

Castel Sweet, Ph.D.

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Education

PhD Sociology – Louisiana State University (Aug 2017)

Dissertation Title: “Local Embeddedness Matters: A Study of Hip-Hop/Rap Artists’ Interactions with their Community

M.A. Sociology – Louisiana State University (Dec 2014)

Master’s Thesis Title: “Prophets, Studio Revolutionaries, and On-the-Ground Activists: Hip-Hop/Rap Artists’ Approaches to Community Engagement”

B.S. Criminology/Criminal Justice – Hampton University (May 2012) Magna Cum Laude, Honors College

Undergraduate Thesis Title: “The Effects on Incarceration and Re-Entry on Children, Families, & Communities”

Research Areas

Community, Sociology of Culture, Race, Qualitative Methods

Experience

Distinguished Graduate Assistant	Social Work Department (LSU)	2016 – 2017
Instructor	Office of Social Research & Development (LSU)	2015 – 2016
Graduate Assistant	Graduate School Office of Recruitment, Retention, and Diversity (LSU)	2014 – 2016
Graduate Assistant	SCI Research, Inc. (Baton Rouge, LA)	2014
Administrative Assistant	Sociology Department (LSU)	2013 – 2014
Graduate Assistant	Starting All Over Outreach Ministries (Memphis, TN)	2013 – 2014
Project Coordinator		2012
Campus Life (Petroleum Institute, Abu Dhabi, UAE)		

Funding

Summer Research Opportunities Program. Purdue University. 2011. \$3,000.

Publications

Sweet, Castel and Sarah Becker. 2016. “Trying to build the community up”: An Exploration of the Social Impacts of Louisiana Urban Community Gardens.” Louisiana Folklore Miscellany.

Jackson, Melinda; Castel Sweet & Dari Green. 2016. “The Effects of Hurricane Katrina on Black Women: Understanding Women’s Fear through an Intersectional Lens.” In After the Storm: Militarization, Occupation, and Segregation in Post-Katrina America edited by Lori Latrice Martin, Hayward Horton, and Kenneth Fasching-Varner. Santa Barbara, CA: Praeger Publishing.

Papers Under Review

Sweet, Castel. “Commerce or Community: Hip-Hop Artist’ Motivations for Pursuing Career Aspirations in Hip-Hop Music.” Under Review.

Sweet, Castel. “Does My message Define My Role?: How Hip-Hop Artist’ Emphasis on Their Music’s Message Shapes Their Interpretation of Having a Role in Their Community.” Under Review.

Sweet, Castel and Sarah Becker. *"What Would I Look Like?": How Concentrated Disadvantage Impacts Hip-Hop Artists' Connections to Community.* Under review.

Sweet, Castel. *"I Just Want to See You Shine Son': The Social and Cultural Significance Of Hip-Hop Artists Mentoring Relationships."* Under review.

Presentations and Conference Participation

Jackson, Melinda, Castel Sweet. *The Effects of Hurricane Katrina on Black Women: Understanding Women's Fear through an Intersectional Lens.* Paper Presentation at Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 2015, Chicago, IL.

Sweet, Castel and Sarah Becker. *"I Just Want to See You Shine, Son": Hip-Hop and Rap Artists' Performance as Natural Mentors.* Paper Presentation at Popular Cultural Association/American Cultural Association, April 2015, New Orleans, LA.

Sweet, Castel. *Studio Revolutionary, On-the-ground Activist, and/or Natural Mentor: Hip-Hop/Rap Artists Pursuit to be a Catalyst for Social Change.* Paper Presentation at Wiley College's Second Annual Scholars of the Culture Conference, March 2015, Marshall, TX.

Jackson, Melinda and Castel Sweet. *The Anonymous Intersections of Gender, Race, Class and Fear in Black Baton Rouge in the 21st Era.* Paper Presentation at Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March 2015, New Orleans, LA.

Sweet, Castel. *LSU/Loyola University Leadership Exchange 2014: HIV/AIDS.* Poster Presentation at LSU's Live Gold Leadership Conference, November 2014, Baton Rouge, LA.

Sweet, Castel and Sarah Becker. *Hip-Hop/Rap Artists' Approach to Community Engagement: Physical Activism and/or Verbal Stimulation.* Poster Presentation at the American Society of Criminology Annual Conference, November 2014, San Francisco, CA.

