

LAURA M. TACH

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Cambridge, MA 02138

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology and Social Policy, Harvard University

Expected June 2010

Dissertation: Mixed-Income Neighborhoods in America

Committee: Christopher Jencks (chair), Kathryn Edin, Robert Sampson

Abstract: The landscape of urban poverty in America has changed dramatically in the past two decades, as governments and developers tore down public housing projects in high poverty neighborhoods nationwide and replaced them with mixed-income housing. Many of the most infamous housing projects no longer exist, and new residential contexts that include families with a wider array of economic means have emerged in their place. Yet there is practically no academic research on mixed-income neighborhoods to guide our expectations for these new neighborhoods. We know little about the demographic and social characteristics of mixed-income neighborhoods, the processes by which they are created and sustained, or how desirable they are as residential locations. My dissertation uses a variety of methods – quantitative and spatial analyses of secondary datasets, archival research on neighborhoods, and in-depth interviews with residents - to explain how political, social, and economic processes interact to either promote or undermine the stability of mixed-income neighborhoods. This research has broad implications for our theoretical understanding of economic segregation, neighborhood change, and the consequences of diversity for neighborhoods and individuals. It also has implications for public policies designed to create mixed-income housing.

A.M. Sociology, Harvard University

June 2007

B.A. Sociology, Pennsylvania State University
Schreyer Honors College

May 2004

Minors: Statistics, African American Studies

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Urban Sociology; Gender, Race and Class Stratification; Demography and Family Sociology;
Quantitative and Mixed Methods; Social Policy

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2009-2010 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$7,500)

2009-2010 Eliot Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University (\$25,000)

2009 American Sociological Association Student Forum Travel Grant (\$500)

2009	Center for American Political Studies Travel Grant, Harvard University (\$1,200)
2009	Justice, Welfare, and Economics Research and Travel Grant, Harvard University (\$1,500)
2008-2009	Justice, Welfare, and Economics Research Fellowship, Harvard University (\$21,000)
2008	Harvard Center for American Political Studies Fellowship (\$21,000) <i>declined</i>
2008	Harvard University Merit Fellowship (\$10,000) <i>declined</i>
2008	Taubman Center for State & Local Government Research Grant (\$2,500)
2008	Real Estate Academic Initiative Research Grant, Harvard University (\$8,500)
2007	European Network on Inequality Fellowship (\$7,000) Visiting Fellow, Fondation National des Sciences Politiques (Sciences Po)
2007-2008	National Science Foundation IGERT Training Fellowship (\$30,000) Multidisciplinary Program on Inequality, Harvard University
2004-2007	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (\$30,000/year)
2005-2006	Doctoral Student Research Grant, Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (\$8,000)
2004	John W. White Graduate Fellowship Award, Pennsylvania State University (\$1,000)
2000-2004	National Merit Scholarship

PUBLICATIONS

Forthcoming	Tach, Laura, Ronald Mincy, and Kathryn Edin. "Parenting as a Package Deal: Relationships, Fertility, and Nonresident Father Involvement among Unmarried Parents." <i>Demography</i> .
Forthcoming	Firebaugh, Glenn and Laura Tach. "Income, Age, and Happiness in America." In Peter V. Marsden (Ed.) <i>Trends in the United States, 1972-2006: Evidence from the General Social Survey</i> . Princeton University Press. *Featured in <i>LA Times</i> , <i>New York Times</i> , <i>Philadelphia Inquirer</i> (8/15/05)
2009	Tach, Laura. "More than Bricks and Mortar: Neighborhood Frames, Social Processes, and the Mixed-Income Redevelopment of a Public Housing Project." <i>City & Community</i> 8(3): 273-303. * <i>ASA Community and Urban Sociology Section Outstanding Graduate Student Paper</i> (2009) * <i>Featured in The Yard, Harvard University Alumni Magazine</i> (2008)
2009	Odgers, Candice, Terrie Moffitt, Laura Tach, Robert Sampson. "The Protective Effects of Neighborhood Collective Efficacy on Children Growing Up in Deprivation: A Developmental Analysis." <i>Developmental Psychology</i> 45(4): 942-957. * <i>Featured in Science News</i> , 7/16/09
2009	Tach, Laura and Sarah Halpern-Meekin*. "How Does Premarital Cohabitation Affect Trajectories of Marital Quality?" <i>Journal of Marriage and Family</i> 71: 298-317.

