

Ralph B. McNeal Jr.
Department of Sociology, U-2068
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University of Connecticut
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Education

Ph.D. 1994, The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
M.A. 1991, The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill
B.A. 1990, The University of Miami

Academic Positions

2001- Associate Professor, Department of Sociology
University of Connecticut

2000-3 Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology,
1997-9 University of Connecticut

1995-2001 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology,
University of Connecticut

1994 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Research Associate, Department of Public Health Sciences
Wake Forest University

Research Interests

Education; Adolescence; High School Dropouts; Substance Use; Parent Involvement; Adolescent Employment – Nature and Consequences of; Social Capital -- Especially as It Relates to Adolescence; Program Assessment and Evaluation

Teaching Interests

Teaching Sociology; Sociology of Education; Deviant Behavior; Criminology; Youth Violence; Introductory Sociology; Race & Ethnic Relations; Quantitative Methods

Undergraduate Courses Taught

Sociology of Education, most recent evaluation score 9.6 out of 10.
Deviant Behavior, most recent evaluation score 9.3 out of 10.
Introductory Sociology, most recent evaluation score 9.2 out of 10.
Criminology, most recent evaluation score 9.1 out of 10.
Race and Ethnic Relations, unevaluated
Prejudice and Discrimination, unevaluated
Youth Violence, unevaluated

Graduate Courses Taught

Statistics (Introductory and Advanced), most recent evaluation score 9.2 out of 10.
Sociology of Education, unevaluated
Teaching Sociology, unevaluated

Teaching Awards

American Association of University Professors/University of Connecticut Excellence in Teaching Promise Award, 1999

State of Connecticut Citation for Teaching Excellence, 1999

Textbooks/Readers

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. and Kathleen Tiemann. 2004. *Intersections: Readings in Sociology, 3rd edition*. Boston, MA: Pearson Publishing. (1st edition, 2000; 2nd edition 2002)

McNeal, Jr. Ralph B. 2004. *Readings in Deviance, 2nd edition*, Volume 1 in *Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime, and Criminal Justice*, Bradley R. E. Wright and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. (series editors). Boston, MA: Pearson Publishing. (1st edition, 2002).

Wright, Bradley R.E. and Ralph B. McNeal, Jr.. 2004. *Readings in Criminal Justice, 2nd edition*, Volume 3 in *Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime, and Criminal Justice*, Bradley R. E. Wright and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. (series editors). Boston, MA: Pearson Publishing. (1st edition, 2002).

Textbook/Reader Chapters

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 2004. Essays on "Prison & Corrections" and "Law Enforcement and Policing" in *Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime, and Criminal Justice*, Bradley R.E. Wright and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. (series editors). Boston, MA: Pearson Publishing.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 2002. Essays on "Socialization", "Groups and Organizations", "Deviance, Conformity, and Social Control", "Stratification", "Race and Ethnicity", and "Communities and Population" in *Intersections: Readings in Sociology*, Ralph B. McNeal Jr. and Kathleen Tiemann (editors). Boston, MA: Pearson Publishing.

McNeal, Jr. Ralph B. 2002. Essays on "Understanding Deviance and Conformity", "Becoming and Being Deviant", "Explaining Deviance", "Types of Deviance", and "Social Reactions to Deviance" in *Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime, and Criminal Justice*, Bradley R. E. Wright and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. (series editors). Boston, MA: Pearson Publishing.

Other Teaching-Related Activities and Funding

"Teaching Introduction to Sociology On-Line". Funded by the University of Connecticut, College of Continuing Studies, 2003-4, \$3,600.

Consultant for "Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology (PT3)." Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, 2001-2004. Project Evaluator, William Stuart (Integral Evaluation, LLC).

Consultant for “The Connecticut Urban Consortium for Teaching United States Constitutional History.” Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, 2003-2006, Project Evaluator, William Stuart (Integral Evaluation, LLC).

