

# SunAh M Laybourn

Curriculum Vitae

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Sociology  
University of Memphis  
231 Clement Hall  
Memphis, TN 38152

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sunahmlaybourn.com

## EDUCATION

2018           **Ph.D.**, Sociology, University of Maryland  
2014           **M.A.**, Sociology, University of Maryland  
2005           **B.A.**, Sociology, University of Memphis

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**Assistant Professor**, University of Memphis, Department of Sociology, 2018 -present  
Affiliate Faculty Member, Center for Workplace Diversity & Inclusion, 2018 -present  
Academic Research Fellow, Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change,  
2021-2022

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race and Ethnicity; Social Psychology; Culture; Immigration and Migration

## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

2024           *Out of Place: The Lives of Korean Adoptee Immigrants*. New York University Press.  
2018           **Laybourn, Wendy Marie** and Devon R. Goss. *Diversity in Black Greek-Letter Organizations: Breaking the Line*. NY: Routledge.

### Journal Articles

2022           Laybourn, SunAh M. “I don’t say that I’m a who’s who’: Negotiating Identity through Humility Work.” *Symbolic Interaction* 45(2):237-256.  
2022           Laybourn, SunAh M., editor. “Anti-Asian and Asian American Violence and

- Discrimination.” *Social Problems* Virtual Issue.  
<https://academic.oup.com/socpro/pages/virtual-issue-asian-american-discrimination>
- 2022 Laybourn, SunAh M. and Carla Goar. “In My Heart, I Am Cambodian?: Symbolic Ethnicity among Parents who Adopt Transracially.” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity* 8(1):145-159.  
 doi:[10.1177/23326492211043907](https://doi.org/10.1177/23326492211043907)
- 2021 Laybourn, SunAh M. “Adopting the Model Minority Myth: Korean Adoption as a Racial Project.” *Social Problems* 68(1):118-135.  
 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spz060>
- 2018 Laybourn, Wendy Marie. “Being A Transnational Korean Adoptee, Becoming Asian American.” *Contexts* 17(4):30-25.  
 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1177/1536504218812866>
- 2018 Laybourn, Wendy M. “The cost of being ‘real’: black authenticity, colorism, and Billboard Rap Chart rankings.” *Ethnic & Racial Studies* 41(11):2085-2103.  
 DOI: [10.1080/01419870.2017.1343484](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1343484)
- 2017 Parks, Gregory S. and **Wendy Marie Laybourn**. “Asian American Fraternity Hazing: An Analysis of Community-level Factors.” *Asian Pacific American Law Journal* 22(1):29-56.
- 2017 **Laybourn, Wendy Marie**, Devon R. Goss, and Matthew W. Hughey. “You’re either one of us or you’re not’: Racial Hierarchy and Non-Black Members of Black Greek-Letter Organizations.” *Sociology of Race & Ethnicity* 3(4):552-565. DOI: [10.1177/2332649216680102](https://doi.org/10.1177/2332649216680102)
- 2017 Ray, Rashawn, Melissa Brown, and **Wendy Laybourn**, eds. “The Evolution of #BlackLivesMatter on Twitter: Social Movements, Big Data, and Race.” *Ethnic & Racial Studies* 40(11):1795-1796. DOI: [10.1080/01419870.2017.1335423](https://doi.org/10.1080/01419870.2017.1335423)
- 2017 Laybourn, Wendy Marie. “Teaching and Learning Guide: Korean Transracial Adoptee Identity Formation.” *Sociology Compass* 11(2)  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12449>
- 2017 Laybourn, Wendy Marie. “Korean Transracial Adoptee Identity Formation.” *Sociology Compass* 11(1) <https://doi.org/10.1111/soc4.12444>
- 2016 Laybourn, Wendy Marie. “From Subjugated to Incorporated: The Racial Projects of U.S. Rap Music.” *Issues in Race & Society* 4(1):82-87.

- 2016 Gregory S. Parks and **Laybourn, Wendy Marie**. “The Sons of Indiana: Kappa Alpha Psi and the Fight for Civil Rights.” *Indiana Law Journal* 91(4):1425-1472. <https://www.repository.law.indiana.edu/ilj/vol91/iss4/8>
- 2016 **Laybourn, Wendy Marie** and Gregory S. Parks. “Brotherhood and the Quest for African American Social Equality: A Story of Phi Beta Sigma.” *Maryland Law Journal Race, Religion, Gender and Class* 16(1):1-47. <https://digitalcommons.law.umaryland.edu/rrgc/vol16/iss1/2>
- 2016 **Laybourn, Wendy Marie** and Gregory S. Parks. “Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the Fight for Civil Rights.” *Wake Forest Journal of Law and Policy* 6(1):213-301. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3004062>

### Book Chapters, Book Reviews, and Encyclopedia Entries

- 2022 Laybourn, SunAh M. “Forever Foreigners? Asian American Ethnic Groups.” *Sociology in Action Race and Ethnicity Series*, edited by K. Korgen and M. Atkinson. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publishing.
- 2021 Ray, Rashawn, **SunAh Laybourn**, and Melissa Brown. “ATLiens: OutKast and the Saliency of Place for Black Male Identity.” *An OutKast Reader: Essays on Race, Gender, and the Postmodern South*, edited by R. Bradley. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.
- 2020 Laybourn, SunAh M. “Reframing Adoptee Narratives: Korean Adoptee Identity and Culture in Twinsters and aka SEOUL.” *Racialized Media: The Design, Delivery, and Decoding of Race and Ethnicity*, edited by M.W. Hughey and E. Lesser. NY: New York University Press.
- 2020 Laybourn, SunAh. “Transnational Adoption.” In *Oxford Bibliographies in Sociology*, edited by L. Spillman. NY: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/OBO/9780199756384-0241
- 2019 Winstead, Kevin and **Wendy Marie Laybourn**. “Teaching Black Social Movements through #BlackLivesMatter: Twitter as a Lab, Knowledge Bank, and Field.” Pp. 65-78 in *Critical Intersections in Contemporary Curriculum and Pedagogy*, edited by L.M. Jewett, F. Calderon-Berumen, and M. Espinosa-Dulanto. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing.
- 2017 Laybourn, Wendy Marie. “The Sociology of Hip Hop Music.” *Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology, Second Edition*.
- 2016 Laybourn, Wendy Marie. Book Review of *The Scholar Denied: W.E.B. DuBois and the Birth of Modern Sociology* (2015) by Aldon Morris. *Research Connections: An Annual Publication of the Consortium on Race, Gender and Ethnicity*.

## Other Publications and Media

- 2021 Interviewed for ABC's (Australian Broadcasting Corporation) morning news show, "Breakfast." May 20.  
<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/breakfast/new-us-law-targets-anti-asian-hate-crimes/13351734>
- 2021 Laybourn, SunAh. "Behind the Model Minority Myth." Blog post for *Uplift Memphis, Uplift the Nation*, April 6.  
<https://blogs.memphis.edu/benhooksinstitute/2021/04/06/behind-the-model-minority-myth/>
- 2021 Interviewed for WMC Action News 5 segment. "Hate crimes against Asian-Americans increasing after pandemic." March 17.  
<https://www.wmcactionnews5.com/2021/03/18/hate-crimes-against-asian-americans-rise/>
- 2020 Laybourn, SunAh M. and Carla Goar. "Abby Johnson's comments about her adopted Black son are problematic. Here's why." Op-Ed for *Brookings*, August 26.  
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2020/08/26/abby-johnsons-comments-about-her-adopted-black-son-are-problematic-heres-why/>  
 \*\*15,000 views in the first 24 hours of posting
- 2015 Laybourn, Wendy Marie. "New Titles, New Stories." Pp. 98-101 in *Flip the Script: Adult Adoptee Anthology*, edited by D.R. Christian, A.H.L. Transue Woolston, and R. González.

## FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2018 The Graduate School Writing Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$2,000)
- 2017 The Graduate School All-S.T.A.R Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$10,000)
- 2017 The Graduate School Writing Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$2,000)
- 2017 Eastern Sociological Society Travel Grant (\$200)
- 2016 Dean's Research Initiative Grant, University of Maryland (\$2,500)
- 2016 The Graduate School Writing Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$2,000)
- 2016 **Laybourn, Wendy Marie** and Melissa Brown. "The Art of Storytelling: Activism, Entrepreneurship, and Community Revitalization." Pepsi Enhancement Fund Grant, University of Maryland (\$1,460)
- 2016 Ramon J. Henkel Quantitative Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland (\$2,000)
- 2016 Consortium on Race, Gender, and Ethnicity Dissertation Research Grant, University of Maryland (\$2,000)
- 2015 The Graduate School Writing Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$2,000)

