

# CARA BOWMAN

bowmanc@bu.edu

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. Sociology, Boston University**, anticipated graduation 2015

**Dissertation:** “Transferring Ambitions: Families Negotiating Opportunity Consumption.”

- Conducting interviews with 30 families in the greater Boston area about the strategies they employ to ensure their children’s college attendance and economic success.
- Committee: Alya Guseva, Nazli Kibria, and Ruha Benjamin

**B.A Sociology and Spanish, Trinity College, 2005, with honors**

- Presidential Fellowship in Modern Languages: Awarded to the student who achieved the highest level of scholastic achievement and leadership within each discipline.
- Awarded the Sociology Prize for Outstanding Scholarship and Achievement.
- Studied abroad at Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain, Spring 2004

## PUBLICATIONS

Nazli Kibria, Cara Bowman and Megan O’Leary. 2014. *Race and Immigration*. Cambridge, UK: Polity Press.

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Family Sociology  
Social Class & Mobility  
Cultural Sociology  
Writing & Research

Economic Sociology  
Race & Ethnicity  
Qualitative Methods

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Boston University Writing Program:** Boston, MA

*Graduate Writing Fellow* (Instructor), Spring 2013; September 2010-May 2012 (five semesters)

- Developed syllabi in conjunction with the writing program requirements for the fall introductory class (WR100) and the spring research based class (WR150)
- Integrated core writing elements with sociological content in the courses; both classes entitled, “Consumer Society and the American Family: A Sociological Perspective”
- Led first-year undergraduate students in thoughtful discussions about the meaning of consumption in the family, while developing their writing skills through the assignment of drafts and three major papers
- Provided one-on-one feedback to students through revision of multiple drafts and mandatory individual conferences

**Boston University Sociology Department:** Boston, MA

*Senior Teaching Fellow* (Lecturer), “American Families,” Spring 2014, Fall 2012; Summer 2012; Summer 2010; Spring 2010 (five semesters)

- Developed a syllabus for the “American Families” course
- Led undergraduate students in the exploration of the social meaning of the family and to understand sociological inquiry through readings, lectures, class discussions, quizzes and writing assignments
- Managed class schedule, readings, and evaluated assignments

*Senior Teaching Fellow*, “Sociology of Economic Life,” Fall 2009

- Developed a syllabus for the “Sociology of Economic Life” course
- Led undergraduate students in the exploration of the social influences on the economy and to understand critical sociological inquiry through readings, class discussions, and writing assignments

*Teaching Fellow*, Fall 2013; September 2008-May 2009

- Led discussion sections of undergraduate students in “American Families,” “Community Sociology,” and “Principles of Sociology”
- Supported and worked with one professor per semester to effectively engage students with the curriculum
- Developed lesson plans for discussions each week and graded all paper assignments

*Grading Assistant*, September 2007-May 2008

- Verified the accuracy of undergraduate student exams and paper assignments
- Supported one professor per semester

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- “Race, Education, and Cultural Capital.” Guest lecturer, Boston University “Race & Ethnicity” course in *Department of Sociology*. October 2013.
- “Boundaries of Consequence: The Cultural Narrative of ‘Choice’ in College-Bound, Middle Class Families.” Society for the Study of Social Problems annual meeting: New York, NY. August 2013.
- “Good Immigrant-Bad Immigrant: The Politics of U.S. Immigration and the Racialization of Immigrant Families” with Nazli Kibria and Megan O’Leary. American Sociological Association annual meeting: New York, NY. August 2013.
- “The Cultural Narrative of ‘Choice’ in College-Bound, Middle Class Families.” Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting: Boston, MA. March 2013.
- “Transferring Ambitions: Families Negotiating Opportunity Consumption to Plan for College & Beyond.” Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics annual meeting: Cambridge, MA. June 2012.
- “Transferring Ambitions: Families Negotiating Opportunity Consumption.” Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting: New York, NY. February 2012.
- “Purchasing Strategies, Aspirations and Inequality: Opportunity through Consumption among Parents of High School Students.” Eastern Sociological Society annual meeting: Boston, MA. March 2010.

## **RELATED EXPERIENCE**

### **Boston University Sociology Department**

*Student Editorial Board Member*, *Political Power and Social Theory*, October 2009-present

- Working with Editor in Chief, Professor Julian Go, to deliberate which submissions will be included in this annual academic journal publication.
- Reviewing a portion of the manuscripts throughout the year and providing commentary on the strengths and weaknesses to inform the final recommendation.

### **Boston University Writing Program**

*Curriculum Committee Research Assistant, Spring 2013*

- Working to review and reorganize the BU Writing Program curriculum resources website which includes assessing the relevance of lessons and activities for future use.

## **ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Citizen Schools:** Boston, MA

*National Network Coordinator, August 2005- August 2007*

- Supported 20 national sites for non-profit, after-school program serving disadvantaged students
- Implemented district due-diligence process by conducting research and interviews
- Synthesized data to help develop five year growth strategy for selecting new sites
- Collected and maintained data on program sites and communicated this information to team
- Organized and facilitated Diversity Working Group projects within the organization

**Trinity College Sociology Department:** Hartford, CT

*Administrative Assistant, 2003-2005*

- Supported and interacted with a diverse team of professors.
- Provided general office help including general secretarial work.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES**

*City-Wide Dialogues, 2006-present*

- Trained to facilitate dialogues on Boston's ethnic and racial diversity. Facilitated a dialogue session at Pine Manor College during Fall 2011, and with LEAD Boston during Fall 2013.

*Consumer Studies Research Network (CSRN), May 2008-present*

- Member and organizer of CSRN sponsored "Contested Terrain of Consumption Studies" Mini-Conference 2008

*Citizen Schools Apprenticeship, Spring 2006*

- Designed and delivered a ten-week dance curriculum that reinforced self-esteem and leadership skills for middle school students.

## **SKILLS**

- Language: Proficient in speaking, reading, and writing Spanish
- Computers: Proficient in Atlas.ti, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, & Excel.

## **REFERENCES**

Alya Guseva, Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology, Boston University  
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Nazli Kibria, Professor □  
Department of Sociology, Boston University  
[nkibria@bu.edu](mailto:nkibria@bu.edu) □(617.358.0641)

Johnny Eric Williams, Associate Professor  
Department of Sociology, Trinity College  
[Johnny.williams@trincoll.edu](mailto:Johnny.williams@trincoll.edu) (860.297.2370)