

Wendy Laybourn

AY 2017-18 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

Department of Sociology

6th year Graduate Student, AA



I am a doctoral candidate in the Department of Sociology and my work examines the effects of raced institutions, such as family or Greek-Letter organizations, on racial and ethnic identity formation. My work has been published in *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* and *Sociology Compass*, among others. I currently have a book under contract on my research on the racial identity and boundary making among non-Black members of Black-Greek Letter Organizations. My research has implications for understanding how fraternal organizations act as racial socialization agents and how racialization processes and racial boundaries can be challenged. My dissertation research explores the racial identities of Korean adoptees as they age and sheds light on how personal trajectories and different parenting styles shape racial identity formation by assessing the demographic profiles of Korean-adoptees in America, primarily focusing on cross-racial and transnational adoptees. For the past three years, I have served as the graduate assistant for the Department of Sociology's Critical Race Initiative (CRI). My work for the CRI has included creating and implementing an annual CRI writing retreat for students of color across campus and co-organizing two, month-long Twitter 'courses' - one on Black feminism and the other on Asian American activism. I am also involved on campus more broadly by tutoring and mentoring female athletes and supervising undergraduate students working on research projects. In addition to my position with the CRI, I have worked for Dr. Ruth Zambrana at the Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity.