

Revised: 03/14/2026

ROBERT L. REECE, PHD

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EDUCATION

Duke University, Durham, NC

Doctor of Philosophy in Sociology

Dissertation: "Legacies of Slavery: An Analysis of the Dimensions of Slavery's Post-Emancipation Effects"

May 2017

Duke University, Durham, NC

Master of Arts in Sociology

May 2015

The University of Mississippi, University, MS

Master of Arts in Sociology

Thesis: "King of the Hill's Souphanousiphones, The New Model Minority, and The Subversive Model Minority"

May 2012

The University of Mississippi, University, MS

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology; Emphasis in African-American Studies, Minors in Journalism and English

Sally McDonnell-Barksdale Honors College

Thesis: "Blacking Up Critical Whiteness: Dave Chappelle as a Race Theorist"

May 2010

APPOINTMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Associate Chair, Department of Sociology

August 2025 – Present

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Associate Professor of Sociology

Faculty Scholar, Population Research Center

September 2023 – Present

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Assistant Professor of Sociology

Faculty Scholar, Population Research Center

August 2017 – August 2023

Diversity and Resilience Institute of El Paso, TX

Fellow

February 2022 – Present

SCHOLARLY AND CREATIVE WORKS

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS

Reece, Robert L. 2026. *The Shades of Black Folk: Colorism, Past, Present, and Future*. Polity Press.

Reece, Robert L. Forthcoming 2027. *Not Today: Violent Resistance in the Antebellum South*. Polity Press.

WHITE PAPERS, GREY PAPERS, OTHER

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Special Procedural Mechanism of the United Nations, submission of expert input. September 2025.

- Input solicited by an advisor to the committee. My report examined the long term ramifications of chattel slavery in the United States for racial inequality as a possible justification for racial reparations.

ORIGINAL DATASETS

Reece, Robert. 2024, "North American Slave Narratives - Individual Violent Resistance", <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/IQYPC>, Texas Data Repository

Reece, Robert. 2024, "Works Project Administration Incidents of Individual Violent Resistance", <https://doi.org/10.18738/T8/PV174B>, Texas Data Repository

PEER REVIEWED PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING

Reece, Robert L. 2023. "Colorism Before and After the One-Drop-Rule." *Research in Human Development*.

Reece, Robert L. 2022. "Freedom to Resist: The Story of John Henry Sylvester and Strike City, Mississippi." *Journal of Mississippi History*.

Reece, Robert L. 2022. "Is it better to be fat than ugly?": The Effect of Physical Attractiveness, Body Size, and Race on Individual Income." *Springer Nature: Social Sciences*.

Reece, Robert L. 2022. "Slave Past, Modern Lives: An Analysis of the Legacy of Slavery and Contemporary Life Expectancy." *Journal of Black Studies*.

Reece, Robert L. 2021. "The Missing Social Movement: Colorism in Black America." *Interface*.

Reece, Robert L. 2021. "The Future of American Blackness: On Colorism and Racial Reorganization." *Review of Black Political Economy*.

Reece, Robert L. 2020. "The Gender of Colorism: Understanding the Intersection of Skin Tone and Gender Inequality." *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*.

Reece, Robert L. 2019. "Coloring Racial Fluidity: How Skin Tone Shapes Multiracial Adolescents' Racial Identity Changes." *Race and Social Problems*.

Reece, Robert L. 2019. "Whitewashing Slavery: Legacy of Slavery and White Social Outcomes" *Social Problems*

Reece, Robert L. 2018. "Color Crit: Critical Race Theory and the Historical Maintenance and Future of Colorism in the United States." *Journal of Black Studies*

Reece, Robert L. 2018. "Coloring Weight Stigma: On Race, Colorism, Weight Stigma, and the Failure of Additive Intersectionality." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*

Reece, Robert L. 2018. "Genesis of U.S. Colorism and Skin Tone Stratification: Slavery, Freedom, and Mulatto-Black Occupational Inequality in the Late 19th Century." *Review of Black Political Economy*

O'Connell, Heather A. and **Robert L. Reece.** 2018. "Quantitative Studies of Place and Spatial Regression Analysis: A Study of the Legacy of Slavery in the U.S. South." *Sage Research Methods Cases*.

