
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: Becky M. Pettit

eRA COMMONS USER NAME: bpettit

POSITION TITLE: Professor of Sociology

EDUCATION/TRAINING

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
Univeristy of California at Berkeley, CA	BA	05/1992	Sociology
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ	MA	06/1997	Sociology
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ	PhD	11/1999	Sociology

A. Personal Statement

I am a sociologist, trained in demographic methods, who studies the connections among social policy, social institutions, and education, employment, and health and how these connections contribute to broad patterns of gender, race, and socioeconomic inequality over the life course. A special focus is on how historical changes in social policy conditions, like the expansion of the U.S. criminal justice system, influence accounts of and explanations for existing patterns of race and gender inequality. In recent years, I have been engaged in number of projects that consider how survey research methods affect the study of inequality for social scientific and policy-related purposes, drawing attention to acute sample selection biases induced by decades of growth in the prison and jail system in the United States. My current research includes a mixed-methods study of the evaluation of research evidence, an investigation into how low-level contact with the criminal justice system influences health and well-being, and an investigation into the implications of the Affordable Care Act for health outcomes of formerly incarcerated persons, their families, and communities. In the next five years, I will continue my research employing mixed methods and working in collaboration with junior scholars and graduate students to advance research on these issues. I will continue to direct a team of students conducting archival research on the use of research evidence in policymaking while working with David Pedulla (Stanford University) to conduct a series of related experimental studies to examine cognition in the processing of research evidence in different policy domains. I will continue my collaboration with scholars at 8 research universities examining the imposition, enforcement, and consequences of legal fines and fees using archival, survey, administrative, and ethnographic data sources. I also aim to develop my research portfolio on institutional determinants of health inequalities, including more attention to how various dimensions of contact with the criminal justice system influence health outcomes and their measurement.

My research cuts across three of the PRCs primary research areas: Family Demography and Intergenerational Relationships, Education, Work and Inequality, and Population Health. I anticipate my major scholarly contributions over the next 5 years to be centrally located within these areas and focused on how shifts in social policy, including criminal justice policy and health care policy, influence health care access, health outcomes, and the measurement of inequalities in health. Since joining the faculty at UT-Austin in 2014, I have served on the PRC Executive Committee and I currently teach the PRC training seminar and organize the weekly seminar series. I have served as a Deputy Editor of *Demography* and I am currently serving on the editorial board of *Demography*. When called upon, I participate in NIH review and steering activities such as a 2016 convening at NIH/NHLBI on Incarceration and Cardiovascular Disease. The PRC scholarly community and research infrastructure has been instrumental in shaping my current and future research agendas and has encouraged and supported my interest employing mixed methods. Members of the Population Health Working Group have provided excellent advice about how to investigate the impacts of contact with the criminal justice system on health inequalities. Other colleagues have provided guidance on the use of experimental and ethnographic research methods. The Administrative Core has supported successful grant writing and fosters my collaboration with colleagues at 8 other research universitites. The Science and Technology Core supports a wide variety of data collection and archiving efforts. The intellectual and technical support of the PRC have been, and will continue to be, crucial to my on-going research and my ability to maintain a successful track record of research productivity in collaboration with junior scholars and graduate students.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

1999-2007	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Washington.
2003-2004	Visiting Scholar, Russell Sage Foundation.
2007-2011	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Washington.
2008-2009	Visiting Scholar, American Bar Foundation.
2011-2014	Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Washington.
2014-Present	Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Texas at Austin.
2014-Present	Faculty Research Associate, Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin.

Honors, Other Experience, and Professional Memberships

2001-2003	Nominations Committee, Population Section of the American Sociological Association.
2004-2005	Organizing Committee, Population Association of America.
2005	Honorable Mention, 2003-2005 Sociology of Law Article Prize for "Mass Imprisonment and the Life Course."
2006	James F. Short, Jr. Paper Award for "Black-White Wage Inequality, Employment Rates, and Incarceration." Award given by the ASA Crime, Law, and Deviance section for the best published paper in the previous 2 years.
2006	Finalist, Rosabeth Moss Kanter Award for Excellence in Work-Family Research for "The Structure of Women's Employment in Comparative Perspective."
2006	Excellence in Graduate Training Award, University of Washington Department of Sociology.
2006-2011	Editorial Board, <i>Social Problems</i> .
2006-2008	Consulting Editor, <i>American Journal of Sociology</i> .
2007	Leadership Fellow, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Washington.
2007-2008	Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Selection Committee, ASA Family Section.
2008-2010	Council Member, ASA Family Section.
2008-2009	Organizing Committee, Population Association of America.
2010	Noteworthy Book in Industrial Relations and Labor Economics for <i>Gendered Tradeoffs</i> .
2010	William J. Goode Book Award Committee, ASA Family Section.
2010-2011	Deputy Editor, <i>Demography</i> .
2011-2014	Editor, <i>Social Problems</i> .
2012	Founding Member, Scholars Strategy Network.
2012-2014	Co-Director, Scholars Strategy Network - Northwest.
2012-2014	Nominations Committee, Population Section of the American Sociological Association.
2013	Excellence in Graduate Training Award, University of Washington Department of Sociology.
2014-Present	Editorial Board, <i>Social Problems</i> .
2014-2016	Editorial and Publications Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems.
2015-2016	Nominations Committee, American Sociological Association.
2015-Present	Co-Director, Scholars Strategy Network – Texas.
2016-Present	Editorial Board, <i>Demography</i> , <i>Journal of Marriage and the Family</i> , <i>American Sociological Review</i> .
Present	Member: American Sociological Association, Population Association of America, Society for the Study of Social Problems.

