

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| 2025 | Faculty Fellow, Weidenbaum Center |
| 2024 | Faculty Fellow, Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Equity, Washington University in St. Louis |
| 2023 | Weidenbaum Center Impact and Small Grants ("St. Louis Zoning Atlas"), Washington University in St. Louis – \$77,000 |
| 2022 | Weidenbaum Center Small Grant ("National Survey of Black Suburbanites Pilot"), Washington University in St. Louis – \$17,000 |
| 2020 | Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, NYU – \$29,000 |
| 2020 | Center for Engaged Scholarship Dissertation Fellowship - Finalist |
| 2019 | Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation – \$15,929 |

- 2017 Research Development Grant, Institute for Public Knowledge, NYU – \$2,000
- 2017 Seed Grant, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University – \$500
- 2017 Predoctoral Summer Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, NYU – \$2,000
- 2017 Kinder Scholar, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University
- 2013–15 Post-Baccalaureate Fellow, Kinder Institute for Urban Research, Rice University

Presentations

- Wyndham, Kiara. 2026. “Zoning and the Demography of Suburban Inequality in St. Louis.” Population Association of America 2026 Annual Meeting.
- Wyndham, Kiara and Zhongze Wei. 2026. “Built to Last: Zoning and the Production of Racial and Class Segregation.” Population Association of America 2026 Annual Meeting.
- Wyndham, Kiara and Armin Sauermann. 2024. “The Relationship Between Racial and Economic Diversity in Suburbia.” American Sociological Association 119th Annual Meeting.
- Wyndham, Kiara. 2024. “Introducing the St. Louis Zoning Atlas.”
- Workshop Series, Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, WashU
 - St. Louis DataFest, Transdisciplinary Institute in Applied Data Sciences, WashU
- Wyndham, Kiara and Matthew Wolfe. 2022. “The Risk of Becoming a Missing Person: Evidence from California.” Population Association of America 2022 Annual Meeting.
- Douds, Kiara Wyndham. 2020. “The Diversity Contract: Constructing Racial Harmony in a Diverse American Suburb.” Stanford Sociology Colloquium Series.
- Douds, Kiara Wyndham. 2020. “The Diversity Contract: Constructing Racial Harmony in a Diverse American Suburb.” American Sociological Association 115th Annual Meeting.
- Cowan, Sarah K. and Kiara Douds. 2019. “The Causal Effect of Cash Transfers on Birth Rates, the Composition of Mothers and Birth Outcomes: Exploring a Universal Basic Income.” Guttmacher Institute.
- Douds, Kiara and Ethan Raker. 2019. “Temporal Trends and Geographic Heterogeneity in Ethnoracial Birth Disparities: Evidence from Natality Records, 1970-2010.” Population Association of America 2019 Annual Meeting.
- Cowan, Sarah K. and Kiara Douds. 2019. “A Universal Basic Income Increases Birth Rates with Minimal Impact on Newborn Health.” Population Association of America 2019 Annual Meeting.
- Douds, Kiara. 2018. “What Is Racial Inequality? The Missing Foundation.” American Sociological Association 113th Annual Meeting.
- Douds, Kiara. 2018. “The Diversity Contract: Constructing Racial Harmony in Fort Bend County, Texas.” Kinder Institute Research Seminar.
- Douds, Kiara. 2017. “Desires in Context: The Effect of Neighborhood College Degree Attainment on Adolescents’ College Aspirations.” American Sociological Association 112th Annual Meeting.

