

Joshua Murray

Department of Sociology
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Current as of: 01/23/2025

Professional Experience

Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University, Department of Sociology, 2020-present

Assistant Professor, Vanderbilt University, Department of Sociology, 2013-2020
Affiliated Faculty, Vanderbilt University, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 2013- present

Education

Postdoctoral Fellow, Vanderbilt University, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 2012-13

Ph.D. Sociology, Stony Brook University, 2012

Dissertation: Transnational Interlocks and Global Business

M.S. Sociology, Portland State University, 2007

Thesis: Sickness For Sale: Pharmaceutical Direct-to-Consumer Prescription Drug Television Advertising

B.S. Sociology, Portland State University, 2005

Areas of Specialization

Political and Economic Sociology, Historical and Comparative Sociology, Social Movements, Global/Transnational Sociology, Social Networks, Quantitative Methods

Publications

Books:

Joshua Murray and Michael Schwartz. 2019. *Wrecked: How the American Automobile Industry Destroyed Its Capacity to Compete*. NY: Russell Sage Foundation

Articles/Chapters:

Joshua Murray. 2022. Trumping the People: How the Corporate Elite Benefited from the Trump Administration. Chapter 2 (Pp. 31-48) in *Political Power and Social Theory*, Vol 39: Trump and the Deeper Crisis, edited by K.A. Young, M. Schwartz, and R. Lachman. UK: Emerald Publishing.

Tarun Banerjee and Joshua Murray. 2021. Class Dominance or Fracturing? Sources of Broad Interest in Lobbying by Fortune 500 Corporations. *Sociological Perspectives*, 64(2): 157-75.

- Joshua Murray and Megan L. Jordan*. 2019. "Sources of Continued Corporate Dominance", *Race, Class, and Corporate Power*, 7(2): Article 8.
- Jennifer Heerwig and Joshua Murray. 2019. "The Political Strategies and Unity of the American Corporate Inner Circle: Evidence from Political Donations, 1982-2000," *Social Problems*, 66(4): 580-608
- Joshua Murray and Michael Schwartz. 2017. "The Dialectics of Class Conflict in the Auto Industry: Management by Stress and the Activation of Structural Leverage." *Catalyst: A Journal of Theory and Strategy*, 1(3): 151-168.
- Joshua Murray. 2017. "Interlock Globally, Act Domestically: Corporate Political Unity in the 21st Century." *American Journal of Sociology*, 122(6): 1617-1663.
- Joshua Murray and Michael Schwartz. 2016. "Collateral Damage: How Capital's War on Labor Killed Detroit," Forthcoming at *Catalyst: A Journal of Theory and Strategy*. Pp: 1-30.
- Samantha Perez* and Joshua Murray. 2016. "Latino Faces, Corporate Ties: Latino Advocacy Organizations and their Board Members." *Sociological Forum*, 31(1): 117-137.
- Joshua Murray and Michael Schwartz. 2015. "Moral Economy, Structural Leverage, and Organizational Efficacy: Class Formation and the Great Flint Sit-Down Strike, Detroit 1936-7," *Critical Historical Studies*, 2(2): 219-259
- Tarun Banerjee and Joshua Murray. 2015. "What Shapes Corporate Involvement in Voter Referendums: The Case of Opposition to GM Food Labeling" *Sociological Perspectives*, 58(3): 464-48.
- Joshua Murray. 2014. Evidence of a transnational capitalist class-for-itself: the determinants of PAC activity among foreign firms in the Global Fortune 500, 2000–2006. *Global Networks*, 14:230-250.
- Joshua Murray, Arnout van de Rijt, and John M. Shandra. 2013. Why They Juice: The Role of Social Forces in Performance Enhancing Drug Use by Professional Athletes. *Sociological Focus*, 46:4, 281-294
- Joshua Murray. 2009. Direct-to-consumer Prescription Drug Advertising in a Global Context: A comparison between New Zealand and the United States. *Salute e Societa (Health and Society)*, Anno VIII (2): 189-208, edited by Antonio Maturo and Peter Conrad and published in Italian and English

*Indicates graduate student author

Book Reviews

- Murray, J. (2025). Union Booms and Busts: The Ongoing Fight over the U.S. Labor Movement. *Contemporary Sociology*, 54(1): 87-88.
- Murray, J. (2021). Communists and Community: Activism in Detroit's Labor Movement, 1941-1956. *American Journal of Sociology*, 127(2): 686-687.

