

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

Assistant Professor  
Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs  
Indiana University  
jensilv@iu.edu

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Assistant Professor, Paul H. O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Indiana University, 2019-
- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Bucknell University, 2014-2019.

## EDUCATION

- Saguaro Seminar Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School, 2012-2014. PI: Robert Putnam.
- American Sociological Association and National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Harvard University, 2010-2012. PI: Bruce Western.
- Ph.D., University of Virginia, Sociology, 2010. Dissertation: "The Hidden Injuries of Risk: Coming of Age in the Midst of Social and Economic Uncertainty." Committee: Sarah Corse (Chair), Allison Pugh, and Milton Vickerman. Comprehensive Exams: Culture (2006) and Gender (2007): Passed with Distinction
- M.A., University of Virginia, Sociology, 2006.
- B.A., magna cum laude, Wellesley College, 2004.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Books*

- Silva, Jennifer M. 2019. *We're Still Here: Pain and Politics in the Heart of America*. Oxford University Press.
  - Mentioned in David's Leonhardt's "The Morning Newsletter," *The New York Times*, October 8, 2020.
  - Covered in the *Washington Post*, "The most essential books of the Trump era are barely about Trump at all," by Carlos Lozada, October 1, 2020.
  - Honorable Mention, Outstanding Book Award, Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section, American Sociological Association, 2020.
  - Covered in *The New York Review of Books*, "Left Behind," by Helen Epstein, March 5, 2020.

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- Reviewed in *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal* (starred review, included in “Essential Books of 2019” list), *Foreward Reviews*, *Booklist*, *Law and Religion Forum*, *New York Journal of Books*, *InsideHigherEd*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Journal of Working-Class Studies*.
  - Q&A in *The Conversation*, “Why do so many working-class Americans feel politics is pointless?” by Nick Lehr, August 5, 2019.
  - Interviewed on *Marketplace*, WAMC's *The Roundtable*, WITF's *Smart Talk*, SiriusXM's *Tell Me Everything with John Fugelsang*, SiriusXM's *P.O.T.U.S*
  - Featured in *Slate*, “They Don’t Think There Is Any America Left,” by Ruth Graham, September 4, 2019.
  - Reviewed in the *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*, “A scholar finds fatalism where faith in the American Dream once thrived,” by Rich Lord, September 21, 2019.
  - Featured in *The Atlantic*, “The True Cause of the Opioid Epidemic,” by Olga Khazan, January 2, 2020.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2013. *Coming Up Short: Working-Class Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty*. Oxford University Press.
    - Covered in *The New York Times*, “What if Sociologists Had as Much Influence as Economists?” by Neil Irwin, March 2017.
    - Translated into Korean, Luciole Publishers of Seoul (released 2020, with a new forward).
    - Reviewed in *The American Journal of Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *The British Journal of Sociology*, *Work and Occupations*, *InsideHigherEd*, *The American Conservative*, *Feministing*, *San Francisco Book Review*, *Washington Independent Review of Books*, and *Publishers Weekly*.
    - Honorable Mention, William J. Goode Book Award, American Sociological Association, Family Section, 2015.
    - Covered in *The New Yorker*, “Richer or Poorer: Accounting for Inequality,” by Jill Lepore, March 2015.
    - Selected for Author Meets Critics Panel, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2014.
    - Honorable Mention, Mirra Komarovsky Book Award, Eastern Sociological Society, 2014.
    - One of six “Best of 2013 in Social Mobility Research” books selected by the Brookings Institute.
    - Featured in *The Boston Globe*, “Jennifer Silva: Working-class youth are ‘privatizing happiness,’” by Ruth Graham, August 11, 2013.
    - Invited on On Point (WBUR), The Takeaway (WNYC/WGBH), The Kathleen Dunn Show (Wisconsin NPR), The Leonard Lopate Show (WNYC), Think Dallas (KERA), Radio Smart Talk (WITF), Think Tank (WWL), Specific Gravity with Jeff Schectman (KVON), The Daily Circuit (MPR), Midday with Dan Rodricks (WYPR), and Firedoglake Book Salon, as well as others.

