

DON C. SAWYER III, Ph.D.

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2013** **Ph.D. Sociology**
Syracuse University
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse, NY
Dissertation: I Ain't Do Nothing: An Analysis of the Social and Academic Experiences of Black Males in a Dismantled School
- 2008** **M.A. Sociology**
Syracuse University
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse, NY
- 2003** **M.S. Cultural Foundations of Education**
Syracuse University, School of Education, Syracuse NY
- 1999** **B.A. Psychology**
Hartwick College, Oneonta NY
Thesis: Minorities and Counseling: Impediments and Proposed Solutions for a Therapeutic Relationship Between Counselors and Ethnic Minority Clients

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Sociology of Education	Sociology of Hip-Hop Culture
Sociology of Race	Urban Sociology/International Sociology
School-to-Prison Pipeline	Qualitative Methods
Visual Sociology & Critical Media Literacy	Youth Participatory Action Research

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, 2012-Present

Quinnipiac University, College of Arts and Sciences, Hamden, CT
Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology

Faculty Fellow, 2016-Present

Quinnipiac University, Center for Teaching and Learning, Hamden, CT

Social Research Methods Faculty and Mentor, 2016-Present

Quinnipiac University, Frank H. Netter MD, School of Medicine, North Haven, CT

Adjunct Instructor, 2008-2012

Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse, NY
Department of Sociology

Graduate Assistant, 2007-2008

Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse, NY
Department of Sociology

PUBLICATIONS

(*Written with student and/or community member)

Academic Journals

Sawyer III, Don C., (2015). Step Your Game Up: Teaching Sociology Through the Art of the Hip-Hop Rap Battle. *Humanity & Society*, 39(2) 224-235

Mitchell Jr., Donald, & **Don C. Sawyer III** (Eds.). (2014). Informing Higher Education Policy and Practice through Intersectionality. *Journal of Progressive Policy & Practice*, 2(3) 195-293 [special issue].

Sawyer III, Don C., and Robert T. Palmer-Stephenson (2014). A Different Kind of Black: Black Males and the Intersection of Gender, Race, and Class at Predominantly White Institutions. *Journal of Progressive Policy & Practice*, 2(3) 255-272

Book Chapters

Sawyer III, Don C. (2015). "From the Projects to a Ph.D.: Falling through the Cracks and Finding Success" in *Black Men in the Academy: Narratives of Resiliency, Inspiration, and Success*, Editors: Brandon L. McGowan, Robert T. Palmer, J. Luke Wood, and David Hibbler. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

***Sawyer III, Don C.** and Hasan Stephens. (2015). "My Life...Rappers, Lyrics, and an Analysis of the Complexity of Black Male Life in America" in *Rebel Music: Teaching Social Justice through Hip Hop & Punk*, Editors: Priya Parmar, Anthony J. Nocella II, Scott Robertson, and Martha Diaz. Charlotte, NC: Information Age Publishing

Sawyer III, Don C. and Daniel W. Hodge. (2014). "Back on the Block: Community Re-entry and Re-integration of Formerly Incarcerated Youth" in *From Education to Incarceration: Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline*, Editors: Anthony J. Nocella II, Priya Parmar, and David Stovall. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing

Sawyer III, Don C. (2012). "Stupid Fresh: Hip-Hop Culture and Perceived Anti-Intellectualism in Black Male Adolescents" in *Hip-Hop(e): The Cultural Practice and Critical Pedagogy of International Hip-Hop*, Editors: Brad J. Porfilio and Michael Viola. New York, NY: Peter Lang Publishing.

Johnson, Ralph, Darnell Bradley, LeKeisha Bryant, Daren Morton, and **Don C. Sawyer III**. (2008). "Advising Black Greek Letter Organizations: A Student Development Approach" in *Black Greek Letter Organizations in the 21st Century: Our Fight Has Just Begun*, Editor: Gregory S. Parks. Lexington, KY: University Press of Kentucky

Scholarship In Progress

Sawyer III, Don C., "At the Crossroads: Black Males, Love, and Finding Hope through Hip-Hop Culture." (Book Manuscript, invited to submit to Oxford University Press, Teachers College Press, and University of Toronto Press)

Nocella II, Anthony J., Daniel W. Hodge, **Don C. Sawyer III**, and Ahmad R. Washington (Eds.) "Hip Hop and Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline," (Book proposal under review at Peter Lang Press)