- Douds, Kiara and Delaram Takyar. 2017. "Adjudicating Aspirations: Using Causal Effect Estimation to Test Competing Conceptualizations of Educational Aspirations." American Sociological Association 112th Annual Meeting.
- Douds, Kiara. 2017. "Desires in Context: The Effect of Neighborhood College Degree Attainment on Adolescents' College Aspirations." Population Association of America 2017 Annual Meeting.
- Douds, Kiara. 2016. "The Racial Boundaries of Inequality: How Racial Hierarchies and White Identity Shape Whites' Explanations for Racial Inequality." American Sociological Association 111th Annual Meeting.
- Douds, Kiara. 2015. "Trust in the Bayou City: Do Racial Segregation and Discrimination Matter for Generalized Trust?" Urban Affairs Association 45th Annual Conference.
- Douds, Kiara and Jie Wu. 2014. "Trust in the Bayou City: Individual and Contextual Predictors of Generalized Trust in a Diverse Local Context." Metropolises' Responses to Migration and Urban Growth Workshop, Fudan University, Shanghai, China.
- Douds, Kiara and Jie Wu. 2014. "Trust in the Bayou City: Individual and Contextual Predictors of Generalized Trust in a Diverse Local Context." Spring Immigration Panel, University of Houston.

Teaching

Instructor, Department of Sociology, Washington University in St. Louis

Introduction to Research Methods: Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025, Fall 2026

Race and Place (Graduate): Spring 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025

Suburbanization: Spring 2027 (scheduled)

Teaching Assistant, New York University

Fall 2016: Advanced Quantitative Analysis I

Spring 2017: Advanced Quantitative Analysis II

Fall 2017: Statistics for Social Research

Fall 2018: Race and Ethnicity

Advising

Dissertation Committee Member

Jordan Duffin Wong (Political Science): *The Constellation of American Voters: Understanding Americans Who Live In and Out of American Municipalities*

Han Koehle: *Eugenic Transformations in the United States, 1920-1980*

Molly Schneider: *Implicated Memory: A Comparative Study of Community Embeddedness and Collective Memory of the Native American Boarding Schools, 1880-2025*

Zhongze Wei: *Asian Immigrants in Suburban St. Louis*

Master's Thesis Committee Member

Molly Schneider: *From Desegregation to BLM: Racial Threat, Discourse, and Consolidation of Power in a Missouri Public School District*

Maggie Wood: *Segregation Reorganized: Evolving Segregation Dynamics in an Urban School Choice District*

Khoi Ngo: *Crisis Control through Administrative Records: Systematic Inconsistencies in Police Data about Stopped Motorists' Races, 2003–2025*

Asha Baldwin-Larson: *A Park as Racial Redress? Commemoration Against the Backdrop of Gentrification*

Qualifying Exam Committee Member

Cinthia Romo Alba

Honors Thesis Advisor

Mallorie Goodwin: *In St. Louis? Rural Student Social Experiences at an Elite Urban University*

Noah Kaller: *Finding the Gateway: Attorney and Advocate Discretion in Eviction Work*

Will Armstrong: *Protect Trans Kids: The Impacts of Anti-Transgender Legislation on Transgender and Gender-Diverse Youth in Missouri*

Professional Service

Discipline:

Session Organizer, “Suburban, Exurban, and Rural Communities,” Population Association of America (2025)

Session Organizer, “Suburbs, Small Towns and Midsize Cities,” American Sociological Association (2024)

Graduate Student Paper Award Committee Member, ASA Community and Urban Sociology Section (2023)

Co-organizer, Community and Urban Sociology ASA Section Pre-conference (2019)

Department and University:

Co-organizer of Race, Space, Place Workshop, WashU Sociology (2024 –)

Graduate Studies Committee (2022 – 2025)

St. Louis Project Committee (2022 –)

Co-founder, Suburban Reading Group at NYU Institute for Public Knowledge (2019-2020)

Student representative, Sociology Environmental Impact Committee (2019-2020)

Student representative, Sociology Hiring Committee (2016, 2018)

Co-organizer, Sociology Graduate Student Association Spring Methods Workshop (2017)

Representative, Graduate Student Association (2016-2017)

Reviewer: American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Demography, Social Forces, City & Community, Du Bois Review, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Social Science Research, Social Problems, Socius, Journal of Economic Geography