

Ralph B. McNeal Jr.
University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow
Department of Sociology, U-1068
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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
1995-2001 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut
1994 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Wake Forest University
1994 Research Associate, Department of Public Health Sciences, Wake Forest University

Research Interests

Social Capital in Adolescence; Parent Involvement; Student Involvement; Adolescent Employment; Online Teaching

Teaching Awards

2007 University of Connecticut Teaching Fellow, University of Connecticut
2005 Teacher of the Year, National Society of Collegiate Scholars – UConn Chapter
1999 American Association of University Professors Excellence in Teaching Promise
1999 State of Connecticut Citation for Teaching Excellence

Publications

McNeal, Ralph B. 2015. "Institutional Environment(s) for Online Course Development and Delivery." *Universal Journal of Educational Research*, 3(1): 46-54.

McNeal, Ralph B. 2014. "Parent Involvement, Academic Achievement and the Role of Student Attitudes and Behaviors as Mediators." *Universal Journal of Educational Res.*, 2(8): 564-576.

McNeal, Ralph B. 2014. "Parent Involvement and Student Performance: The Influence of School Context." *Educational Research for Policy and Practice*, DOI 10.1007/s10671-014-9167-7.

McNeal, Ralph B. 2013. "Online versus Traditional Instruction: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from a College-Level Introduction to Sociology Course." *IJOL* 21(1): 3-18.

McNeal, Ralph B. 2012. "Checking In or Checking Out: Investigating the Parent Involvement 'Reactive Hypothesis'." *Journal of Educational Research* 105(2):79-89.

- McNeal, Ralph B. 2011. "Labor Market Effects on Dropping Out of High School: Variation by Gender, Race, and Employment Status." *Youth and Society* 43(3): 305-332.
- Tiemann, Kathleen A., Ralph B. McNeal, Betsy Lucal and Morten Ender (Editors). 2011. *The Intersections Collection, 1st ed.* Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing.
- McNeal, Ralph B. and Kathleen Tiemann (Editors). 2010. *Intersections: Readings in Sociology, 6th ed.* Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing. (2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008).
- Wright, Bradley and Ralph B. McNeal (Editors). 2008. *Boundaries: Readings in Deviance, Crime and Criminal Justice, 4th ed.* Boston: Pearson Custom Publishing. (2002, 2004, 2006)
- McNeal, Ralph B. 2005. "Dropping Out of School". *Encyclopedia of Sociology*, Blackwell Publishing.
- McNeal, 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. *Lawrence W. Green Best Paper of the Year Award.*
- Fearnow-Kenney, Melodie, William B. Hansen, and Ralph B. McNeal. 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. 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.
- Fearnow-Kenney, Melodie, William B. Hansen and Ralph B. McNeal. 2000. "Mediators and Drug Prevention." Pp. 59-68 in William B. Hansen, Steven M. Giles and Melodie Fearnow-Kenney (Eds), *Improving Prevention Effectiveness*. Greensboro, NC: Tanglewood Research.
- McNeal, Ralph B. 1999. "Parent Involvement as Social Capital: Differential Effectiveness on Science Achievement, Truancy and Dropping Out." *Social Forces* 78(1):117-44.
- McNeal, Ralph B. 1999. "Participating in High School Extracurricular Activities: Investigating School Effects." *Social Science Quarterly* 80(2):291-309.
- McNeal, 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. 1999. "Drug Education Practice: Results of an Observational Study." *Health Education Research* 14(1):85-97.

McNeal, Ralph B. 1998. "High School Extracurricular Activities: 'Closed' Structures and Stratifying Patterns of Participation." *Journal of Educational Research* 91(3):183-91.

McNeal, 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, 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. 1997. "How D.A.R.E. Works: An Examination of Program Effects on Mediating Variables." *Health Education and Behavior* 24(2):165-76.

Hansen, William B. and Ralph B. McNeal. 1996. "Law of Maximum Expected Potential Effect: Constraints Placed on Program Effectiveness by Mediator Relationships." *Health Education Research* 11(4):501-7.

McNeal, 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, 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. 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.

Presentations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

McNeal, Ralph B. 1994. "Youth Employment and Dropping Out of High School: Do Different Jobs Have Different Effects?" Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting.

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

McNeal, 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 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(s) & Consulting

"Developing Introduction to Sociology as an Online Course". Office of the Provost, *University of Connecticut*, \$7,500. (2012)

"Prejudice & Discrimination", Provost's General Education Course Development Competition, *University of Connecticut*, \$10,000. (2006-08)

"Effectiveness of the Online Learning Environment". Research Foundation Grant, *University of Connecticut*, \$1,000. (2007)

“Teaching Introduction to Sociology On-Line”. College of Continuing Studies, *University of Connecticut*, \$3,600. (2003)

“Investigating the ‘Reactive Hypothesis’.” *American Educational Research Association, National Science Foundation, National Center for Education Statistics*, \$24,758. (1999-2001)

“Automated Social Network Data Collection.” *National Institute of Drug Abuse*, Co-Principal Investigator, William B. Hansen, \$546,538. (Consultant; unable to negotiate indirect costs with the University of Connecticut) (2001-2002)

“Understanding and Preventing Grade Repetition and School Failure: Needs Assessment and Prevention Program Development.” *University of Connecticut/Hartford School Partnership*, \$9,876. (1998–1999)

“Improving Drug Education through Concept Training for Teachers.” Funded by the *National Institute of Drug Abuse*, 1997-9, \$512,277. Co-Principal Investigator, William B. Hansen. (Consultant; unable to negotiate indirect costs with the University of Connecticut) (1997-1999)

“Automated Social Analysis in Drug Abuse Prevention.” *Funded by the National Institute of Drug Abuse*, Co-Principal Investigator, William B. Hansen, \$62,572. (1997-1998)

“Parent Involvement and Student Outcomes.” *American Educational Research Association, National Science Foundation, National Center for Education Statistics*, \$23,853. (1996-1998)

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

“Involvement in and Access to High School Extracurricular Activities.” Research Foundation Grant, *University of Connecticut*, \$7,000. (1996-1997)

“Student Disengagement and Dropping Out of High School.” Research Foundation Grant, *University of Connecticut*, \$1,000. (1995)

Relevant Community Service

“Adolescent Employment: Benefits and Detriments.” Testimony presented to the Connecticut State Legislature, Labor Committee. (1997)

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

Board of Directors, EASTCONN (member). (1995-2001)

EASTCONN is a regional agency responsible for delivering educational services to its 36 member towns and school districts in Northeast Connecticut.