Cara B. Robinson, Ph.D.

Department of Social Work and Urban Studies / College of Public Service
Tennessee State University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Urban Affairs and Public Policy   **August 2011**
University of Delaware, Newark, DE
Dissertation: Informing Democracy?: Election Coverage by Cable News Networks in the 2008
Presidential Election

M.A., Urban Affairs and Public Policy   **May 2004**
University of Delaware, Newark, DE
Analytical Paper: The Progression of Community Organizing in Central Appalachia: 1929 - Present

B.A., Political Science and Sociology   **May 2002**
Concord College, Athens, WV
Minor: Business Administration
Summa Cum Laude

TEACHING & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Civic Engagement; Media Policy; Community Development; Public Policy Analysis; Housing Policy;
Poverty; Homelessness; Nonprofit Management

TEACHING & ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Interim Department Chair, Social Work and Urban Studies, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
(August 2015-Present)
- Responsible for departmental and program budgets
- Coordinate course schedules
- Execute departmental research reports
- Respond to accreditation requirements for the Social Work program
- Lead student assessment initiatives
- Recruitment
- Manage the Professional Management Academy

Associate Professor, Urban Studies, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
(July 2017-present)
Assistant Professor, Urban Studies, Tennessee State University, Nashville, TN
(August 2011 –2017)
- URBS 2010 – Introduction to Urban Studies

- NPMN 3500 – Effective Fundraising and Grant Writing
- URBS 3690 – Urban Housing
- URBS 3910 – Urban Politics
- URBS 4600 – Urban Sociology
- URBS 4990 – Independent Study in Urban Studies
- PADM 6950 – Introduction to Nonprofit Organizations
- PADM 6960 – Resource Development for Nonprofit Organizations
- PADM 6970 – Social Marketing for Nonprofit Organizations
- PRST 5310 – Leadership in Organizations

Instructor, Public Policy, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
(August 2010 – May 2011)
- UAPP 110 – Introduction to Public Policy

Teaching Assistant: Public Policy, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
UAPP 220 – Citizens, Community and Change (Fall 2009/Spring 2010)

- Designed and implemented lectures on federal government structures, political ideologies, Right-to-Work legislation, Mountaintop Removal policies and technology in community organizing.
- Completed syllabus construction, essay design, debate rules and topics, and grading.
- Undergraduate class of 10-15 students
- Public Policy majors and minors

Teaching Assistant: Leadership, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
LEAD 205 – Consumer Voice and Customer Service (Spring 2009)

- Designed and implemented lectures on non-profit technology and advocacy marketing techniques
- Completed group activities, lecture reviews, and grading
- Held discussion review sessions
- Group activities included role playing to demonstrate the consensus organizing process
- Undergraduate class of 18 students
- Leadership majors and minors

COURSE DEVELOPMENT

URBS 3690 – Urban Housing (new course → online and traditional delivery)
URBS 3910 – Urban Politics (new course → online and traditional delivery)
URBS 4600 – Urban Sociology (new course → online and traditional delivery)
PADM 6960 – Resource Development for Nonprofit Organizations (online delivery)
PADM 6970 – Social Marketing for Nonprofit Organizations (online delivery)

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED:

Cantey, N., **Robinson, C.** & Harris, M. (in press).*Post-Racial Higher Ed.: Implications of Mergers Between HBCUs and PWIs,* in C.P. Gause (Ed.) Leadership, Equity, and Social Justice in American Higher Education: A Reader.

Robinson, C., & Cantey, N. (2016). Out or In? The Black Blogosphere and the News Media, *Glocalism: Journal of Culture, Politics, and Innovation, 4 (1),* 2-26.

Robinson, C. (2016). The Progression of Community Organizing in Central Appalachia. *New Trends in the Social and Liberal Sciences, 1(1),* 7-20.

Cantey, N. & **Robinson, C.** (2015). *#BlackTwitter: Making Waves as a Social Media Subculture,* in N. Rambukkana (Ed.) #HashtagPublics: The Power and Politics of Discursive Networks, New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing, 219-228.