- ***Sawyer III, Don C.** and Hasan Stephens. “One More Chance”: Hip-Hop, Sociology, and Interrupting the School-To-Prison-Pipeline” in *Hip Hop and Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline* (Book Chapter)
- ***Sawyer III, Don C.** and Matthew Bethea. “Move the Crowd: A Hip-Hop Partnership Created to Reach Students Once Seen as Unreachable,” in *Creating and Sustaining Effective K-12 School Partnerships: Firsthand Accounts of Promising Practices*, Editors: Ahmad R. Washington, Ramon Goings, and Malik Henfield. (Book Chapter)
- Kelly, Lauren Leigh and **Don C. Sawyer III.** “When Keepin’ It Real Goes Wrong: Revealing the Struggles of Critical Hip-Hop Pedagogy (Journal Manuscript)
- ***Sawyer III, Don C.** “Let Me Paint You a Picture: Youth Rap Verses as Critical Race Counter-Stories” (Journal Manuscript)

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, 2012-Present

Quinnipiac University, Department of Sociology, Criminal Justice, and Anthropology

- SO 101: Introduction to Sociology (freshman only), Fall 2016
- SO 241: Sociology of Race and Ethnicity (Two sections), Fall 2016
- SO 101: Introduction to Sociology, Summer 2016 (online)
- MED 700/SO 500: Social Research Methods (Medical School Course), Spring 2016
- SO 241: Racial and Ethnic Groups (*Sociology of Race*) (Two sections), Spring 2016
- SO 241: Racial and Ethnic Groups (*Sociology of Race*) (Two sections), Fall 2015
- SO 320: Sociology of Hip-Hop Culture, Fall 2015
- SO 101: Introduction to Sociology, Summer 2015 (online)
- SO 101: Introduction to Sociology through Film, Spring 2015
- SO 101: Introduction to Sociology, January Term 2015 (online)
- SO 101: Introduction to Sociology, Summer 2014 (online)
- SO 300: Sociology of Hip-Hop Culture, Spring 2014
- SO 241: Racial and Ethnic Groups (*Sociology of Race*), Spring 2014
- SO 272: Sociology of Education, Fall 2013
- SO 241: Racial and Ethnic Groups (*Sociology of Race*), Fall 2013
- SO 241: Racial and Ethnic Groups (*Sociology of Race*), Spring 2013
- SO 300: Sociology of Hip-Hop Culture, Spring 2013
- SO 101: Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2012
- SO 241: Racial and Ethnic Groups (*Sociology of Race*), Fall 2012

Adjunct Instructor, 2008-2012

Syracuse University, Department of Sociology

- SOC 300: Sociology of Hip-Hop Culture, Summer 2011
- SOC 300: Sociology of Hip-Hop Culture, Spring 2011
- SOC 102: Social Problems, Fall 2010
- SOC 102: Social Problems, Summer 2010
- FIA/SOC 300: The History and Social Significance of Hip-Hop Culture, Spring 2009
- SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology, Summer 2008

Graduate Assistant, 2007-2008

Syracuse University, Department of Sociology

- SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology, Fall 2007, Dr. Christine Himes
- SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2008, Dr. Richard Loder

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Havana, Cuba (2016)

Quinnipiac University, Department of Cultural and Global Engagement

Bridgetown, Barbados (2016)

Quinnipiac University, Department of Cultural and Global Engagement

La Romana, Dominican Republic (2015)

Quinnipiac University, Department of Cultural and Global Engagement

Alice, South Africa (2009)

Syracuse University, South Side Initiative

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Sawyer III, Don C. (2016). "When Blackness Ain't Enough: Reflections of a Black Professor in a High School Hip-Hop Classroom" American Educational Research Association, Washington, DC

Sawyer III, Don C. (2016). "Ain't No Love in the Heart of the City: Black Males, Love, and Research" Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, MA

Sawyer III, Don C. and Lauren L. Kelly (2015). "When Keeping It Real Goes Wrong: Exploring the Struggles of Critical Hip-Hop Pedagogy" American Educational Research Association, Chicago, IL

Sawyer III, Don C. (2015). "Let Me Paint You a Picture: Youth Rap Verses as Critical Race Counter-Stories" Eastern Sociological Society, New York, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "I Got a Story to Tell: Rapping as Counter-Storytelling for Urban Youth" Association of Applied or Clinical Sociology, Pittsburg, PA

