

DAVID KAREN

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Education

Queens College - City University of New York	BA 1975
Harvard University - Sociology	MA 1984
Harvard University - Sociology	PhD 1985

Employment History

Instructor in Sociology, Bryn Mawr College, 1984-1985
Assistant Professor of Sociology, Bryn Mawr College, 1985-1992
Associate Professor of Sociology, Bryn Mawr College, 1992-2006
Professor of Sociology - Bryn Mawr College, 2006 – present

Fellowships, Honors, and Grants

Adjungeret professor – Title conferred by Aalborg University Department of Health Science and Technology of the Faculty of Medicine, 2019-2024
McPherson Award For Excellence – Bryn Mawr College Faculty award for “excellence and service to the community, either within or beyond the boundaries of the institution” - May, 2014
Institute for Advanced Study – Princeton, NJ – September, 2009-June, 2010 – Member/Visiting Scholar
Bryn Mawr College Curriculum Development Grant – Community-Based Research - Summer 2008
Bryn Mawr College “Changemaster” grant -2006
Spencer Foundation Grant –2000 – 2002
Association for Institutional Research Grant –2000- 2002
Mellon Foundation Grant –1999-2002
Spencer Foundation Grant - 1992-1993
National Academy of Education Post-Doctoral Fellow - Spencer Foundation, 1988-89.

Publications

Academic Articles and Books

Social Issues in Sport, Leisure, and Health, edited with Sine Agergaard, Routledge, 2023.

“Cooperation between schools and elite sports: How are schools affected from engaging in athletic talent development?” Published online: 11 Nov 2020. Written with Jens Christian Nielsen (first author), Lotte Stausgaard Skrubbeltrang and Jesper Stilling Olesen. *International Studies in Sociology of Education*, DOI: 10.1080/09620214.2020.1847167

“Reproduction and opportunity: A study of dual career, aspirations and elite sports in Danish SportsClasses,” *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, First published July 26, 2018. Written with Lotte Stausgaard Skrubbeltrang (first author), Jens Christian Nielsen, and Jesper Stilling Olesen.

“The Expansion of the ‘School Form’ and Deepening Inequality,” Chapter 11 in Jal Mehta and Scott Davies, eds., *Education in a New Society*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018.

“The legitimacy of elite gatekeeping,” *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, Issue 13. DOI: 10.1080/01419870.2017.1344721. Published online 18 July, 2017.

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1344721>

Sociological Perspectives On Sport: The Games Outside the Games, Routledge, 2015.

Written and edited with Robert Washington.

“Sport as a Model of Meritocracy: Theoretical Implications and a Research Agenda,” pp. 133-162 in *A Mirror of Our Culture: Sport and Society in America*, Kevin Quinn and Michael Marsden, eds., DiPere, WI: St. Norbert College Press, 2012. Written with Robert Washington.

Sport, Power, and Society: Institutions and Practices. Westview Press, 2010. Written and edited with Robert Washington.

The Sport and Society Reader, Routledge, 2009. Written and edited with Robert Washington.

“Reproduction, Redemption, and Respect,” Chapter 14 (pp. 409-463) of *Ain’t No Makin’ It* by Jay MacLeod, 3rd edition (Westview Press, 2009). Written with Katherine McClelland.

“Early Factors Leading to College Graduation for Asians and Non-Asians in the United States,” *The Sociological Quarterly*, 48:2, April 2007. Written with Thomas Vartanian, Page Walker Buck, and Wendy Cadge.

“Necessary But Not Sufficient: Higher Education as a Strategy of Social Mobility,” with Kevin Dougherty in Gary Orfield, Patricia Marin, and Catherine Horn, eds., *Higher Education and the Color Line*, Harvard Education Publishing Group, 2005.

“No Child Left Behind? Sociology Ignored!” *Sociology of Education*, 78 (2): 165-169, April 2005.