Robinson, C. (2015). An Exploration of Poverty in Central Appalachia: Questions of Culture, Industry, and Technology, *Kome- A Journal of Pure Communication Inquiry*, 3 (2): 75-89.

Chilton, K. & **Robinson, C.** (2015). The Impact of Cultural Barriers on Successful Funding Partnerships: A Case Study of SKIP, *Journal of the Grant Professionals Association,* 13(1), 19-30.

Robinson, C. (2014). Cable News, Elections and a Democratic Media Standard, *Virginia Social Sciences Journal, 49,* 132-159.

Robinson, C. (2013). The Empowered Citizen? Online Political Discussion in the United States, *St Antony's International Review, (8)2*, 47-69.

Robinson, C. (2010). Labor Unions, Corporations and Right-to-Work Laws: Impacts on the American Economy, *New Visions for Public Affairs Journal, 2,* 58-83.

PROFESSIONAL PRESS:

Robinson, C. (in press). *The Homeless and Social Policy,* in J. Flack (Ed.) Global Encyclopedia of Public Administration, Public Policy, and Governance, Springer.

Harris, M., Chilton, K., **Robinson, C.,** & Jung, K. (2016). Affordable Housing Not Enough to Address Challenges, *The Tennessean.*

Robinson, C. (2015). Balancing Privacy and Efforts to Improve Homeless Service Delivery: The Case of the Homeless Management Information System, *Cases and Simulations Portal for Public and Nonprofit Sectors,* Rutgers University School of Public Policy and Administration.

Robinson, C. (2015). *Great Society Programs,* in M. Odekon (Ed.) The SAGE Encyclopedia of World Poverty, Sage.

Robinson, C. (2015). *Sequestration,* in M. Odekon (Ed.) The SAGE Encyclopedia of World Poverty. Sage.

Robinson, C. (2014). Integrating Civic Engagement with the Online Classroom: Lessons from Tennessee State University, *The Common Good: A SUNY Plattsburgh Journal on Teaching and Learning,* 2 (1),

Robinson, C. (2014). *Retirees and Potential Retirees, Poverty and the Great Recession,* in L. Hanson and T. Essenburg (Eds.), The New Faces of American Poverty: Reference Guide to Poverty and the Great Recession*,* ABC-CLIO.

Robinson, C. (2014). *Urban Individuals and Households, Poverty and the Great Recession,* in L. Hanson and T. Essenburg (Eds.) The New Faces of American Poverty: Reference Guide to Poverty and the Great Recession*,* ABC-CLIO.

Robinson, C. (2014). *Homelessness* in L. Cousins (Ed.) Encyclopedia of Human Services and Diversity*,* Sage.

Robinson, C., Tackett, J., & Huskey, B. (2013). Homelessness in Nashville, TN, Nashville Next, white paper published by the Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department.

Stanley, R., Streams, M., **Robinson, C.,** & Triplett, K. (2013). Public Libraries in Nashville, TN, Nashville Next, white paper published by the Metropolitan Nashville Planning Department.

Robinson, C. (2012). Street Bureaucrats: Transition Anxiety in Homeless Data Collection, *PA Times.*

Robinson, C. (2010). Fair Share Measure: Affordable Housing and Geographic Concentration, *Realities of Poverty in Delaware*, Delaware Housing Coalition, 52-55.
Ware, L. & **Robinson, C.** (2009). Charter Schools, Choice and Resegregation, *Delaware Law Review,* 11(1).

Robinson, C. (2009). Comprehensive Community Planning: an example from Riverside, Wilmington, Delaware, *Synergy Newsletter*, University of Delaware Conflict Resolution Program.

McNutt, J. & **Robinson, C.** (2008). Policy Research on Housing and Housing Finance: Internet Resources for Studying a System in Crisis, *Journal of Policy Practice, 7(4),* 314-319.

Robinson, C. (2003). The Concentration of Poverty: Wilmington, Delaware, *Realities of Poverty in Delaware,* Delaware Housing Coalition, 39-42.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW:

Chilton, K., Jung, K. & **Robinson,C.** (under review). The Applicability of Growth Machine Theory to the Knowledge Economy: Social Network Analysis of Chattanooga's Civic Infrastructure, *International Journal of Social Economy*.