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "The 3 R's in a Dismantled Urban School: Relationships, Respect, and Resistance" Gender, Race, Culture and Sexuality Session, Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "Lights, Cameras, but No Action: Youth Photographers and IRB Approval" Research with Children: Managing IRBs and Other Institutional Gatekeepers Session, Panelist, Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD

Sawyer III, Don C. and Dina Natalino (2013). "Move the Crowd: A Hip-Hop Partnership to Reach Students Once Seen As Unreachable" Preemptive Education Conference, New York, NY, sponsored by Urban Word NYC, Center for Multicultural Education and Programs at New York University, and the Institute for Urban and Minority Education at Columbia University

- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2013). "Hip-Hop Keeps Me Sane: Using Hip-Hop to Reach Students" New York University Summer Institute, New York, NY, sponsored by NYU Technical Assistance Center on Disproportionality, Metropolitan Center for Urban Education, NYU Steinhardt School of Culture
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2013). "Know What I Mean? Hip-Hop, Black Males, Critical Race Theory and Critical Media Literacy," session: 21st Century New Literacies through a Race Conscious and Culturally Relevant Lens, American Educational Research Association, San Francisco, CA
- Sawyer III, Don C.** and Cedric Bolton (2012). "See What I'm Sayin': Hip-Hop Culture, Sociology, and Critical Youth Media Literacy" Preemptive Education Conference, New York, NY, sponsored by Urban Word NYC, Center for Multicultural Education and Programs at New York University, and the Institute for Urban and Minority Education at Columbia University
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2011). "You Must Learn! Considering Black Male Students' Voices and Experiences in the Formulation of Teacher Training" Association of Black Sociologists, Las Vegas, NV
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2011). "Left Back: Voices of Black Male Students in a Dismantled Middle School" Society for the Study of Social Problems, Las Vegas, NV
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2011). "Building Men: Black Males, Urban Schools, and Experiences with Reform" International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry, Champaign, IL
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2011). "What About Us? The Experiences of Black Male Students in the Midst of Mandated School Reform" National Council for Black Studies, Cincinnati, OH
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2011). "What About Us? The Experiences of Black Male Students in the Midst of Mandated School Reform" Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2011). "Engineering Success: The Educational, Social, and Cultural Experiences of Black Male Undergraduate Engineering Students" Eastern Sociological Society, Philadelphia, PA

Invited Keynotes

- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2016). "At the Crossroads" TEDxYale, Yale University, New Haven, CT
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2016). "Dialogue Across Difference" New England Youth Identity Summit, Waynflete School, Portland, ME
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2015). "Building Bridges and Making A Difference." New Student Orientation Keynote, California State University- Chico, Student Affairs, Chico, CA
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2015). "Art and Activism: Creating Change with a Beat and a Rhyme" Maine College of Art, Portland, ME
- Sawyer III, Don C.** (2015). "Your Current Situation Does Not Dictate Your Destiny" St. Philips AME Zion Church Scholarship Program, Nyack, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "Creating Inclusive Communities" California State University at Chico, New Student Orientation Keynote, Chico, CA

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "The Importance of You: Developing a Personal Vision" 15th Annual Student of Color Leadership Retreat, Croghan, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2013). "Voices from Behind the Walls: Planting Positive Seeds for Positive Results" The Black Man Can Institute, Yale University, New Haven, CT

Sawyer III, Don C. (2012). "Leaders with Letters: Understanding Effective Principals of Leadership" Hofstra University Greek Leadership Conference, Hempstead, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2012). "Don't Give Up On Our Youth: Dr. King's Vision and Youth of Color" City of Syracuse Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration, Syracuse, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2008). "What Would You Do If You Knew You Wouldn't Fail?" LEADSTRONG Student Leadership Conference, SUNY Stony Brook, NY

Invited Talks

Sawyer III, Don C. (2016). "Developing a Hip-Hop Program to Reach Black and Latino Males on the Verge of Dropping Out" Invited Presenter, Hip-Hop in the Heartland, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI

Sawyer III, Don C. (2016). "I Am My Brother's Keeper: Mentoring and Students of Color" Phi Beta Sigma Week, Syracuse University, Syracuse NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2015). "Liberty and Justice for All: Exploring Racial Profiling" Panelist, Quinnipiac University Black History Month Recognition Program, Hamden, CT

