



## *Elijah Anderson*

Sterling Professor of Sociology and of  
African American Studies

Department of Sociology Yale University  
P.O. Box 208625  
New Haven, CT 06520-8265

[elijah.anderson@yale.edu](mailto:elijah.anderson@yale.edu)

**Elijah Anderson** is the Sterling Professor of Sociology and of African American Studies at Yale University, and one of the leading urban ethnographers in the United States. His most recent publication is *Black in White Space: The Enduring Impact of Color in Everyday Life* (2022). His other publications include *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City* (1999), winner of the Komarovsky Award from the Eastern Sociological Society; *Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community* (1990), winner of the American Sociological Association's Robert E. Park Award for the best published book in the area of Urban Sociology; and the classic sociological work, *A Place on the Corner* (1978; 2nd ed., 2003). Anderson's most recent ethnographic work, *The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life*, was published by WW Norton in 2011. Additionally, Professor Anderson is the recipient of the 2017 Merit Award from the Eastern Sociological Society and three prestigious awards from the American Sociological Association, including the 2013 Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award, the 2018 W.E.B. DuBois Career of Distinguished Scholarship Award, and the 2021 Robert and Helen Lynd Award for Lifetime Achievement. And, he is the 2021 winner of the Stockholm Prize in Criminology.

Dr. Anderson has served on the Board of Directors of the American Academy of Political and Social Science and is formerly a vice-president of the American Sociological Association. He has served in an editorial capacity for a wide range of professional journals and special publications, including *Qualitative Sociology*, *Ethnography*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *American Sociological Review*, *City & Community*, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, and the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*. He has also served as a consultant to a variety of government agencies, including the White House, the

United States Congress, the National Academy of Science and the National Science Foundation. Additionally, he was a member of the National Research Council's Panel on the Understanding and Control of Violent Behavior.

**Education:**

Ph.D., 1976, Northwestern University, Department of Sociology

M.A., 1972, University of Chicago, Department of Sociology

B.A., 1969, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

**Awards and Honors:**

Goldstone Forum Speaker, UPENN, 2023.

Lecturer at Strasbourg University and Heidelberg University, 2023

Keynote Speaker, Conference Rethinking Race, the Colonial and the Postcolonial in Contemporary France, University of Chicago in Paris, 2022

Stockholm Prize for Criminology, 2021.

Honorary Degree/Commencement Address, Drexel University, 2021.

Robert and Helen Lynd Award for Lifetime Achievement, American Sociological Society (CUSS), 2021.

Whitney Humanities Center Fellow, 2019.

William Julius Wilson Award for the Advancement of Social Justice, 2017.

Merit Award, Eastern Sociological Association, 2017.

South Bend Community Hall of Fame, South Bend Alumni Association, 2015.

Graven Award, Wartburg College, 2015.

Cox-Johnson-Frazier Award, American Sociological Association, 2013.

Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Lycoming College, 2009.

Butler A. Jones Lectureship on Race and Society, Ohio Wesleyan University, 2007.

Honorary Doctor of Science, Northwestern University, 2006.

Vice President, American Sociological Association, 2002.

Komarovsky Award, Eastern Sociological Society, 2000, for *Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*.

Robin M. Williams, Jr., Distinguished Lecturer, Eastern Sociological Association, 1999-2000.

Faculty Award, Friars Senior Honor Society, University of Pennsylvania, 1997.

Robert E. Park Award, American Sociological Association, 1991, for *Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community*.

Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Award for Distinguished Teaching at the University of Pennsylvania, 1983.

### **Positions Held:**

Appointed: Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Spring, 2019.

Appointed: Sterling Professor of Sociology and of African American Studies, Yale University, 2018.

Appointed: William K. Lanman, Jr. Professor of Sociology, Yale University, 2007.

Secondary appointment in Legal Studies, Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2005.

Appointed: Charles and William L. Day Distinguished Professor in the Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, 2001.

