

# Tori L. Thomas

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## EDUCATION

2014-Present: Ph.D. Candidate (ABD) Sociology & Demography      The Pennsylvania State University

- Dissertation: High School Racial Segregation & Racial Ethnic Differences in Attainment and Course Taking Outcomes
- Dissertation Committee: Michelle Frisco (co-chair), Erica Frankenberg (co-chair), John Iceland, David Ramey

2016 M.A. Sociology & Demography      The Pennsylvania State University

2013 B.A Sociology      Georgia State University

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

School Racial Segregation · Race and Education · Sociology of Education · Demography

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 2014-2018: Research Assistant      The Pennsylvania State University  
Advisor: Michelle Frisco

- Project: Racial/Ethnic Differences in Summer Weight Gain among Kindergartners
  - Refined data from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Study 2010-11(ECLS-K 10-11) using STATA software
- Project: High School Racial/Ethnic Segregation and the Educational Attainment Trajectories of Black, White, and Hispanic Students in the U.S
  - Refined and analyzed data from National Longitudinal Study for Adolescent to Adult Health (Add Health) using STATA software
  - Co-authored a manuscript

August 2015-May 2017: Research Assistant      The Pennsylvania State University  
Advisor: Michael Gaddis

- Project: Racial/Ethnic Discrimination in Roommate Wanted Ads on Craigslist
  - Organized email correspondence data from field experiment
- Project: The Transition to Middle School and Peer Group Movement: Effects on Math Test Score Gains
  - Refined and analyzed data from multiple cohorts of North Carolina public school students from 2006-12

July-August 2015: Research Assistant  
Advisor: Sarah Damaske

The Pennsylvania State University

- Project: Gender, Job Loss, and Unemployment
  - Interviewed participants who have experienced job loss and unemployment
  - Compiled descriptive report about participants who have used Pennsylvania Career Link's services

August-December 2012: Undergraduate Research Assistant  
Advisors: Erin Ruel, Lesley Reid, Deidre Oakley

Georgia State University

- Project: Public Housing Study (NIH & NSF Funded)
  - Interviewed public housing residents and their new neighbors
  - Compiled and organized research literature
  - Organized and refined quantitative (using SPSS) and qualitative data for analyses

June 2012- August 2012: Summer Intern  
Advisors: Abay Israel, Lynette Hoelter

University of Michigan at Ann Arbor

- Project: Inter-Consortium of Political and Social Science Research (ICPSR) Summer Internship
  - Programmed raw data into statistical packages (e.g. SAS, SPSS, STATA) and codebooks, so study is available for public use
  - Completed research project (poster) on how high school students' expectations affect their aspirations for post-graduate plans

June –August 2011: Ronald E. McNair Scholar  
Advisor: Erin Ruel

Georgia State University

- Project: Public Housing Study (NIH & NSF Funded)
  - Interviewed former public housing residents
  - Examined conditions of the built environment of the neighborhoods where former public housing residents relocated
  - Completed research project (poster and paper) on the effects of relocation out of public housing on educational opportunities for children of parents who relocated out of public housing

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## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

Martin, Molly, Tori Thomas, Gary Adler & Derek Kreager. "Is Thin 'In' at Black Schools? Gender, Race/Ethnicity and Body Weight Differences in Adolescent Peer Integration across Racialized School Contexts."

Gaddis, S. Michael and Tori Thomas. "The Role of Preferences in College Choice: Findings from the Educational Longitudinal Study of 2002."

## **MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

Thomas, Tori. "High School Racial/Ethnic Segregation and the Unrealized Aspirations of Black, White, and Hispanic Students in the US."

Thomas, Tori, Michelle Frisco & Erica Frankenberg. "High School Racial/Ethnic Segregation and the Educational Attainment Trajectories of Black, White, and Hispanic Students in the U.S."