Sawyer III, Don C. (2015). "Hip-Hop Keeps Me Sane: Understanding Resilience and Hip-Hop(e) in Urban Education" State University of New York Onondaga Community College, Syracuse, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2015). "NAS: Time is Illmatic, Hip-Hop, and Race." The Waynflete School, Portland, ME

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "Campus Crosstalk: Town Hall Meeting on Public Education in the United States" Panelist, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "Does Race Still Matter" Facilitator, Socrates Café, Quinnipiac University, Hamden, CT

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "Eliminating the Commercialism: A Reintroduction to Hip Hop" Panelist, Yale University Black Solidarity Conference, New Haven, CT

Sawyer III, Don C. (2014). "Hip-Hop and the School-to-Prison-Pipeline" Skype Guest Speaker, History of Hip-Hop Course, State University of New York at Cortland, Cortland, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2013). "Shifting Gears: Code Switching and Professional Environments" Men in STEM Conference, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2013). “Defining the Field & Shaping the Language” Panelist, Hip-Hop Education Think Tank III: Cultivating a Global Cipher from the Streets to the Classroom, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Harlem, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2013). “How Are Institutions of Higher Education Contributing to and Shaping the Field of Hip-Hop Education?” Panelist, Hip-Hop Education Think Tank III: Cultivating a Global Cipher from the Streets to the Classroom, The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, Harlem, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2012). “Engineering Success: Engaging Men of Color in STEM Education” Proven Interventions that Promote Success for Men of Color in STEM, Presenter, Council for Opportunity in Education Conference, New York, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2012). “In the Cut: Highlighting Issues and Finding Solutions” Presenter, Hofstra University Greek Leadership Conference, Hempstead, NY

Sawyer III, Don C. (2012). “What’s Your D@mn Problem? Learning Styles, Group Dynamics, and Understanding the Concept of Team Leadership” Presenter, Hofstra University Greek Leadership Conference, Hempstead, NY

SELECTED GRANTS & AWARDS

- Faculty Fellow, Center for Teaching and Learning, Quinnipiac University 2016
- Quinnipiac University College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Grant 2016
- Quinnipiac University College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Grant 2015
- Quinnipiac University College of Arts and Sciences Summer Research Grant 2014
- ASA/SAGE Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award 2013
- University of Chicago Provost’s Postdoc Fellowship 2012 (Finalist)
- Dr. Don C. Sawyer III Award for Community Engagement (annual award named in my honor given to an outstanding graduating student of color), Syracuse University, 2012
- Ithaca College Pre-Doctoral Diversity Fellowship 2011 (Sociology Finalist)
- National Grid STEM Youth Outreach Science Grant 2011, Co-PI (\$144,000)
- Syracuse City School District Science Outreach Grant 2011, Co-PI (\$25,000)
- Institute on Critical Participatory Action Research Tuition Scholarship
- Syracuse City School District Science Outreach Grant 2010, Co-PI (\$23,000)
- Roscoe Martin Dissertation Research Grant, Syracuse University 2009 (\$750)
- Graduate Assistantship, Sociology, Syracuse University 2008

PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY

The Crossroads Collective, 2012-Present

Wilbur Cross High School, New Haven, CT

Founder/Instructor for Hip-Hop program working with male students at risk of dropping out of high school. Students engage in participatory research, media development, and writing projects.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Summer Institute, 2014-2015

Yale University, The Consultation Center, New Haven, CT

Founder/Instructor for summer youth program focusing on critical media literacy, creative writing, and positive identity development.

Hip-Hop Education Center Think Tank, Invited Member, 2012-2015

Columbia University and New York University, New York, NY

International scholars charged with laying a foundation for the professional and economic development of the field of hip-hop education.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Quinnipiac UniversityUniversity Service**Faculty Senator**, 2014-Present

Serve as an elected member of a representative body that is responsible for faculty participation in University planning and governance.

College of Arts & Sciences Executive Committee, 2015-2016

Served as an elected representative to assist the dean of the college with strategic planning

Athletics Council (Liaison to Men's Basketball), 2012-Present

A joint faculty/staff committee charged with oversight of the Division I athletic program and presenting issues to the university's athletic director. Meet monthly with team to discuss personal development.