Consultant for “The Hartford Public Schools Safe Schools/Healthy Students Project”. Funded by SAMHSA, the U.S. Department of Justice, and the U.S. Department of Education, 2004-2007. Project Evaluator, William Stuart (Integral Evaluation, LLC).

Consultant for “Improving Drug Education Through Concept Training for Teachers.” Funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, Grant#2R44DA09933-02, 1997-9, \$512,277. Principal Investigator, William B. Hansen.

“Preparing to Teach in the Hi-Tech World: Curriculum Upgrade for Pedagogical Improvement.” Funded by the University of Connecticut Teaching Institute, 1997, \$1,000.

Member, Editorial Board, *Teaching Sociology*, 1997-2000.

Textbook Reviewer: F.E. Peacock, Harper Collins, Prentice Hall, Wadsworth.

Reviewer for *Teaching Sociology*.

Refereed Publications

McNeal Jr., Ralph B., William B. Hansen, Nancy G. Harrington, and Steven M. Giles. 2004. “How All Stars Works: An Examination of Program Effects on Mediating Variables” *Health Education and Behavior* 31(2): 165-178.

* *Recipient of the Lawrence W. Green Best Paper of the Year Award.*

Fearnow-Kenney, Melodie, William B. Hansen, and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. 2002. “Comparison of Psychosocial Influences on Substance Use in Adolescents: Implications for Prevention Programming.” *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Use* 11(4): 1-24.

Hansen, William B. and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. 2001. “Self-Initiated Cessation from Substance Use: A Longitudinal Study of the Relationship Between Postulated Mediators and Quitting.” *Journal of Drug Issues* 31(4): 957-975.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 2001. “Differential Effects of Parent Involvement on Cognitive and Behavioral Outcomes by Socioeconomic Status.” *Journal of Socioeconomics* 30(2): 171-9.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1999. “Parent Involvement as Social Capital: Differential Effectiveness on Science Achievement, Truancy and Dropping Out.” *Social Forces* 78(1):117-44.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1999. “Participating in High School Extracurricular Activities: Investigating School Effects.” *Social Science Quarterly* 80(2):291-309.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. and William B. Hansen. 1999. “Developmental Patterns Associated with the Onset of Drug Use: Changes in Postulated Mediators During Adolescence.” *Journal of Drug Issues* 29(2):381-400.

- Hansen, William B. and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. 1999. "Drug Education Practice: Results of an Observational Study." *Health Education Research* 14(1):85-97.
- McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1998. "High School Extracurricular Activities: 'Closed' Structures and Stratifying Patterns of Participation." *Journal of Educational Research* 91(3):183-91.
- McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1997. "Are Students Being 'Pulled' Out of High School? The Effect of Adolescent Employment on Dropping Out." *Sociology of Education* 70(3):206-20.
- McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1997. "High School Dropouts: A Closer Examination of School Effects." *Social Science Quarterly* 78(1):209-22.
- Hansen, William B. and Ralph B. McNeal, Jr. 1997. "How D.A.R.E. Works: An Examination of Program Effects on Mediating Variables." *Health Education and Behavior* 24(2):165-76.
* Reprinted in Wright, B. And R. McNeal (Eds.), 2001. *Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime, and Criminal Justice*. Pearson Publishing: Boston, MA.
- Hansen, William B. and Ralph B. McNeal, Jr. 1996. "Law of Maximum Expected Potential Effect: Constraints Placed on Program Effectiveness by Mediator Relationships." *Health Education Research* 11(4):501-7.
- McNeal Jr., Ralph B. and William B. Hansen. 1995. "An Examination of Strategies for Gaining Convergent Validity in Natural Experiments: D.A.R.E. as an Illustrative Case Study." *Evaluation Review* 19(2):141-58.
- McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1995. "Extracurricular Activities and High School Dropouts." *Sociology of Education* 68(1):62-81.
- Langer, Lilly M., Rick S. Zimmerman and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. 1992. "Explaining the Association of Race and Ethnicity with the HIV/AIDS-Related Attitudes, Skills, and Behaviors of High School Students." *Population Research and Policy Review* 11:233-47.

