

Richard Lofton, Jr.
Assistant Professor
Johns Hopkins University School of Education
Center for the Social Organization of Schools
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I. EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2014** Columbia University, Teachers College, New York, NY
Department of Sociology and Education Dissertation Defense June 2014;
Dissertation Title: *Plessy's Tracks: A Study of the Roots and Routes of Tracking
in a Suburban Middle School Community.*
Advisors: Drs. Carolyn Riehl and Ernest Morrell
- M.Phil. 2013** Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
Department of Sociology and Education
- M.S. 2004** University of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT
Department of Communication Studies
- B.A. 2001** San Jose State University, San Jose, CA
Department of Communication Studies

II. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Center for Safe and Healthy Schools, Johns Hopkins University School of Education
Assistant Professor, Years: 2023-Present

Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University School of Education
Assistant Professor, Years: 2016-2023

Center for Social Organization of Schools, Johns Hopkins University School of Education
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Years: 2014-2016

Center for Understanding Race and Education (CURE), Columbia University, Teachers College
Research Associate, Years: 2008-2011

Elbenwood Center for the Study of the Family as Educator, Columbia University, Teachers
College, Research Assistant, Year: 2007

III. RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of Education
Education Policy and Public Policy
Social Determinants of Health and Education
Critical and Social Theory

Qualitative Field Research Methods
Intersection of Spatial Legitimacy, Race, Sexuality, and Social Class

IV. FUNDED RESEARCH

- 2023-2025 Lofton, R., Porter K., Johnson, O., Keeping Our Students Out of Harm's Way: Starting the National Conversation on Public Transportation and Student Safeness. Nexus Award. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$300,000**
- 2023-2025 Smith, G., Lofton, R., Jones, V., Extreme Heat and Poor School Infrastructure: Implications for Violence among Baltimore City Youth. Discovery Award. Co-PI. **Award \$100,000.**
- 2022-2025 Lofton, R., Jackson, D., & Simmons, L. *Restorative practices that lead to structural justice*. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: Interdisciplinary Research Leaders. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$385,000.**
- 2022-2024 Fix, R., Jackson, D., Lofton, R., & Johnson, O. *Modern social movements to dismantle anti-Black racism in policing: Perspectives from Black youth, caregivers, and community leaders*. Discovery Award. Co-PI. **Awarded \$100,000.**
- 2022-2023 Lofton R. *Nobody sees me Docuseries: Safe and healthy schools and communities*. Urban Health Institute. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$25,000.**
- 2022-2023 Lofton R., Jackson, D., & Schuschke, J. *Nobody asked me Docuseries*. Bloomberg American Health Initiative. **Awarded \$25,000.**
- 2021-2025 Balfanz, R., MacIver, D., Davis, M., & Lofton, R. *Refining and expanding the effective use of 4S: An evidence-based program to increase adolescents' ability to self-manage their school success*. Department of Education. Co-Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$6,414,255.**
- 2021-2025 Lofton, R. *Refining and expanding the effective use of 4S: An evidence-based program to increase adolescents' ability to self-manage their school success*. Education Innovation and Research (EIR), U.S. Department of Education. Co-Investigator. Principal Investigator: Robert Balfanz. **Awarded \$5.87 million.**
- 2021-2022 Lofton, R. *Baltimore students and their families: Educational and humanistic needs*. Healing and Transformative Justice Fund. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$25,000.**
- 2021-2022 Lofton, R. *Nobody asked me what I need to heal*. Social and Environmental Entrepreneurs. Principal Investigator. **Awarded: \$27,500.**
- 2021-2022 Lofton, R. *Nobody asked me Campaign: Co-producing policies and re-imagining educational equity*. Spencer Foundation: Racial Equity Special Research Grant. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$75,000.**