Work in progress

Joshua Murray. *A Unified Theory of Labor Movement Success*

Joshua Murray and Jennifer Heerwig. *The Evolution of Corporate Elite Politics, 1980-2014*, book manuscript under preparation for the Russell Sage Foundation.

Popular Writing

Joshua Murray. 2023. "US Autoworkers Launch Historic Strike: 3 Questions Answered." *The Conversation*, September 4.

Megan L. Jordan*, Joshua Murray, Michael Schwartz, and Kevin A. Young. 2020. "When Black Movements Win, Everybody but the 1 percent Wins." *Truthout*, December 24.

Joshua Murray. 2019. "Why the United Auto Workers GM Strike is Headed for Failure." *The Conversation*, September 23.

Joshua Murray. 2019. "The Real Solution to Saving U.S. Automakers Isn't Tariffs, It's Empowering Workers." *Washington Post*, August 14

Jennifer Heerwig and Joshua Murray. 2018. "The Corporate Outer Circle Goes to Washington: Trump and the Divided Politics of the Corporate Elite." *Public Seminar*, www.publicseminar.org, June 7.

*Indicates graduate student author

Fellowships and Grants

Vanderbilt University Research Scholar Grant, "Agency vs. Structure: Investigating the Political Donations of Corporate Directors and Political Action Committees, 1980-2014", \$34,890

Russell Sage Foundation, "Partisanship, Unity, and Inter-Corporate Networks" Political Donations of the Corporate Elite, 1980-2014," 2015-2016, (Jennifer Heerwig, Co-PI), \$33,000

National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant, Sociology Program, "Transnational Interlocks and Global Business," 2011-12, \$3,635

Northwest Health Foundation, Fund for Excellence in Health Research, "Sickness for Sale: Pharmaceutical Direct-to-Consumer Television Advertising," 2006, \$500

Honors and Awards

Jeffrey Nordhaus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. 2019. College of Arts & Science, Vanderbilt University

Outstanding Marxist Sociology Article Award. 2017. "Moral Economy, Structural Leverage, and Organizational Efficacy: Class Formation and the Great Flint Sit-Down Strike, Detroit 1936-7," *Critical Historical Studies*, 2(2): 219-259, Marxist Sociology section of the American Sociological Association

Hanan Selvin Award. 2009. "Why They Juice: Performance Enhancing Drug Use in Major League Baseball, 1985-2007," Department of Sociology, Stony Brook University
Graduate Commendation Award. 2007. Outstanding Academic Achievement, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Portland State University

Invited Presentations

- "Election Connections: corporate elite political donations and the invisible primary of political appointees" Political Economy Working Group, Department of Political Science, University of Massachusetts Amherst, December 2019.
- "Historians and the Current Crisis: Old/New Ideas for Organizing Against Wealth and Power" Left Forum, Brooklyn, NY, June 2019 (invited by Historians for Peace and Democracy)
- "The Evolution of Corporate Elite Political Unity, 1980-2008" (with Jennifer Heerwig), Russell Sage Foundation (RSF), New York, April 2019.
- "The Partisanship and Ideology of the American Corporate Inner Circle: Evidence from Political Donations, 1982-2000" (with Jennifer Heerwig, Stony Brook University), Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University, October 2015
- "Hierarchical Networks: Supplier Relations in the Early American Automobile Industry", World Economic History Conference, Kyoto, Japan (invited by Yongdo Kim, Hosei University), August 2015
- "Transnational Interlocks, Global Class Formation, and Corporate Political Behavior", Department of Sociology, University of Louisville, February 2013
- "Globalization and Corporate Unity", Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University, October 2012
- "Transnational Business Influence: the Determinants of PAC Activity Among Firms in the Global Fortune 500, 2000-06", Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University, November 2011
- "The Influence of the Transnational Capitalist Class on U.S. Politics: Determinants of PAC Formation among Firms in the Global Fortune 500, 2000-06," Conference on Global Capitalism and Transnational Class Formation, Prague, sponsored by International Sociological Association, Global Studies Association of America, Centre for Global Studies, September 2011

Conference Presentations

- "Partisan Divides and Corporate Sustainability." International Network for Social Network Analysis Annual Sunbelt Conference: June, 2024, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- "The Policy Influence of Corporate Networks." International Network for Social Network Analysis Annual Sunbelt Conference: June, 2023,

Portland, OR.