Other Publications

- Fearnow-Kenney, Melodie, William B. Hansen and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. 2000. "Mediators and Drug Prevention." Pp. 59-68 in William B. Hansen, Steven M. Giles and Melodie Fearnow-Kenney (Editors), *Improving Prevention Effectiveness*. Greensboro, NC: Tanglewood Research.
- Bachmann, Edward, Andrea Bohlig, John D. Kasarda, Ralph B. McNeal Jr. and Kwok-Fai Ting. 1992. "Machine Readable File Documentation." Pp. 73-280 in John D. Kasarda (Editor), *Urban Underclass Database: An Overview and Machine-Readable File Documentation*. New York, NY: Social Science Research Council.
- Longino Jr., Charles F. and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. 1990. "The Elderly Population of South Florida." Pp. 181-194 in Tom Boswell (Editor), *South Florida: The Winds of Change*. Miami, FL: Association of American Geographers.

Invited Presentations

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1998. "Parent Involvement as Social Capital: Differential Effects of Parental Involvement on Cognitive and Behavioral Outcomes by Race, Household Structure, and Socioeconomic Status." Social Capital Conference: Bridging Disciplines, Policies, and Communities, Michigan State University.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1997. "Adolescent Employment: Benefits and Detriments." Testimony presented to the Connecticut State Legislature, Labor Committee.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. and Barbara Entwisle. 1993. "Analysis of Multilevel Data: A Review of Statistical Concerns." Keynote address at the CDC Symposium on Statistical Methods, Atlanta.

Presentations

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 2000. "Parent Involvement and Student Performance: The Influence of Social Context." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 2000. "Does 'Work Orientation' Account for the Work-Dropout Relationship?" Presented at the School-to-Work Conference at the University of Washington, Seattle.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1999. "Investigating How Adolescent Employment, Socioeconomic Status, and Labor Markets Affect Educational Attainment: The Case of High School Dropouts." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago.

Hansen, William B. and Ralph B. McNeal, Jr. 1999. "Self-Initiated Cessation from Substance Use: A Longitudinal Study of the Relationship between Mediators and Quitting." Presented at the Society for Prevention Research Annual Meeting, New Orleans.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1998. "Parent Involvement, Process Outcomes, and Science Achievement: Explaining the Parent Involvement Effect?" Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1997. "Parent Involvement and Dropping Out of High School." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Toronto.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1996. "Student Involvement and School Context: An Exploratory Investigation." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York City.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1996. "The Pulling Out Effect of Adolescent Employment: The Effect of Job Type and Intensity on Dropping Out of High School." Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1995. "Equitable Participation in Extracurricular Activities?" Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1995. "High School Structure, Environment, and Dropping Out: A Multilevel Analysis." Presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Philadelphia.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1994. "Youth Employment and Dropping Out of High School: Do Different Jobs Have Different Effects?" Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Raleigh, North Carolina.

McNeal Jr., Ralph B. 1993. "School Determinants of Dropout Rates: A Latent Variable Causal Model." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Miami.

Langer, Lilly M., Rick S. Zimmerman and Ralph B. McNeal Jr. 1992. "Explaining the Effects of Race and Ethnicity on AIDS-Related Attitudes, Skills, and Behaviors." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh.

Grant History (direct costs listed)

"Investigating the 'Reactive Hypothesis'." Funded by the American Educational Research Association in cooperation with the National Science Foundation and the National Center for Education Statistics under NSF Grant #RED-9452861, 1999-2001, \$24,758.

"Understanding and Preventing Grade Repetition and School Failure: Needs Assessment and Prevention Program Development." Funded by the UCONN/Hartford School Partnership, 1998-9, \$9,876.