- 2009 Edin, Kathryn, Laura Tach, and Ronald Mincy. "Claiming Fatherhood: Race and the Dynamics of Paternal Involvement among Unmarried Fathers." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 621: 149-177.
- 2008 Halpern-Meehin*, Sarah and Laura Tach. "Heterogeneity in Two-Parent Families and Adolescent Well-Being." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 70: 435-451.
* *ASA Family Section Outstanding Graduate Student Paper (2008)*
- 2006 Tach, Laura and George Farkas. "Ability Grouping and Educational Stratification in the Early School Years." *Social Science Research* 35: 1048-1079.
- 2006 Jencks, Christopher and Laura Tach. "Would Equal Opportunity Mean More Mobility?" in Stephen Morgan and David Grusky (eds.) *Mobility and Inequality: Frontiers of Research from Sociology and Economics*. CA: Stanford University Press.
- 2002 Pranton, Kimberly, Melissa Curry, Bridget Truyol, and Laura Tach. 2002. "One + One: Film and Video Review." *Teaching Sociology* 30(4): 358-359.

*Graduate student collaborator

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

- Tach, Laura. "Economic Segregation and the Stability of Mixed-Income Neighborhoods." Revise and resubmit, *Demography*.
- Tach, Laura. "The Consequences of Welfare and Employment for Relationships between Unmarried Parents." Revise and resubmit, *Social Problems*.
- Tach, Laura. "Economic Contributions, Relationship Quality, and Union Dissolution among Married and Unmarried Parents." Under review.
- Tach, Laura and Sarah Halpern-Meehin. "Premarital Cohabitation and Divorce Decisions: (How) Does Marital Quality Matter?" Under review.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- Tach, Laura. "The Micro-Level Structure of Diversity: Social Dynamics in Race- and Income-Diverse Neighborhoods."
- Tach, Laura. "Residential Preferences and Mobility Patterns in Diverse Neighborhood Settings."
- Tach, Laura. "The Rise in Shotgun Cohabitation, 1970-2005."
- Tach, Laura and Kathryn Edin. "Union Dissolution in Fragile Families."
- Edin, Kathryn and Laura Tach. "Low-Income Men as Partners."
- Tach, Laura. "From Recipient to Worker: How the Structures of Anti-Poverty Programs Shape the Identities of Low-Income Americans."

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2009 Edin, Kathryn and Laura Tach. "Low-Income Men as Partners." Invited paper to be presented at conference on *Young Disadvantaged Men: Fathers, Families, Poverty, and Policy*, September. Institute for Research on Poverty, Madison, WI.
- 2009 Tach, Laura. "Economic Segregation and the Stability of Mixed-Income Neighborhoods." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco (August) session on "Stability and Change in Neighborhoods."
- 2009 Tach, Laura and Kathryn Edin. "Union Dissolution in Fragile Families." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in San Francisco (August) session on "Marriage, Civil Unions, and Cohabitation."
- 2009 Tach, Laura. "Social Dynamics in Mixed-Income Neighborhoods." Paper presented at the Harvard-Manchester Workshop on Inequality and Social Change in Manchester, UK (June).
- 2009 Tach, Laura. "The Consequences of Diversity: Race and Class Cleavages in Mixed-Income Neighborhoods." Paper presented at a special session of the Urban Affairs Annual Meeting in Chicago (March) on "Mixed-Income Development in the US: Dynamics on the Ground."
- 2009 Tach, Laura. "How Stable are Mixed-Income Neighborhoods?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in Detroit (April) session on "Residential Mobility and Neighborhood Change."
- 2009 Tach, Laura and Kathryn Edin. "Sources of Union Instability for Married and Unmarried Parents." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America in Detroit (April) session on "Union Instability."
- 2008 Tach, Laura and Sarah Halpern-Meekin. "Does Premarital Cohabitation Affect Trajectories of Marital Quality?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Boston, MA (August) session on "Civil Union, Cohabitation, and Marriage."
- 2008 Tach, Laura and Sarah Halpern-Meekin. "Differential Responses to Marital Quality: The Divorce Decisions of Premarital Parents and Cohabitators." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Population Association of America* in New Orleans, LA (April) session on "Family Background, Cohabitation, and Marriage."
- 2008 Tach, Laura, Ron Mincy, and Kathryn Edin. "Parenting as a Package Deal: Trajectories of Child Involvement among Unmarried Fathers." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Population Association of America* in New Orleans, LA (April) session on "Fathers in Families and Child Well-Being."
- 2008 Tach, Laura. "Mixed Income Communities in America." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Eastern Sociological Society* in New York, NY (February) session on "Race, Class, and Housing."
- 2008 Halpern-Meekin, Sarah, and Laura Tach. "How Does Cohabitation Affect Trajectories of Marital Quality?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Eastern Sociological Society* in New York, NY (February) session on "Getting Married."

