

Vance Alan Puchalski

Curriculum Vitae

Fall 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, Social Inequality

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

- 2026 Presider/Presenter. "Reframing the Middleman." American Sociological Association 121st Annual Meeting. Community and Urban Sociology Section Roundtables.
- 2026 Presenter. "Reframing the Middleman." SASE Conference in Bordeaux, Invited Session: Crafting an Inclusive Financial Life: Managing Debt, Wealth, and Credit from the Margins.
- 2025 Presenter. "Lottery Play as Meaningful Social Action." Eastern Sociological Society 95th Annual Meeting. Regular Session: Culture and Theory.
- 2023 Presenter. "Lottery Play as Meaningful Social Action." American Sociological Association 118th 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 117th 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 116th 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 89th Annual Meeting. Paper Session: Paper Session: *Race, Labor, and Markets II*.
- 2016 Presenter. "Credit at the Corner Store." American Sociological Association 111th Annual Meeting. Regular Session: *Poverty*.
- 2016 Participant. The Craft of Ethnography, 6th Annual Meeting, University of Michigan.
- 2015 Organizer. The Craft of Ethnography: Interviewing as Ethnographic Practice, Columbia University.

- 2015 Presider. Eastern Sociological Society 85th Annual Meeting. Paper Session: *Culture and the Discourses of Nationalism*.
- 2015 Presenter. "Bipartisanship and Issue-Framing Processes of Social Movements." Eastern Sociological Society 85th 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

Frederick F. Wherry

Townsend Martin, Class of 1917 Professor of Sociology, Princeton University
ffwherry@princeton.edu

Matthew Desmond

Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology at Princeton University
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