

Graduate Placements – Ph.D. program in [Community Research and Action](#)



Current positions of graduates of the Ph.D. program in Community Research and Action (CRA) are listed below. The program provides training in applied and community-engaged research that is applicable across a range of organizational settings. For their initial placements after graduate school, approximately one-fifth of program graduates have gone on to post-doctoral fellowships; approximately two-fifths have taken tenure-track positions at research universities and liberal arts colleges; approximately one-fifth have taken research positions in centers and institutes based at universities; and approximately one-fifth of graduates have taken research-related positions in nonprofit organizations, governmental agencies, or research institutes.

Name (Ph.D. Year) – Position	Dissertation
Reha Özgürer (Ph.D. 2025) – Independent Consultant/Researcher, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)	“Community as Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral: An Ecological Mixed-Methods Study of Community Meaning, Sense, and Participation Among Turkish Immigrants”
Shadi Omidvar Tehrani (Ph.D. 2025) – Postdoctoral Fellow in Pediatric Injury Prevention Research, University of Washington	“Anticipatory Impacts of Light Rail: A Mixed-Methods Study of Gentrification, Displacement, Sense of Community, Fear, Stress and Anxiety”
Anderson, Kayla (Ph.D. 2025) – Clinical Assistant Professor of Geography, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.	“Rural Environmental Justice Structural Inequities and Care-Driven Resistance in Grundy County, Tennessee”
Barrett, Emily (Ph.D., 2025) – Assistant Professor of Geography, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA.	“Budget Struggles: Public Goods and the Fight for Economic Democracy in Nashville, TN”
Caballero, Mariah (Ph.D., 2025) – Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies, Wellesley College, Wellesley, MA.	“Prioritizing Rural Communities for Reasonably Achievable Emissions Reductions”
Debreux, Marlina (Ph.D., 2025) – Postdoctoral Researcher, Brown School of Social Work and Public Health, Washington University in St. Louis.	“Will the Children Be Alright? Exploring how Black Adolescents Learn about and Respond to Structural Racism”
Fenelon, Kelley Frances (Ph.D., 2024) – Director, Corporate Action and Research, JUST Capital.	“The Means of Value Production: Translating Social Causes into Business Concerns”

Roberts, Leah (Ph.D., 2024) –	<u>“Navigating the Complexities, Ambiguities, and Controversies of Youth Sexuality: Meaning-Making around Sexual Health and Equity in a Community Coalition”</u>
Chung, Youjin (Ph.D., 2024) – Research Methodologist, U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C.	<u>“Bridging Boundaries: Exploring the Interplay of Schools and Communities in Mitigating Violence”</u>
Haapanen, Krista (Ph.D., 2024) – Assistant Professor of Psychology, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.	<u>“Collective Action for Prevention and Health Promotion: Exploring the Role of Community Coalitions in Substance Misuse Prevention Ecosystems”</u>
Hanebutt, Rachel (Ph.D., 2024) – Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Thrive Center for Children, Families, & Communities, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.	<u>“Beyond Digital Disconnection and Screentime: Advancing the Study of Adolescent Digital Wellbeing Through Teen-Centric Methods”</u>
Jurinsky, Jordan (Ph.D., 2024) – Assistant Professor, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Study and Human Development, Tufts University, Medford, MA.	<u>“Dynamic Ecology of Adolescent Recovery: A Mixed Methods Exploration of the Individual, Family, and School Contexts of Adolescent Recovery”</u>
Tunzi, Dominique (Ph.D., 2023) – Strategic Data Project Fellow, TalkingPoints.	<u>“Adolescent Antiracist Development: Constructs, Emotions, and School Socialization”</u>
Richard, Molly (Ph.D., 2023) – Postdoctoral Associate, Center for Innovation in Social Science, Boston University, Boston, MA.	<u>“Racialized Homelessness in the United States: Structural Causes and Community Response”</u>
Sriken, Julie (Ph.D., 2023) – Assistant Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Regis University, Denver, CO.	<u>“Constructing Intimate Partner Violence: Victimization Among Women of Color”</u>
Morgan, Kathryn (Ph.D., 2023) – Assistant Professor of Psychology, Sewanee: University of the South in Sewanee, TN.	<u>“Design Your Neighborhood: An Evaluation of a Middle School Action Civics Intervention”</u>
Sarkar, Tanushree (Ph.D., 2023) – Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis, University of Missouri, Columbia.	<u>“It is About Time: Teacher Stories of Enacting Inclusive Education in India”</u>
Byrd, Kymberly (Ph.D., 2022) – Community Research and Engagement Manager, Leading on Opportunity, Charlotte, NC.	<u>“Free and Full Lives: Social and Economic Opportunity Among Formerly Incarcerated Individuals”</u>