- 2021-2022 Balfanz, R., Lofton, R., & MacIver, M. *National Education Equity Lab learning agenda*. National Education Equity Lab. Co-Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$100,000.**
- 2020-2022 Balfanz, R., MacIver, D., & Lofton, R. *Supporting the integration of social, emotional, and academic development*. City Year Co-Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$275,000.**
- 2020-2022 Lofton, R. *Nobody asked me Giving Campaign*. Johns Hopkins University, School of Education Giving Campaign. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$13,000.**
- 2020-2021 Lofton, R. *Nobody asked me*. Baltimore Community Foundation. Principal Investigator. **Awarded: \$17,376.**
- 2020-2021 Lofton, R. *Concentrated poverty, health, and public education: Hearing the voices of youth*. Catalyst Award: Early Career Award. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$75,000.**
- 2020-2021 Lofton R. *What happened to Black parks and schools?* American Sociological Association & National Science Foundation. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$7,490.**
- 2018-2019 Balfanz, R., & Lofton, R. *HS redesign*. Council of Chief State School Officers. Co-Principal Investigator. **Awarded: \$175,000.**
- 2018-2019 Lofton, R. *Foster families and chronic absenteeism*. Foundation for a Better Tomorrow. Principal Investigator. **Awarded: \$7,500.**
- 2017-2018 Balfanz, R., & Lofton, R. *Sustaining a school success mentor initiative to combat chronic absenteeism and increase student success*. Mott Foundation. Co-Principal Investigator. **Awarded: \$399,975.**
- 2017-2018 Lofton, R. *Foster children and absenteeism*. Foundation for a Better Tomorrow. Principal Investigator. **Awarded: \$6,000.**
- 2016-2019 Balfanz, R., Lofton, R., & MacIver, D. *National Evaluation of School Success Mentor Initiative*. Co-Principal Investigator. The Laura and John Arnold Foundation. **Awarded \$1.4 million.**
- 2018 Lofton, R. *Youth and inequalities in Baltimore*. A Better Tomorrow. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$12,000.**
- 2017 Lofton, R. *Baltimore schools and society*. A Better Tomorrow. Principal Investigator. **Awarded \$10,000.**

V. PUBLICATIONS

- Lofton, R., Hill, J., & Schuschke, J. (submitted, 2023). In harm's way: Blackness, structural violence and public schools. *Sociology of Education*.
- Lofton, R., Hill, J., & Thompson, A., Schuschke, J. (submitted, 2023). Quarantines, antiblackness, and paradoxical beauty: A qualitative study of Black youths and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Urban Education*.
- Lofton, R. (2023). "I was called everything but a student": Blackness and the social death of student status. *Social Problems*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spad033>
- Lofton, R., Gamez, R., Nelson, N. & Smith, Z. (accepted, 2023). Reviewing the literature on concentrated poverty to address a concentrated debt. *Educational Researcher*.
- Lofton, R. (in print). The terror of poverty: African Americans and the concentrated debt. In C. Morphew, V. C., Jones, & A. Cureton (Eds.), *Safe and healthy schools in the 21st century*. Johns Hopkins University Press.
- Balfanz, R., Lofton, R., Kim-Christian, P., McDermott, L., & Clark, E. (in print). Poverty and learning. In *Psychology encyclopedia*. Oxford Press.
- Lofton, R., Simmons, L., & Schuschke, J., (2022). Bearing strange fruit: How Baltimore youth and families articulate and cope with underinvestment and lack of opportunity in Baltimore City Schools. Nobody Asked Me Campaign, Johns Hopkins University. <https://www.nobodyaskedmehmore.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/NAM-Lookbook-Bearing-Strange-Fruit-2.pdf>
- Lofton, R. (2021). Plessy's tracks: African American students confronting academic placement in a racially diverse school and African American community. *Race, Ethnicity and Education*. <http://doi.org/10.1080/13613324.2021.1924141>
- Childs, J., & Lofton, R. (2021). Masking attendance: How education policy distracts from the wicked problems(s) of chronic absenteeism. *Educational Policy* <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0895904820986771>
- Sharfstein, J. Klosek, K. Thornton, R. & Lofton, R. (2020). *Baltimore City Public Schools Infrastructure Dashboard*. Johns Hopkins University. See full Report on JHU Center for Applied Public Research: <https://www.baltimorecityschools.org/building-conditions>
- Lofton, R. (2019). The duplicity of equality: An analysis of academic placement in a racially diverse school and a Black community. *Teachers College Record*, 121(3). <https://doi.org/10.1177/016146811912100306>

Lofton, R. (2019). Still chasing the dream: The possibilities and limitations of social capital in dismantling racialized tracks. In R. D. Bartee & P. George (Eds.), *Contemporary perspectives on social capital in educational contexts* (pp. 107-124). Information Age Publishing.

Lofton, R. (2016). *Report on the pilot implementation of My Brother's Keeper School Success Mentor Initiative*. Johns Hopkins University, Center for Social Organization of Schools. Funded by the Arnold Foundation.

Lofton, R., & Davis, J. (2015). Toward a Black habitus: African Americans navigating systemic inequalities within home, school and community. *Journal of Negro Education*, 84(2), 214-230. <https://doi.org/10.7709/jnegroeducation.84.3.0214>

VI. PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2022 Invited Keynote. Mundane terror and disinvestment in city schools. Teach for America Baltimore. Annual Meeting Keynote.