- Reprinted in Alan R Sadovnik, Jennifer A O'Day, George W Bohrnstedt, Kathryn M Borman, eds., *No Child Left Behind and the Reduction of the Achievement Gap: Sociological Perspectives on Federal Educational Policy*, Routledge, 2007.
- “Changes in Access to Higher Education in the United States, 1980-1992,” *Sociology of Education*, July 2002. Reprinted in Alan Sadovnik, ed., *Sociology of Education: A Critical Reader*, Routledge, 2007.
- “Sport and Society,” with Robert E. Washington, *Annual Review of Sociology*, 2001
- “Affirmative Action Symposium: Mapping Out the Debate and Developing New Strategies – Comments,” *Columbia Human Rights Law Review* 30, 3 (Summer 1999): 475-482. Also published in *National Black Law Journal*, 16, 2 (1999-2000): 233-238.
- "The Dynamics of Young Men's Career Aspirations," with Jerry Jacobs and Katherine McClelland, *Sociological Forum*, 6, 4 (December, 1991).
- "'Achievement' and 'Ascription' in Admission to an Elite College: A Political-Organizational Analysis," *Sociological Forum* 6, 2 (June, 1991).
- "The Politics of Class, Race, and Gender Access to Higher Education in the United States, 1960-1986," *American Journal of Education* (February, 1991)
- "Toward a Political-Organizational Model of Gatekeeping: The Case of Elite Colleges," *Sociology of Education*, October, 1990.
- "Access to Higher Education, 1900-1985: Class, Race, and Gender," in K. Dougherty and F. Hammack, eds., *The Sociology of Education: A Reader*, Harcourt, Brace, Jovanovich, 1989.

Book Reviews

- Amplified Advantage: Going to a “Good” College in an Era of Inequality* by Allison Hurst. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2020. *American Journal of Sociology*, January 2021, vol. 126, 4, pp. 988-990.
- Sport and Modernity* by Richard Gruneau, Cambridge, UK: Polity Press, 2017, *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*. vol. 48, 3: pp. 315-316. First Published May 15, 2019.
- Indian Spectacle: College Mascots and the Anxiety of Modern America* by Jennifer Guiliano. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*, 45, 6 (2016), 742-744. doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/0094306116671949s>
- “Sport, Peace, and Development: Constraints and Possibilities,” Essay Review of Brian Wilson, *Sport and Peace: A Sociological Perspective*, Ontario, Canada: Oxford University Press, 2012 and Simon Darnell, *Sport for Development and Peace: A Critical Sociology*, London and New York: Bloomsbury Academic, 2012, *Sociology of Sport Journal* 33, 4, 2016.
- Playing to Win: Raising Children in a Competitive Culture*, by Hilary Levey Friedman and *It's All for the Kids: Gender, Families, and Youth Sports*, by Michael A. Messner, *International Review of Modern Sociology*, Vol. 41, 1, (Spring 2015): 123-7.

- Symbolic Power, Politics, and Intellectuals; The Political Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu*, by David Swartz, *Contemporary Sociology*, 44, 5 (2015): 720-1.
- “What Are College Students Really Learning?” Review of: *Academically Adrift: Limited Learning on College Campuses* By Richard Arum, Josipa Roksa University of Chicago Press, 2011 272 pages; *Degrees of Inequality: Culture, Class, and Gender in American Higher Education* By Ann L. Mullen Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010 264 pages. *Contexts*, Winter 2012 vol. 11 no. 1, pp. 74-76.
- Class Practices: How Parents Help Their Children Get Good Jobs*, by Fiona Devine, *Social Forces* (June 2006)
- Public Funding of Higher Education: Changing Contexts and New Rationales*, edited by Edward P. St. John and Michael D. Parsons, *Contemporary Sociology*, 35, 2 (March 2006): 189-191.
- Sport Matters: Sociological Studies of Sport, Violence, and Civilization* by Eric Dunning, *Contemporary Sociology*, 31,1 (Jan. 2002): 49-50.
- Changing the Odds: Open Admissions and the Life Chances of the Disadvantaged*, by David Lavin and David Hyllegard, *Social Forces*, December 1997.
- Caribbean Hoops* by Jay Mandle and Joan Mandle, *Contemporary Sociology*, Sept, 1996.
- Official Knowledge: Democratic Education in a Conservative Age*, by Michael Apple, *Contemporary Sociology*, 23, 4 (1994): 572-573.
- The High-Status Track: Studies of Elite Schools and Stratification*, edited by Paul William Kingston and Lionel S. Lewis in *Science*, December 21, 1990.
- The American College and the Culture of Aspiration* by David O. Levine in *Science*, February 1987.
- Keeping Track* by Jeannie Oakes, *Harvard Educational Review*, November 1987.
- Preparing for Power* by Peter Cookson and Caroline Hodges Persell in *American Journal of Sociology*, September, 1986.
- Choosing Elites* by Robert Klitgaard in *Review of Education*, Vol. 12, No. 2, Spring, 1986
- "Migrant Portraits: Still and Moving," (Review of "Bread and Chocolate" and John Berger and Jean Mohr, *A Seventh Man*) *Socialist Review*, No. 45, 9, 3 (May-June 1979):145-158.