<u>Eccleston, Sara</u> (Ph.D., 2022) – Assistant Professor, Division of Social, Behavioral, and Human Sciences in the School of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at University of Washington, Tacoma.	<u>"Sanctifying Antiracism in a Southern Episcopal Diocese"</u>
<u>Gardella, Joseph</u> (Ph.D., 2022) – Assistant Research Scientist, School of Social Work, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.	<u>"The Relations Between School Climate and Teacher Leadership: Does the School Environment Influence the Type or Amount of Leadership Activity Among Teachers?"</u>
<u>Glendening, Zach</u> (Ph.D., 2022) – Principal Research Associate, Westat, Washington, DC.	<u>"(Con)testing Stigma Against Wheelchair Users in Built Environments"</u>
<u>Rodriguez, Jason</u> (Ph.D., 2022) – Senior Data Analyst, US Government Accountability Office (GAO), Washington, DC.	<u>"Local Institutional Work in an Organizational Field: A Case Study of Open Table Nashville"</u>
<u>Lyew, Dominique</u> (Ph.D., 2021) – Senior Researcher, Frameworks Institute.	<u>"Epistemic Promise and Political Participation in Jamaica"</u>
<u>Eidelman, Tessa</u> (Ph.D., 2021) – Lead CX Strategist, Exact Sciences.	<u>"Reclaiming Cape Town: Spatial Justice and the (Post)apartheid City"</u>
<u>Hollingsworth, Charrise</u> (Ph.D., 2021) – Researcher, American Institutes for Research (AIR).	<u>"Making a Social Change Agent: Perceptions, Predictors, and Profiles of Youth Social Change Involvement During Emerging Adulthood"</u>
<u>Brown, Scott</u> (Ph.D., 2021) – Associate, Abt Associates, Bethesda, MD.	<u>"How Do Housing Interventions for Families Experiencing Homelessness Affect Children's Functioning?"</u>
<u>Inniss-Thompson, Misha</u> (Ph.D., 2021) – Assistant Professor of Psychology, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY.	<u>"(Re)membering Black Girls: A Theoretical and Multimethod Examination of Mental Health and Wellness"</u>
<u>Bethune, Magaela</u> (Ph.D., 2020) – Assistant Professor of African American Studies, Loyola Marymount University, Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, Los Angeles, CA.	<u>"Exploring the Relationship Between Adolescent Media Use, Sexual Socialization and Sexual Behavior"</u>
<u>Mohyuddin, Hasina</u> (Ph.D., 2020) – Social and Demographic Research Associate, Metro Social Services, Nashville, TN.	<u>"Understanding the Religious Identity Development of Muslim American Youths"</u>
<u>Gupta, Jyoti</u> (Ph.D., 2019) – Assistant Professor of the Practice of Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.	<u>"Toward Political Community: Navigating Civic Conditions and Civic Positions in the Creative Economy"</u>

<u>Marx, Robert</u> (Ph.D., 2019) – Associate Professor of Child and Adolescent Development, San Jose State University, San Jose, CA.	<u>"Queer During and After School: Understanding LGBTQ+ Youth's School Belonging and After-School Participation"</u>
<u>Mihaylov, Nikolay</u> (Ph.D., 2018) – Assistant Professor of Healthcare Administration and Management, Faculty of Public Health, Medical University of Varna, Bulgaria.	<u>"Releasing the Waters: A Sociological Study of the Anti-fracking Movement in Bulgaria"</u>
<u>Thurber, Amie</u> (Ph.D., 2018) – Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Portland State University in Portland, OR.	<u>"The Neighborhood Story Project: Keeping More than Our Homes."</u>
<u>Doykos, Bernadette</u> (Ph.D., 2017) – Vice President, Partnership Strategy and Marketing, Boardroom, Portland, ME.	<u>"Everybody Say They'll Go to College, but Until You Grow Up, You Don't Really Understand": Examining the Contextual, Relational, and Networked Experiences of College Bound Students from Traditionally Underserved College-Going Populations"</u>
<u>Hennessy, Emily</u> (Ph.D., 2017) – Assistant Professor, Harvard Medical School, and Associate Director of Biostatistics at the Recovery Research Institute, Cambridge, MA.	<u>"Adolescent Recovery Capital and Application of Exploratory Methods"</u>
<u>Mann, Abbey</u> (Ph.D., 2016) – Assistant Professor of Psychology, Lafayette College, Easton, PA.	<u>"Stigma, Access to Care, and Sexual Minority Women's Health"</u>
<u>Mokos, Jennifer</u> (Ph.D., 2016) – Associate Professor of Interdisciplinary Science in the Honors College at Coastal Carolina University, Conway, SC.	<u>"Restoring the Human in the Search for Nature: Homelessness, Ecology, and the Struggle for Change"</u>
<u>Fisher, Benjamin</u> (Ph.D., 2016) – Associate Professor of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin–Madison, Madison, WI.	<u>"School Resource Officers, Exclusionary Discipline, and the Role of Context"</u>
<u>Lample, Emily</u> (Ph.D., 2015) – Senior Research Analyst, Learning Desk of the Baha'i National Center, Evanston, IL.	<u>"Watering the Tree of Science: Science Education, Local Knowledge, and Agency in Zambia's PSA Program"</u>
<u>McCormack, Mark</u> (Ph.D., 2015) – Senior Director of Research & Insights, EDUCAUSE, Nashville, TN.	<u>"A Christian, a Jew, and a Woman Walk into a Bar: Exploring the Nonreligious Elements of Interfaith Work"</u>
<u>Karakos, Holly</u> (Ph.D., 2015) – Research Director, Project Lead the Way, Raleigh/Durham, NC.	<u>"Understanding Civic Engagement among Youth in Diverse Contexts"</u>

