

Curriculum Vitae

MICHAEL GIBSON-LIGHT

University of Denver
Department of Sociology & Criminology
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

2019 – Present **Assistant Professor**, Department of Sociology & Criminology,
University of Denver

EDUCATION

2019 **Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology**, University of Arizona
*Title: “The Prison as Market: How Penal Labor Systems Reproduce
Inequality”*
*Committee: Jeffrey Sallaz, Ronald Breiger, Kathleen Schwartzman,
Jennifer Carlson, Philip Goodman*

2013 **Master of Arts in Sociology**, University of Arizona

2009 **Bachelor of Arts in Sociology**, University of Missouri – St. Louis,
magna cum laude
Honors Certificate, University of Missouri – St. Louis, Pierre Laclede
Honors College

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Book

Gibson-Light, Michael. Under contract with Oxford University Press. *Orange-Collar Labor: Prison Work & the Reproduction of Inequality in the Era of Mass Incarceration* (working title).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Gibson-Light, Michael. 2020. “Sandpiles of Dignity: Labor Status and Boundary-Making in the Contemporary American Prison.” *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*. <https://doi.org/10.7758/RSF.2020.6.1.09>

- **Paper Award:** 2019 James D. Thompson Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Organizations, Occupations, & Work, American Sociological Association

- **Honorable Mention:** 2019 Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on the Sociology of Law, American Sociological Association

Davis, Andrew P. and Michael Gibson-Light. 2020. "Difference & Punishment: Ethno-Political Exclusion, Colonial Institutional Legacies, and Incarceration." *Punishment & Society*. 22(1):3-27. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1462474518816643>

- **Paper Award:** 2018 Graduate Student Paper Award, Division on International Criminology, American Society of Criminology

Gibson-Light, Michael. 2018. "Ramen Politics: Informal Money and Logics of Resistance in the Contemporary American Prison." *Qualitative Sociology*. 41(2):199-220. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11133-018-9376-0>

- **Paper Award:** 2017 Graduate Student Paper Award, Division on Corrections & Sentencing, American Society of Criminology
- **Paper Award:** 2017 Graduate Student Paper Award, Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice, American Society of Criminology
- **Achievement Award:** 2017 Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement, Section on Sociological Practice & Public Sociology, American Sociological Association

Gibson-Light, Michael. 2017. "Classification Struggles in Semi-Formal and Precarious Work: Lessons from Inmate Labor and Cultural Production." *Research in the Sociology of Work*. 31:61-90. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S0277-283320170000031002> / [alt source](#)

Rivas, Ricardo and Michael Gibson-Light. 2016. "Exploring Culture through In-Depth Interviews: Is it Useful to Ask People What They Think, Mean, and Do?" ["Explorando fenómenos culturales a través de entrevistas en profundidad: ¿de qué sirve preguntar a las personas acerca de lo que piensan, de lo que quieren decir y de lo que hacen?"] *Cinta de Moebio*. 57:316-329. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4067/S0717-554X2016000300007>

Gibson, Michael. 2014. "'That's Hip-Hop to Me': Temporal Logics of Authenticity in Independent Cultural Production." *Poetics*. 46:38-55. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2014.09.002>

Manuscripts Under Review or In Progress

Available upon request

Other Publications

Gibson-Light, Michael. 2019. Book Review: "Bruce Western, Homeward: Life in the Year After Prison." *International Sociology*. 34(5):639-641.

Puetz, Kyle and Michael Gibson. 2015. "Authenticity." In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics & Society*, edited by F. F. Wherry and J. Schor. New York NY: SAGE Publications.

Gibson, Michael. 2008. "Working for CHAMP after Hours: The Role of Volunteers in the CHAMP Program." Pp. 46-59 in *Research Report: An Evaluation of the CHAMP Service*

Dog Training Program at the Women's Eastern Reception, Diagnostic, & Correctional Center, edited by Jody Miller. St. Louis, MO: University of Missouri – St. Louis.

SELECT AWARDS & HONORS

- 2019 2019 James D. Thompson Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Organizations, Occupations, & Work, American Sociological Association
- 2019 Honorable Mention, 2019 Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Sociology of Law, American Sociological Association
- 2018 Graduate Student Paper Award, Division on International Criminology, American Society of Criminology
- 2017 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation (\$11,869)
- 2017 Graduate Student Paper Award, Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice, American Society of Criminology
- 2017 Graduate Student Paper Award, Division on Corrections & Sentencing, American Society of Criminology
- 2017 Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement, Section on Sociological Practice & Public Sociology, American Sociological Association
- 2016 Fredrick A. and Margaret S. Conrad Fellowship, University of Arizona School of Sociology (\$9,265)
- 2015, 2016 Student Faculty Interaction Grant, Arizona Culture Workshop, University of Arizona
- 2012 – 2013 Peter Likins Fellowship, University of Arizona (\$10,000)

TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited

- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2020. "Dignity, Work, and Punishment Behind Bars." Exclusion and Extraction: A Symposium on Criminal Justice Contact and Labor Reallocation. April 17. University of Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. Berkeley, CA. *(Event cancelled due to university COVID-19 pandemic)*
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2020. "Punching the Jailhouse Clock: Investigating Inequality at Work in an American Prison." Sociology in Action Annual Lecture. February 18. University of Houston. Houston, TX.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2017. "Prisoner Labor and the Production of an Underclass." March 15. University of Cambridge Prisons Research Centre. Cambridge, United Kingdom.
- Gibson, Michael. 2013. "'That's Hip-Hop to Me': Temporal Logics of Authenticity in Independent Cultural Production." Arizona Culture Workshop. October 9. University of Arizona. Tucson, AZ.

Conference Presentations

- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2020. "Data Transparency and Ethnography: A View from Inside a Paramilitary Organization." Paper accepted to ASA Methods Section Mid-Year Meeting: Replication and Rigor in the Social Sciences. March 20. Tucson, Arizona. (*Event cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic*)
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2019. "Diffuse Surveillance Structures in the Contemporary Prison: The Gendering of Discipline and the Shifting Burden of Rehabilitation Under Neoliberal Penology." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. November 15. San Francisco, CA.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2019. "Sandpiles of Dignity: Labor Status and Symbolic Boundary-Making in the Contemporary American Prison." Paper presented at Russell Sage Foundation, The Criminal Justice System as a Labor Market Institution Conference. February 22. New York, NY.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2018. "The Prison as Segmented Labor Market: Ethnographic Insights into Penal Labor Structure and Practice." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 11. Philadelphia, PA.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2018. "The Dignity of Working Inmates: Prisoner Strategies and Workplace Games." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association. June 7. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2017. "Hard Work, Harder Time: Penal Labor Structure and the Reproduction of the Underclass." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. November 15. Philadelphia, PA.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2017. "Class Difference behind Bars: Inmate Labor Stratification and Access to Formal and Informal Prison Markets." Paper presented at Economic Sociology and Organizations, Occupations, & Work: Fellow Travelers on Different Roads, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting Preconference. August 11. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Puetz, Kyle and Michael Gibson-Light. 2017. "Moral Rhetorics of Authenticity: A Repertoire-Theoretical Analysis of Authenticity within a Field of Restricted Production." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 12. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2016. "Labor, Power, and Inmate Consent: Work as an Apparatus of Control in an American Prison." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. November 16. New Orleans, LA.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2016. "Must Work for Food: The Politics of Nutrition and Informal Economy in an American Prison." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 22. Seattle, WA.
- **Press Coverage:** *The Guardian, USA Today, Washington Post, BBC, NPR, Time, The Atlantic, Fortune, US News & World Report, Vice, Telegraph, El Mundo*, and over 100 other news sources internationally

- Gibson, Michael. 2015. "What's in a Name: Towards a Framework for Theorizing Boundary Categories of Work." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 23. Chicago, IL.
- Davis, Andrew and Michael Gibson. 2015. "Stand Up and Cut Down: Authenticity and Validation in Comedy Production Venues." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. March 26. New Orleans, LA.
- Puetz, Kyle and Michael Gibson. 2014. "Narrative Identity in Culture Industries: An Individualist Model of Authentic Action in Contemporary Hip-Hop." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 18. San Francisco, CA.
- Sallaz, Jeffrey and Michael Gibson. 2013. "What is Outsourcing? How the New Industrial Revolution has been Framed in Newspaper Editorials." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 12. New York, NY.
- Gibson, Michael. 2013. "Temporal Distinctions and Relation to Convention in Claims to Authenticity among Cultural Producers." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Chicago Ethnography Conference. March 2. Chicago, IL.
- Gibson, Michael. 2009. "Willingness to Protest in the United States: Who Protests and Why." Paper presented at the University of Missouri – St. Louis Undergraduate Research Symposium. May 1. St. Louis, MO.
- Gibson, Michael. 2008. "Working for CHAMP after Hours: The Role of Volunteers in a Prison-Based Service Dog Training Program." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. November 14. St. Louis, MO.
- Gibson, Michael. 2008. "Ethnographic Analysis of the Cherokee Street CAMP Project in South St. Louis." Paper presented to the Community Arts and Media Project. St. Louis, MO.

