

# Vance Alan Puchalski

*Curriculum Vitae*

Spring 2026

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: *The Store on the Corner*  
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

- 2026            Social Inequality, Michigan State University
- 2025-2026      Sociological Theory, Michigan State University
- 2025            Urban Sociology, Michigan State University
- 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

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Frederick F. Wherry

Townsend Martin, Class of 1917 Professor of Sociology, Princeton University

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Matthew Desmond

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