Robinson, C. (under review). Mountaintop Removal: Dependence and Action in Central Appalachia, *Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture & Social Justice.*

Gibran, J. & **Robinson C.** (under review). Tennessee State University HUD Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiative Sustainable Fair Housing Education & Collaborative Outreach, *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement.*

Robinson, C. (under review). *Mainstream Media,* in D. Merskon and G. Golson (Eds.) The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Mass Media and Society. Sage.

Robinson, C. (under review). *Instagram,* in D. Merskon and G. Golson (Eds.) The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Mass Media and Society. Sage.

Working Papers:

Chilton, K. & **Robinson, C.** (in prep). What is a like worth?: Measuring social media outcomes – a Middle Tennessee case study.

Chilton, K., **Robinson, C.,** Harris, M. & Jung,K. (under review) Gentrification and Displacement: Modelling Spatial Change in Nashville, TN. *International Journal for Policy Studies*.

Chilton, K. & **Robinson, C**. (in prep). Community Engagement at Tennessee State University: Applied Learning in Program Curricula.

PRESENTATIONS

Chilton, K., Jung, K. & **Robinson, C.,** Midwest Public Affairs Conference, Columbus, OH. June 2016. Paper. "Growth Machine Theory and Its Application to the Innovation Economy: The Role of Foundations and Nonprofits in Chattanooga's Development."

Chilton, K. & **Robinson, C.,** 15th Annual Social Equity Leadership Conference, San Francisco, CA. June 2016. Paper. "What is a like worth?: Measuring social media outcomes – a Middle Tennessee case study."

Chilton, K., Jung, K., **Robinson, C.,** & Harris, M. Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, San Diego, CA, March 2016. Paper. "The Role of Public Policy in Nashville's Gentrifying Neighborhoods."

Gibran, J. & **Robinson, C.,** Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, San Diego, CA, March 2016. Paper. "Fair Housing in Higher Education: Lessons Learned."

Robinson, C., 45th Annual Conference of Minority Public Administrators, Jackson, MS, February 2016. Paper. "Reimagining Nashville's Homeless Service Provision: Utilizing Small Scale Projects to Build Systems Change."

Stanley, R., **Robinson, C.** & Harris, M., 45th Annual Conference of Minority Public Administrators, Jackson, MS, February 2016. Panel. "Leading Academic Units in Times of Budgetary Constraints: The Case of the College of Public Service at Tennessee State University."

Robinson, C., 1st Annual Carnegie Writers Enhancing Writers Conference, Nashville, TN, November 2015. Workshop. "The Ins and Outs of Nonprofit Grantwriting."

Chilton, K. & **Robinson, C.** College of Public Service Brown Bag Research Series, Nashville, TN, November 2015. "What is the value of a Facebook Like?: A Survey of Middle Tennessee Nonprofits."

Robinson, C., Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engagement and Research Core Lecture Series, Nashville, TN, September 2015, Lecture. "Housing First and Fast: An Analysis of How's Nashville – A Campaign to House 200 Homeless in 100 Days."

Chilton, K. & **Robinson, C.,** 14th Annual Social Equity Leadership Conference, Nashville, TN, June 2015. Paper. "The Impact of Cultural Barriers on Successful Funding Partnerships: A Case Study of SKIP."

Robinson, C. College of Public Service Brown Bag Research Series, Nashville, TN, March 2015. "Housing First and Fast: An Analysis of How's Nashville."

Robinson, C., 12th Annual Social Equity Leadership Conference, Raleigh, NC, June 2013. Paper. "Homelessness, Data Collection and Equity."

Streams, M., Kukla-Acevedo, S., **Robinson, C.,** & Toma, E., Association for Education Finance and Policy 38th Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, March 2013. Paper. "How attractive is a teaching career? Place matters: examining occupational opportunity and relative compensation in Appalachian Kentucky."

Robinson, C. & Triplett, K., 12th Annual Symposium of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Society of Public Administrators, Nashville, TN, December 2012. Moderator. "Empowering communities through the use of information, data and research."

