

VITA

Melvin E. Thomas

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EDUCATION

- 1986 Ph.D. (Sociology) Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Dissertation: Race, Class and the Quality of Life of Black People. Major Professors: George A. Hillery and Michael Hughes
- 1982 M.A. (Sociology) Marquette University
- 1980 B.A. (Sociology, Religion) Eastern College (University)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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| 1995-present | Associate Professor | North Carolina State University Department of Sociology and Anthropology |
| 1991-1995 | Assistant Professor | Lehigh University Department of Sociology and Anthropology |
| 1986-1991 | Assistant Professor | Temple University Department of Sociology |
| 1984-1985 | Instructor | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Department of Sociology |
| 1983-1984 | Adjunct Faculty | Eastern College (University) Department of Sociology |
| 1982-1983 | Instructor | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University |
| 1980-1982 | Grad. Research Assistant | Marquette University Department of Sociology |

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Racial Inequality, Social Stratification, Social Psychology, Sociology of Religion

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate: Principles of Sociology, Race and Ethnic Relations, Human Behavior, Racism in the U.S., Religion and Society, Social Stratification, Social Problems, Blacks and Whites in America (Honors), American Ethnicity. **Graduate:** Race and Ethnic Inequality, Research Methods and Statistics

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Book:

Color Struck: How Race and Complexion Matter in the “Color-Blind” Era. 2017. Co-edited with Lori Latrice Martin, Hayward Derrick Horton, Cedric Herring, and Verna M. Keith. Boston, MA: Sense Publishers.

Papers:

Thomas, Melvin, Cedric Herring, Moshe Semyonov, and Hayward Derrick Horton. “Race and the Accumulation of Wealth: Racial Differences in Net Worth over the Life Course, 1989-2009.” Social Problems. Conditionally Accepted.

Moye, Richard and **Melvin Thomas**. “Race and Housing Values: What Happens When Whites Don’t All Move Out?” City and Community. Forthcoming.

Horton, Hayward D., Kecia Johnson, **Melvin Thomas** and Cedric Herring. “Do Guys Just Want to Have Fun?: Racial Differences in Cohabitation and Marriage Among Men.” Issues in Race and Society. Forthcoming.

Thomas, Melvin. 2017. “It’s Hardly Fair To Bring A Child Into The World With The Way Things Look. . . : Anomie, Mistrust and the Impact of Race, Class and Gender.” Sociological Inquiry. doi: 10.1111/soin.12191.

Thomas, Melvin, Richard Moye, Loren Henderson, and Hayward Derrick Horton. 2018. “Separate and Unequal: The Impact of Socioeconomic Status, Segregation and the Great Recession on Racial Disparities in Housing Values.” Sociology of Race and Ethnicity. 4(2):229-244..

Henderson, Loren, **Melvin Thomas**, Cedric Herring, and Hayward Derrick Horton. 2017. “Business Wealth and the Composition of Ownership Teams in New Firms: The Role of Homophily and Diversity” Journal of Business Diversity. 17(3): 103-115.

Henderson, Loren, Cedric Herring, **Melvin Thomas** and Hayward Horton. 2015. “Credit Where Credit is Due?: Race, Gender and the Credit Scores of Business Startups.” Review of Black Political Economy. 42(4):459-479.

Thomas, Melvin and Richard Moyer. 2015. "The Impact of Social Class and Racial Segregation on Black-White Income Inequality." Sociology of Race and Ethnicity 1 (October): 490-502.

Herring, Cedric, Hayward D. Horton, and **Melvin Thomas**. 2015. "Life at the Edge: Precarity and Economic Insecurity in the Obama Era." Research in Race and Ethnic Relations 19:125-143.

Thompson, Maxine, **Melvin Thomas**, and Rachel Jones Head. 2012. "Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Self-Esteem: The Impact of Religion." Sociological Spectrum. 32(5):385-405.

Herring, Cedric, Hayward Derrick Horton, and **Melvin Thomas**. 2012. "After the Storm: Race and Victims' Reactions to the Hurricane Katrina Aftermath." Pp. 105-123 in Reinventing Race, Reinventing Racism, John Betancur and Cedric Herring (Editors). Leiden, Netherlands: Brill Academic Publisher.

Thomas, Melvin, Cedric Herring and Hayward D. Horton. 2010. "Racial Differences in the Perception of Racial Equality in the Obama Era." Pp. 177-192 in Race and the Age of Obama, Donald Cunnigan and Marino Bruce (Editors). Emerald Press.

Tomaskovic-Devey, Donald, **Melvin Thomas**, and Kecia Johnson. 2005. "Race and the Accumulation of Human Capital Across the Career: A Theoretical Model and Fixed Effects Application." American Journal of Sociology 111(July): 58-89.