## *Policy-Orientated Collaborations*

- Silva, Jennifer M., Isabel Sawhill, Morgan Welch, and Tiffany N. Ford. 2020. “COVID-19 and the Future of the American Middle Class,” a collaboration with the Brookings’ Future of the Middle Class Initiative.

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- Mathur, Aparna and Jennifer M. Silva. 2019. Co-editors. *American Family Diaries: Can Ethnographic Research Help Shape Public Policy?* American Enterprise Institute.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2019. "Using Qualitative Methods to Uncover the Hidden Mechanisms of Poverty and Inequality." *American Family Diaries: Can Ethnographic Research Help Shape Public Policy?* American Enterprise Institute.

## Peer-Reviewed Articles

- Schell, Kait Smeraldo and Jennifer M. Silva. 2020. "Resisting Despair: Narratives of Shame, Pain, and Transformation among White Working-Class Women in a Declining Coal-Mining Community." Online First, September 10, *Gender & Society*.
- Silva, Jennifer M. and Kaisa Snellman. 2018. "Salvation of Safety Net? Converging Aspirations and Diverging Narratives of College Among Working- and Middle-Class Young Adults." *Social Forces* 97(2): 559–582.
- Silva, Jennifer M. and Sarah M. Corse. 2018. "Envisioning and Enacting Class Mobility: The Routine Constructions of the Agentic Self." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology* 6(2): 231-265.
- Weinberger, Michelle, Jane Zavisca, and Jennifer M. Silva. 2017. "Consuming for an Imagined Future: Middle Class Consumer Lifestyle and Exploratory Experiences in the Transition to Adulthood." *Journal of Consumer Research* 44 (2): 332–360.
  - Winner, 2019 Consumers and Consumption Distinguished Scholarly Publication Award, American Sociological Association.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2016. "High Hopes, Hidden Inequalities: How Social Class Shapes Pathways into Adulthood." *Emerging Adulthood* 4: 239-241.
- Snellman, Kaisa, Jennifer M. Silva, Carl B. Frederick, and Robert D. Putnam. 2015. "The Engagement Gap: Social Mobility and Extracurricular Participation among American Youth." *ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 657(1): 194-207.
  - Covered by *The Atlantic*: "The Activity Gap," by Alia Wong, January 30, 2015; *Bloomberg Business*, "Split in Fortunes Stalks U.S. Schoolchildren," January 15, 2015; and *The Washington Monthly*, "The Education Gap Extends to Extracurricular Activities, Too," February 5, 2015.
  - Reprinted in *In The Post-Urban World: Emergent Transformation of Cities and Regions in the Innovative Global Economy*, edited by Tigran Haas and Hans Westlund, Routledge, 2017.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2014. "Slight Expectations: Making Sense of the "Me Me Me" Generation." *Sociology Compass* 8(12): 1388-1397.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2014. "Working-Class Growing Pains." *Contexts* 13(2).

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- Silva, Jennifer M. 2012. “Constructing Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty.” *American Sociological Review* 78(4): 505-522.
- Silva, Jennifer M. and Allison J. Pugh. 2010. “Beyond the Depleting Model of Parenting: Narratives of Childrearing and Change” *Sociological Inquiry* 80(4): 605-627.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2008. ““A New Generation of Women”? How Female ROTC Cadets Negotiate the Tension between Masculine Military Culture and Traditional Femininity.” *Social Forces* 87(2): 937-960.