- 2014 Summer Research Fellowship, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Department of Sociology, University of Maryland (\$5,000)
- 2014 The Graduate School Writing Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$2,000)
- 2012 Diversity Recruitment Fellowship, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland (\$10,000)
- 2012 Dean's Fellowship, University of Maryland (\$5,000)

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

- 2022 Professional Development Assignment, University of Memphis
- 2022 Early Career Research Award, University of Memphis (\$500)
- 2018 Robert W. Janes Award for Excellence, Department of Sociology, University of Maryland
- 2017 Milton Dean Havron Social Sciences Award (\$5,000)
- 2017 American Sociological Association's Student Forum Travel Award (\$225)
- 2017 Dean's Research Initiative Graduate Travel Award, University of Maryland (\$1,000)
- 2017 Excellence in Diversity Award, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland (\$1,000)
- 2016 Pre-Doctoral Dissertation Award, Adoption Initiative (\$400)
- 2016 Outstanding Graduate Assistant Award, The Graduate School, University of Maryland
- 2016 Adoption Initiative Conference Scholarship (\$100)
- 2016 Ford Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Honorable Mention
- 2015 Department of Sociology Travel Award, University of Maryland (\$500)
- 2015 Goldhaber Travel Award, University of Maryland (\$800)

### **INVITED TALKS**

- 2022 Panelist. Racial Equity and Inclusion Panel. University of Massachusetts, Lowell. September 29.
- 2022 AAPI Heritage Month Speaker. Stockton University. April 28.
- 2022 Inclusive Leadership Workshop. Stockton University. April 28.
- 2021 Family Matters? How Adoption and Deportation Define the American Family. University of Tennessee at Martin. November 16.
- 2021 Family Matters? How Adoption and Deportation Define the American Family. Rhodes College. October 26.
- 2021 "Race in America and the #StopAsianHate Movement." US Embassy, Canberra, Australia. May 14.
- 2020 "Together We Rise" Series speaker. Junior League of Memphis. October 18.

- 2020 “Adoptable Orphans, Deportable Immigrants: The Limits of Korean Adoptees’ Race, Citizenship, and Belonging.” Skidmore College. March 26-27. (*Cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- 2019 Diversity and Inclusion Panel. Public Relations Society of America, Memphis Chapter. November 15.
- 2015 Invited Panelist. “What Difference Does it Make?” Research Center for Korean Community Annual Conference. New York, NY. November 7.

## PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2023 Panel. “Deportable Immigrants: Korean Adoptees’ Racial Place in *Blue Bayou*.” Association of Asian American Studies Annual Meeting. Long Beach, CA.
- 2022 Roundtable. “Included or Excluded: A Systematic Review of Sociological Research on Asian Americans.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Los Angeles, CA.
- 2020 Panel. Regular Session – Symbolic Interaction: Studies and Extensions. “Humblebragging as Authenticity Work.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. (*Cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- 2020 Panel. “Community Wealth Building and the Strategic Assimilation of Black Hip-Hop Artists.” (Co-authored with Joey Brown). Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Jacksonville, FL. (*Cancelled due to COVID-19*)
- 2019 Panel. “‘In my heart, I am Cambodian:’ Symbolic Ethnicity among Parents who Adopt Transracially.” (Co-authored with Carla Goar). American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. NY, NY. August 13.
- 2019 Panel. “‘This could be any of us:’ Identity Formation, Racialized Scripts, and Collective Action in Adoptee Citizenship Act Advocacy.” The International Symposium for Korean Adoption Studies. Seoul, Korea. July 31.
- 2019 Author Meets Critic. *Diversity in Black Greek-Letter Organizations: Breaking the Line*. Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. April 13.
- 2019 Invited Panel. “‘This could be any of us:’ Identity Formation, Racialized Scripts, and Collective Action in Adoptee Citizenship Act Advocacy.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. April 13.
- 2019 Panel. “‘In my heart, I am Cambodian:’ Symbolic Ethnicity among Parents who Adopt Transracially.” (Co-authored with Carla Goar). Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. April 11.

