

Sonia Planson

University of Notre Dame
Department of Sociology
Jenkins Nanovic Hall, Notre Dame, IN 46556

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2025-27 **Provost's Postdoctoral Fellow**, University of Notre Dame
Department of Sociology
- 2023-25 **Presidential Postdoctoral Fellow**, Brown University
Department of Sociology
Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs
- 2023-25 **Affiliated Researcher**, Sciences Po (France)
Centre for Research on Social Inequalities

EDUCATION

- 2023 **Dual Ph.D. in Sociology**, Northwestern University & Sciences Po (France)
Dissertation: "Racialized Assimilationism and the Dilemmas of Cultural Transmission: Immigrant Families in Chicago and Paris." Dual defense jury: Mary Patillo (Northwestern University, co-chair), Philippe Coulangeon (Sciences Po, co-chair), Wendy Griswold (Northwestern University), Tessie Liu (Northwestern University), Lincoln Quillian (Northwestern University), Agnès Van Zanten (Sciences Po), Jean Beaman (UC Santa Barbara)
- 2019 **M.A. in Sociology**, Northwestern University
- 2016 **M.A. *Cum Laude* in Sociology**, Sciences Po
- 2014 **B.A. in Social Sciences (History specialization)**, Sciences Po
- 2013–14 **Visiting undergraduate student**, University of Virginia

AREAS OF INTEREST

Race; migration; culture; citizenship; postcolonialism; nationalism; comparative and transnational sociology; mixed methods

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-reviewed

Planson, Sonia. 2023. "Considering Genres in Gendered and Racialized Cultural Capital." *Poetics* 101:101837. doi: [10.1016/j.poetic.2023.101837](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2023.101837).

Planson, Sonia. 2023. "Race, Cultural Capital, and School Achievement in Race-Blind France." *Sociology of Education* 96(1):19–42. doi: [10.1177/00380407221139220](https://doi.org/10.1177/00380407221139220).

In Progress

“Banal Assimilationism: The Everyday Racial Disciplining of Immigrant Families” (under review)

“Assimilationism and the Logic of Everyday Racism.” with Y. Coenders (under review)

“The Cultural Balancing Act of Immigrants: Assimilation as an Empty Signifier.” (under review)

“Late Naturalizations.” (in preparation for *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* special issue)

Assimilation's False Promises: How Immigrant Families Experience Everyday Politics of Race and Belonging in the US and France (book manuscript in progress)

Open Access

Planson, Sonia. 2016. « La naturalisation chez les immigrés âgés : déterminants, conditions et rapport au cadre étatique » Master's thesis in Sociology, Sciences Po, Paris. Available in open access on HAL open archive: [dumas-01401036](https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/dumas-01401036)

AWARDS, GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2023	Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship, Brown University
2022	Graduate Fellowship, Council for Race and Ethnic Studies, Northwestern University (one year funding and \$4,000 research funds)
2021	PhD Summer School in Barcelona, European Sociological Association
2021	Maurice J. and Fay B. Karpf Peace Prize Award, Northwestern University (\$5,500)
2020	Doctoral School Exceptional Funding, Sciences Po (€1,000)
2019	Buffett Graduate Student Dissertation Research Award, Northwestern University (\$5,000)
2019	The Graduate School Research Grant, Northwestern University (\$3,000)
2019	Dispute Resolution Research Center Research Grant, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University (\$3,000)
2019	Sociology Fieldwork Research Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University (three months funding)
2019	Buffett Institute Graduate Student Conference Travel Grant, Northwestern University (\$400)
2018	Computing Essentials for Social Scientists, Northwestern University (\$1,500)

- 2018 2nd year paper alumni funds, Department of Sociology Northwestern University (\$600)
- 2017 France Chicago Center Exchange Fellowship in the Social Sciences Division at the University of Chicago (\$12,000 – declined)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS (*)

- 2024 *Presenter, “Assimilation to What? Immigrants and the Paradox of ‘the Assimilated,’” Sociology Department Research Chat, Brown University, November 2024.
- 2024 Presenter, “Assimilationism and the Logic of Everyday Racism” (with Yannick Coenders), section on Racial and Ethnic Minorities roundtables, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, August 2024.
- 2024 Presenter, “Radically Universalist? Immigrant Families’ Encounters with the Injunction to Assimilate in France,” mini-symposium panel on “Dynamics of Difference in Europe: Between Liberalism and Post-Fascism,” International Conference of Europeanists, Lyon, France, July 2024.
- 2024 Presenter, “From Injunction to Presumption of Assimilation? The Case of Postcolonial Immigrants’ Late Naturalizations.” International Symposium on ‘Losing, Retaining, Reclaiming the Citizenship of the Former Colonial Power,’ Institut Convergences Migrations, Cesis, Paris, France, June 2024.
- 2024 *Panel Presider and Discussant, “Race and Ethnicity in the Midwest,” Chicago Ethnography Conference, Northwestern University, March 2024.
- 2024 *Presenter, “Late Naturalizations.” Interdisciplinary Migration Working Group, Brown University Population Studies and Training Center, February 2024.
- 2024 *Panelist for Book Talk *We Thought It Would Be Heaven: Refugees in an Unequal America* by Blair Sackett and Annette Lareau, Watson Institute, Brown University, January 2024.
- 2023 Presenter, “Considering Genres in Gendered and Racialized Cultural Capital,” regular session panel on “Culture and Inequality I: The Creation and Consumption of Cultural Products,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 2023.
- 2022 *Panelist, “What Culture Do Immigrant Families Wish to Pass On?” in the Masterclass on Sociology of Culture with Visiting Professor Jennifer C. Lena, Sciences Po Department of Sociology, July 2022.
- 2022 Workshop Presenter, “Transmission Wishes: Three Family Case Studies,” Culture Workshop, NU Sociology, February 2022.
- 2021 Presenter and Panel Discussant, “Racialized Assimilationism and Cultural Transmission in First- and Second-Generation Immigrants’ Experiences,”