Appointed: to the Charles and William L. Day Chair in the Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, 1991.

Appointed: to Max and Heidi Berry Term Chair in the Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania, 1989.

Promoted: to Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, 1988.

Promoted: to Associate Professor of Sociology with tenure at the University of Pennsylvania, 1982.

Reappointed: Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, 1979-82.

Appointed: Assistant Professor of Sociology at the University of Pennsylvania, 1975-79.

Offer of reappointment: Assistant Professor of Sociology at Swarthmore College, 1975-78.  
Declined

Appointed Assistant Professor of Sociology at Swarthmore College, 1973-75.

### **Publications:**

“Black Success, White Backlash.” *The Atlantic*, November 2023.

Introduction to new edition of W. E. B. Du Bois, *The Philadelphia Negro*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2023

“The Fault Lines of Race and Place: A Conversation with Elijah Anderson.” Interview by Jelani Cobb in *Vital City*, April 28, 2023

“Always Observant: The Academic Journey of an Urban Ethnographer,” in *Moving from the Margins: Life Histories on Transforming the Study of Racism*, forthcoming from Stanford University Press in 2024.

“Search for the ‘Benevolent Despot’: W. E. B. Du Bois and The Philadelphia Negro,” in *The W. E. B. Du Bois Handbook*, forthcoming from Oxford University Press in 2024, currently available online.

“Black Folk and COVID-19,” *Penn IUR Urban Link, Cities and Contagion: Lessons from CCOVID-19*, Vol. 9, issue 4, April, 2020.

“Race Relations since the Ghetto Riots of the 1960s,” in *Healing our Divided Society: Investing in America Fifty Years after the Kerner Report*, ed. Fred Harris and Alan Curtis (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2018).

“The Devolution of the Inner-City High School,” in *Inner-City Schools: Inequality and Urban Education*, ed. Elijah Anderson and Luke Anderson Vol. 673, September 2017, Sage Press. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

“From the iconic ghetto to the cosmopolitan and beyond,” with Chiara Bassetti and Andrea Mubi Brighenti, *Etnografia e Ricerca Qualitativa / Ethnography and Qualitative Research*, 2017, X(2) 303-310.

“The ‘White Space’ and the Iconic Ghetto: Challenges for Civil Society,” Pastora San Juan Cafferty Lecture on Race and Ethnicity in American Life, University of Chicago, October 20, 2015.

“The sociological theory that explains Trump’s assumption that all black citizens live in the ‘inner city,’” *Vox*, October 18, 2016.

“For Inner Cities, a Challenge Beyond the N.R.A. on Gun Control,” *The New York Times*, October 5, 2015.

“The White Space,” *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 2015, Vol.1(1) 10-21.

“What caused the Ferguson riot exists in so many other cities, too.” *The Washington Post*, August 13, 2014.

“Fears of Violence During Morning Travel to School,” Wiebe DJ, Guo W, Allison PD, Anderson E, Richmond TS, Branas CC. *Journal of Adolescent Health* July 2013; 53(1): 54-61.

“Emmett and Trayvon: How Racial Prejudice Has Changed Over the Past Sixty Years,” *Washington Monthly*, January/February 2013.

“Reflections on the ‘Black-White Achievement Gap’” in *Journal of School Psychology* 50, pp. 593-597, October, 2012.

“The Legacy of Racial Caste,” in *Bringing Fieldwork Back In: Contemporary Urban Ethnographic Research*, (eds.) Elijah Anderson, Dana Asbury, Duke W. Austin, Esther Chihye Kim, and Vani Kulkarni Vol. 642, June 2012, Sage Press. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

“The Iconic Ghetto,” in *Bringing Fieldwork Back In: Contemporary Urban Ethnographic Research*, (eds.) Elijah Anderson, Dana Asbury, Duke W. Austin, Esther Chihye Kim, and Vani Kulkarni Vol. 642, June 2012, Sage Press. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

“Urban Underclass,” with Jamie Fader, *Sage Encyclopedia of Social Problems*, 2008.