Faculty Advisor, 2013-Present

Quinnipiac University Black Student Union (BSU)

Deep Learning Faculty Interest Group (FIG), 2013-2014

Faculty group charged with researching and developing a portal for research and practical activities related to deep learning and academic success for students.

Ad Hoc Committee on Racial and Ethnic Harassment, 2012-2014

Committee charged with developing university policy and protocols to handle reported bias related incidents at Quinnipiac University.

Community Engagement**Good Life Youth Foundation**, National Board of Directors, 2013-Present

A hip-hop focused nonprofit organization dedicated to creating a more equitable world for the disenfranchised by delivering resources and entrepreneurial opportunities to end the cycle of poverty and incarceration for youth.

Save the Kids (STK), National Board of Directors, 2011-Present

A national grass-roots nonprofit organization dedicated to establishing a movement that advocates for peaceful alternatives to youth incarceration.

Building Men Program, 2009-2015

Syracuse City School District, Syracuse, NY

Advisor for the program providing academic and social support for adolescent boys attending urban middle schools.

Service to the Fields of Sociology and Education

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity Journal, 2014-Present
Reviewer

The Journal of African American Males in Education (JAAME), 2013-present
Review Board

The Journal of Hip-Hop Studies (JHHS), 2012-Present
Editorial and Review Board

Syracuse University

Faculty for Community Engagement (South Side Initiative), 2007-2012
Served on the youth and education committees for the community/university partnership with the aim of revitalizing the city of Syracuse's south side neighborhood through collaborative planning and program implementation.

South Africa Meets the South Side, 2009-2012
Syracuse University, South Side Initiatives Office, Syracuse, NY
Served as member of Syracuse University team that travels to South Africa to consult with the University of Fort Hare on building university/community partnerships to revitalize underserved communities.

iCan Robotics Program, 2007-2012
Syracuse, NY
Co-Founder of the iCAN Robotics Program- an outreach program designed to introduce youth from underserved communities to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

Graduate Representative, 2008-2010
Elected to serve two-year term as the graduate student representative on the faculty committee.

The Vision Center, 2007-2012
Mercy Works Inc., Syracuse, NY
Served as volunteer instructor and facilitator for youth in an urban outreach program.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The Future Professoriate Program (FPP), 2004-2012
Syracuse University, Syracuse NY
FPP provides students with the training and experience needed to excel as faculty members.

Critical Participatory Action Research Institute, 2011
The City University of New York Graduate Center, New York, NY
The institute is a 5-day intensive PAR training covering the history, theory, and ethics of the approach, as well as in-depth discussions of participatory methods, conditions for meaningful community collaborations, and examples of effective research designs.

WhyTry Program Facilitator, 2011

The facilitator training provides simple, hands-on solutions for youth dropout prevention, violence prevention, drug and alcohol prevention, truancy reduction, and failure reduction.

The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), 2009

Syracuse University, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse, NY
The institute seeks to enable students to create and critique methodologically sophisticated qualitative research designs, including case studies, tests of necessity or sufficiency, and narrative or interpretive work.

SELECTED ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS

Director, 2009-2012

Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP)
Syracuse University, Center for Graduate Preparation & Achievement, Syracuse, NY
Directed the Upstate LSAMP Program; a three million dollar, multi-institutional National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored program funded in 5-year phases, designed to increase the number of Black, Latino, and Native American students receiving 4-year degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
Managed the Syracuse University (lead institution) LSAMP budget (\$3 million), recruiting, and programming initiatives as well as the sub-contracts of six institutions in the Upstate Alliance (Cornell University, Clarkson University, Monroe Community College, Onondaga Community College, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and Rochester Institute of Technology). Ensured compliance with NSF budgetary and program mandates. Coordinated all reporting and assessment projects. Facilitated process for the successful application for 2 million dollar second phase renewal.

Assistant Director, 2003-2007

Syracuse University, Office of Student Life, Syracuse, NY
Managed and advised student organizations, assisted with the planning and development of a center for student leadership and ethics, provided counseling and safe environment for student advisees, organized trainings and other student events and provided on-call crisis coverage for a 2500-member Fraternity and Sorority community.

Professional & Service Organizations

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (ΑΦΑ)
American Educational Research Association (AERA)
American Sociological Association (ASA)
Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology (AACS)
Association for the Study of African Life and History
Eastern Sociological Society (ESS)