- 2019 Panel. “‘This is a family bill not an immigration bill’: Racialized Scripts in Adoptee Deportations and the Adoptee Citizenship Act Advocacy.” Hawaii Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Honolulu, HI. February 16.
- 2018 Panel. “Reframing Belonging: Korean Adoptees on the Ground and Screen.” The Alliance for the Study of Adoption & Culture. Oakland, CA. October 20.
- 2018 Invited Workshop Presenter. “Publishing 101.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. August 13.
- 2018 Roundtable. “Adopting the Model Minority Myth: Korean Adoption as a Racial Project.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA. August 11.
- 2018 Panel. “‘This is a family bill not an immigration bill’: Adoptee Deportations, the Adoptee Citizenship Act, and the Changing Racialization of Transnational Transracial Adoptee Immigrants.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- 2017 Roundtable. “White, But Not Quite: Korean Adoptees, Honorary Whiteness, and Racialization.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 Panel – Interactionist Perspectives in Race and Ethnicity. “Not Quite White and Not Entirely Ethnic: Korean Adoptees and the Transracial Adoptee Double Bind.” Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 Panel. “‘Whiteness’ without Wages: Korean Adoptees and the Challenges to Honorary Whiteness.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2016 Roundtable. “Creating the ‘Korean Adoptee’: Intersections of Race, Gender, Class, and Nation.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA.
- 2016 Panel. “*Flip the Script*: An Artistic Uplifting of Adoptee Voices.” Adoption Initiative Biennial Conference. Montclair, NJ.
- 2016 Panel. “‘I’m just me’: The Role of Authenticity Claims in Identity Work.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Boston, MA
2015. Panel. Regular Session – Popular Culture. “The Cost of Being ‘Real’: Black Authenticity, Colorism, and Rap Billboard Chart Rankings.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Roundtable. “Is Rap Music a Racial Project? The Ideological Work of Music.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.

- 2015 Panel. “Opposition and Incorporation: The Racial Projects of Rap Music.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New York, NY.
- 2014 Roundtable. “‘They don’t see me but they hear me’: Drug Lyrics, Rap Billboard Chart Rankings, and Black Authenticity.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA.
- 2014 Roundtable. “Blame It On The Alcohol?: Rap Music’s Substance Consumption Scripts and Billboard Chart Rankings.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.

### **CAMPUS TALKS**

- 2022 “On Becoming.” Tennessee Governor’s School for International Studies, University of Memphis. June 22.
- 2022 “Interviewing Hard to Reach Populations.” Susquehanna University. March 15.
- 2021 “Making Mirrors.” Tennessee Governor’s School for International Studies, University of Memphis. June 24.
- 2020 “Podcasting as Public Sociology.” University of Richmond. October 1.
- 2020 “Identity Construction.” Tennessee Governor’s School for International Studies, University of Memphis. June 16.
- 2016 Research Panel. “From Objects in Need of Rescue to Subjects Asserting Selfhood: Korean Adoptee Consciousness and Cross-National Advocacy.” Consortium on Race, Gender & Ethnicity and Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland.
- 2015 “What’s in a Name? What Difference Does it Make?” Rise Above –Isms Week, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, University of Maryland.
- 2015 #BlackLivesMatter at UMD Solidarity Event. Office of Diversity & Inclusion, University of Maryland.
- 2014 “The R Word: What It Is, What It Is Not, and What We Must Do.” FUEL (Forging, Understanding, Empowering, and Leading) Asian American Leadership Conference, University of Maryland.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

University of Memphis



Undergraduate Courses

Racial and Ethnic Minorities (FA2018, SP2019-present)  
Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Honors sections (SP2019-present)  
Hip Hop and Memphis (SP2020)

Graduate Courses

Critical Race Theory (FA2019, SP2022)  
Theory (FA2023)  
Racial and Social Inequality (SP2024)

University of Maryland

SOCY105: Introduction to Contemporary Social Problems (FA2017, SP2018)  
Co-Instructor, SOCY498: Black Social Movements (FA2015, SP2016)

Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan

Teaching Assistant, “Race, Ethnicity, and Quantitative Methodology” (SU2015)

**RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS**

2015-2017      Research Assistant – Dr. Kris Marsh, University of Maryland  
2013              Ethnography Intern, Southern Growth Studio  
2012-2015      Research Assistant – Dr. Rashawn Ray, University of Maryland