“Inadequate Responses, Limited Expectations,” in *Rebuilding Urban Places After Disaster: Lessons From Hurricane Katrina*, ed. Eugenie Birch and Susan Wachter (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006).

“Ethnography,” with Faye Allard, *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement*, Volume 1 (Elsevier Inc., 2004), 833-43.

“The Cosmopolitan Canopy,” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Volume 595, September 2004.

“A Case-Control Study of Female-to-Female Nonintimate Violence in an Urban Area,” with Nancy B. Hirschinger, et al., *The American Journal of Public Health*, Volume 93, Number 7 (July 2003), 1098-1103.

“Jelly’s Place: An Ethnographic Memoir (Distinguished Lecture),” *Symbolic Interaction*, Volume 26, Number 2 (2003), 217-37.

“The Ideologically Driven Critique,” *American Journal of Sociology*, Volume 107, Number 6 (May 2002), 1533-50.

“The Social Situation of the Black Executive: Black and White Identities in the Corporate World,” in *Problem of the Century: Racial Stratification in the United States*, ed. Elijah Anderson and Douglas Massey (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2001).

“The Code of the Street Inventory: Developing a Quantitative Measure of Street Orientation?” with Nancy B. Hirschinger, et al., *Sociological Viewpoints*, Volume 18 (2002).

“Going Straight: The Story of a Young Inner-City Ex-Convict,” *Punishment and Society*, 3(1): 135-52.

“Delinquent and Criminal Subcultures,” with James Short, *Encyclopedia of Crime & Justice* (New York: Macmillan Reference USA, 2002).

“Urban Ethnography,” in *The International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, (Elsevier, 2001).

The Emerging Philadelphia African American Class Structure, in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Special Editors: Elijah Anderson and Tukufu Zuberi,

*The Study of African American Problems: W.E.B. Du Bois's Agenda, Then and Now*, Volume 568, March 2000.

The Social Situation of the Black Executive: Black and White Identities in the Corporate World, in Michele Lamont (ed.), *The Cultural Territories of Race: Black and White Boundaries*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1999.

Drugs and Violence in the Inner City, in Michael B. Katz and Thomas J. Sugrue (eds.), *W.E.B. DuBois, Race, and the City: The Philadelphia Negro and Its Legacy*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998.

The Social Ecology of Youth Violence, in *Youth Violence*, special issue of *Crime and Justice*, Vol. 24, 1998.

Violence and the Inner-City Street Code, in Joan McCord (ed.), *Violence and Childhood in the Inner City*, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1997.

“The Precarious Balance: Race Man or Sellout?” in Ellis Cose (ed.), *The Darden Dilemma: 12 Black Writers on Justice, Race, and Conflicting Loyalties*, New York: Harper Collins, 1997.

Review of *Speak My Name: Black Men on Masculinity and the American Dream*, in *The New York Times Book Review*, March 3, 1996.

“The Black Inner-City Grandmother: Transition of a Heroic Type?” in Thomas R. Swartz and Kathleen Maas Weigert (eds.), *America's Working Poor*, Notre Dame: University of Notre Dame Press, 1996.

“Introduction,” in *The Philadelphia Negro*, W.E.B. DuBois, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1996.

“Sex Codes among Inner-City Youth,” in *Sexuality, Poverty, and the Inner City*, a monograph from *Sexuality and American Social Policy: A Seminar Series*, published by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, CA., 1994.

“The Code of the Streets” in *The Atlantic Monthly*, Vol. 273, Issue 5, May 1994.

“The Story of John Turner,” in Adele V. Harrell and George E. Peterson (eds.), *Drugs, Crime, and Social Isolation: Barriers to Urban Opportunity*. Washington, D.C.: The Urban Institute Press, 1992. A version of this case study was published in *The Public Interest*, Issue 108, Summer 1992.