Robinson, C., Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, November 2012. Paper. "The Empowered Citizen? Online Political Discussion in the United States."

Robinson, C., Women in Higher Education in Tennessee Annual Conference, Lebanon, TN, October 2012. Workshop."Toddlers and the Tenure Track."

Robinson, C. et al, 2012 AAC&U Institute on Integrative Learning and the Departments, Burlington, VT, July 2012. Panel. "Cross Scholars Plenary."

Robinson, C., Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, April 2012. Paper. "The Rise, Fall and Rise (?) of Antioch, TN."

Robinson, C., Association of Social and Behavioral Sciences Annual Conference, Nashville, TN, March 2012. Paper. "Informing Democracy? The Framing of Presidential Politics."

Robinson, C., New Visions Annual Symposium, Newark, DE, April 2011. Paper. "Mountaintop Removal in Central Appalachia."

Robinson, C. New Visions Annual Symposium, Newark, DE, April 2010. Paper. "Labor Unions, Corporations and Right-to-Work Laws: Impacts on the American Economy."

Jabbar-Bey, R. & **Robinson, C**., Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Honolulu, HI, March 2010. Paper. "Community Revitalization Planning: The Delaware Blueprint Community Model."

McNutt, J., **Robinson, C.,** & Bell, S., 38th Annual Conference of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action, Cleveland, OH, November 2009. Paper. "Adaptation of Nonprofit Political Organizations to Changes in Political Fundraising."

McNutt, J., Peuquet, S., & **Robinson, C.,** 41st Annual International Conference of the Community Development Society, Memphis, TN, July 2009. Paper. "Social Networking Choices for Community Development Corporations."

McNutt, J. & **Robinson, C.,** 38th Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Baltimore, MD, April 2008. Paper. "Social Networking Choices and Massachusetts Community Development Corporations."

EXTERNAL FUNDING

GRANTS AND CONTRACTS

2016-2018: Tennessee Department of Corrections (service contract), ~$78,000, PI, "Professional Management Academy"
- Implementation and management of the Professional Management Academy
- Provide courses and advising for 51 TDOC employees over six semesters

2015-2017: Andrew Goodman Foundation (student service contract), $3,500, PI, "TSU Community Democracy Initiative"
- Implementation and management of the "Vote Everywhere" Project
- Fund student Campus Ambassadors
- Conduct civic engagement and voter registration projects on TSU's campus

2014-2015: Department of Housing and Urban Development (training and research grant), $99,000, Co-PI (Gibran, J. – PI; Triplett, K – Co-PI), "HUD Fair Housing Education and Outreach Initiative Sustainable Fair Housing Education & Collaborative Outreach"
- Integrate Fair Housing Curriculum across the Urban Studies Core Courses
- Conduct assessments of fair housing knowledge and skills

2014-2015: Meharry-Vanderbilt Community Engagement and Research Core (research grant), $4,600, PI, "Housing First and Fast: An Analysis of How's Nashville – A Campaign to House 200 Homeless in 100 Days"
- Conduct an assessment of the How's Nashville homeless reduction project

PENDING FUNDING
2017-2020: Maximizing Access to Research Careers, National Institutes of Health, Evaluator

OTHER FUNDING

2015: Social Equity Leadership Conference, $18,500, Planning and Fundraising Director,
- Coordinated and managed the national Social Equity Leadership Conference held at TSU June 3-5, 2015 with over 150 attendees from across the country.
- Received grants from Cracker Barrel ($5,000), NASPAA ($2,500), Rutgers University ($2,500), Tennessee Human Rights Commission ($1,000), Lipscomb University ($500), Safe Haven Family Shelter ($500), Frist Foundation ($3000)

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

Maximizing Access to Research Careers, National Institutes of Health, Evaluator (2015-2016)

Longitudinal Action Research Project: Exploring Concrete Strategies to Make Returning Citizens Productive Community Members (started 2016)
- Member of national research project team looking to create new strategies to prevent recidivism

