

SHAQUILLA HARRIGAN, Ph.D.

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS & AFFILIATIONS

August 2025 – Present	University of Pennsylvania Research Affiliate, Program on Race, Science, and Society
August 2025 – Present	University of West Georgia Instructor, Program in Sociology
August 2025 – July 2026	University of Pennsylvania Visiting Scholar, Department of Sociology

EDUCATION

May 2025	University of Pennsylvania Ph.D. in Sociology Dissertation: <i>Young, Gifted, and African: How Kenyan Young People Navigate the Digital Economy</i> Committee: Tukufu Zuberi (chair), Emily Hannum, Mary-Hunter McDonnell (Wharton), Benjamin Shestakofsky (Cornell University), and Krystal Strong (Rutgers University)
August 2020	University of Pennsylvania M.A. in Sociology Thesis: <i>“She Can Get a Visa: Mitigating Identity-Based Conflicts at a Kenyan NGO”</i> Committee: Guobin Yang (chair), Emily Hannum, Tukufu Zuberi
May 2016	Harvard University B.A. in Social Studies (Departmental High Honors)

RESEARCH & TEACHING EXPERTISE

Comparative Education; Digital Economies and Platformization; Globalization; International Development; Organizations, Occupations, and Work; Qualitative Research Methods; Youth Labor Market Transitions

PUBLICATIONS & WRITING

Peer-Reviewed Manuscripts

Harrigan, Shaquilla. 2023. “She Can Get a Visa’: How Nationality and Class Shape Decision Making at a Kenyan NGO.” *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 664–90. doi:[10.1177/08912416231160778](https://doi.org/10.1177/08912416231160778). ([Link](#))

Book Reviews

Harrigan, Shaquilla. 2026. “Wakiuru Wamwara, John E. Spillan, and Charles M. Onchoke. *Doing Business in Kenya: Opportunities and Challenges*. Routledge, 2023. 184 Pp. \$35.99. Paperback. ISBN: 9780367557669.” *African Studies Review* 1–2. doi:[10.1017/asr.2025.10138](https://doi.org/10.1017/asr.2025.10138). ([Link](#))

Manuscripts in Preparation

Harrigan, Shaquilla. In Preparation. "Entrepreneurship and Precarity Among Kenyan Young People."

Harrigan, Shaquilla. In Preparation. "Digital Tarmacking: Understanding LinkedIn and Other Online Platforms as Digital Job-Hunting Spaces"

Harrigan, Shaquilla. In Preparation. "Envisioning an Inclusive Legacy: Differences in Black and White People's Attitudes Towards Inclusive Public Space in the American South."

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2026	American Sociological Association Travel Grant (\$500)
2025	Haskins Research Grant, Center for Africana Studies, University of Pennsylvania (\$1500)
2024	Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania (\$2000)
2022	Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics Early Career Award
2022	Pollak Lectureship, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania (\$4000)
2022	Women of Color at Penn Graduate Student Award, University of Pennsylvania
2021-2024	Presidential PhD Fellowship (Inaugural Class), University of Pennsylvania (\$30,000)
2024, 2020	Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Research Grant Training Grant
2022, 2019	Pollak Summer Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania
2020-2021	Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Grant, U.S. Department of Education and University of Pennsylvania (Tuition and \$18,000 stipend)
2019-2020	Foreign Language and Area Studies Academic Year Grant, U.S. Department of Education and University of Pennsylvania (Tuition and \$18,000 stipend)
2019-2021	Jackie Robinson Foundation Extra Innings Graduate Fellowship
2019	Foreign Language and Area Studies Summer Grant, Department of Education and University of Pennsylvania (\$2500)
2018-2021, 2024-2025	Fontaine Society Graduate Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2016-2017	Princeton in Africa Fellowship

TEACHING & GUEST LECTURES

Instructor of Record	Undergraduate Globalization, University of West Georgia (Online; Spring 2026) Introduction to Sociology, University of West Georgia (In-Person; Spring 2026, Fall 2025) Introduction to Sociology, University of West Georgia (Online; Summer 2026; Spring 2026, Fall 2025, Fall 2026) Introduction to Sociology, University of Pennsylvania (Online; Spring 2021) Medical Sociology, University of West Georgia (Online; Fall 2025) Urban Sociology, University of West Georgia (In-Person; Fall 2025)
Teaching Assistant	Undergraduate Sociology of Race and Ethnic Relations, University of Pennsylvania (Fall 2022)