<u>Geller, Joanna</u> (Ph.D., 2015) – Director of Policy, Research, and Evaluation, Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools, New York University, Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development, New York, NY.	<u>“Re-imagining School Communities: An Exploration of the Factors Influencing Teachers’ Trust in Parents”</u>
<u>Brinkley-Rubinstein, Lauren</u> (Ph.D., 2015) – Associate Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences, Samuel Dubois Cook Center on Social Equity, Duke University, Durham, NC.	<u>“Repeated Police Contact, Profiling and Incarceration as Catalysts for Worsened Health”</u>
<u>Craven, Krista</u> (Ph.D., 2014) – Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Learning Specialist, Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada.	<u>““No Papers, No Fear”: The Boundary Politics of Undocumented Immigrant Youth Activists in Tennessee”</u>
<u>Greer, Andrew</u> (Ph.D., 2014) – Deputy Director, Office of Peace, Democracy, and Governance, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), El Salvador.	<u>“Preventing Homelessness in Alameda County, CA and New York City, NY: Investigating Effectiveness and Efficiency”</u>
<u>Jones, Karl</u> (Ph.D., 2014) – Equity Senior Researcher, Washington State Center for Court Research, Olympia, WA.	<u>“Local Inequality in the Geography of Class-Differentiated Migration”</u>
<u>Vick, John</u> (Ph.D., 2014) – Evaluation and Assessment Director, Office of Primary Prevention, Tennessee Department of Health, Nashville, TN.	<u>““The Best Laid Plans:” An Ecological Analysis of Community Participation, Power, and Urban Neighborhood Planning in Practice”</u>
<u>Lunn, Laurel</u> (Ph.D., 2014) – Senior Evaluator & Researcher, Center for Victims of Torture, St. Paul, MN.	<u>“The Social Determinants of Refugee Health: An Integrated Perspective”</u>
<u>Nwosu, Oluchi</u> (Ph.D., 2014) – Postdoctoral Fellow in Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.	<u>“Constructing Multi-Conscious Identities: Ethnicity, Socialization, and Schooling Among Sub-Saharan African Refugee Youth”</u>
<u>Robinson, Jill</u> (Ph.D., 2013) – Independent Research Consultant, New Orleans, LA.	<u>“Immigrants from Former Soviet Republics in the United States: Deconstructing and Decolonizing an Immigrant Population”</u>
<u>Palmer, Neal</u> (Ph.D., 2013) – Research Project Director, City University of New York (CUNY) Institute for State and Local Governance, New York, NY.	<u>“LGBT Youth Online and In Person: Identify Development, Social Support, and Extracurricular and Civic Participation in a Positive Youth Development Framework”</u>