C. Contributions to Science

Mass Incarceration and the Measurement of Inequality

Much social science research relies on data from surveys that draw their samples from individuals living in households. In this line of research, I explore how prison and jail growth influences assessments of racial progress in the United States through the first decade of the 21st century. My previous research observed acute sample bias in a wide range of surveys induced by prison and jail expansion from the early 1970s through 2008. Because people who are incarcerated differ in systematic ways from individuals living in households, data gathered through household-based surveys offer a biased account of the economic, political, demographic, and health experiences of the American population and the factors thought to produce them. My future research in this area draws attention to whether and how mass incarceration and other, arguably less serious, forms of criminal justice contact influence access to health care and health inequalities.

- Emily A. Wang, Nicole Redmond, Cheryl R Dennison Himmelfarb, Becky Pettit, Marc Stern, Jue Chen, Susan Shero, Erin Iturriaga, Paul Sorlie, Ana V. Diez Roux. 2016. Proceedings from the NHLBI Workshop on Cardiovascular Disease in the Inmate & Released Prison Populations.
- Becky Pettit and Bryan Sykes. 2015. "Civil Rights Legislation and Legalized Exclusion: Mass Incarceration and the Masking of Inequality." *Sociological Forum* 30 (S1): 589-611.
- Ewert, Stephanie, Bryan Sykes, and Becky Pettit. 2013. "Degrees of Disadvantage: Mass Incarceration and Racial Inequality in High School Completion." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 651: 24-43.
- Pettit, Becky. 2012. *Invisible Men: Mass Incarceration and the Myth of Black Progress*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.

Criminal Justice Contact and Health and Well-being

Increasing attention is being paid by researchers, policymakers, and practitioners into the intergenerational consequences of mass incarceration and into how minor forms of criminal justice contact such as legal fines and fees may impact families. However, there are limited data sources available to investigate these questions and those that do exist are not typically nationally representative. My prior research in this area considers how mass incarceration among adults affects children by estimating the number of children exposed to parental incarceration and the consequences of parental incarceration for indicators of child health, well-being, and social service program participation. My future research in this area employs mixed methods and data from administrative sources, courtroom ethnography, and qualitative interviews to examine how minor forms of criminal justice contact impacts a range of economic and health outcomes for those who have criminal justice contact as well as their families and children.

- Harris, Alexes, Beth Huebner, Karin Marin, Mary Patillo, Becky Pettit, Sarah Shannon, Bryan Sykes, Chris Uggen, and April Fernandes. 2016. *Monetary Sanctions in the Criminal Justice System*. A Report to the Arnold Foundation.
- Sykes, Bryan and Becky Pettit. 2015. "Severe Deprivation and System Inclusion Among Children of Incarcerated Parents in the United States After the Great Recession." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 1(1): 108-132.
- Sykes, Bryan and Becky Pettit. 2014. "Mass Incarceration, Family Complexity, and the Reproduction of Childhood Disadvantage." *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 654: 127-149.
- Pettit, Becky and Bruce Western. 2004. "Mass Imprisonment and the Life Course: Race and Class Inequality in U.S. Incarceration." *American Sociological Review* 69:151-169.

Gender Inequality in Comparative Perspective

A great deal of research investigates how gender inequality in employment, occupational segregation, or wages varies in relation to gender norms, labor market arrangements, and social policy conditions across countries. My past research in this area, with the support of an NICHD-K01, considered how work-family policy configurations and industrial relations variably concentrate the demands of caregiving and other forms of household labor within households and in the hands of women both within and across countries. This research draws attention to how the division of household labor shapes labor supply in ways that affect other indicators of inequality such as occupation and wages and do so differently depending on women's relative bargaining power both within the household and in the workplace. My future research draws on insights from this work to consider more carefully how gender, race, and class intersect to influence economic and health outcomes of women and children.

- Hook, Jennifer and Becky Pettit. 2016. "Reproducing Occupational Inequality: Motherhood and Occupational Segregation." *Social Politics* 23(3/Fall): 329-362.
- Pettit, Becky and Jennifer Hook. 2009. *Gendered Tradeoffs: Family, Social Policy, and Economic Inequality in 21 Countries*. New York: Russell Sage Foundation.
- Pettit, Becky and Stephanie Ewert. 2009. "Employment Gains and Wage Declines: The Erosion of Black Women's Relative Wages since 1980." *Demography* 46:469-492.
- Pettit, Becky and Jennifer Hook. 2005. "The Structure of Women's Employment in Comparative Perspective." *Social Forces* 84:779-801

A bibliography of my peer-reviewed publications is available at the following URL:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/becky.pettit.1/bibliography/47545711/public/?sort=date&direction=descending>

D. Research Support

Ongoing Research Support

UWSC8634 (B. Pettit, PI)

07/01/15-10/31/20

University of Washington/Laura and John Arnold Foundation

Multi State Study of Monetary Sanctions

The aim of this project is to better understand how the system of monetary sanctions operates across the United States and to provide empirical evidence of the ways in which fiscal penalties sentenced in municipal, felony and Federal systems of justice affect people unable to make payments.

Role: Principal Investigator of the subcontract to UT Austin

Responsibilities: Coordinate data collection and data analysis, supervise graduate student personnel, coordinate research reports, and guide the writing of papers for publication.

Completed Research Support

None.