

## Christopher Bonastia

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Lehman College  
Department of Sociology  
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Bronx, NY 10468  
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### EMPLOYMENT

Chair, Department of Sociology (since July 2020)

Professor, Lehman College–City University of New York and CUNY Graduate Center (since August 2014)

Associate Professor, Lehman College (January 2009-July 2014) and CUNY Graduate Center (March 2010-July 2014)

Assistant Professor, Lehman College–City University of New York (August 2004-December 2008)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Queens College–City University of New York (August 2003-July 2004)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research, University of California, Berkeley, and University of California, San Francisco (August 2001-July 2003)

### EDUCATION

Ph.D., 2001                      Sociology, New York University  
Dissertation: “Knocking on the Door: The National Politics of Housing and Segregation in the United States.” Dissertation committee: Edwin Amenta (chair), John Skrentny (University of California, San Diego), Dalton Conley, Jeff Goodwin.

B.A., 1989                      English, University of Virginia, Phi Beta Kappa

### BOOKS

Christopher Bonastia (forthcoming, expected February 2022), *The Big Failure: The Persistence of School Segregation in New York City*. Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press.

Christopher Bonastia (2012), *Southern Stalemate: Five Years without Public Education in Prince Edward County, Virginia*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

\* Favorably reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, *Journal of American History*, *American Historical Review*, *Journal of American Studies*, *Journal of Southern History*, *History of*

*Education Quarterly, Choice, and Virginia Magazine of History and Biography.*

\* Excerpted at [alternet.org](http://alternet.org).

\* Invited lectures at Princeton University, NYU, Longwood University and Robert Russa Moton Museum (both in Prince Edward County), Queens College, Amherst College, Brooklyn College, Lehman College and Virginia Festival of the Book.

\* Nominee, Library of Virginia Literary Award, Non-Fiction, 2013

Christopher Bonastia (2006), *Knocking on the Door: The Federal Government's Attempt to Desegregate the Suburbs*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press.

\* Paperback release in February 2008.

\* Favorably reviewed in *Social Forces, Contemporary Sociology, American Journal of Sociology, Journal of Politics, Contexts, American Historical Review, and Choice*.

\* Consultant to *This American Life* for "House Rules" episode on federal housing desegregation efforts under HUD Secretary George Romney. Aired November 22, 2013.

## **SELECTED REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

Christopher Bonastia (2016), "Black Leadership and Outside Allies in Virginia Freedom Schools." *History of Education Quarterly* 56(4): 532-559.

Christopher Bonastia (2015), "Low Hanging Fruit: The Impoverished History of Housing and School Desegregation." *Sociological Forum* 30(Special Issue): 113-154.

Christopher Bonastia (2014), "Housing Desegregation in the Era of Deregulation." *Kalfou* 1(2): 136-166.

Christopher Bonastia (2009), "White Justifications for School Closings in Prince Edward County, Virginia, 1959-1964." *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race* 6(2): 309-333.

Christopher Bonastia (2006), "The Historical Trajectory of Civil Rights Enforcement in Health Care." *Journal of Policy History* 18(4): 362-86.

Edwin Amenta, Chris Bonastia and Neal Caren (2001), "U.S. Social Policy in Comparative and Historical Perspective: Images, Concepts, Arguments and Research Strategies." *Annual Review of Sociology* 27: 213-34.

Chris Bonastia (2000), "Why Did Affirmative Action in Housing Fail During the Nixon Administration? Exploring the 'Institutional Homes' of Social Policies." *Social Problems* 47(4): 523-42. Named Best Graduate Student Paper by the Political and the Comparative & Historical sections of the American Sociological Association.

Edwin Amenta, Ellen Benoit, Chris Bonastia, Nancy K. Cauthen, and Drew T. Halfmann (1998), "Bring Back the WPA: Work, Relief, and the Origins of American Social Policy in Welfare Reform." *Studies in American Political Development* 12(1): 1-56.

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Christopher Bonastia (2017), Review of Douglas S. Massey et al., *Climbing Mount Laurel*, *Sociological Forum* 32(1): 237-40.

Christopher Bonastia (2017), "Easy Loving?" *Contexts* 16(4), published January 22, 2018, <https://contexts.org/articles/virginia-is-for-lovers/>

Christopher Bonastia (2015), "When Memoir Tells Half the Story: Prince Edward County and School Desegregation." *JSTOR Daily*, published November 11, 2015, <http://daily.jstor.org/prince-edward-county-desegregation/>

Christopher Bonastia (2013), "The Segregated Roots of Charter Schools." *Contexts* 12(3): 24-25.

Christopher Bonastia (2013), Review of Ellen Reese, *They Say Cut Back, We Say Fight Back! Welfare Activism in an Era of Retrenchment*, *Social Forces*, doi: 10.1093/sf/sot032.

Christopher Bonastia (2012), Review of Peter Eisenstadt, *Rochdale Village: Robert Moses, 6,000 Families, and New York City's Great Experiment in Integrated Housing*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. *American Historical Review* 117(3): 882-83.