2022 Invited Keynote. Strange fruit: How disinvestment and structural violence shape public schools. School of Education, Johns Hopkins Ed.D. Program. Keynote.

2022 Invited Keynote. Is this strange fruit? Blackness, student status, and education. Pathways of Adult Success.

2022. Invited Lecture. Structural violence and disinvestment in public schools. Johns Hopkins University, School of Public Health.

2022 Invited Lecture. Reviewing the Strange Fruit Report. The Academy at Johns Hopkins University.

2021 Invited Lecture. The promise of voice and the betrayal of policy and research. Social Justice Forum. Johns Hopkins University.

2021 Invited Lecture. Unveiling the concentrated debt: Race, housing, and education. Center for Urban Research and Learning, Loyola University.

2020 Invited Lecture. Terror in the schoolyard: Race, place, and systemic inequalities. Center for Safe and Healthy Schools, Johns Hopkins University.

2020 Invited Lecture. Exploring the Black habitus in urban spaces. Center for Urban Research and Learning, Loyola University.

2020 Invited Lecture. Urban sociology and the Black habitus. North Park University, Chicago, IL.

2020 Workshop Facilitator. The joy of placing students at the center of urban reforms. New York State Department of Education, New York City, NY.

- 2019 Organizer. Schools, Prisons, and Concentrated Poverty Symposium. Johns Hopkins University.
- 2019 Fundraiser. Schools, Prisons, and Concentrated Poverty Symposium. Johns Hopkins University.
- 2019 Invited Speaker. Incorporating family and student voices in school redesign. Ohio Department of Education, Columbus, OH.
- 2019 Workshop Facilitator. Student voices: Addressing hurdles students encounter that prevent them from coming to school. Department of Education, Flint, MI.
- 2019. Guest Lecturer. Concentrated poverty and trauma. North Park University, Chicago, IL.

VII. PRESENTATIONS

- Lofton, R. & Hill, J. (2023). The Racial Quarantine: Blackness, Violence and Public Schools. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- Lofton, R. & Nehring, L. (2023). The Hidden Infrastructure: How inequalities persist in public schools. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- Lofton, R. (2023). When structures produce a racial quarantine: Education, segregation and the well-being of Black students. Annual Meeting of the Sociology of Education Association.
- Lofton, R. (2022). The social death of student status: Anti-Blackness, student status, and equitable education systems. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- Lofton, R. (2022). Terror in the schoolyard: Anti-Blackness, social position, and equity. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- Lofton, R., Gamez, R., & Smith, Z. (2022). Reviewing concentrated poverty literature through an anti-Blackness lens to reveal a concentrated debt. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- Lofton, R. (2021). Perpetuating inequalities: The role of political distraction in education policy making. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- Lofton, R. (2021). Dismantling racialized tracks: Possibilities and limitations of social capital. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- Lofton, R. (2021). Accepting responsibility for the concentrated debt. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association.
- Lofton, R. (2020). The impact of racial poverty on African American students. Presenting with Gwendolyn Purifoye. Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA.

- Lofton, R. (2020). The truth, the stoop, and the paint: More than a neighborhood in disarray. Presenting with Gwendolyn Purifoye. Annual Meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Washington, DC.
- Lofton, R. (2019). Social promises of education: Parents, schools, and the geographies of success. Presented with Gwendolyn Purifoye. Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York City, NY.
- Lofton, R. (2019). Learning from the field: Examining the impact of the student success mentors initiative. Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Lofton, R. (2019). Using multiple modalities to detrack racially diverse middle schools. Annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
- Lofton, R. (2019). Understanding root causes of chronic absence. EWS ECHO Training, New Mexico Public Education Department.
- Lofton, R. (2018). Students at the center. Mississippi State Department of Education.
- Lofton, R. (2018). The importance of success mentors. Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, MS.
- Lofton, R. (2018). High school redesign network: Teaching and learning. Invited Lecturer with the Department of Education, Santa Fe, NM.
- Lofton, R. (2018). Learning from the field: Examining the impact of the student success mentors initiative. National Student Attendance, Engagement, and Success Center, Department of Education, Baltimore, MD.
- Lofton, R. (2018). Placing students at the center of redesign reforms. Invited Lecturer with the Department of Education, Santa Fe, NM.
- Lofton, R. (2018). Organizing adults for whole school redesign. Invited Lecturer with the Department of Education, Santa Fe, NM.
- Lofton, R. (2018). Exploring root causes of chronic absenteeism and ways to mitigate the problem. National Student Attendance, Engagement, and Success Center, Department of Education, Baltimore, MD.
- Lofton, R. (2018). The possibilities and limitations of social capital to dismantle racialized tracks. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association, New York City, NY.