Miscellaneous Publications

- “Does Harvard Discriminate?” September 24, 2018. Insidehighered.com
<http://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/views/2018/09/24/harvards-admissions-discrimination-appropriate-opinion>
- “Put Yourself in the Cyclist’s Seat,” *Philadelphia Inquirer*, March 14, 2016, Sunday Review. http://articles.philly.com/2016-03-14/news/71479178_1_bike-riders-cyclist-road-signs
- “Disadvantaging the Disadvantaged,” As I See It, *The Patriot-News*. June 25, 2008. P. A15.
- "Give Your Kid a Break. Go to Harvard." *New York Times* Op-Ed, December 8, 1990, with Jerome Karabel. (Reprinted in Los Angeles Tribune)
- Syllabus for “Sociology of Education,” in American Sociological Association, Teaching Materials and Course Syllabi in Sociology of Education, Washington, DC, 1996.

- Syllabus for "Social Inequality," in American Sociological Association, Teaching Materials and Course Syllabi in Social Stratification, Washington, DC, 1989.
- "Are Middle-Class Feminists Selfish?" (with Carole Joffe), Baltimore Sun, December 14, 1986, p. 5D.
- "College Aid Cut Effect Would Be 'Devastating'," Guest Opinion, Philadelphia Daily News, April 16, 1985, p. 36.
- "A Danger of Reagan's School Cuts," Newsday, May 24, 1982, p. 36.
- "Color on the Court: Race in Professional Basketball," (with Jerome Karabel) In These Times 6, 12 (Feb. 10-16, 1982): 23-4.

Film Credit

<https://Love2020film.com>

For the film, "Love, 2020," provided commentary about the 2020 US Open, the first global sporting event to take place after the pandemic.

Papers at Conferences (selected)

- "Factors Affecting Children's Sport Participation in the United States: A Bourdieu-sian Approach," with Eve Murphy (Teachers College, Columbia University) and Chris Knoester (Ohio State University), American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August, 2024, Montreal, Canada.
- "Social Origins and Contextual Determinants of Youth Sports Involvement in the United States," with Eve Murphy (Teachers College, Columbia University) and Chris Knoester (Ohio State University), North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Annual Conference, November 2023, New Orleans, LA.
- "Institutionalizing Elite Sports in Danish Public Schools: How do schools benefit from engaging in athletic talent development?" with Lotte Stausgaard Skrubbeltrang (Aalborg University), Jens Christian Nielsen (Aarhus University), and Jesper Stilling Olsen (Aarhus University). Submitted for American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 2020.
- "Reproduction and Opportunity: The Role of Denmark's Sports Classes," with Lotte Stausgaard Skrubbeltrang (Aalborg University), Jens Christian Nielsen (Aarhus University), and Jesper Stilling Olsen (Aarhus University), International Sociology of Sport Association, Budapest, Hungary, June 2016.
- "Advancing Standards of Normative Fairness: Sports' Unique Social Role," with Bob Washington, North American Society for the Sociology of Sport Conference, Santa Fe, New Mexico, November, 2015.
- Author Meets Critics Session, *Paying for the Party* by Armstrong and Hamilton, American Sociological Association, August, 2014
- "Bringing Sport Back In: Sport as a Model of Meritocracy," with Bob Washington, American Sociological Association, August 23, 2012, Las Vegas, NV.
- "Sport as a Model of Meritocracy: Theoretical Implications and a Research Agenda," with Bob Washington. Presented at "A Mirror of Our Culture: Sport and Society in America." St. Norbert College. May 26-28, 2010.