Reece, Robert L. and Maggie Hardy. 2017. "Moving beyond metrics: a primer for hiring and promoting a diverse workforce in entomology and other natural sciences." *Annals of the Entomological Society of America*

Reece, Robert L. and Aisha A. Upton. 2017. "How Skin Tone Shapes Civic Engagement Among Black Americans." *Color Struck: How Race and Complexion Matter in the "Color-Blind" Era*

Reece, Robert L. and Heather A. O'Connell. 2015. "How the Legacy of Slavery and Racial Composition Shape Public School Enrollment in the American South." *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*.

Reece, Robert L. 2015. "What Are You Mixed With?: An Analysis of Perceived Attractiveness, Skin Tone, and Mixed Raciality." *Review of Black Political Economy*.

Reece, Robert. 2015 "The Plight of the Black Belle Knox: Race, College, Web Cam Models, and the Internet." *Porn Studies*

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Reece, Robert L. 2014. "Blackening Up Critical Whiteness: Dave Chappelle as a Race Theorist." Pp. 69-90 in *(Re)positioning Race: Prophetic Research in a Post-Racial Obama Era* edited by S. Barnes, Z. Robinson, and E. Wright III. New York: SUNY Press.

Reece, Robert. 2014. "Sex as Subversion: The Ethnosexual Protestor and the Ethnosexual Defender" Pp. 105-116 in *Routledge International Handbook of Race Class and Gender* edited by S. Jackson. New York: Routledge.

BOOK REVIEWS

Reece, Robert. 2024. "Symbols of freedom: slavery and resistance before the civil war: by Matthew J. Clavin, New York, NYU Press, 2023, 272 pp., \$29.95. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*.

Reece, Robert. 2021. "Manifesto for a Dream: Inequality, Constraint, and Radical Reform by Michelle Jackson. Stanford, CA, Stanford University Press, 2020." *Political Science Quarterly* 136 (4), 792-793.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Reece, Robert L. Preparation. "Reverse Colorism: A Familiar Fallacy."

Reece, Robert L. Preparation. "Slavery and Lynching: Legacies and Geographies."

Reece, Robert L. Preparation. "Sizing up Mental Health: The role of race, body size, sexual orientation in experiencing depressive symptoms."

Reece, Robert L. Preparation. "Fatness Before and After COVID: Emotional Support During the Pandemic."

Reece, Robert L. Preparation. "The Color of Eugenics."

SHORT FICTION

Reece, Robert L. 2025. "Bone China." *Writers Resist*

Reece, Robert L. Under Review. "Robin Hood: A Fugitive Slave Story."

Reece, Robert L. Under Review. "Super Insurance Fraud."

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

"I'm Staying: In Defense of the South." – 2025 *DRIEP*

"Patriarchy and the Republican Party." – a Brief Exploration." 2025 *DRIEP*

"Colorism: The Prejudice We Don't Talk About." 2025 *DRIEP*

"Not Today: Examining the Role of Violence in Asserting Humanity During Chattel Slavery." 2025 *DRIEP*

Not Today: Stories of Resistance in the Antebellum South. < <https://www.robertreece.com/not-today>>

"Life Expectancy for Black People Living in Former Slave Counties Is Considerably Lower Than the Life Expectancy for White People, Even after Taking a Whole Host of Factors into Account." 2022. *PRC Research Brief*

"The Past is the Past? How Slavery Still Benefits White Americans." 2019. *Works in Progress*

"Halfway Home: The Black Academic and the Struggle for Belonging." 2018. *Inside Higher Ed*

"Debunking the Mobility Myth." 2018. *Teaching Tolerance*

"Fighting Fat Stigma With Science." 2017. *Teaching Tolerance*

"How Trump's latest affirmative action move uses the Asian 'model minority' as a prop." 2017. *Vox*