Herring, Cedric, Hayward D. Horton and **Melvin Thomas**. 2002. "Inner-City Entrepreneurship: Is Self-Employment a Cure For Poverty?" Pp. 89-111 in The New Political Science: Race, Ethnicity Immigration and Public Policy, Marlese Durr, editor.

Thomas, Melvin and Linda Treiber. 2000. "Race, Gender and Status: A Content Analysis of Four Popular Magazines." Sociological Spectrum 20(3): 357-371.

Horton, Hayward D., Beverly Lundy Allen, Cedric Herring and **Melvin Thomas**. 2000. "Lost in the Storm: The Sociology of the Black Working Class, 1850-1990." American Sociological Review 65(February): 128-137.

Thomas, Melvin. 2000. "Anything But Race: The Social Science Retreat From Racism." African American Research Perspectives. 6(1):79-96.

Herring, Cedric, **Melvin Thomas**, Marlese Durr and Hayward D. Horton. 1998. "Does Race Still Matter: The Determinants and Consequences of Self-Reports of Discrimination Victimization." Race and Society 1(2):109-123.

Hughes, Michael and **Melvin Thomas**. 1998. "The Continuing Significance of Race Revisited: A Study of Race, Class and Quality of Life in America, 1972-1996." American Sociological Review 64(6):785-795.

Horton, Hayward D. and **Melvin Thomas**. 1998. "Race, Class and Family Structure: Differences in Housing Values For Black And White Homeowners." Sociological Inquiry 68(1):114-136.

Thomas, Melvin, Cedric Herring and Hayward Horton. 1995. "Racial and Gender Differences in Returns From Education." Pp. 239-253 in Race and Ethnicity in America: Meeting the Challenge in the 21st Century, edited by Gail Thomas. Washington, DC: Taylor and Francis.

Horton, Hayward D. and **Melvin Thomas**. 1995. "The Impact of Population and Structural Change on Racial Inequality in the U. S.: An Examination of Employment Toward the 21st Century." Pp. 227-237 in Race and Ethnicity in America: Meeting the Challenge in the 21st Century, edited by Gail Thomas. Washington, DC: Taylor and Francis.

Horton, Hayward D., **Melvin Thomas** and Cedric Herring. 1995. "Rural-Urban Differences in Black Family Structure: An Analysis of the 1990 Census." Journal of Family Issues. 16(3):298-313.

Thomas, Melvin. 1995. "Race, Class, and Occupation: An Analysis of Black and White Earning Differences for Professional and Non-Professional Men, 1940-1990." Pp. 139-156 in Research in Race and Ethnic Relations, edited by Rutledge Dennis.

Thomas, Melvin, Cedric Herring, and Hayward D. Horton. 1994. "Discrimination Over the Life Course: A Synthetic Cohort Analysis of Earning Differences Between Black and White Males, 1940-1990." Social Problems. 41(4):601-622.

Herring, Cedric, Hayward D. Horton and **Melvin Thomas**. 1993. "Feminization of Poverty or Pauperization of Women: Toward an Understanding of the Sources of Change in Women's Rates of Poverty." National Journal of Sociology. 7(1):43-65.

Thomas, Melvin. 1993. "Race, Class, and Personal Income: An Empirical Test of the Declining Significance of Race Thesis, 1968-1988." Social Problems 40(3):328-342.

Thomas, Melvin and Bernadette Holmes. 1992. "Determinants of Satisfaction for Blacks and Whites." Sociological Quarterly 33(3):459-472.

Thomas, Melvin and Hayward D. Horton. 1992. "Race, Class, and Family Structure: The Case of Family Income." Sociological Perspectives 35(3):433-450.

Thomas, Melvin and Michael Hughes. 1986. "The Continuing Significance of Race: A Study of Race, Class, and Quality of Life in America, 1972-1985." American Sociological Review 51(Dec.):830-841.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Papers:

"Race, Ethnicity and the Pursuit of the American Dream: Changes in Homeownership for Asians, Blacks, Latinos, and Whites, 2000-2015" with Hayward Derrick Horton, Cedric Herring, and Loren Henderson.

"Intersectionality and Family Poverty, 1980-2015: A Socio-Demographic Analysis" with Hayward Derrick Horton, Cedric Herring, and Loren Henderson.

"Racial and Gender Differences in Student Evaluations of African American Faculty" with Kendra Jason.

"Comparison of the Prevalence of Stable Integrated Neighborhoods in Select MSAs" with Richard Moye.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
Association of Black Sociologists
Southern Sociological Society

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2007-2008 President, Association of Black Sociologists
2006-2009 Association of Black Sociologists Executive Committee Member

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

Thomas, Melvin E., Cedric Herring and Hayward D. Horton. "Reassessing Racial Differences in the Perception of Racial Equality in the Obama Era." Presentation at The Obama Effect 2.0 Conference. University of Maryland-Baltimore County. Oct 28th 2016.

