

*Curriculum Vitae*

MICHAEL GIBSON-LIGHT

University of Denver  
Department of Sociology & Criminology  
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PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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

EDUCATION

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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

PUBLICATIONS

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***Book Project***

Gibson-Light, Michael. Under contract with Oxford University Press. *The Market Prison: Penal Labor and the Reproduction of Inequality in the Era of Mass Incarceration.*

***Peer-Reviewed Articles***

Davis, Andrew P. and Michael Gibson-Light. Online first. “Difference and Punishment: Ethno-Political Exclusion, Colonial Institutional Legacies, and Incarceration.” *Punishment and Society*. <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 and Sentencing, American Society of Criminology
- **Paper Award:** 2017 Graduate Student Paper Award, Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice, American Society of Criminology
- **Achievement Award:** 2017 Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement, Section on Sociological Practice and 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> / [via Google Books](#)

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 in Progress***

Gibson-Light, Michael. "Sandpiles of Dignity: Labor Status, Boundaries, and Penal Subjectivities in the Contemporary American Prison."

- **Paper Award:** 2019 James D. Thompson Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work, American Sociological Association
- **Honorable Mention:** 2019 Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Sociology of Law, American Sociological Association

Gibson-Light, Michael. "Remote Control: The Shifting Burden of Rehabilitation Under Neoliberal Penology."

Puetz, Kyle and Michael Gibson-Light. "The Rules of the Games: Institutional Status Games and Forms of Authenticity."

### **Other Publications**

- Puetz, Kyle and Michael Gibson. 2015. "Authenticity." In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of Economics and 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 AND HONORS**

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|-------------|--|
| 2019        | 2019 James D. Thompson Graduate Student Paper Award, Section on Organizations, Occupations, and 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 and Social Justice, American Society of Criminology                                 |
| 2017        | Graduate Student Paper Award, Division on Corrections and Sentencing, American Society of Criminology  |
| 2017        | Robert Dentler Award for Outstanding Student Achievement, Section on Sociological Practice and 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)  |
| 2011 – 2012 | Graduate Access Fellowship, University of Arizona (\$8,000)  |
| 2008        | Sociology Alumni Scholarship, University of Missouri – St. Louis   |
| 2007 – 2009 | May Department Scholarship, Pierre Laclède Honors College, University of Missouri – St. Louis  |
| 2007        | Honors Writing Award, Pierre Laclède Honors College, University of Missouri – St. Louis  |
| 2006 – 2008 | Sociology Departmental Scholarship, University of Missouri – St. Louis   |
| 2005 – 2009 | Honors Merit Scholarship, Pierre Laclède Honors College, University of Missouri – St. Louis  |

## PRESENTATIONS AND TALKS

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- 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. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 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. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2017. "Penal Labor Structure and the Reproduction of the Underclass." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 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, and Work: Fellow Travelers on Different Roads, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting Preconference. 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. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
- Gibson-Light, Michael. 2017. "Hard Work, Hard Time: Inmate Labor and the Production of the Underclass." Invited talk, March 15, University of Cambridge Prisons Research Centre. Cambridge, England.
- 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. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 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. Seattle, Washington.
- **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. Chicago, Illinois.

- 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. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 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. San Francisco, California.
- Gibson, Michael. 2013. "That's Hip-Hop to Me': Temporal Logics of Authenticity in Independent Cultural Production." Paper presented at the Arizona Culture Workshop. University of Arizona.
- 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. New York, New York.
- 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. Chicago, Illinois.
- 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. St. Louis, Missouri.
- 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. St. Louis, Missouri.
- Gibson, Michael. 2008. "Ethnographic Analysis of the Cherokee Street Community Arts and Media Project in South St. Louis City." Analysis presented to the Community Arts and Media Project. St. Louis, Missouri.

## SELECT MEDIA COVERAGE

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### ***Interviewed, Consulted***

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|------|---|
| 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***

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| 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

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### **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](http://www.acluohio.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Ohio.v.Dunson-ACLUOfOhioAmicusBrief-2018_0206.pdf))

### **Public Blog Writing**

- 2018 "How Many Prisoners Work in the US Today? It's Hard to Say." *Punishment & Society Blog*. (<https://punishment-society.blogspot.com/2018/01/how-many-prisoners-work-in-us-today-its.html>)
- 2017 "It's Bigger than Christmas': Thoughts on the Significance of the Super Bowl in Prison." *Punishment & Society Blog*. (<https://punishment-society.blogspot.com/2017/02/its-bigger-than-christmas-thoughts-on.html>)
- 2016 "Ramen Politics." *Personal Research Blog*. (<http://www.gibson-light.com/research-blog>).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*Evaluations available upon request*

### **Courses Prepared, Taught**

#### Explaining Deviance

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

#### Criminology

*Introductory criminology course examining definitions of criminality and major criminal justice institutions, including the courts, police, and prisons*

Work and Society

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

Sociology of Popular Culture

*Addressing the structure and impacts of the popular culture industry in the contemporary US, emphasizing inequalities in production and consumption*

Introduction to Sociology

*Introductory sociology course addressing 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

Social Statistics

Environmental Sociology

Social Issues in America

The Good Society

SERVICE

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***Service to the Discipline***

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| 2013 – Present | Invited manuscript reviewer for <i>Social Problems, Punishment and Society</i> , University of California Press, <i>Qualitative Sociology, Poetics</i> , Taylor and Francis, Routledge          |
| 2018           | Session convener, <i>Qualitative Insights on the Social Organization of the Prison: Moving Past Old Debates</i> . 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology. Atlanta, Georgia. |
| 2018           | Committee Member, American Society of Criminology Division on Critical Criminology and Social Justice, Critical Criminology Book Award Committee  |

- 2018 Committee Member, American Society of Criminology Division on Critical Criminology and 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 and Practice, Corrections. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- 2016 Session presider, *Correctional Programming*. 2016 Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Area VII: Criminal Justice Policy and Practice, Corrections. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- 2015 Session presider, *Job Insecurity and Precarious Employment*. 2015 Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work. Chicago, Illinois.

***Service to the Department, University***

- 2013 – Present Steward, School of Sociology Reference Library, University of Arizona School of Sociology Graduate Student Association (voluntary position)
- 2016 – 2017 Graduate Member, Executive Committee, University of Arizona School of Sociology Graduate Student Association (elected position)
- 2015 – 2016 Graduate Member, Job Search Recruitment Committee, University of Arizona School of Sociology Graduate Student Association (elected position)
- 2015 – 2016 Co-Chair, Arizona Culture Workshop, University of Arizona School of Sociology (voluntary position)
- 2014 – 2015 GSA Co-Chair, University of Arizona School of Sociology Graduate Student Association (elected position)
- 2013 Assistant Coordinator, *The Poetics and Politics of Hip-Hop Cultures* Symposium. University of Arizona Confluentcenter for Creative Inquiry (February 7-8).

**PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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



Law and Society Association  
CRN 27 Punishment and Society  
International Sociological Association

**REFERENCES**

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*Available upon request*