"The failure of the Democratic Party." 2016. *Scalawag Magazine*

"The news comes differently to me." 2016. *Scalawag Magazine*

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"How Saying You're Multiracial Changes the Way People See You." 2016. *The Conversation*

"Segregation Forever?" 2016. *Teaching Tolerance*

"A Stubborn Gap." 2016. *Rooflines*

"How slavery still shapes racial inequality." 2015. *Scalawag Magazine*

"How My Social Justice Failed My Family." 2013. *The Society Pages*

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

2023 Affordable Education Champion nominee

2020 Eyes on Teaching participant

2019 Summer Research Fellowship, UT-Austin

2016-2017 American Sociological Association Minority Fellowship Program - \$18,000

2016-2017 Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship – Honorable Mention

2016-2017 Society for the Study of Social Problems Racial and Ethnic Minority Scholarship – Honorable Mention

2016 Eastern Sociological Society Charles V. Willie Minority Graduate Student Award

2015 Mid-South Sociological Association Graduate Student Paper Competition – 1st Place

2015-2016 Ottis Green Fellowship, Duke University – \$22,030

2015-2016 Kenan Institute for Ethics Fellowship, Duke University – \$3,000

2015-2016 Society for the Study of Social Problems Racial and Ethnic Minority Scholarship – Honorable Mention

2015 Women Studies Department Race and Gender Award, Duke University – \$250

2015 Jaffrey Fellowship, Duke University – \$6000

2014 Association of Black Sociologists Graduate Student Paper Competition – 3rd Place

2014-2015 PhD Lab in Digital Knowledge scholar, Duke University

2014-2015 Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship – Honorable Mention

2014 Jaffrey Fellowship, Duke University – \$6000

2013 Summer Research Fellowship, Duke University – \$5500

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course: **Science, Innovation, and Struggle During the Industrial Revolution** – Spring '24

Course: **Race, Science, and Race Science** – Spring '21 (online); Fall '21, Spring '22, Fall '22, Spring '23, Fall '23, Spring '24, Fall '25

Course: **Racial and Ethnic Relations** – Summer '20 (online); Fall '21, Spring '22, Fall '22, Spring '23, Fall '23, Fall '24, Fall '25

Course: **Racial and Ethnic Relations** *online asynchronous* – Summer '22, Summer '23, Summer '24, Summer '25

Course: **Introduction to the Study of Society** – Fall '17; Spring '18; Spring '19, Summer '19, Fall '19, Spring '20, Fall '20

Course: **Masculinity in America** – Spring 2015

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Course: **Independent Study: Race and Comic Books** – Spring 2015

Guest Lectures:

- **The Muddy Margins: on colorism, race, and quantitative methods** in Research Methods – Fall 2022
- **Working with Geographical Data** in Sociological Methods – Fall 2018
- **Masculinity and Feminism** in Global Men and Masculinities – Fall 2015
- **Blackness in Puerto Rico** in Comparative Racial and Ethnic Stratification – Spring 2013
- **Race and Comic Books** in Sociology of Media – Fall 2013

INVITED TALKS

Racial Reparations and the Psychology of Self-Hatred – Jamaican Council on Reparations and CARICOM, December 2025

The Past is the Past? The Long-Term Impacts of Chattel Slavery in the United States – DSLUE, September 2025

The Muddy Margins: on colorism, race, and quantitative methods – Colorism Across Global Lines 2.0 Symposium, Abu Dhabi, April 2025

Mississippi Freedom Labor Union and the Long Labor Movement – Sixth Street Museum Complex, Eureka School, Hattiesburg, MS, February 2025

Colorism and Its Origins – Gainwel Breakfast Series, August 2024

Colorism and Its Origins – Gainwel Breakfast Series, December 2023

Eugenics, Weight Stigma, and the Ridiculous Modern Quest to Measure Fatness – University of Texas at Austin, Department of Nutritional Sciences, October 2023