Thomas, Melvin. "The American Dream and the African American Middle Class." Presentation at the Duke University Race Workshop, September 2015. Durham, NC.

Herring, Cedric, Moshe Semyonov, Hayward D. Horton, and **Melvin Thomas.** "Race and the Journey to Wealth: Racial Differences in Net Worth over the Life Course, 1989-2009." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Hilton New York and Sheraton New York, New York, NY, Aug 10, 2013

Thomas, Melvin E. "The Impact of Segregation and Social Class on Racial Differences in Earnings." Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2012.

Horton, Hayward D., Cedric Herring and **Melvin Thomas.** "Do Guys Just Want to Have Fun?: Racial Differences in Cohabitation and Marriage Among Men." Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, August 2011.

Thomas, Melvin E., Cedric Herring and Hayward D. Horton. "Racial Differences in the Perception of Racial Equality in the Obama Era." Paper presented at the Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, 2010.

Presidential Address at the 2008 Awards Luncheon at the Annual Meeting in Boston, MA. "The Contexts and Contours of The Changing and Continuing Significance of Race."

Thomas, Melvin, Donald Tomaskovic-Devey, and Kecia Johnson. "Race and the Accumulation of Human Capital Across the Career: A Theoretical Model and Fixed Effects Application. Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2002.

Thomas, Melvin, Cedric Herring, and Hayward D. Horton. "Exploring the Great Divide: Race and Class Differences in Perceptions of Racial Justice." Presented at the Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, Aug. 1998.

Herring, Cedric, **Melvin Thomas**, Marlese Durr and Hayward D. Horton. "Discrimination in America: The Determinants and Consequences of Discrimination Victimization." Presented at the Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, Aug. 1997.

Thomas, Melvin and Bernadette Holmes. "Race, Gender and the Determinants of Satisfaction: The Status of African American Women." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 1995.

Thomas, Melvin. "Racial and Gender Differences in the Benefits of Education." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Aug. 1994.

Thomas, Melvin and Maxine Thompson. "Determinants of Self-Esteem for Blacks and Whites." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 1994.

Horton, Hayward D. and **Melvin Thomas**. "Population Change and the Employment Status of College-Educated Blacks." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Aug. 1993.

Thomas, Melvin. "Race, Class, and Occupation: An Analysis of Black and White Earning Differences for Professional and Non-Professional Men, 1940-1990." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 1993.

Thomas, Melvin, Cedric Herring, and Hayward D. Horton. "Discrimination of the Life Course: A Cohort Analysis of Earning Differences Between Black and White Males, 1940-1990." Paper presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April 1992.

Thomas, Melvin and Hayward D. Horton. "Race, Class, and Family Structure: An Analysis of Racial Differences in Housing Values." Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Aug. 1991.

Thomas, Melvin. "The Effects of Discrimination over the Life Course: A Study of Age Related Income Differences Between Black and White Males, 1940-1990." Paper presented at the Association of Black Sociologists Annual Meeting, Aug. 1991.

Thomas, Melvin. "Race, Class, Poverty and Income: An Empirical Test of the Declining Significance of Race Thesis." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, March, 1990 in the session entitled "Race VS Class: The Continuing Debate."

Thomas, Melvin and Bernadette Holmes. "Determinants of Satisfaction for Blacks and Whites." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, April, 1989 in the session on Minority Families.

Thomas, Melvin. "Race, Class, and the Quality of Life in America: A Regression Analysis for the years 1972-1985." Presented at the Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April, 1986 in the session on Race, Ethnicity and Mental Health.

Thomas, Melvin. "Is the Significance of Race Declining?: Race, Class, and the Quality of Life of Black People." Paper presented at the Mid-South Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Oct. 1985. This paper was entered in the graduate student paper competition and won first place.

GRANTS

2001 National Science Foundation. "Racial and Spatial Influences on the Labor Market Opportunities of Low Skilled Workers" with Donald Tomaskovic-Devey. \$136,054

1997 Faculty Research and Development Grant. \$5,000

1994 Paul J. Franz Junior Faculty Fellowship. \$3,500

1992 Faculty Research Grant. \$330

HONORS AND AWARDS

Mid-South Sociological Association Graduate Student Paper Award for the paper entitled "Is the Significance of Race Declining?: Race, Class, and the Quality of Life of Black People." Awarded Oct. 25, 1985.

Virginia Tech.: Graduate Tuition Scholarship

Marquette Univ.: Tuition Remission Scholarship

Eastern College: College Alumni Award
John McKee Scholarship
Synod of the Trinity Minority Scholarship
Merit list
Dean's List