“Neighborhood Influences on Inner-City Teen Pregnancy,” in Christopher Jencks and Paul E. Peterson (eds.), *The Urban Underclass*, Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1991.

“Racial Tension, Cultural Conflicts, and Problems of Employment Training Programs,” in Kai Erikson and Steven Peter Vallas (eds.), *The Nature of Work: Sociological Perspectives*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.

“Moral Leadership and Transitions in the Urban Black Community,” in Harold J. Bershady (ed.), *Social Class and Democratic Leadership: Essays in Honor of E. Digby Baltzell*, Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1989.

“Sex Codes and Family Life among Poor Inner-City Youths” in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, Special Editor: William Julius Wilson, *The Ghetto Underclass*, Vol. 501, January, 1989.

“The Social Context of Youth Employment Programs” in Charles L. Betsey, Robinson G. Hollister, Jr., and Mary R. Papageorgiou (eds.), *Youth Employment and Training Programs: The Yedpa Years*, Washington, D.C.: National Academy Press, 1985. Programs, 1985.

“Race and Neighborhood Transition” in *The New Urban Reality*, Paul Peterson (ed.), Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1985.

“Racial and Class Boundaries” in *Society*, Vol. 21, No. 1, November/ December, 1983.

“Some Observations of Black Youth Employment” in Bernard Anderson and Isabel Sawhill (eds.), *Youth Employment and Public Policy*, Englewood Cliffs: Prentice-Hall, 1980. (The paper on which this chapter is based served as background reading for the 1979 American Assembly on Youth Employment, at Harriman, New York.)

Review of *The Great Fear: Race in the Mind of America* by Gary B. Nash and Richard Weiss, in *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 77, No. 4, January, 1972.

“Black Shadow Politics in Midwestville,” in *Sociological Inquiry*, Vol. 42, No. 1, Winter, 1972.

## **Books**

*Black in White Space: The Enduring Impact of Color in Everyday Life*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2022.

*Inner-City Schools: Inequality and Urban Education*, (eds.) Elijah Anderson and Luke Anderson Vol. 673, September 2017, Sage Press. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

*Bringing Fieldwork Back In: Contemporary Urban Ethnographic Research*, (eds.) Elijah Anderson, Dana Asbury, Duke W. Austin, Esther Chihye Kim, and Vani Kulkarni Vol. 642, June 2012, Sage Press. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

*The Cosmopolitan Canopy: Race and Civility in Everyday Life*, New York: W.W. Norton, 2011.

*Urban Ethnography: Its Traditions And Its Future*. (ed.) Elijah Anderson. Sage Press. December 2009, Volume 10, No. 4. Ethnography, Special Double Issue.

*Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black, and Male*, (ed.), Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008.

*Being Here and Being There: Fieldwork Encounters and Ethnographic Discoveries.* (eds.) Anderson, Elijah, Scott N. Brooks, Raymond Gunn, and Nikki Jones. Volume 595 September 2004 *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* Sage Press.

*Problem of the Century: Racial Stratification in the United States*, ed., with Douglas Massey (Sage Publications, 2001).

*The Study of African American Problems: W.E.B. Du Bois's Agenda, Then and Now*, (Eds.) Elijah Anderson and Tukufu Zuberi, Volume 568, March 2000. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

*Code of the Street: Decency, Violence, and the Moral Life of the Inner City*, New York: W.W. Norton, 1999.

*Streetwise: Race, Class, and Change in an Urban Community*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.

*A Place on the Corner: A Study of Black Street Corner Men*, 2nd edition, including a new preface and appendix, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, (1978) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, 2003.

**Research Interests:**

- Methods and Practice of Fieldwork
- Race and Ethnic Relations
- Deviant Behavior, Crime, and Social Control
- Social Interaction
- Urban Ethnography
- Sociology of Culture
- Inequality