Graduate

Regional Analysis (Historical Political Economy), Wharton School of Management (Fall 2022, Fall 2021)

Global Analysis (Contemporary Political Economy), Wharton School of Management (Spring 2022, Spring 2021)

21st Century Africa and the World, Wharton School of Management (Spring 2022)

Guest Lecturer

“Youth, Aspirations, and Deferred Futures”, African Futures, Wharton School of Management, University of Pennsylvania (February 2026)

“From Fieldnotes to Journal Acceptance”, Ethnographic Research Methods, Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania (November 2024)

“How Are African Young People Preparing for the Future of Work”, African Leadership School of Higher Education & African Leadership University (November 2024)

“Assessing Risk in Africa”, 21st Century Africa and the World, Wharton School of Management, University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2022)

“Doing Business in Africa”, 21st Century Africa and the World, Wharton School of Management, University of Pennsylvania (Spring 2022)

CONFERENCES, PRESENTATIONS, & INVITED TALKS

August 2026	American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (New York, NY) Panelist, Precarious Work and Workers “Entrepreneurship and Precarity Among Kenyan Young People”
August 2025	American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (Chicago, IL) Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work Roundtables “Digital Tarmacking: Using LinkedIn and Other Social Network in Platforms for Job Hunting”
February 2025	Writing About Platformization from Africa, University of Edinburgh and University of Cape Town (Cape Town, South Africa) “Digital Tarmacking: Using LinkedIn and Other Social Network in Platforms for Job Hunting”
August 2024	American Sociological Association (Montreal, Canada) Section on Organizations, Occupations, and Work Roundtables “Young, Gifted, and African: How Organizations Recruit, Select, and Prepare Kenyan Young People for the Digital Economy”
August 2024	Mis/Trust and Technology: Kinship, Gender, and Digital Economies in Kenya and Beyond, LSE and Kisii University (Kisii, Kenya) “Digital Tarmacking: Using LinkedIn and Other Social Networking Platforms for Job Hunting”
July 2024	Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (Limerick, Ireland)

	“Young, Gifted, and African: How Organizations Recruit, Select, and Prepare Kenyan Young People for the Digital Economy”
July 2022	Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (Amsterdam, Netherlands) “Real Change or Mandated Compliance: How do DEI Initiatives shape Organizational Regulation and Governance ”
August 2021	American Sociological Association (Virtual) Section on Education Roundtables “Disentangling Aspirations, Child Labor, and School Enrollment in Ethiopia”
May 2021	University of Pennsylvania Africa Symposium (Virtual) “She’d Need a Visa: How NGO Workers Engage in Intersectional Identity Work in Kenya”
May 2021	University of Pittsburgh Pondering African Futures Conference (Virtual) “She’d Need a Visa: How NGO Workers Engage in Intersectional Identity Work in Kenya”
July 2020	American Sociological Association (Virtual) Section on Education Roundtables “Learning and Laboring: Disentangling Educational Attainment, Aspirations and Child Labor in Ethiopia”
July 2020	American Sociological Association (Virtual) Section on Education Roundtables “Disentangling Aspirations, Child Labor, and School Enrollment in Ethiopia”
July 2020	Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics (Virtual) “Balancing NGO Accountability between Government Mandates and International Development Norms in Kenya”
February 2020	Eastern Sociological Society (Philadelphia, PA) “Balancing NGO Accountability between Government Mandates and International Development Norms in Kenya”
February 2020	University of Pennsylvania Grad Talks (Philadelphia, PA) Finalist, Social Sciences Division “Accountability Jenga: How One Non-Profit Balances Local & International Demands”
February 2020	Center for Africana, University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA) Scholar for a Day Annual Symposium Student Chairperson/Organizer

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Peer-Reviewer

Journal of Contemporary Ethnography, Journal of African Studies

Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania Committees

Graduate Sociology Society: Chair: 2020 – 2022, Social Chair: 2018 – 2020
Department Anti-Racism Committee, 2020 – 2022

SELECTED PUBLIC WRITING & ENGAGEMENT

Harrigan, Shaquilla. 2022. “8 Ways to Become a Competitive Grad School Applicant as an Undergrad | ProFellow.” Retrieved November 18, 2022 (<https://www.profellow.com/tips/8-ways-to-become-a-competitive-grad-school-applicant-as-an-undergrad/>).