## Chapters

- Smeraldo Kait (student co-author) and Jennifer M. Silva. “Low Income, High Stakes: The Neoliberal Stronghold on Schools.” 2019. *Crisis in Education*, edited by P. Calogiannakis, KG Karras, CC Wolhuter, TH Chiang, and M Tendo. HM Studies and Publishing, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2018. “Disengagement and Alienation in Modern American Institutions.” *Handbook of Local Organizations and Community Movements* (2<sup>nd</sup> edition), edited by Ram A. Cnaan and Carl Milofsky. Springer. Peer-reviewed.
- Corse, Sarah M. and Jennifer M. Silva (equal co-authors). 2016. “Intimate Inequalities: Love and Work in the Postindustrial Landscape.” Pp. 283-304 in *Beyond the Cubicle: Postindustrial Culture and the Flexible Self*, edited by Allison J. Pugh. Oxford University Press. Peer-reviewed.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2015. “Working-Class Youth and the Betrayal of the Future.” Pp. 159-173 in *The Working Classes and Higher Education: Inequality of Access, Opportunity and Outcome*, edited by Amy Stich and Carrie Freie. New York: Routledge.
- Silva, Jennifer M. and Robert D. Putnam. 2015. “The Stories of Our Kids.” Methodological Appendix, *Our Kids: The American Dream in Crisis*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

## Book Reviews

- Silva, Jennifer M. 2017. Review of *Strangers in their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*, by Arlie Russell Hochschild. *Journal of Working-Class Studies* 1(2).
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2013. Review of *Adult Supervision Required: Private Freedom and Public Constraints for Parents and Children*, by Markella B. Rutherford. *Social Forces*.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

- “The Roosevelt Project: Industrial Heartland Case Study” (with Sanya Carley and David Koninsky).

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- “The importance of historical and economic context in evaluating freshwater blue space and health” (with Melissa N. Poulsen and Annemarie Hirsch). Under review, *Landscape and Urban Planning*.
- “Fractured Lives: How American Families Confront, Manage, and Overcome Addiction.”
- “Linking Electronic Health Records and Patient's Life Experiences in a Disadvantaged Community Setting” (with Elizabeth Durden and Annemarie Hirsch).

## OP EDS AND ESSAYS

- Silva, Jennifer M. 2020. “Don’t discount the support for Bernie Sanders in Trump country.” *Marketwatch*, March 4, 2020.
- Snellman, Kaisa, Jennifer M. Silva, and Robert D. Putnam. 2015. "Inequity Outside the Classroom: Growing Class Differences in Participation in Extracurricular Activities." *Voices in Urban Education* 40.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2014. “Unhappy Millennials Change the Rules, and the Greatest Generation Looks Back.” *The Boston Globe Magazine*, February 7.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2013. “Young and Isolated.” *The New York Times*, June 23.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2013. “The 1 percent ruined love: Marriage is for the rich.” *Salon*, July 27.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2013. “Why People Blame Themselves.” *Boston Review*, August 12.
- Silva, Jennifer M. 2013. "The Burdens of Working-Class Youth." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, August 12.

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND HONORS

- The Russell Sage Foundation, “Linking Electronic Health Records and In-Depth Interviews to Uncover Barriers to Social Mobility and Health in a Declining Coal Mining Community” (with Elizabeth Durden and Annemarie Hirsch), 2019. \$150,207.
- Bucknell Geisinger Research Initiative Grant, “Improving the Efficiency and Quality of Care: Linking Electronic Health Records and Patient’s Life Experience in a Disadvantaged Community Setting” (with Elizabeth Durden and Annemarie Hirsch), 2019. \$78,380.
- Bucknell Geisinger Research Initiative Grant, “Linking Electronic Health Records and Patient's Life Experiences in a Disadvantaged Community Setting” (with Elizabeth Durden and Annemarie Hirsch), 2017. \$20,000.
- American Sociological Association and National Science Foundation Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline Grant, “Pain and Politics in Small-Town America,” 2016. \$5,400.

