

Curriculum Vitae
Geoffrey V. Harkness

Department of Sociology
Northwestern University
Evanston, IL 60208

773.339.9041 (Voice)
847.491.9907 (Fax)
geoffreyharkness2009@u.northwestern.edu

RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS

Culture, Race & Ethnicity, Urban Studies, Qualitative Methods, Visual Ethnography

EDUCATION

2009	Ph.D. (Expected)	Sociology	Northwestern University
2002	M.A. (Honors)	Sociology	University of Kansas
1999	B.A.	Sociology	University of Kansas

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Harkness, Geoff. "True School: Situational Authenticity in Chicago's Hip Hop Underground." Forthcoming in *Cultural Sociology*.

Harkness, Geoff. "Hip-Hop Culture and America's Most Taboo Word." *Contexts*, Vol 7, No. 3, Summer, 2008, pp. 38-42.

Warren C.A.B.; Barnes-Brus T.; Burgess H.; Wiebold-Lippisch L.; Hackney J.; Harkness G.; Kennedy V.; Dingwall R.; Rosenblatt P.C.; Ryen A.; Shuy R. "After the interview." *Qualitative Sociology*, Vol. 26, Number 1, Spring, 2003.

JOURNAL SUBMISSIONS

Harkness, Geoff. "Getting in, going deep, and giving back: Visual ethnography in the digital age." Submitted to *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, October, 2008.

Harkness, Geoff. "Fringe Types: A Typology of Pawn Shops, Pawnbroker Working Styles, and Pawnbroking Customers." Under review at *Work and Occupations*, February, 2008.

Harkness, Geoff. "Backpackers and Gangstas: Chicago's White Rappers Strive For Authenticity" (2007) chapter in Brooks, S. and Conroy, T. (Eds.) *Piles of Wicked Styles: Hip Hop Culture in a Global Context*, a book submitted to Vanderbilt University Press for consideration.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2008 Course Instructor, Northwestern University, Department of Sociology.
Course: Sociology of Hip-Hop Culture.
- 2007-2008 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, Department of Sociology. Course: Senior Research Seminar.
- 2005-2006 Adjunct Professor, Northeastern Illinois University, Department of Sociology.
Courses: Youth and Youth Culture; Introduction to Sociology.
- 2004-2006 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, Department of Sociology. Courses: The Mafia; Sociology of Gangs; Social Movements; Sociology of the Suburbs; Sociology of Sport; Work and Occupations.
- 2002-2003 Adjunct Instructor, Maple Woods Metropolitan Community College, Division of Social Sciences. Courses: Family Violence and Sexual Abuse, Introduction to Sociology.
- 1999-2001 Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Kansas, Department of Sociology.
Courses: Social Problems, Introduction to Sociology.

DISSERTATION

Dissertation Title: "True school: Situational authenticity in Chicago's hip-hop underground."

Dissertation Summary: How do outsiders create and maintain authentic identities when they are deemed inauthentic by a group of insiders? To explore this question, I examine the underground (noncommercial) hip-hop music scene in Chicago. The insiders are young, urban, black, male rappers from the city's urban core. The outsiders are white, female, and/or suburban rappers who want to enjoy full participation in hip hop culture, but are deemed inauthentic by the insiders. Set in one of hip hop's cradles, Chicago offers a unique perspective that is not found in previous studies of local rap-music scenes. Blending traditional qualitative methods with visual-sociological techniques, I follow 135 rappers of various backgrounds, investigating key issues for outsiders, and the dynamic interplay between culture and authenticity. In doing so, I demonstrate how notions of "realness" and "fakeness" are generated via a rhetoric of authenticity. Exploring how this rhetoric is utilized to create, maintain, and occasionally traverse race, class, and gender-based cultural boundaries, I underscore the flexible nature of the authentic, a phenomenon I label Situational Authenticity. I conclude by proposing a Situational Model of Authenticity that explains how these socially constructed processes operate. Dr. Wendy Griswold, Chair.

Related web pages: MySpace.com/HipHopDocumentary; [YouTube.com/Hiphop Documentury](http://YouTube.com/HiphopDocumentary)

MASTER'S THESIS

Harkness, G. (2002) "Living on the fringe: How pawn shops keep poor people poor." Master's Thesis. Unpublished manuscript. Dr. William Staples, Chair.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2008 Robert F. Winch Memorial Award: Outstanding Graduate Student Lecturer (Honorable Mention)
- 2008 Graduate Student Paper Competition (First Place), Midwest Sociological Society.
- 2008 Graduate Research Grant. (\$3000). Northwestern University.
- 2006-2007 Helen O. Piros Dissertation and Research Fellowship. (approx. \$25,000) Northwestern University.
- 2003-2006 University Fellowship. Northwestern University, Department of Sociology.
- 2003 Distinguished Masters Thesis Award (Grand prize), Midwest Association of Graduate Schools.

PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

The Sociological Quarterly (2008) Peer reviewer.

Sociology Compass (2008) Peer reviewer.

CONFERENCES

"True School: Situational Authenticity in Chicago's Hip Hop Underground." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Regular Session in Popular Culture. August, 2008.

"Hip Hop Culture and America's Most Taboo Word." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society. Regular Session ("Colorblind America: Persistent Racial and Ethnic Issues in the 21st Century"). March, 2008.

"True School: Situational Authenticity in Chicago's Hip Hop Underground." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music. April, 2008.

“Fringe Types: A Typology of Pawn Shops, Pawnbroker Working Styles, and Pawnbroking Customers.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society. Regular Session (“Workplace Flexibility - A Post-Fordist Workplace?”). March, 2008.