- “Partisan Divisions, Corporate Ties,” Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, Virtual, July 2021.
- “Elite Connections,” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Virtual, August 2020.
- “Elite Connections: Corporate Elite Political Donations and the Invisible Primary of Top Cabinet Appointees,” Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, Virtual, July 2020.
- “What is the Primary Interest of the Capitalist Class,” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, New York, NY, August 2019.
- “Beyond Interlocking Directorates: the Policy Planning Network as the Center of Corporate Power Structure,” 3rd European Conference on Social Networks, Mainz, Germany, September 2017.
- “Class Dominance or Fracturing? Sources of Broad Interest in Lobbying by Fortune 500 Corporations,” American Sociological Association Annual Conference, Montreal, Canada, August 2017.
- “Occupied by Wall Street: Finance Capital at the Center of the Policy Network”, *Who Rules America? Who Rules the World? Three Generations of Power Structure Research*, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Conference, Seattle, WA, August 2016.
- “Beyond Inter-Corporate Networks: Finance Capital at the Center of Corporate Political Activity”, How Class Works Conference, Stony Brook, NY, June 2016
- “Globalists in the American Inner Circle”, XXXVI Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, Newport Beach, CA, April 2016
- “The Inner Circle: Reports of its Death Are Greatly Exaggerated”, XXXV Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis, Brighton, UK, June 2015
- “Production Geographies and the Decline of the U.S. Automobile Industry” American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August 2014
- “Interlocking Directorates and Transnational Corporate Political Unity”, ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama, Japan, July, 2014
- “Class Formation and the Great Flint Sit-Down Strike”, Social Science History Association, Chicago, IL, November 2013
- “Globalization and Corporate Unity”, American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August 2013
- Discussant, “Money at Work: On the Job with Priests, Poker Players and Hedge Fund Traders” by Kevin Delaney, Author Meets Critics, Eastern Sociological Association, Boston, MA, March 2013
- “Moral Economy, Structural Leverage, and Organizational Efficacy: Class Formation and the Great Flint Sit-Down Strike, Detroit 1936-

- 7” (with Michael Schwartz), Eastern Sociological Association, Boston, MA, March 2013
- “Unity Within the Transnational Capitalist Class: The Significance of Transnational Interlocks,” American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV, August 2011
- “The Social Determinants of Performance Enhancing Drug Use in Professional Sports” (with Arnout Van de Rijt and John M. Shandra), Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, MA, March 2010
- “Why They Juice: Performance Enhancing Drug Use in Major League Baseball, 1985-2006” (with Arnout Van de Rijt and John M. Shandra), American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August 2009
- “Direct-to-consumer Prescription Drug Advertising in a Global Context: A comparison between New Zealand and the United States,” American Sociological Association, Boston, MA, August 2008
- “The Case for Naturopaths as Primary Care Providers,” Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA, April 2007
- “Sickness for Sale: Pharmaceutical Direct-to-Consumer Television Advertising,” Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA, April 2007

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate

- Vanderbilt University (2012-present): Sociological Perspectives, Politics, State, and Society, Contemporary Social Issues: Corporations and Society, First Year Writing Seminar on War and Capitalism, Human Behavior in Organizations, Sociology through Baseball
- Portland State University (2010-12): Complex Organizations, Social Change, Political Sociology
- Stony Brook University (2009-10): Statistical Methods in Sociology, Historical Development of Sociological Theory

Graduate

- Vanderbilt University (2012-present): Multivariate Analysis I and II, Political Economy

Mentorship and Supervision

Dissertation Committee:

Kelley Frances-Fenelon. 2024. “The Means of Value Production: Translating Social Causes into Business Concerns”

Hannah Ingersoll. 2023. “A Tale of Two Solutions to the College Affordability Crisis.”

Megan Jordan. 2022. "A Labor of Love Tainted by Money: A Comparative Study of the Emotional Labor of Grassroots Activists, Movement Professionals, and Artist Activists." (Chair).

Dasom Lee. 2021. "Corporate Morality, Disproportionality, Industry Opportunity Structures, and Non-Competing Institutional Logics"

Rachel McKane. 2020. "Assessing Gentrification, Displacement, and Patterns of Environmental Inequity Surrounding Light Rail Stations, Bus Stops, and Transit Deserts"

Rachel Skaggs. 2018. "Writing Up: Commercial Success, Reputation, and Pathways to Success in the Careers of Nashville Songwriters"

Anna Jacobs. 2017. "Greasing the Skids: How Corporate Elite Campaign Donations Shape State-Level Collective Bargaining Legislation."