- “Rationalization in Sport,” Roundtable presentation with Bob Washington, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2006, Montreal.
- “Race, Cultural Capital, and Educational Attainment: How Do Asian-Americans Differ?” with Tom Vartanian and Wendy Cadge, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2003.
- “Cultural Capital in the Sociology of Education – Comments,” Pierre Bourdieu – Sociologist and Public Intellectual, Boston University, October 19, 2002.
- “Patterns of Educational Selection of 1988 Eighth Graders,” Association for Institutional Research Annual Conference, Long Beach, CA, June 5, 2001.
- “Reflections on Schooling in Capitalist America after 25 Years,” Eastern Sociological Society, March 2001.
- “Teaching Sociology of Education – A Symposium,” Eastern Sociological Society, March 2001.
- Progress Report on “Selective Colleges and Attainment,” Mellon Foundation Conference, Diversity in Higher Education, Boston University, Institute on Race and Social Division, December 1-2, 2000
- “Academic and Nonacademic Influences on the College Destinations of 1992 High School Graduates,” with James C. Hearn, American Sociological Association, August 1998.
- “Diversity in Access to Higher Education: Changes from the 1960s to the 1990s by Class, Race, and Gender,” Eastern Sociological Society, March 1998.
- “Sports and Inequality,” with Robert Washington, Informal Roundtable, American Sociological Association, August, 1997.
- “Changing Patterns of Access to Higher Education in the 1990s,” American Educational Research Association, April 19, 1995.
- “Political Mobilization and Access to Higher Education,” Roundtable, American Sociological Association, August 1994.
- “Political Mobilization and Shifting Patterns of Admission to Harvard During the Twentieth Century,” American Educational Research Association, April 6, 1994.
- “Reflections on Organizational Perspectives in Admissions,” American Educational Research Association, April 20, 1992.
- “The Changing Politics of Admission to Elite Colleges,” American Educational Research Association, April 24, 1992.
- “Gender and Extracurricular Activities in Access to an Elite College,” American Sociological Association, August 26, 1991.
- “The Politics of Class, Race, and Gender Access to Higher Education,” Plenary Session, Conference on Class Bias in Higher Education, Queens College, New York, October 5, 1990.
- “Farming Out Social Researchers: How to Start a Small-Scale Internship Program,” Eastern Sociological Society, March 1990.
- “The Dynamics of Young Men’s Career Aspirations,” American Sociological Association, August, 1989 (with Jerry A. Jacobs and Katherine E. McClelland).
- “The Politics of Class, Race, and Gender Access to Higher Education in the United States, 1940-1986,” American Educational Research Association, April, 1989.
- “The Response of Feminists to Inequality,” Thematic Session, American Sociological Association, August, 1988 (with Carole Joffe).

- "Who Applies Where to College: An Empirical Examination of the Social Context of Ambition," American Educational Research Association, April, 1988.
- "The Politics of Gatekeeping: The Case of Elite Colleges," American Sociological Association, August, 1987.
- "The Social Base of Feminism: Opportunities and Change," Roundtable, American Sociological Association, August, 1987 (organized with Carole Joffe).
- "Varieties of Feminism: Diversity and the Future of the Women's Movement," Colloquium, Eastern Sociological Society, May 1987 (with Carole Joffe).
- "The Declining Significance of Gender? Barriers to a Unified Women's Movement," Society for the Study of Social Problems, August 28, 1986 (with Carole Joffe).
- "Ambition and Social Structure," Roundtable, American Sociological Association, August, 1986 (organized with Katherine E. McClelland).
- "The Politics of Admission to Elite Colleges: The Case of Harvard," Eastern Sociological Society, April 6, 1986.
- "Admission to Harvard: The Effects of Race/Ethnicity, Gender, Social Background, and Ability," American Educational Research Association, April 16, 1986.
- "Social Closure in Education: The Case of Harvard Admissions," American Sociological Association, September 1, 1983.
- "Trends in Access to Higher Education: Race, Class, and Sex," (with Katherine E. McClelland) American Sociological Association, September 1, 1983.
- "Trends in Racial, Sexual, and Class Inequality in Access to American Higher Education, 1940-1980," Eastern Sociological Society, March 21, 1981.

Invited Lectures

- University of Texas-Austin, Making Sports...and Society...Fairer: Dimensions of Fairness in Sports with Implications for Education and Health Care," March 27, 2020. (postponed)
- Inaugural Lecture at Aalborg University: "From Harvard to the Olympics: Engaging and Overcoming Meritocracy in the Pursuit of Fairness in Education and Sport." May 25, 2019.
- "Admission to US Elite Universities," Aalborg University, Center for Education Policy Research Seminar, April 20, 2016, Fjerritslev, Denmark.
- "Elite College Sport in the United States," Presentation to Aalborg Sportshoejskole, April 20, 2016.
- "Women Athletes' Body Image: Femininity versus Muscularity," Research Seminar, Aalborg University, April 19, 2016.
- "When Do Sports Matter? Sports and Normative Ideas of Fairness," Aalborg University, April 12, 2016.
- "Organizing Talent in the United States?" Presentations to Course on Organisation of Development of Talents and Health Promotion, Aalborg University, April 11, 13, 18, 2016.
- "Commercial Bodies: The Market of Sports and Race," Haverford College, April 12, 2013. Discussion with Nick Chanock, Don D'Ambra, Donald Hunt, Don DiJulia.
- Radcliffe Institute Seminar, "Education in a New Society," Cambridge, MA, April 26-7, 2012. Conference participant and respondent.