The Muddy Margins: on colorism, race, and quantitative methods – QuantCrit Seminar, University of Texas at Austin, Population Research Center, October 2022

Contours of Race, BMI, and Weight Stigma – People’s Community Clinic, Austin, Texas, September 2021

Colorism, Its Histories, Its Present - University of Oregon, August 2021

Colorism, Its Histories, Its Present - University of Amsterdam, January 2021

Coloring Weight Stigma: On Race, Colorism, Weight Stigma, and the Failure of Additive Theory – University of Texas at Austin, Population Research Center, January 2020

Our Past is Our Present: The Legacies of Slavery and School Segregation – University of Mississippi, Slavery Research Group, October 2017

Coloring Weight Stigma: On Race, Colorism, Weight Stigma, and the Failure of Additive Intersectionality – University of Texas at Austin, Race and Ethnicity Research Group, October 2017

Sex as Subversion: The Ethnosexual Protestor and the Ethnosexual Defender – Global Inequality Research Initiative, Duke University, October 2014

Center for Multicultural Affairs Down to Earth Lunch Edition, Duke University, November 2014

SERVICE

DEPARTMENT

Teaching Excellence Committee, Spring 2024; Fall 2024; Spring 2025; Fall 2025, Spring 2026

Undergraduate Teaching Taskforce, Spring 2024

Revised: 03/14/2026

Dissertation Committee: Felipe Vargas

Race and Ethnicity Area Coordinator, 2022 - 2024

Lecturer Review Committee, 2019-20; 2021-22

Executive Committee, 2019-20; 2020-21

Comprehensive Exam Committee: Felipe Vargas

Comprehensive Exam Committee: Karen Lee

Second Year Thesis Committee: Daniela Mendez

UNIVERSITY

COLA Curriculum Development Advisory Committee, 2025 – present

Bridging Disciplines Program Faculty Advisory Board, 2023 – present

Humanities Honors Thesis Supervisor: Jonanthan Micah Truxillo

Humanities Honors Thesis, second reader: Anika Sharan

Polymathic Thesis Supervisor: Grace Xiong, 2021-22

Polymathic Thesis Supervisor: Varun Elete, 2021-22

AP Capstone Expert Advisor: Nakayah Vaughan

SWEATT Center for Black Males mentor

Polymathic Thesis Supervisor: Christin Nguyen, 2020-21

Bridging Disciplines Program Mentor: Fizza Davwa, Spring 2018

DISCIPLINE

Associate Editor: *Review of Black Political Economy*

Editorial Board: *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*

Reviewer: *American Sociological Review, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Review of Black Political Economy, Black Studies Journal, Social Forces, Deviant Behavior, Springer Nature: Social Sciences, The American Sociologist, Race and Social Problems*

Reviewer: National Science Foundation

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2017 American Sociological Association Conference – “Passing Color, Passing Wealth? Marriage Selection and Color Advantage in the 19th Century.”

2017 New Directions in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies Conference – “Passing Color, Passing Wealth? Marriage Selection and Color Advantage in the 19th Century.”

2016 Southern Sociological Society Conference – “Legacies of Slavery: Racial Transition Points and Racial Wealth Inequality.”

2015 Mid-South Sociological Association Conference – “Legacies of Slavery: Racial Transition Points and Racial Wealth Inequality.”

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2014 Association of Black Sociologists Conference – “Black Cam Models and Racialized Marketing”

2014 Southern Sociological Society Conference – “How the Legacy of Slavery and Racial Composition Shape School Segregation: Private Schools and White Flight in the American South”

2013 Association of Black Sociologists Conference – “Legacy of Slavery, Racial Threat, and Public School Segregation in the American South”

2012 Association of Black Sociologists Conference – “Sex as Subversion: The Ethnosexual Protestor and The Ethnosexual Defender”

2012 Association of Black Sociologists Conference – “The Black Ghetto as a Supervillain in Mainstream Comic Books”