"Automated Social Analysis in Drug Abuse Prevention." Funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, Grant #1R43DA/HD10675-01, 1997-8. Co-Investigator, William B. Hansen, \$62,572.

"Parent Involvement and Student Outcomes." Funded by the American Educational Research Association in cooperation with the National Science Foundation and the National Center for Education Statistics under NSF Grant #RED-9452861, 1996-8, \$23,853.

"Involvement in and Access to High School Extracurricular Activities." Funded by the University of Connecticut Research Foundation, 1996-7, \$7,000.

"Student Disengagement and Dropping Out of High School." Funded by the University of Connecticut Research Foundation, 1995, \$1,000.

Consulting

Consultant for grant entitled, "Commercially Viable and Effective Drug Prevention Program." Funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, Grant #2R44DA09189-02, 1996-8. Principal Investigator, William B. Hansen, \$558,542.

Consultant for grant entitled, "Automated Social Network Data Collection." Funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse, Grant #N44DA-2-5509, 2001-2002. Principal Investigator, William B. Hansen, \$546,538.

Professional Activities

Member, Editorial Board, *Social Science Quarterly*, 2001- present.

Member, Editorial Board, *Sociology of Education*, 2000 - 2003.

Guest Editor, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Social Science Examines Education*, 2004

Chair, Informal Roundtables, American Sociological Association, 2005.

Chair, Committee on Nominations, American Sociological Association, Sociology of Education Section. 2001-2002.

Discussant: Session on School to Work Lifecourse Transition, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C. 2000.

Member, Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award Committee, American Sociological Association Sociology of Education Section, 1998.

Presider/Discussant: Session on Institutional Intersections between Economy, Religion, and Education. Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. 1995.

Discussant: Session on the Academic Labor Market. Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA. 1995.

Manuscript Reviewer: *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Sociology of Education, Social Psychology of Education, American Sociological Review, American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Science Quarterly, European Sociological Review, Journal of Adolescent Research, Journal of Research on Adolescence, Research in Sociology of Education and Socialization, Teaching Sociology, Sociological Spectrum, Social Problems, Sociological Forum, Population Research and Policy Review, Sociological Forum*

Grant Reviewer: National Science Foundation.

Member, American Sociological Association; American Educational Research Association; Society for Research on Adolescence.

Major Departmental Service

Director of Graduate Studies (1997-9, 2000-03)

Graduate Program Committee (Chair 1997-9, 2000-03)

Graduate Admissions Committee (Chair 1997-9, 2001-2; Member 2000-1)

Graduate Financial Aid Committee (Chair 1996-7, 1999-2000, 2001-2)

Executive Committee (Member 2002-2004)

Faculty Recruitment Committee (Member 1998-9, 2003-04; Chair 2000-01)

Coordinator, High School Cooperative Program (1996-present)

Tenure, Promotion, and Re-Appointment Committee (1995-6)

Major University Service

University Institutional Review Board (2002-present)

Advisory Board, *Center for Population Research* (Member 2000-present)

Graduate Faculty Council (Member 1997-2003)

University Retention Committee (Member 1997-1999)

University Visiting Faculty Fellowship Committee (Member 2002-05)

University of Connecticut Research Foundation

Social Science Review Panel (Member 1997-9; Chair 1998-9)

Freshmen Orientation (1997-8)

Midnight Breakfast (every semester)

Husky Hauler (help freshmen move into the dorms & help with orientation) (2000-pres)

Relevant Community Service

Elected Member, Region 19 Board of Education (1995-2001; Vice Chairperson 1999-2001)

The Region 19 Education District is comprised of Ashford, Mansfield, and Willington Connecticut.

Member, Board of Directors, EASTCONN (1995-2001)

EASTCONN is a regional agency responsible for delivering educational services to its 36 member towns and school districts in Northeast Connecticut. EASTCONN's programs include providing special education services, transportation services, and technological assistance to school personnel.

(References Provided Upon Request)