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- *The Sociological Review* Research Seminar Series Award (with Dr. Avril Keating and Professor Andy Green), 2016.
- Summer Grant, Action Research at Bucknell, Bucknell University, 2015.
- Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning, Harvard University, 2012.
- Postdoctoral Award for Professional Development, Harvard University, 2012.
- Award for Excellence in Scholarship in the Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Virginia, 2010.
- Woodrow Wilson Women's Studies Dissertation Fellowship, 2009-2010.
- Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Year Fellowship, University of Virginia, 2009-2010.
- Dissertation Award, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia, 2009.
- Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Teaching Resource Center, University of Virginia, 2007.
- Bierstedt Prize for Best Graduate Paper in Sociology, University of Virginia, 2007.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### *O'Neill*

- Social Policy (MPA level)
- Performance Evaluation and Program Management (undergraduate level)
- Honors Thesis Seminar (undergraduate level)

### *Bucknell University*

- Introduction to Sociology
- Growing Up Rich and Growing Up Poor in America
- Transitions to Adulthood
- Culture and Power
- Millennials in the Workplace
- Field Research in the Local Community

### *Harvard University*

- Harvard Business School Executive Education, Families in Business from Generation to Generation. "Collaborating Across Generations" (Fall 2013).
- Sociology Department, Coming of Age in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (Spring 2012).
- Senior Thesis Adviser (Fall 2011-Spring 2012).

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- Student Keri Hartman was the winner of a *Hoopes Prize*, Harvard's highest honor for undergraduate writing.

## *University of Virginia*

- Instructor, Sociology Department: Introduction to Sociology (Summer 2007, 2009).
- Teaching Assistant, Sociology Department: Popular Culture (Fall 2004), Criminology (Spring 2005), Introduction to Social Statistics (Fall 2005/Spring 2006), Introduction to Sociology (Fall 2006/Spring 2007), Sociology of the Family (Fall 2007), Research Methods (Spring 2008).

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- “Culture for inequality: theoretical shifts in inequality studies.” Invited Panelist. National Research University, Moscow, October 2020.
- “Pain and Politics in the Heart of America.” Invited Speaker, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2020.
- Invited Speaker, The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, Committee on Population & Committee on National Statistics, “Rising midlife mortality rates and socioeconomic disparities,” October 2019.
- Brookings Institute, Isabel Sawhill’s Book Seminar, featuring Jennifer Silva’s *We’re Still Here: Pain and Politics in the Heart of America* and Darrell West’s *Divided Politics, Divided Nation*, May 2019.
- “Pain and Politics in American Working-Class Life.” Presidential Panel. *Facts and Fictions: Contemporary Families in the 21st Century*. Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, March 2019.
- “Listening to Rural America.” Invited Panelist. Russell Sage Foundation. New York, March 2019.
- “How Can We Improve Family Economic Stability and Well-Being through Promoting Strong Social Relationships including Marriage?” Invited Panelist. National Poverty Research Center, Annual Poverty Research and Policy Forum. Washington, DC, September 2018.
- “The Coalminer’s Granddaughter” (with Kait Smeraldo, student co-author). American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, August 2018.
- “Using Ethnographic Methods to Understand Barriers to Opportunity.” Invited Speaker. American Enterprise Institute, June 2018.
- “The Wellness Myth.” Featured speaker. Department of Film and Media Studies, UC Irvine, May 2018.
- “Generation of Change: How Young Adults Confront Transformations of Work, Higher Education, and Romance in the 21st Century.” Keynote Speaker, Annual Social Sciences Lecture, Springfield College, April 2018.