Christopher Bonastia (2012), "Why the Racist History of the Charter School Movement Is Never Discussed," *Altnet*, published March 9, 2012, [http://www.altnet.org/story/154425/why\\_the\\_racist\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_charter\\_school\\_movement\\_is\\_never\\_discussed](http://www.altnet.org/story/154425/why_the_racist_history_of_the_charter_school_movement_is_never_discussed)

\* Republished in *Salon*, January 7, 2015,

[http://www.salon.com/2015/01/07/the\\_ugly\\_segregationist\\_history\\_of\\_the\\_charter\\_school\\_movement\\_partner/](http://www.salon.com/2015/01/07/the_ugly_segregationist_history_of_the_charter_school_movement_partner/)

Christopher Bonastia (2012), "How Different Do Schools Look Today 50 Years After Prince Edward County, Virginia?" *Huffington Post*, published January 11, 2012, [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-bonastia/school-segregation\\_b\\_1195336.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/christopher-bonastia/school-segregation_b_1195336.html)

Christopher Bonastia (2008), Review of Kevin M. Kruse and Thomas J. Sugrue (eds.), *The New Suburban History*. London: The University of Chicago Press, 2006. *Urban History* 35(1): 176-177.

Christopher Bonastia (2007), "Self-Help, with an Audience." *Contexts* 6(2): 70-72.

Christopher Bonastia (2007), Review of Lawrence D. Bobo and Mia Tuan, *Prejudice in Politics: Group Position, Public Opinion, and the Wisconsin Treaty Rights Dispute*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press. *Contemporary Sociology* 36(2): 132-133.

Christopher Bonastia (2006), "Nixon Administration: Urban Policy." *Encyclopedia of American Urban History*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Preparing book manuscript that analyzes the history of segregation and inequality in the New York City school system. Complete manuscript currently being reviewed by two scholarly presses.

## **SELECTED ACADEMIC HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Advanced Research Collaborative Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (Spring 2017)

George N. Shuster Fellowship (approximately \$13,000 total), Lehman College (2018-19, 2016-17, 2015-16, 2009-10, and 2006-08)

Visiting Fellow, NEH Summer Institute for College and University Teachers: African-American Struggles for Freedom and Civil Rights, 1865-1965, The Du Bois Institute, Harvard University (Summer 2011)

Faculty Recognition Award for Research, Division of Natural and Social Sciences, Lehman College (May 2009)

Faculty Research Award, National Endowment for the Humanities (\$50,400) (July 2008-June 2009)  
\* Resulted in publication of *Southern Stalemate*.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Graduate, Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center*  
Black Freedom Struggles and White Resistance (Fall 2015)

*Undergraduate, Sociology, Lehman College*  
Race and Ethnicity (numerous times since 2004)  
Social Inequality (numerous times since 2004)  
American Social Policy Making (2008 and 2010)

*Undergraduate, Macaulay Honors College at Lehman*  
The People of New York City (Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Summer 2018, Spring 2020)  
\* Co-created and co-taught summer curriculum for the first cohort of Macaulay Honors College transfer students (Summer 2018)

*Undergraduate, Lehman Scholars Program*

Race, Space and Culture (Spring 2011)

Beyond the Icons: Local Activism and Resistance in the Struggle for Racial Equality (Fall 2012)

Tribute or Theft? Creativity and Originality in Modern Music (Fall 2018)

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS**

Chair, Department of Sociology, Lehman College (effective 7/1/20)

Admissions Committee, Department of Sociology, CUNY Graduate Center (2016, 2018 and 2019)

Major Advisor, Department of Sociology (May 2007 to June 2020)

Associate Director of Honors Programs, Lehman College (Fall 2009 to Summer 2020)

Lehman College Commencement Marshal (2018, 2019)

Lehman L.I.F.E. Advisory Board (March 2019 to present).

\* Campus organization supports service opportunities for students by creating awareness of need in communities around the world and fostering action through volunteer work.

Member, Educator Preparation Policy Committee (EPPC) and Graduate Application Exemption Committee (GAEC), Lehman College Graduate School of Education (September 2017 to July 2020)

Sociology Review Panel, City University of New York Committee on Research Awards (2006-7 and 2014-15)

Treasurer, Lehman College chapter of Phi Beta Kappa (Spring 2013 to Spring 2015)

Committee on Status of Racial and Ethnic Minorities in Sociology, American Sociological Association (January 2013-December 2015)

Search Committee, Macaulay Honors College Advisor, Lehman College (Spring 2013)

Search Committee, Pre-Health Advisor, Lehman College (Spring 2012)

Faculty Membership Committee of the Doctoral Program at CUNY Graduate Center (August 2011 to August 2013)

Book Manuscript Reviewer, Oxford University Press and University of Texas Press

Grant Reviewer, National Science Foundation

Textbook Reviewer, McGraw-Hill

Member, Foundations of Excellence (self-study task force on transfer students), Improvement Dimension (Fall 2010)

Member, Pre-Health Advisory Board, Lehman College (Fall 2010)

Referee, *History of Education Quarterly*; *Studies in American Political Development*; *DuBois Review*; *American Sociological Review*; *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*; *Social Problems*; *Milbank Quarterly*; *Mobilization*; *Contexts*; and *Social Science History*

Editorial Board, *Contexts* (2007-2009)

Search Committee, Lehman College Director of Admissions (Spring/Summer 2008)

Faculty Senate, Lehman College (Fall 2005-Spring 2009)

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE**

I have run five marathons to raise money for two organizations: Citymeals-on-Wheels (a combined \$5,900 in 2007 and 2008) and BronxWorks (a combined \$7,500 in 2010, 2012 and 2013). I also ran the New York City Marathon in November 2019 to fundraise for Lehman L.I.F.E. (see above). I am a faculty mentor to a group of 15 Lehman students traveling to Kenya for a service project in January 2021.

I have given several invited talks on civil rights history to elementary school classes in Brooklyn and the Bronx.