

# Vance Alan Puchalski

*Curriculum Vitae*

Fall 2025

Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Michigan State University

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025-present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Michigan State University

2024-2025 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Boston University

## EDUCATION

2024	Ph.D. in Sociology, Princeton University Dissertation: <i>The Store on the Corner</i> Committee: Mitchell Duneier, Frederick F. Wherry, Matthew Desmond, and Shamus Khan
2018	M.A. in Sociology, Princeton University
2015	M.A. in Sociology, Columbia University
2014	A.L.B. in Extension Studies, Harvard University
2012	A.A. in Liberal Arts, Oakland Community College
2012	A.A.S. in Criminal Justice, Oakland Community College

## RESEARCH SPECIALTIES

Community and Urban Sociology; Economic Sociology; Ethnographic Methods

## PUBLICATIONS

### Book

Puchalski, Vance Alan. *Unaccounted For: Fringe Financial Services and Financial Citizenship*. Under Contract at The University of Chicago Press, Ethnographic Encounters and Discoveries

### Peer-Reviewed Journals

Puchalski, Vance Alan. 2024. "It's a who-you-know thing": interactional fraud prevention in non-bank check cashing." *Socio-Economic Review*, 22(4): 1683–1703.

**\*Selected as Editors' Choice for outstanding research in the field of socio-economics.**

Puchalski, Vance Alan. 2016. "Credit at the Corner Store: An Analysis of Resource Exchange Among Detroit-area Urban Poor. *Sociological Forum* 31(4): 1040-1062.

### **Book Chapters and Other Contributions**

Puchalski, Vance Alan. 2025. "It's Good to Have Friends Like That: Building Trust with Chaldean and Syrian Party Store Owners in Metro-Detroit" in *Arab Detroit 2020: Vitality and Vulnerability*, edited by A. Shryock, S. Howell, and Y. Hanoosh. Detroit: Wayne State University Press.

Puchalski, Vance Alan. 2019. "Urbanism" in *The Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies*, edited by A. M. Orum. NJ: Wiley-Blackwell.

Puchalski, Vance Alan. 2016. "Review of Waverly Duck's *No Way Out: Precarious Living in the Shadow of Poverty and Drug Dealing*." *City & Community* 15(4): 471-473.

Puchalski, Vance Alan. 2016. "Anti-Immigrant Political Movement" in *People of Color in the United States: Contemporary Issues in Education, Work, Communities, Health, and Immigration*, edited by A. Huerta, N. Iglesias-Prieto, and D. Brown. Santa Barbara: ABC Clio/Greenwood.

## **UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Service to Academic Journals**

2015-2017 Managing Editor, *City & Community*, the quarterly, peer-reviewed journal of the Community and Urban Section of the American Sociological Association

### **University Service**

2019-2020 GSAC, Fourth-year Representative, Department of Sociology, Princeton University

2017 Organizer/Discussant, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Princeton University

## **GRANTS & AWARDS**

2022-2023 Dean's Completion Fellowship, Princeton University

2016-2021 President's Fellowship, Princeton University

2016-2021 Dean's Grant, Princeton University

2014 Dean's List Academic Achievement Award, Harvard Extension School

2014 Phi Beta Chapter of Alpha Sigma Lambda, Harvard Extension School

2012 Student Commencement Speaker, Oakland Community College

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2023-2024 Research Assistant, Debt Collection Lab, Princeton University:  
Worked with Professor Frederick F. Wherry on a study of how people who are sued for consumer debts are treated in the justice system. Interviewed legal aid attorneys and consumer advocates and conducted ethnographic observation of court dockets in key geographic regions.

2013 Research Assistant, University of Michigan-Dearborn:  
Worked with Professor Sally Howell on an ethnographic study of Hamtramck's business community. Conducted interviews and collected ethnographic data.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2025 Economic Sociology, Boston University

2024-2025 Urban Sociology, Boston University

2024 Boston's People and Neighborhoods, Boston University

2019-2023 Introduction to Sociology, Oakland Community College

2017-2018 Urban Sociology, Graduate Teaching Assistant (Patricia Fernández-Kelly), Princeton University

2017 Introduction to Sociology, Mercer County Community College

2015-2016 Urban Sociology, Montclair State University

2016 Social Theory, Baruch College, City University of New York

2014 Global Urbanism, Graduate Teaching Assistant (Saskia Sassen), Columbia University in the City of New York

*Additional Syllabi Developed for:* Ethnographic Methods; Money, Work, and Social Life; Financial Citizenship; Social Inequality; Urban Studies; Urban Ethnography

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2025. Presenter. "Lottery Play as Meaningful Social Action." Eastern Sociological Society 95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Regular Session: Culture and Theory.

2023 Presenter. "Lottery Play as Meaningful Social Action." American Sociological Association 118<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Regular Session: Current Ethnographic Research, Methodological Inquiries, and Application of Ethnography outside Academia.

2022 Presider/Presenter. "It's a Who You Know Thing." American Sociological Association 117<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Community and Urban Sociology Section Roundtables.

2022 Presenter. "Countering the Con." Chicago Ethnography Conference. Panel Session: Culture, Work, and Consumers

2021 Presenter. "Countering the Con." American Sociological Association 116<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Economic Sociology Session: *Evaluation and the Moral Economy*.

2019 Presenter. "The Alternative to the Alternative: Money Service Businesses in Detroit." Michigan Sociological Association Annual Conference. Paper Session: *Immigrant Communities*.

2019 Presenter. "The Alternative to the Alternative: Money Service Businesses in Detroit." Eastern Sociological Society 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Paper Session: Paper Session: *Race, Labor, and Markets II*.

2016 Presenter. "Credit at the Corner Store." American Sociological Association 111<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Regular Session: *Poverty*.

2016 Participant. The Craft of Ethnography, 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, University of Michigan.

2015 Organizer. The Craft of Ethnography: Interviewing as Ethnographic Practice, Columbia University.

2015 Presider. Eastern Sociological Society 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Paper Session: *Culture and the Discourses of Nationalism*.

2015 Presenter. "Bipartisanship and Issue-Framing Processes of Social Movements." Eastern Sociological Society 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Paper Session: *Social Movement Framing in National and International Contexts*.

## REFERENCES

Mitchell Duneier

Gerhard R. Andlinger '52 Professor of Social Science, Princeton University  
[mduneier@princeton.edu](mailto:mduneier@princeton.edu)

Frederick F. Wherry

Townsend Martin, Class of 1917 Professor of Sociology, Princeton University  
[ffwherry@princeton.edu](mailto:ffwherry@princeton.edu)

Matthew Desmond

Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology at Princeton University  
[Matthew.desmond@princeton.edu](mailto:Matthew.desmond@princeton.edu)