<u>Tesdahl, Eric</u> (Ph.D., 2013) – Senior Biostatistician and Data Science Program Manager, SpecialtyCare, Nashville, TN.	<u>“Out of Many, One: Participation and Collaboration in Congregation-based Community Organizing”</u>
<u>Thaden, Emily</u> (Ph.D., 2013) – Director of Research & National Policy, Grounded Solutions Network, Nashville, TN.	<u>“Shared Equity Homeownership: Local Perceptions, National Performance, and Considerations for Growth”</u>
<u>Bazuin, Joshua</u> (Ph.D., 2013) – Consultant and Data Scientist, Nashville, TN.	<u>“Religion in the Remaking of Rwanda after Genocide”</u>
<u>Collins, Leslie</u> (Ph.D., 2012) – Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences and Education, Fisk University, Nashville, TN.	<u>“Revealing Privilege: Examining Manifestations of Race, Class, and Gender in Health and Human Service Organizations”</u>
<u>Cooper, Daniel</u> (Ph.D., 2012) – Director of Research, Metropolitan Planning Council, Chicago, IL.	<u>“Beyond Dollars and Cents: Non-financial Impacts and Implications of the Foreclosure Crisis for Low-income Minority Communities”</u>
<u>Mayberry, Lindsay</u> (Ph.D., 2012) – Associate Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Informatics, Director of the Center for Health Behavior and Health Education, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN.	<u>“Family Processes in the Context of Housing Instability and Intensive Service Use: Implications for Parenting and Caregiver Well-Being”</u>
<u>Nelson, Michael</u> (Ph.D., 2012) – Founder, Kookaburra Development + Strategy, Nashville, TN.	<u>“What causes racially segregated residential communities? Testing agent-based and institutional explanations for the locational decisions of homebuyers”</u>
<u>Siankam, Ben</u> (Ph.D., 2012) – International Health and Development Research Consultant, Washington, DC.	<u>“Doctors Beyond Borders: Ecological and Psychopolitical Validity of the Medical Brain Drain from Sub-Saharan Africa”</u>
<u>Voight, Adam</u> (Ph.D., 2012) – Associate Professor of Curriculum and Foundations and Director of the Center for Urban Education, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH.	<u>“Youth Civic Engagement in Urban Middle Schools: Agency and Wellness across Ecological Levels”</u>
<u>Van Voorhees, Courte</u> (Ph.D., 2012) – Program Officer, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Washington, DC.	<u>“Promoting Environmental Empowerment: Environmental Justice Policy, Participatory Planning, and Empowerment in Response to Environmental Threats”</u>
<u>Redvers-Lee, Peter</u> (Ph.D., 2011) – Editor, Communications Development, Inc, Washington, DC.	<u>“The Serpent without Shame: Economic Development and Change in the Afro-Ecuadorian Communities of Northwestern Esmeraldas”</u>

<u>Davis, Donna J.</u> (Ph.D., 2009) – Attorney, Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, Bentwood, TN.	<u>“Fraying at the Edges: Qualitative Insight into the Experiences of CPS Caseworkers and the Issue of Voluntary Employee Turnover”</u>
<u>Hoffman, Cheri</u> (Ph.D., 2009) – Director, Division of Children and Youth Policy, at ASPE (Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation), U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Washington, DC.	<u>“Young and Homeless in Nashville: The Scope of Runaway and Throwaway Youth and the Experiences of Homeless Youth”</u>
<u>Pullmann, Michael</u> (Ph.D., 2009) – Research Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Science, University of Washington School Mental Health Assessment, Research, & Training (SMART) Center, Seattle, WA.	<u>“Predictors of Criminal Charges for Youth in Public Mental Health Services During the Transition to Adulthood”</u>
<u>Suiter, Sarah</u> (Ph.D., 2009) – Professor of the Practice, Department of Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.	<u>“Freedom Means”</u>
<u>Christens, Brian</u> (Ph.D., 2008) – Professor, Department of Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.	<u>“Vehicles of Change: Context and Participation in Power-Based Community Organizing”</u>
<u>Freedman, Darcy</u> (Ph.D., 2008) – Mary Ann Swetland Professor of Population and Quantitative Health Sciences and Director of the Mary Ann Swetland Center for Environmental Health, School of Medicine, Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, OH.	<u>“Politics of Food Access in Food Insecure Communities”</u>
<u>Jones, Diana</u> (Ph.D., 2008) was an Associate Professor, Department of Human Services and Rehabilitation, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.	<u>“Organizing Through Congregations: Mediating and Moderating Roles of Spirituality”</u>
<u>Taylor, Kelly</u> (Ph.D., 2008) – Research Scientist, Prevention & Public Health Group, Global Health Sciences, University of California, San Francisco.	<u>“Caregiver Strain among African American and Caucasian Family Members Caring for Children with Emotional and Behavioral Problems: the Role of Race”</u>
<u>Jacobs-Priebe, Lynette</u> (Ph.D., 2007) – Accountant, University of Pittsburgh Innovation Institute, Pittsburgh, PA.	<u>“The Social Norms Approach to Preventing Violence Against Women : The Role of Ambivalent Sexism”</u>

Armstead, Theresa (Ph.D., 2006) – Behavioral Scientist at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, National Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, GA.

“Exploring Synergic Power and Network-Based Leadership in a Community Organizing Context”

Bess, Kimberly (Ph.D., 2006) – Associate Professor of the Practice, Department of Human and Organizational Development, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN.

“The Challenges of Change in Human Service Organizations: Identity, Values, and Narratives”

Evans, Scot (Ph.D., 2005) – Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Educational and Psychological Studies, University of Miami, Coral Gables, FL.

“From Amelioration to Transformation in Human Services: Towards Critical Practice”