Harrigan, Shaquilla. 2022. “Tech for Success: 15 Productivity Apps for Graduate School | ProFellow.” Retrieved November 18, 2022 (<https://www.profellow.com/tips/best-productivity-apps-for-graduate-school/>).

Harrigan, Shaquilla. 2022. “5 Tips to Succeed in Social Science or Humanities Graduate Programs | ProFellow.” Retrieved August 18, 2022 (<https://www.profellow.com/tips/tips-to-succeed-social-science-or-humanities-graduate-programs/>).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

African Studies Association

American Sociological Association

Sections: Economic Sociology; Global/Transnational Sociology; Labor and Labor Movements; Organizations, Occupations, and Work; Science, Knowledge, and Technology; Sociology of Development; and Sociology of Education

Association of Black Sociologists

Association of Internet Researchers

British Institute in Eastern Africa

British Sociological Association

International Sociology Association

Labor Tech Research Network

Society for the Advancement of Socioeconomics

RESEARCH CONSULTING

August 2024 – May 2025

Open for Business (London, United Kingdom)

Research Fellow

- Develop the qualitative research methodology for the 2024-2025 East Africa Report
- Interview corporate and civil society stakeholders on workplace LGBTQ+ issues

September 2022 – May 2023

Public Religion Research Institute (Washington, D.C.)

Consultant

- Code focus group data and draft findings for the final report
- Final output: Public Religion Research Institute. 2023. “Two Histories, One Future: The Legacy of Confederate Memorials and the Promise of Public Spaces.” Retrieved August 23, 2023 (<https://www.prrri.org/research/two-histories-one-future-the-legacy-of-confederate-memorials-and-the-promise-of-public-spaces/>)

CERTIFICATIONS, LANGUAGES, & SKILLS

Certifications: Certificate in College Teaching, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation, University of Pennsylvania (2021)

Languages: English (Native), Kiswahili (Intermediate), French (Beginner)

Programming: AirTable, Atlas.ti, R, STATA

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

August 2017 – August 2018

Harvard University (Cambridge, Massachusetts)

Service to Society Fellow at Phillips Brooks House

- Independently created department's social media strategy by analyzing data and various recommendations on engaging undergraduate students through Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram
- Manage and implement department's Strategy for Public Service in Harvard Residential Life; Select and oversee 12 Public Service House Representatives and 8 Service to Society Freshmen Council Members

August 2016 – August 2017

AWARD/ICRAF (Nairobi, Kenya)

Communications Associate

- Interviewed over 20 African women scientists as part of AWARD's Advanced Science Training Impact Study and directed the accompanying mini documentary on the program
- Independently authored outward-facing reports on various topics, including next steps for AWARD's Resource Mobilization Strategy
- Oversee editing process for internal and external deliverables, including AWARD's Special Journal Volume Catalyzing and Measuring Women's Leadership and Empowerment in African Agricultural Research & Development (*AgriGender Journal* April 2017)

ACADEMIC REFERENCES

Dr. Frank Dobbin, frank_dobbin@harvard.edu

Harry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences, Harvard University

Dr. Emily Hannum, hannumem@sas.upenn.edu

Professor of Sociology and Education, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Mary-Hunter McDonnell, marymcd@wharton.upenn.edu

Bantwal Family Goldman Sachs Presidential Associate Professor, University of Pennsylvania

Dr. Benjamin Shestakofsky, bs889@cornell.edu

Assistant Professor of Information Science, Cornell University

Dr. Krystal Strong, krystal.strong@rutgers.edu

Associate Professor of Black Studies in Education, Rutgers University-New Brunswick

Dr. Regina Werum, rwerum2@unl.edu

Professor of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Dr. .Tukufu Zuberi, tukufu@sas.upenn.edu

Lasry Family Professor of Race Relations, University of Pennsylvania