- 2007 Edin, Kathryn, Laura Tach, and Ronald Mincy. "Claiming Fatherhood: Race and the Dynamics of Paternal Involvement among Unmarried Fathers." Paper presented at AAPSS sponsored conference, *The Moynihan Report Revisited*, at Harvard University in Cambridge, MA (September).
- 2007 Tach, Laura. "How Do Welfare and Employment Influence Relationships between Unmarried Parents?" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Population Association of America* in New York, NY (April) session on "Promoting Healthy Marriages: Can Government Play a Role?"
- 2007 Tach, Laura. "The Effects of HOPE-VI Redevelopment on Community Dynamics and Social Isolation." Paper presented at annual meeting of the *Eastern Sociological Society* in Philadelphia, PA (March), session on "Community Development and Community Involvement".
- 2006 Halpern-Meekin, Sarah and Laura Tach. "Heterogeneity in Two-Parent Families and Child Well-Being." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Sociological Association* in Montreal, Quebec (August), session on "Families in the 21st Century."
- 2006 Tach, Laura. "The Use of Propensity Score Matching in Education Research: Estimating the Impact of Ability Grouping on Achievement in Elementary School Classrooms." Paper presented at the *Aage Sorensen Memorial Conference* in Stockholm, Sweden (April).
- 2005 Firebaugh, Glenn and Laura Tach "Income and Happiness." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Sociological Association* in Philadelphia, PA (August).
- 2004 Tach, Laura and Claudette Bennett. "Characteristics of Non-Respondents to the Question on Race in Census 2000." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Population Association of America* in Boston, MA (April).
- 2003 Tach, Laura and George Farkas. "Ability Grouping and Educational Stratification in the Early School Years." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Sociological Association* in Atlanta, GA (August), Sociology of Education Session.
- 2003 Firebaugh, Glenn and Laura Tach. "The Sociological Theory of Relativity: Frog Ponds, Social Comparison, and Happiness." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Sociological Association* in Atlanta, GA (August).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2008-2009 Undergraduate Senior Thesis Advisor, Social Studies, Harvard University
- 2007 Teaching Fellow, Introduction to Social Inequality, Harvard University
- 2006 Teaching Fellow, American Society & Public Policy, Harvard University
- 2003 Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Social Statistics, Pennsylvania State University
- 2003-2004 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Statistics, Pennsylvania State University
- 2001-2002 Teaching Assistant, Social Research Methods, Pennsylvania State University

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2009 Graduate Student Research Fellow
Pocantico Conference on "Inequality in an Era of Opportunity"
Wrote white paper for conference of leading scholars on inequality and mobility
- 2007-2009 Graduate Student Member, Mixed-Income Design Research Group
MacArthur Foundation/Social Science Research Council
Developed research designs for studying mixed-income housing to inform future RFA
- 2007-2008 Research Assistant, Dr. Kathryn Edin
Investing in Enduring Resources with the EITC
Conducted in-depth qualitative interviews with EITC recipients
- 2006-2008 Research Assistant, Dr. Kim Williams
Politics of Racial & Ethnic Change in Urban America
Developed survey instrument, conducted research reviews, assisted in project management
- 2005-2007 Research Assistant, Dr. Rob Sampson
Social Contexts of Pathways into Crime
Analyzed data on community social processes in British neighborhoods
- 2004-2006 Research Assistant, Dr. Christopher Jencks
Intergenerational Transmission of Occupation & Income
Analyzed data on family background and labor market outcomes
- 2005 Research Intern, Abt Associates
National Evaluation of Reading First, No Child Left Behind
Analyzed data on child assessments and observations of teachers
- 2003-2004 Research Intern, Penn State Survey Research Center
Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative
Assisted with data collection and evaluation of this federal initiative
- 2002-2003 Research Intern, U.S Census Bureau
Branch of Racial Statistics
Analyzed data on race from the 2000 Census
- 2001-2004 Research Assistant, Dr. John McCarthy
Dynamics of Collective Protest in the U.S.
Assisted with content analysis of protest events in newspaper articles
- 2001-2002 Research Assistant, Dr. Carolyn Tubbs
The Welfare Project: A Three City Study
Analyzed qualitative data on parental stress and parenting styles

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

- 2009 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, ASA Community and Urban Sociology Section
- 2008 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, ASA Family Section (with Sarah Halpern-MeeKin)

- 2007 Research featured in *The Yard*, Harvard University Alumni Magazine
- 2004 College Student Marshal, Penn State University
- 2004 Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Student Paper Competition Winner
- 2003 Junior Fellow, American Academy of Political and Social Science
- 2003 Research Award, American Academy of Political and Social Science

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service

Conference Co-Organizer, Aage Sorensen Memorial Conference (2008)
 Member, Harvard Sociology Committee on Professional Development (2007)
 Co-founder and Organizer, Harvard Research Workshop on Families and Children (06-07)
 Student Representative, Harvard Graduate Student Council (2005-2006)
 Committee Member, ASA Student Forum Advisory Board (2003-2005)

Reviewer

American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Science Research, The Sociological Quarterly, Sociology of Education, American Journal of Community Psychology, Sociological Forum

Association Memberships

American Sociological Association, Eastern Sociological Society,
 Population Association of America, Association of Policy Analysis & Management,
 Urban Affairs Association

REFERENCES

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