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

*Discipline*

2023              Committee Member, ASA Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Oliver Cromwell Cox Book Award  
2023              Committee Member, Association of Asian American Studies Social Sciences Caucus Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award  
2023              Organizer, Panel: “Asian Americans in the South.” Southern Social Sociological Annual Meeting. Myrtle Beach, SC.  
2023              Program Committee, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Myrtle Beach, SC.  
2022              ASA Regular Session Organizer, Theory, Critical  
2021              Co-Organizer (with Devon R. Goss), Panel: “Popular Culture and Race.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Virtual.  
2021-2023       Editorial Board Member, *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*  
2020              Committee Member, ASA Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, James Blackwell Paper Award  
2020              Presider, Panel: “Race and Ethnicity II – Racialization and Meaning-Making.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. (*Cancelled due to COVID-19*)  
2020              Co-Organizer (with Devon R. Goss), Panel: “Popular Culture and Race.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Jacksonville, FL. (*Cancelled due to COVID-19*)

- 2019 Committee Member, ASA Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, Oliver Cromwell Cox Article Award
- 2019 Co-Organizer (with Devon R. Goss), Panel: “Race, Identity, and Social Contexts.” Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.
- 2019 Panelist. Preparing for the Academic Job Market Workshop. Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA.
- 2018 Co-Organizer (with Devon R. Goss), Panel: “Race and Adoption.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD.
- 2017 Elected Member. American Sociological Association Student Forum Board.
- 2017 Panelist. First Time Attendees Orientation. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Montreal, Canada.
- 2017 Co-Organizer (with Devon R. Goss), Panel: “Race and Ideology on the College Campus.” Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2015 Presider. Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.
- 2014 Co-Coordinator. Annual Meeting Reception Committee, American Sociological Association Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities, San Francisco, CA.

Referee: *Adoption Quarterly, American Sociological Review, Ethnic & Racial Studies, Meridians, Race and Social Problems, Sociology Compass, Social Currents, Social Problems, Sociological Inquiry, Sociology of Race and Ethnicity, Qualitative Sociology*

*Departmental and University*

- 2022-2023 Search Committee, Tenure Track Position, Department of Sociology, UM
- 2022-2023 School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy PhD Admissions Committee, UM
- 2022-2023 School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy, Department of Sociology Representative, UM
- 2021 Committee Member, Mr. and Ms. U of M
- 2021 Search Committee, Tenure Track Position, Department of Management, UM
- 2021 “Academic Welcome.” Weeks of Welcome, UM. August 20.
- 2020 Review Committee, Faculty Research Grant, College of Education, UM
- 2019-2020 Search Committee, Tenure Track Position, Department of Sociology, UM
- 2018-2020 Colloquium Committee, Department of Sociology, UM
- 2017 Admissions Committee, Graduate Cohort, Department of Sociology, UMD
- 2016 Search Committee, Tenure Track Position, Department of Sociology, UMD
- 2014-2017 Graduate Student Coordinator, Critical Race Initiative, Department of Sociology, UMD
- 2014-2017 Coordinator, Parren Mitchell Symposium, Department of Sociology, UMD
- 2016 Leadership Committee Member, Rise Above Isms Week, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, UMD
- 2015 Leadership Committee Member, Rise Above Isms Week, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, UMD
- 2014-2015 Graduate Student Representative, Policy Committee, Department of Sociology, UMD

2013- 2014      Committee Member, Parren Mitchell Symposium, Department of Sociology UMD

*Community*

2023              Organizer, Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month Memphis  
2022-2023      Conference Co-Chair, Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network  
2022-2023      Junior League of Memphis, Provisional Class Advisor  
2022              Co-Chair. APEX Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative. Junior League of Memphis.  
2021              Host. APEX Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiative. Junior League of Memphis. October 30.  
2021-2022      Board Member, The Global Citizen Collective Board of Directors  
2021-2022      Junior League of Memphis, Provisional Class  
2020 –present   Radio Show Host, “Let’s Grab Coffee” (public sociology), WYXR 91.7FM  
2019 –2020      Advisory Board Member, Shelby County Youth Assessment and Resource Center  
2019 -2023      Advisory Council Member, Korean American Adoptee Adoptive Family Network

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Sociological Association  
    Section on Asia and Asian America  
    Section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities  
    Section on Social Psychology  
Association for Asian American Studies  
    Critical Adoption Studies Caucus  
    Social Sciences Caucus  
Southern Sociological Society