

Ryan Light
Curriculum Vitae
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Education

Ph.D. in Sociology, expected April 2009, from The Ohio State University.

Thesis: "Structure, Culture, and Meaning in American Slave Narratives."

In this dissertation project, I contribute to the broad literature on inequality, culture, and power by investigating the everyday lives of slaves in their own words. Data are drawn from over 600 American slave narratives from two comparative historical collections: a set of 19th century narratives written largely under the auspices of abolitionism and a set of 20th century narratives compiled in the 1930s by the Works Progress Administration (WPA). I extend and develop novel techniques developed within the fields of social networks and computational linguistics to analyze the narrators' actions and interpretations. Results demonstrate important variations in slaves' daily experiences and interpretations – variations often surrounding gender and region of enslavement. Moreover, the narratives reveal patterns of resistance most often characterized by the unauthorized visiting of relatives, loafing at work, and general disobedience. By focusing on power and inequality as interpreted, dealt with and resisted in the everyday life of slaves, I extend our general understanding of American slavery while also offering insights regarding broader sociological processes of inequality and power.

Master of Arts in Sociology, 2004, from The Ohio State University.

Thesis: "Balkanized or Boundless: The Structure of American Sociological Publication, 1963-1999."

Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and English, 2000, from Kenyon College, Gambier, Ohio. *cum laude*.

Research Interests

Social Stratification · Race and Ethnicity · Social Networks ·
Cultural Sociology · Historical Sociology · Sociology of Science

Teaching Interests

Social Stratification · Sociological Theory · Social Networks · Research Methods

Scholarly Awards and Honors

2008-2009. Presidential Fellowship, Ohio State University.

2007. Candace Rogers Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, Eastern Sociological Society.

2006. Honorable Mention, Cambridge Sociological Abstracts Discovery Prize.

2005. Outstanding Master's Student Award, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University.
2005. Summer Publishing Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Ohio State University.
2005. Graduate Student Paper of the Year, History of Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association.
2004. Inducted into the Phi Kappa Phi National Honors Society.
- 2002-2003. University Fellowship, Ohio State University.
2000. Awarded Distinction, Senior Comprehensive Exercise in Sociology, Kenyon College.
- 1996-2000. Distinguished Scholars Scholarship, Kenyon College.

Research/Professional Experience

- 2006-present. Editorial Associate, *American Sociological Review*.
- 2007-present. Research Assistant for Dr. Pamela Paxton. Analyzing the development of gender studies within the social sciences.
- 2004-2006. Research Assistant for Dr. Paul Bellair. Participating in the development of a prison recidivism database and survey instrument.
- 2004-2005. Team member. The Ohio Discrimination Project: A Research Practicum. The Ohio State University. Principal Investigator: Dr. Vincent Roscigno.

Teaching Experience

- 2003-04. "Types of Sociological Inquiry: Research methods." Teaching Assistant.

Publications

- Light, Ryan and Vincent J. Roscigno. *Forthcoming*. "Discrimination and Interpretation at Work." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences*.
- Light, Ryan and Vincent J. Roscigno. 2007. "Race Attitudes and the Alternative Realities of Workers and Bosses" Pp. 39-55 in *The Face of Discrimination* by Vincent J. Roscigno. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Moody, James and Ryan Light. 2006. "A View From Above: The Evolving Sociological Landscape." *The American Sociologist* 37:67-86.

Working Papers / Papers in Progress

- Light, Ryan. *Slavery and Social Resurrection: Hope, Freedom, and Resistance in Late Antebellum Slave Narratives* (Manuscript in Progress).
- Light, Ryan. "Gender Stratification in Science: Uncovering the 'Quality Quandary' in American Sociology." (Revise and Resubmit at *Work and Occupations*).
- Light, Ryan. "Gender Stratification and Publication in American Science: Turning the Tools of Science Inward." (Revise and Resubmit at *Sociology Compass*).

Light, Ryan and James Moody. "Social Problems in American Sociology, 1963-1999."
(Under review).

Light, Ryan. "Like Strangers We Trust: Identity, Fields, and Latent Affiliation Networks."

Light, Ryan and Jill Harrison. "Measuring Networks of Meaning: A Structural Approach to the
Sociology of Culture."

Roscigno, Vincent J., Schmidt, Theresa and Ryan Light. "Sexual Harassment at Work."

Presentations

2008. Light, Ryan. "Social Problems in American Sociology, 1963-1999." *To be presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Boston, MA.*
2008. Light, Ryan. "Narrative Networks and Culture: Structure in the Service of Action." Presented at the International Network of Social Network Analysis Sunbelt Meetings, St. Petersburg, FL.
2007. Light, Ryan. "Like Strangers We Trust: Identity, Fields, and Latent Affiliation Networks." Presented at the Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
2006. Light, Ryan and Jill Harrison. "Measuring Meaning Structures: A Structural Approach to the Sociology of Culture." Presented at Annual Meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA.
2005. Light, Ryan. "Gender Stratification and Scientific Publication: Piecing Together the Productivity Puzzle." Presented at Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA.
2005. Light, Ryan and Vincent J. Roscigno. "Discrimination and Interpretation at Work: The Alternative Realities of Workers and Bosses." Presented at Annual Meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, Charlotte, NC.
2004. Light, Ryan and Josh Dubrow. "Don DeLillo's *White Noise* and 9/11: Interpreting Tragedy and Bridging Distance in a Postmodern Framework." Presented at the '80s in Literature and Culture Conference, Cincinnati OH.

Professional and Departmental Service

Ad hoc Reviewer for:

American Sociological Review; American Journal of Sociology; Theory, Culture and Society; Environment and Planning B

2006. Volunteer Musician. Provided entertainment for the Presidential Banquet at the Southern Sociological Society Meetings with fellow Ohio State graduate students and faculty members.

2006-2007. Cohort Representative. Sociology Graduate Student Association.

2007-2008. Student Representative. Graduate Studies Committee. Ohio State University, Department of Sociology.

Membership in Professional Societies

American Sociological Association.

Southern Sociological Society
Eastern Sociological Society
International Network of Social Network Analysis