- “Education in a New Society,” Respondent to paper by Scott Davies and Jal Mehta. Sociology of Education panel at University of Pennsylvania, May 5, 2011.
- “Sport as Meritocracy: Neo-institutional models of change.” Institute for Advanced Study. May 13, 2010.
- “Perceptions of Opportunity for Higher Education,” Conference on Higher Education Access and Opportunity, University of Georgia, Institute of Higher Education, April 3-5, 2003.
- “Patterns of Educational Selection by Race, Class, and Gender,” Fulbright Educational Experts Seminar 2000 -- “Democracy and Higher Education: A Complex Mix in Advanced Industrial Societies,” October 26-29, 2000, Ann Arbor, MI.
- “Status Report: Where are we now in the struggle for affirmative action? How did we lose so much ground?” Center for Constitutional Rights - Affirmative Action Symposium - January 16, 1999
- “Dilemmas in Social Research,” Spencer Foundation Forum for Pre-Doctoral Fellows, October 4, 1996.
- "Political Mobilization and Shifting Patterns of Admission to Harvard During the Twentieth Century," Columbia University, Department of Sociology, April 14, 1994.
- "A Political-Organizational Analysis of Gatekeeping," Columbia University Seminar on Higher Education, February 20, 1991.
- "Social Background and College Applications," University of Pennsylvania, November 5, 1986.
- "Who Gets Into Harvard?" Harvard Club of Philadelphia, Sept. 21, 1986.

Other Professional Activities (selected)

- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Education Section Nominations Committee (2019-2020)
- Program Committee, Eastern Sociological Society 2017 Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA.
- Consultant on Sports Talent Development Project in Denmark: Sports Classes – Room for Talented Athletes in the Danish Public School. 2015-
- Advisory Council on Shared Governance, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, 2016
- Program Committee, North American Society for Sociology of Sport, 2016 Conference, Tampa, FL.
- Session Organizer (with Bob Washington) –American Sociological Association – Sociology of Sport Regular Sessions for Annual Meeting 2007 (3 sessions)
- External Departmental Reviewer, Dickinson College, Department of Sociology, May 2005
- Session Organizer (with Katherine McClelland) – American Sociological Association – Sociology of Education Section for Annual Meeting 2004 (5 sessions)
- “No Child Left Behind” Conference Planning Committee – American Sociological Association Annual Meeting 2004
- American Sociological Association Task Force on the High School Advanced Placement Exam – September 2001 to August 2004

Outside reviewer and panel participant, Department of Education, Field Initiated Studies, Postsecondary Education Panel, Washington, DC, May 2001
Session Organizer (with Katherine McClelland) – American Sociological Association – Regular Sessions on Sociology of Education for Annual Meeting 2001
Editorial Board Member, *Sociology of Education*, 1998 - 2001
Candace Rogers Award Committee (best graduate student paper) of the Eastern Sociological Society, 1989-90, 1991-92
Member of PARSS (Program for Assessment and Revitalization of the Social Sciences) seminar at UPenn: Work and Welfare
Manuscript reviewer for Macmillan, Harvard University Press, Westview Press, SUNY Press, Rutgers University Press, Yale University Press, University of California Press, Princeton University Press, Rowman and Littlefield, *Qualitative Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Sociology of Education*, etc.
Session organizer and presider - Eastern Sociological Society annual meetings; American Educational Research Association annual meetings (various years).
Discussant, American Educational Research Association (various years).
Discussant, Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting (various years).
Discussant, American Sociological Association annual meeting (various years).
Discussant, North American Society for the Sociology of Sport (2008).
Proposal reviewer for National Science Foundation (various years).
Honors Examiner at Swarthmore College (many years).

Memberships in Learned Societies and Professional Associations

Phi Beta Kappa
American Sociological Association
Eastern Sociological Society
Society for the Study of Social Problems
American Educational Research Association
North American Society for the Sociology of Sport
International Sociology of Sport Association

Community Service

Upper Merion Board of Community Assistance, 2016-present
School Director, Upper Merion Area School District, 1999 – 2015 (elected November, 1999; re-elected November 2003, 2007, 2011).
Montgomery County School Directors Legislative Committee, 1999-2015
Southeastern Pennsylvania School District Education Coalition Member, 2006-2015
Upper Merion Scholarship Committee, 1999-present
Pennsylvania School Boards Association Member, 1999-2015
“College: Is It For Me and How Do I Get In?” Presentation to parents and students at Upper Merion Area High School, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012.