Sweet, Castel and Sarah Becker. *Hip-Hop/Rap Artists' Conceptions of "Community": Physical/Symbolic Spaces and Local Activism.* Paper Presentation at the Rural Sociological Society Annual Conference, July 2014, New Orleans, LA.

Sweet, Castel and Elizabeth Hoffman. *Law and the Lactating Worker.* Poster Presentation at the CIC Summer Research Opportunities Program Conference, July 2011, Columbus, OH.

Invited Talks, Guest Lectures and Presentations

"Misogyny in Music." Guest Lecture for WGS 2500: Women & Gender Studies. February, 27, 2016. Louisiana State University.

"Triple Threat: Occupation, Militarization, and Segregation in Post-Katrina America: Panel Discussion." Panelist for Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August 2015, Chicago, IL.

"Diversity Real Talk': Panel Discussion." Panelist for 2014 Multicultural Student Leadership Conference. September 2014. Louisiana State University.

Teaching Experience

Youth Intervention-Prevention and Engagement (Service Learning Course)

Honors & Achievements

Association of Black Sociologists Graduate Student Paper Competition 3 rd Place	Spring 2017
Louisiana State University's Tom W. Dutton Service Award	Fall 2014
Hampton University Honors Council Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement	Spring 2012

Hampton University Oliver C. Cox Sociology Award for Leadership & Service	Spring 2011
Alpha Phi Sigma (Criminal Justice Honors Society)	Spring 2011
Alpha Kappa Mu (General Honors Society)	Spring 2011
Alpha Kappa Delta (Sociological Honors Society)	Spring 2011
Golden Key International Honors Society	Spring 2010
Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship	Spring 2008

Professional Activities

- "11th Annual MENASA NASPA Conference." New York University Abu Dhabi, Abu Dhabi, UAE.
April 18-20, 2017.
- "ACUHO-I Annual Conference and Exposition." ACUHO-I, Seattle, WA. July 9-12, 2016.
- "Louisiana Summit on African American Male Educational Success."
Louisiana State University. LSU Student Union. September 18, 2014.
- "Qualitative Data Analysis Mini-Conference." Sociology Department, Louisiana State University.
Stubbs Hall. July 24-25, 2014.
- "Multicultural Student Leadership Conference." African American Cultural Center,
Louisiana State University. LSU Student Union. Oct 27, 2012.

Campus Leadership

LSU/Loyola Univ. Leadership Exchange (LSU)	Spring 2014
Vice President, Alpha Phi Sigma (Hampton U.)	Fall 2011 – Spring 2012
President, Alpha Kappa Delta (Hampton U.)	Fall 2011 – Spring 2012
President, Sociology Club (Hampton U.)	Fall 2010 – Spring 2012

Service to the Discipline and the Wider Community

Team Member, LSU CHANGE Break 2016 (Accra, Ghana)	Jan 2016 – May 2016
Team Mentor, LSU CHANGE Break 2016 (Atlanta, GA)	Jan 2016 – Mar 2016
Volunteer LSU Focus Area Director, LSU Campus Life (Baton Rouge, LA)	Jan 2016 – Dec 2016
Director of Community Outreach, LSU Geaux BIG (Baton Rouge, LA)	Aug 2015 – May 2016
Assistant Director of Community Outreach, LSU Geaux BIG (Baton Rouge, LA)	Aug 2014 – May 2015
Regional Coordinator, LSU Community Bound (Baton Rouge, LA)	Aug 2014
Team Member, LSU CHANGE Break 2014 (Vancouver, BC)	Oct 2013 – Jan 2014
Volunteer, Garden of Champions Community Garden (Baton Rouge, LA)	Feb 2013 – Aug 2016
Volunteer, From the Bottom Community Garden (Baton Rouge, LA)	Sept 2012 – May 2013
Team Member, Alternative Break Trip (Haiti)	March 2012
Ambassador, Shelby County Juvenile Court (Memphis, TN)	May 2011 – Aug 2011
Teacher's Assistant, Girl's Inc. of the Greater Peninsula (Newport News, VA)	Jan 2011 - May 2011

University Service

Selection Committee, LSU Tom W. Dutton Service Award	Fall 2015
Auxiliary Services Dining Advisory Committee (Graduate Student Association Representative), Louisiana State University	Fall 2014 – Spring 2015
Small Group Facilitator, Leadership LSU	Spring 2015

Professional Affiliation

National Association of Student Personnel Administrators

Popular Cultural Association/ American Cultural Association

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Southern Sociological Society

American Society of Criminology

Rural Sociological Society