European Sociological Association PhD Summer School, Barcelona, Spain, August 2021.

- 2021 Presenter, “Racialized Assimilationism and Cultural Transmission in First- and Second-Generation Immigrants’ Experiences,” regular session panel on “Assimilation and its Variants: Racialized, Segmented, and Relational Assimilation,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, online, August 2021.
- 2021 Presenter, « Assimilationnisme racialisé et transmission culturelle intergénérationnelle aux États-Unis » French Sociological Association Congress, online, July 2021.
- 2020 Presenter, “Cultural Capital and Achievement Returns: The Case of Minoritized Students in France,” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, presentation cancelled due to Covid-19 pandemic, 2020.
- 2019 Workshop Presenter, “Cultural Capital and Achievement Returns: The Case of Minoritized Students in France,” Race & Society Workshop, NU Sociology, October 2019.
- 2019 Presenter, “‘Presumption of Assimilation’ and the Sacralization of Citizenship: the case of Aging Post-Colonial Immigrants in French Naturalization Law,” panel on “Immigrant Integration in Contemporary Europe,” Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C., June 2019.
- 2018 Presenter, “Capital culturel et résultats scolaires : les collégiens enfants d’immigrés sont-ils moins récompensés ?”, International and interdisciplinary Symposium “Racism and racial discrimination, from grade school to the university,” University of Paris Diderot, Paris, France, September 2018.
- 2018 *Presenter, “Naturalization Among Elderly Immigrants in France,” Global Café, NU International Studies, January 2018.
- 2017 Presenter, “Naturalization Among Elderly Immigrants in France,” (Im)migration Working Group, NU Sociology, November 2017.

TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:

Spring/Fall 2024 **The (Racial) Politics of National Culture**, Brown University

Temporary Research and Teaching Attaché (teaching sections):

Spring 2021 **Introduction à la Sociologie**, Pierre François, Sciences Po
 Fall 2020 **Sociology and Gender**, Marta Dominguez Folgueras, Sciences Po Asia campus

Teaching Assistant:

Spring 2019 **Legal Studies Research Methods**, Robert Nelson, Northwestern University
 Winter 2019 **Class and Culture**, Beth Redbird, Northwestern University

Fall 2018	Law and Society (teaching sections), Joanna Grisinger, Northwestern University
Spring 2017	Introduction to Sociology (teaching sections), Anne Revillard, Science Po North America campus
Spring 2017	Social Inequalities in Europe , Ettore Recchi, Sciences Po North America campus
Advising	Senior Thesis: “Across Borders and Beliefs: National Identity Formation Among Immigrant Communities.” Eva Azazoglu, Brown University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2017-19	Co-founder and organizer: (Im)migration Working Group, Sociology Department, Northwestern University
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OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2019	Chicago Cultural Alliance – Intern through Northwestern’s Civic Engagement Center’s Graduate Opportunities Program. Writing a report for CCA to help members organizations implement strategies for youth engagement.
2016	Sciences Po, CRIS – Research assistant for Carlo Barone’s project “Social origins and tracking in French upper secondary schools: a longitudinal, experimental study.” Coordinating and conducting 50 interviews over a three-months period with middle-school students, parents, and teachers. Writing of qualitative pilot study report, and participation in the preparation and testing of a questionnaire implementing insight from the interviews.
2015	EDF R&D – Intern in a team of social sciences researchers (Research & Development branch of EDF). Writing a research report about demographic aging and its impacts on society.

TRAINING

2018	Computing Essentials for Social Scientists, \$1,500 stipend awarded
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LANGUAGES AND OTHER SKILLS

French (native), English (fluent), Persian (intermediate), German (beginner), Spanish (beginner)
Softwares: Stata, NVivo

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association, European Sociological Association, French Sociological Association, Council for European Studies

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

Buffet Institute for Global Studies (2018-2023), Center for Legal Studies University (2018-2023), Council for Race and Ethnic Studies (2022-2023) at Northwestern University

REFERENCES

Mary Pattillo

Harold Washington Professor of Sociology and Chair, Department of Black Studies
Northwestern University
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Wendy Griswold

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