Master's Thesis Committee:

Ryan Johnson. 2014. "New American Idols? The Impact of Neoliberalism on Commencement Speaker Selection."

Rachel McKane. 2016. "Toxic Waste & Race: The Changing Demographics Surrounding Superfund Sites in Tennessee."

Magdalena Sudibjo. 2017. "The Proliferation of Open-Source Licenses: The Cooptation of an Industrial Transition Movement by Multiple Institutions."

Dasom Lee. 2017. "Intersectional Identity Politics within a Worker Movement: the 2006 Immigrant Rights Protests and Changes in Identity Politics."

Megan Jordan. 2019. "Power to the People: An Intersectional Class Approach to Racial Inequality Alleviation" (Chair)

Undergraduate Research Projects Supervised:

Caroline Jacobs. 2024. (Not) In My Backyard: Local Policy Attitudes in Tennessee

Ruo Chen Li. 2023. #MeToo at Work: Sexual Harassment-Related Demands in Labor Organizing

Isaac Swafford. 2020. A New Cold War? American Institutional Perspectives on U.S.-China Relations, 2010-2020

Lachanda Reid. 2018. "Is Your President a Dictator? Authoritarianism and the American Presidency" Sociology Honors Thesis; passed with high honors

Mary C. Dachille. 2018. "Rewriting the Rulebook: Should College Athletes Be Paid? A Marxian Analysis." Sociology Honors Thesis; passed

Clee Malfitano. 2016. "Value of an Agent within the Baseball Industry." Summer research project.

Huaren Liang. 2015-16. "Only One Way to the American Dream? College-For-All Mentality and Academic Trajectories of Minority Students with Economic Insecurities." Sociology Honors Thesis; passed with honors.

Allyson Conely. 2013-14. "A Comparative Look at Determinants of University Responses to On Campus Sexual Assault Accusations." Sociology Honors Thesis; passed with high honors

Professional Affiliations

American Sociological Association
International Network for Social Network Analysis
Society for the Study of Social Problems

Professional Service

External Service:

Article Reviewer, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Work and Occupations*, *British Journal of Sociology*, *Journal of World-Systems Research*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *Social Currents*, *Business and Politics*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *Social Forces*

Conference Panel Organizer, "Corporate Elite Networks" (3 panels), *Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*, Edinburgh, Scotland, June 2024

Conference Panel Organizer, "Corporate Elite Networks" (3 panels), *Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*, Portland, OR, June 2023

Conference Panel Organizer, "Corporate Networks Around the Globe" (3 panels), *3rd European Conference on Social Networks*, Mainz, Germany, September 2017

Conference Panel Organizer, "Corporate Elite Networks" (5 panels), *XXXVI Sunbelt Conference of the International Network for Social Network Analysis*, Newport Beach, CA, April 2016

Conference Panel Organizer, "Pathways of Capitalist Class Influence on State Policy", *How Class Works Conference*, Stony Brook, NY, June 2016

University/Departmental Service

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University 2021-2024

University Faculty Athletics Committee, Vanderbilt University, 2024-25

Chair of the Advisory Chair Selection Committee, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University, 2024

Computational Thinking Working Group, A&S, Vanderbilt University,

2024

JARC: Ad Hoc Junior Advisory Review Committee, A&S, Vanderbilt University, 2024-25, 2023-24

CASP Committee, A&S, Vanderbilt University, 2023-2024, 2024-25

Faculty Senate, Senator, Vanderbilt University 2020-21.

Strategic Planning and Academic Freedom Committee, Faculty Senate, Vanderbilt University 2020-21.

AXLE Implementation Committee, College of Arts & Sciences, Vanderbilt University 2020-21.

Departmental Speakers Series Committee, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University 2019-2020

Nomination, Awards, and Publicity Committee, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University 2018-19

Graduate Committee, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University 2015-16, 2017-18, 2020-21, 2024-25

Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University 2014-15

Chair of the Departmental Speaker Series Committee, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University 2013-14

Quantitative Analytics Steering Committee, College of Arts & Sciences, Vanderbilt University 2016-17

Honors Council, Faculty Advisor, College of Arts & Sciences, Vanderbilt University 2017-18