SERVICE

INSTITUTIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Assessment Coordinator – College of Public Service (CPS)
Interim Director – Center for Aging Research and Education Service (2015-2016)
Treasurer, Tennessee Chapter – American Society of Public Administrators (2013-present)
Coordinator – CPS, TSU, Vote Everywhere Project (2013-present)
Member – TSU, University Strategic Planning Council (2015-present)
Member – TSU, University Assessment and Improvement Council (2015-present)
Member – TSU, Prior Learning Assessment Council (2015-present)
Member -- ITAC Strategic Planning Committee (2014-2015)
Member -- Continuous Improvement for Collective Impact Data Working Group, Office of The Mayor, Nashville (2014-2015)
Member – Nashville Next Housing Resource Team, Metro Nashville Planning Department (2013-2015)
Member – Metro Nashville Gaps Governance Committee, Continuum of Care (2013-present)

Member – CPS, TSU, Assessment Committee (2012-present)
Member – SSWUP, CPSUA, TSU, Research Committee (2012-2015)
Member – SSWUP, CPSUA, TSU, Recruitment Committee (2012-2015)
Member – Ph.D. in Public Administration Dissertation Committees (4)
Member-- M.S. in Criminal Justice Thesis Committee (1)
Member – M.S. in Psychology Thesis Committee (1)
Member – Social Work Program Search Committees (2)
Member – Public Administration Search Committee (1)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Consortium Advisor – College of Public Service, TSU (2015-present)
Prior Learning Assessment Advisor – College of Public Service, TSU (2015-present)
Degree Mapping Coordinator – Urban Studies Program, College of Public Service, TSU (2015-present)
Faculty Cultural Roadmap Professional Development Program– Group Leader, Title III (2014-2015)
Inside the Instructors Studio Professional Development Program – Participant, Title III (2013-2014)

PEER REVIEWER

Journal of Poverty and Social Justice (1 article), 2016
Atlantis: Critical Studies in Gender, Culture & Social Justice (2 articles), 2015-2016
Public Administration Quarterly (2 articles), 2015
The Urban World (text review), 2014 & 2016
Urban Politics and Power in American Cities (text review), 2015
Housing in America (text review), 2016

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Society for Public Administration
Urban Affairs Association

HONORS

K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award (2011), American Association of Colleges and Universities
Director's Citation (2011), School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delawre
George and Renee Raffel Endowed Fund for Excellence and Opportunity (2010), School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Delaware
Marvin Gilman Housing Scholarship (2007), School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy, University of Delaware.
Urban Affairs Alumni Association Award (2004), School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy, University of Delaware, Spring 2004.
Marvin Gilman Housing Scholarship (2003), School of Urban Affairs & Public Policy, University of Delaware.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Technical Assistance Provider: Homeless Management Information Systems, Abt Associates, Bethesda, MD (May 2007 – September 2008)
- Expert in Continuum of Care and Homeless Management Information Systems
- Assisted communities in the Northeast region design and implement programs funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development
- On-site presentations and remote technical assistance

Executive Director: Homeless Planning Council of Delaware, Wilmington, DE (June 2005-May 2007)
- Managed all areas of HPC activities including media relations, event planning, program design, accounting, fundraising, marketing, coalition formation and government partnerships including day-to-day agency and program management
- Expanded the Delaware Homeless Management Information System from five agencies in June 2004 to twenty-two agencies in October 2006. This reflects a growth from ten to fifty-two programs and 15% to 65 % statewide bed coverage.
- Trained 73 new database users with over 200 hours of technical assistance
- Produced the first public research study of Point-in-Time homeless population results. Expanded Point-in-Time participation to outreach centers, the unsheltered population and church organizations, a 30% participation increase

Program Manager: Homeless Management Information System, Homeless Planning Council of Delaware, Wilmington, DE (June 2004-May 2005)
- Managed the Homeless Management Information Systems network for the state of Delaware using the ServicePoint program including the formation of partnerships with twenty-two agencies
- Maintained day-to-day operations including – system administration, training users, writing grants, providing technical assistance, data monitoring, performing accounting and marketing the program to potential new customers.
- Created technical documentation including the policies and procedures, release of information, privacy notice, user agreement and training instructions.