SELECT MEDIA COVERAGE

Interviewed, Consulted

2020	Top of Mind with Julie Rose
2019	The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Nation
2018	BBC, AP, The Young Turks, The Outline, Prison Legal News, ThirtyK
2017	The Guardian
2016	NPR, El Mundo, The Guardian, Christian Science Monitor, Gizmodo

Research Reported, Portrayed

- 2019 Ellen’s Game of Games (NBC), Pocono Record
2018 Prison Legal News, Oxygen, Vox
2017 The Sun Herald, Brooklyn Nine-Nine (Fox)
2016 USA Today, BBC, Time, The Atlantic, Washington Post, NPR Marketplace, Fortune, US News & World Report, The Telegraph, ABC, Harper’s Magazine, Huffington Post, Vice News, Business Insider

SELECT PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

Public Use of Research

- 2018 Research cited in Brief of *Amici Curiae* filed by the ACLU of Ohio Foundation, The ACLU Foundation, The Southern Poverty Law Center, and The Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Supreme Court of Ohio, Case No. 2017-0186. (http://www.acluohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ohio.v.Dunson-ACLUOfOhioAmicusBrief-2018_0206.pdf)

Blog Writing

- 2018 “How Many Prisoners Work in the US Today? It’s Hard to Say.” *Punishment & Society Blog*. ([link](#))
2017 “‘It’s Bigger than Christmas’: Thoughts on the Significance of the Super Bowl in Prison.” *Punishment & Society Blog*. ([link](#))
2016 “Ramen Politics.” *Personal Research Blog*. ([link](#)).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Evaluations available upon request

Courses Offered

Prison Labor

Exploring what employment in and surrounding US prisons can reveal about the nature of punishment and work in the 21st Century

Sociological Imagination and Inquiry – Part A

Introduction to qualitative research methods, providing training in methodologies including content analysis, in-depth interviewing, and ethnography

Discipline and Punishment

Exploring institutional and organizational settings for punishment, mechanisms for discipline and social control, and contradictory agendas of punishment and corrections

Criminology

Introduction to criminology – exploring core questions and theory, social definitions of criminality, and institutions responding to crime, including courts, police, and prisons

Sociology of Popular Culture

Exploring the structure and impacts of the popular culture industry in the contemporary US, emphasizing inequalities in production and representation

Work and Society

Exploring the structure and practice of labor in the contemporary US, emphasizing inequalities in labor market participation and outcomes

Explaining Deviance

Exploring explanatory factors in deviance and criminality, as well as the role of state and other institutions in these phenomena

Introduction to Sociology

Introductory sociology – exploring core questions and theory in the discipline, examining classical as well as contemporary lines of thought

Invited Lectures

Social Research Methods

“Person, Place, and Theory: The Interplay of Researcher, Site, and Concepts in Ethnographic Fieldwork.”

Sources of Sociological Theory

“Premises and Promises: On Marx’s Conception of History and Advancement.”

Assistant Teaching

Sources of Sociological Theory

Race and Ethnic Relations

Environmental Sociology

Social Issues in America

The Good Society Social

Statistics

SERVICE

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| 2013 – Present | Invited manuscript reviewer for <i>Social Problems</i> , <i>Punishment & Society</i> , University of California Press, <i>Qualitative Sociology</i> , <i>Poetics</i> , Taylor and Francis, Routledge |
| 2019 | Session presider, <i>Ethnography / Ethnographic Studies</i> . 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. August 10. New York, NY. |
| 2018 | Session convener, <i>Social Organization of the Prison: Moving Past Classic Debates using New Qualitative Research</i> . 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. November 15. Atlanta, GA. |

- 2018 Committee Member, American Society of Criminology Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice, Critical Criminology Book Award Committee
- 2018 Committee Member, American Society of Criminology Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice, Graduate Student Paper Award Committee
- 2017 Session presider, *The Everyday Life and Subculture of Prison Inmates*. 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Area VII: Criminal Justice Policy & Practice, Corrections. November 15. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2016 Session presider, *Correctional Programming*. 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Area VII: Criminal Justice Policy & Practice, Corrections. November 16. New Orleans, LA.
- 2015 Session presider, *Job Insecurity and Precarious Employment*. 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Section on Organizations, Occupations, & Work. August 23. Chicago, IL.
- 2013 Assistant Coordinator, The Poetics and Politics of Hip-Hop Cultures Symposium. February 7-8. University of Arizona Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry. Tucson, AZ.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Sociological Association
Section on Crime, Law, & Deviance
Section on the Sociology of Law
Section on Organizations, Occupations, & Work
Section on Labor & Labor Movements
Section on the Sociology of Culture
Section on Economic Sociology
- American Society of Criminology
Division on Corrections & Sentencing
Division on Critical Criminology & Social Justice
- Law and Society Association
CRN 27 Punishment & Society

REFERENCES

Available upon request