

MELANIE PENNY

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EDUCATION

- Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA
PhD in Sociology and Social Policy
Advisor: William Julius Wilson 2011 (*expected*)
- Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA
M.A. in Sociology
Thesis: "The Perceptual Basis of Social Organization" 2007 (*expected*)
- Stanford University**, Stanford, CA
A.B. in Political Science, with Honors
Thesis: "Criminal Distortion: The Culpability of the Media in the Disproportionate Incarceration of the African-American Youth" 2002

GRANTS, AWARDS AND HONORS

- Data Collection Grant**
Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences (TESS), 2006
- Visiting Summer Fellow**
Center for the Analysis of Social Exclusion, London School of Economics. 2005
- Seed Grant for Dissertation Research**
Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University, 2005
- Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy Doctoral Fellowship**
Harvard University, 2004
- Pre-Dissertation Graduate Research Fellowship**
National Science Foundation, 2004
- Graduate Training Fellowship**
Center for Basic Research in the Social Sciences, Harvard University, 2003
- Graduate Prize Fellowship**
Harvard University, 2003
- Deans List for Academic Excellence**
Stanford University, 1999-2002

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

- Department of Sociology**, *Harvard University*, Cambridge, MA 2003-04
Performed statistical analysis on experimental survey data testing the perceptions and policy preferences of black and white Americans on the issues of crime and criminal justice. *Under supervision of Dr. Lawrence Bobo.*
- Department of Sociology**, *Harvard University*, Cambridge, MA 2003
Performed qualitative research on the working relationship between the Los Angeles Police Department and the city's African-American religious leaders. *Under the supervision of Dr. Christopher Winship.*
- Political Communication Lab**, Dept. of Communication *Stanford University*, Stanford, CA 2002-03
Prepared and pre-tested a study regarding the effects of accents on the activation of racial biases, and performed statistical analyses of the data. *Under the supervision of Dr. Shanto Iyengar.*
- Race and Social Justice Lab**, Dept. of Psychology, *Stanford University*, Stanford, CA 2003-03
Engaged in research regarding the social-psychological reactions of individuals to race, coded free response data on the personal construction of white and Asian racial identities, and developed a coding scheme for a content analysis of newspaper coverage of violent crime. *Under the supervision of Dr. Jennifer Eberhardt and Dr. Phil Goff.*

Center for Deliberative Democracy , <i>Stanford University</i> , Stanford, CA	2002-03
Served as a moderator in the first online deliberative polling experiment testing the effects of informed debate on the formation of electorate policy preferences. <i>Under the supervision of Dr. James Fishkin.</i>	
Independent Project , Stanford, CA	2002
Assisted author Farai Chideya in updating her book, "Don't Believe the Hype" by providing statistical information and substantive examples of media representation of African Americans and other minorities.	
Hoover Institute , Stanford, CA	2000-02
Collected data on officer misconduct related to the War on Drugs in support of a project on "Gangster Cops" by Hoover Fellow Joseph McNamara.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow and Guest Lecturer , <i>Social Analysis 66: Race, Ethnicity, and Politics in the United States</i> . Prof. Jennifer Hochschild.	2006
Teaching Fellow , <i>Sociology 185: Race and Crime in America</i> . Prof. Lawrence Bobo.	2004

RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

Intern , <i>Justice at Stake Campaign</i> , Washington, DC	2001
Intern , <i>U.S. Commission on Civil Rights</i> , Washington, DC	2001
Field Intern , <i>American Civil Liberties Union</i> , Los Angeles, CA	2000
Research/ Coordinating Assistant , <i>Rock the Vote</i> , Culver City, CA	1997, 1998

PRESENTATIONS

- "Expanding the traditional model of neighborhood Social Organization: Results from an experimental pre-test." *Poster session at the Inequality Summer Institute at Harvard University, June 2006.*
- " 'Seeing' is Believing: A Perception-Based Model of Social Organization." *Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference, February 2006.*

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Junior Faculty Search Committee, *Harvard University*
 American Sociological Association
 Eastern Sociological Society
 The Law and Society Association