“True School: Situational Authenticity in Chicago’s Hip Hop Underground.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society. Regular Session (“Social Identities”). March, 2008.

“The Real McCoy: Authentic Hip Hop Culture in Chicago.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society. Regular Session (“Social Construction of Racial and Ethnic Identity”). April, 2007.

“The Real McCoy: Authentic Hip Hop Culture in Chicago.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association. Regular Session in the Sociology of Culture (“Authenticity, Taste, and Cultural Boundaries”). August, 2006.

“White Skin, Black Authenticity.” Paper presented at the Lehman College Hip Hop Conference. Regular Session in Visual Sociology session, October, 2005.

“Backpackers and Gangstas: Chicago Hip-hoppers Search for an Authentic Identity.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society, Visual Sociology session, March, 2005.

“Backpackers and Gangstas: Chicago Hip-hoppers Search for an Authentic Identity.” Paper presented at the Chicago Ethnography Conference, Performance and Visuality session, February, 2005.

“Targeting the Middle: Are pawn shops aiming for a new class of clientele?” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Community Studies roundtable, August, 2004.

PRESENTATIONS

“Can’t Stop Death: Gangs and Gangsta Rap Culture in Chicago.” Culture and Society Workshop, Northwestern University, April, 2008.

“True School: Situational Authenticity in Chicago's Hip Hop Underground.” Culture and Society Workshop, Northwestern University, March, 2007.

“Adventures In Visual Sociology.” Sociological Analysis, guest lecturer (Dr. Laura Stark, instructor), Northwestern University, February, 2007.

“Hip Hop Chicago: Two sides of the Cultural Divide.” Culture and Society Workshop, Northwestern University, May 2006.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

“I Am Hip-Hop” (2008) Documentary film produced in conjunction with dissertation at Northwestern University. The film explores cultural divisions the Chicago underground hip hop community, and examines the relationship between hip hop, culture, and identity.

“National Vampire” (2005) Independently produced documentary film examining overlapping subcultures within self-described “vampire” communities throughout the United States, including New York City, New Orleans, San Francisco, Houston, and Chicago. Accepted to International Documentary Film Festival. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. November, 2006. Accepted to Illinois International Film Festival. St. Charles, Illinois. September, 2006.

“Pawn Shop” (2002) Documentary film produced in conjunction with Masters thesis at the University of Kansas. The film explores the economic and cultural role of pawn shops in poor communities, and questions whether pawnbrokers help or hinder their impoverished -- and increasingly middle-class -- clientele. International Documentary Film Festival. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. November, 2002.

“Elvis Week” (2001) Independently produced documentary film examining the culture of Elvis Presley fans in Memphis, Tennessee, juxtaposed with footage and interviews from the city's most impoverished communities. The film compares and contrasts the Elvis fans with footage taken at the National Civil Rights Museum, a monument to Martin Luther King, Jr. “Elvis Week” aired on national television in Italy and Japan. International Documentary Film Festival. Amsterdam, The Netherlands. November, 2001.

PRINT MEDIA

As an independent journalist writing on the interplay between music and culture, I published more than 1,000 pieces in regional and national periodicals and newspapers, including the Chicago Tribune, the Kansas City Star, San Francisco Weekly, and the Phoenix New Times. (1999-2005)

NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS

“Sociologists put knowledge to work for humanity.” *Kansas City Star*, January 28, 2003. “The documentaries, like his classroom instruction, are meant to provide a better understanding of the world and inequalities that often aren’t seen, Harkness said.”

“Maple Woods instructor attends international film festival.” *Liberty Tribune News*, January 29, 2003. “By using ethnographic research techniques, [Harkness] says he is able to convey a more in-depth and personal view of his subjects than is normally offered in most documentary films.”

SERVICE

Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Northwestern University, Department of Sociology. (2007-2008)

Graduate Admissions Committee, Northwestern University, Department of Sociology. (2006-2007)

Graduate Coordinator, Ethnography Workshop. Northwestern University. (2006-2007, Dr. Gary Alan Fine, faculty coordinator)

Graduate Coordinator, Ethnography Workshop. Northwestern University. (2005-2006, Dr. Mary Pattillo, faculty coordinator)

Session Presider, “Issues in Classical and Contemporary Theory,” Midwest Sociological Society, April, 2004.

Volunteer for various social service projects. One Brick/Chicago Cares. (2006-2008)

Adult Literacy Volunteer Tutor. Literacy Chicago. (2004)

AFFILIATIONS

Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociology Honor Society, 1999-present

American Sociological Association, 2003-present

Midwest Sociological Society, 2004-present

International Association for the Study of Popular Music, 2006-present

REFERENCES

Wendy Griswold, Ph.D.
Director of Graduate Studies
Department of Sociology
Northwestern University
Evanston, IL, 60208
Telephone: (847) 491-5415
Fax: (847) 491-9907
E-mail: w-griswold@northwestern.edu

Mary Pattillo, Ph.D.
Department Chair
Department of Sociology
Northwestern University
1810 Chicago Ave, Room 204
Evanston, IL 60208
Telephone: (847) 491-3409
Fax: (847) 491-9907
E-mail: m-pattillo@northwestern.edu

William Staples, Ph.D.
Department Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Kansas
1415 Jayhawk Blvd., Room 716
Lawrence, Kansas 66045
Telephone: (785) 864-9414
Fax: (785) 864-5280
E-mail: staples@ku.edu