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## **AWARDS & HONORS**

August 2018	Faculty First-Look 2018-2019 New York University, Steinhardt School of Education and Human Development
April 2017	OGEEP Scholar The Pennsylvania State University, Office of Graduate Educational Equity Programs
April 2016	Honorable Mention for Ford Foundation Pre-doctoral Fellowship Ford Foundation
April 2015	Honorable Mention for National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship National Science Foundation
April 2012	Excellent Undergraduate Award Georgia State University, Department of Sociology
April 2012	Outstanding Academic Achievement Ronald E. McNair Program, Georgia State University
April 2011	Margaret Andersen Award Georgia State University, Department of Sociology
August 2010-August 2013	MG James Ursano Scholar Army Emergency Relief
August 2009	Horatio Alger Scholar Horatio Alger Association
August 2009-August 2013	Georgia HOPE Scholar Georgia HOPE Program

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## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

August- December 2019	Instructor, SOC 005 Introduction to Social Problems (in person) The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
July- August 2019	Instructor, SOC 400W Senior Research Seminar (in person)

	The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
January 2019-April 2019	Instructor, SOC 005 Introduction to Social Problems (in person) The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
June 2018-August 2018	Instructor, SOC 119 Race and Ethnic Relations (in person) The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
June 2018	Guest Lecture, SOC 429 Social Stratification (in person) The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
June 2018	Guest Lecture, SOC 119 Race and Ethnic Relations (in person) The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
May 2017- June 2017	Instructor, SOC 119 Race and Ethnic Relations (in person) The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
April 2016	Guest Lecture, SOC 419 Race and Public Policy (in person) The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology

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## **PRESENTATIONS**

April 2018	Population Association of America- Denver, Colorado Thomas, Tori, Michelle Frisco, Erica Frankenberg. "High School Racial Segregation and the Educational Attainment Trajectories of Black, White, and Hispanic Students."
August 2017	American Sociological Association- Montreal, Canada Thomas, Tori. "How Is High School Racial Segregation Associated with Unrealized College Aspirations?"
April 2017	Population Association of America-Chicago, Illinois Gaddis, Michael, Douglass Lauen, Tori Thomas, Jennifer Jones. "Transition to Middle School and Peer Group Movement: Effects on Math and Reading Test Score Gains"
August 2016	American Sociological Association- Seattle, Washington Thomas, Tori. "How Is School Racial Composition Associated with Educational Aspirations and Attainment?"
April 2016	Population Association of America- Washington, DC Thomas, Tori. "How Is School Racial Composition Associated with Educational Aspirations and Attainment?"
April 2012	National Ronald E. McNair Conference, University of Maryland at College Park Thomas, Tori. "How Does Relocation out of Public Housing Affect Educational Opportunities for K-12 students?"
April 2012	Georgia State University Undergraduate Research Conference, Georgia State University Thomas, Tori. "How Does Relocation out of Public Housing Affect

## Educational Opportunities for K-12 students?"

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### **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

August 2014-Present	Graduate Recruitment Committee The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
August 2014-Present	Diversity Promotion Committee The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
August 2016-May 2017	Awards Committee The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
August 2016-May 2017	Teaching Committee The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
August 2015- May 2017	Student Paper Competition Committee The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
March 2015- April 2017	Mini PAA Conference Committee The Pennsylvania State University, Department of Sociology
August 2014-Present	Penn State's Black Graduate Student Association August 2018-Present: Vice President August 2016-18 Executive Secretary August 2015-16 Kwanzaa Co-Chair August 2014-15 Education and Mentoring Committee

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### **MEMBERSHIPS**

March 2018-Present	American Educational Research Association
January 2015-Present	American Sociological Association
February 2015-Present	Population Association of America
February 2015-Present	Association of Black Sociologists

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## **REFERENCES**

Dr. Michelle Frisco  
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(814) 863-5507

Dr. Molly Martin  
mam68@psu.edu  
(814) 863-5508

Dr. Erica Frankenberg  
euf10@psu.edu  
(814) 865-5862