

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Sandra L. Barnes is a joint appointed Professor in the Dept. of Human and Organizational Development and the School of Divinity at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. Her research and teaching areas include: Sociology of Religion, urban sociology, inequality, and African American studies. Some of her books include; *The Costs of Being Poor: A Comparative Study of Life in Poor Urban Neighborhoods in Gary, Indiana* (SUNY Press), *Subverting the Power of Prejudice: Resources for Individual and Social Change* (InterVarsity Press), and the edited volume with Juan Battle, *Black Sexualities: Probing Passions, Problems, and Policies*. Her articles have also been published in *SOCIAL FORCES*, *The Journal of African American Studies*, *Social Problems*, and *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Emily R. Berthelot is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Houston Downtown. Her research interests include violent offending and victimization, homicide studies, quantitative methodology, race/ethnicity and crime, and inequality and crime.

Troy Blanchard is Associate Professor of Sociology at Louisiana State University. His research interests include social inequality, demography, and applied sociology.

Timothy C. Brown is an Adjunct Professor of Sociology at the University of Houston. His research interests include deviance, criminology, community studies, social capital/social networks, and qualitative methods.

Thomas J. Mowen recently completed his MA in sociology at the University of Louisville, and is now pursuing a PhD at the University of Delaware. Currently, he serves as Managing Editor for the *International Review of Comparative Sociology*. His research interests include criminology, deviance and juvenile delinquency, and racial theory.

Phyllis Puffer is associate professor of sociology at Big Sandy Community and Technical College in Prestonsburg. After nearly 18 years in federal service, both uniformed and civilian, she returned to Michigan State University for a Ph.D. in sociology, with an interest in African government. She has traveled in 30 countries, mainly in the Third World, and recently made her fourth trip to Sub-Saharan Africa. She has published travel stories in the popular press as well as articles in academic journals.

Dan Shope is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at Murray State University. His research interests include Environmental Sociology, Race, Class, and Gender, Medical Sociology, Political Economy, Population, Urban Sociology, Sociology of Sport, Popular Culture, Sociology of Music, and Appalachian Studies. He is currently working on *Shattered Class and Broken Dreams: Utilizing the Works of Michael De Certeau to Analyze the Lives of Deindustrialized Glass Workers in Huntington, West Virginia* for *The Edwin Mellen Press*. He recently published an article in *The Journal of Kentucky Studies* that explored methods of teaching Race Formation Theory to Introduction to Sociology students. He has also taught sociology courses at Bowling Green State University, Marshall University, and Morehead State University.

Clarence Talley received his PhD in sociology from the University of Maryland in 1989. His primary research area was social stratification and inequality in the United States with a focus on race, ethnicity, gender and social class. He was employed as an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Louisville where he taught a variety of courses including the one that he created as his department's milestone "Race in the US." Dr. Clarence Talley supervised numerous MA theses and mentored many of his young students to pursue a PhD program. In recent times, Dr. Clarence Talley expanded his research portfolio to include the African continent and the Caribbean and Latin America Regions. Unfortunately Dr. Clarence Talley passed away on January 28th, 2011 before this article was published. As he rests in peace, his ideas and spirit refuse to rest but live in and through his students and their good work.