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- “Pain and Politics in the Heart of America.” Invited Talk. Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology and Education (AESE), Penn State, October 2017.
- “We're All Telling Our Stories But Is Anyone Listening? Capturing Narrative Impact.” Invited Thematic Session. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, 2017.
- “Pain and Politics in the Heart of America.” Invited Talk. University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, April 2017. Covered in *The Pittsburgh Tribune*, “Expert on challenges of coal country to lecture at Pitt,” April 2017.
- “Pain and Politics in Small-Town America.” Invited Talks: Department of Sociology, University of Vermont; Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University, October 2016; Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut, October 2016; Department of Sociology, Johns Hopkins University, September 2016.
- “Reimagining America: Morals, Class, and Solidarity in the Wake of the Great Recession.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, August 2016.
- “Working-Class Family Politics: Narratives of Suffering, Redemption, and Blame.” Invited Talk. Center for Family and Demographic Change, Bowling Green State University, April 2016.
- “Coming Up Short.” Invited Talk. Center for the Study of Inequality, Cornell University, September 2015.
- “Pathways to Adulthood: Opportunity, Safety Nets, and Self-Worth in the Neoliberal Era.” Invited Talk. Centre for Research on Learning and Life Chances, Institute of Education, University College London, June 2015.
- “Becoming a Neoliberal Subject: Distrust and Alienation on the Road to Adulthood.” Invited Thematic Session. At the Border of Adulthood: New Insights into the Transition to Adulthood. The Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York, February 2015.
- Critic, Author Meets Critics: *Unequal Time: Gender, Class and Family in Employment Schedules* by Dan Clawson and Naomi Gerstel. The Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New York, February 2015.
- “Re-Imagining Adulthood: How Working-Class Youth Negotiate Intimacy, Community, and Self-Worth in the Neoliberal Era.” Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Gender, Bucknell University, October 2014.
- “Working-Class Youth and the Betrayal of the Future.” Invited Thematic Session: Social Mobility in Hard Times. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, August 2014.
- Author Meets Critics Panel. “Coming Up Short: Working-Class Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty.” American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2014.



# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- “Coming Up Short.” Invited Talk. University of Massachusetts-Boston, Department of English Fall Speaker Series, Boston, MA, 2013.
- “Slight Expectations: Working-Class Youth and the Transition to Adulthood.” Invited Talk. Institute for Work and Employment Research Seminar Series, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 2013.
- “Coming Up Short.” Invited Talk. University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, 2013.
- “Redefining Working-Class Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty.” Invited Speaker. Presented at the Society for the Study of Emerging Adulthood Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2013.
- “Intimacy and Family Relations in 21st Century America” (with Sarah Corse). Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting, Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico, 2013.
- “Trapped: How Risk and Uncertainty are Endangering the Futures of American Working-Class Youth.” The American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, ASA/NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship Program Special Session (Causes and Consequences of the Great Recession: Micro Impacts), Denver, CO, 2012.
- “The Predominance of the Family Past: Narratives of Suffering and Redemption among the Postindustrial Working Class.” The Work and Family Researchers Network Meeting, New York, June 2012.
- “The Hyper-Symbolism of the Family Past: Narratives of Suffering and Self-Transformation among the Postindustrial Working Class.” The Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (Presidential Session), New York, February 2012.
- “Prisoners of the Past.” The American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, November 2011.
- “Working-Class Subjectivity in an Age of Economic Uncertainty and Neoliberal Ideology.” The Politics of Inequality Network International Meeting, Sciences Po, Paris, May 2011.
- “The New Requirements of Coming of Age: Constructing Adulthood in an Age of Uncertainty.” The Harvard Culture and Social Analysis Workshop, Harvard University, March 2011.
- “The Hidden Injuries of Risk.” Invited Lecture, Wellesley College Sociology Department, October 2010.
- “The Hidden Injuries of Risk.” The American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, August 2010.
- “Slight Expectations: Coming of Age in the Midst of Economic Uncertainty.” The Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 2010.

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

- “The Effect of Care on Caregivers.” The Carework Network 6<sup>th</sup> International Carework Conference, San Francisco, CA, August 2009.
- “Reproduction, Resistance, and the Cultural Logic of Femininity.” The American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, August 2007.
- “Body Counts: Gender, Militarization, and the Construction of Identity.” The Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, February 2006.

## SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section Book Award Committee, American Sociological Association, 2021.
- Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section Book Award Committee, American Sociological Association, 2018.
- Member, Transition to Adulthood Research Network, facilitated by the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE), 2017-2021.
- Assistant Editor, *Emerging Adulthood*, 2016-2018.
- William J. Goode Book Award Committee, American Sociological Association Family Section, 2016.
- Committee on Academic Freedom and Tenure, Bucknell University, August 2015-May 2018.
- Ralph Spielman Memorial Lecture Committee, Bucknell University, 2015-2016.
- Occasional Reviewer for Routledge, University of California Press, William T Grant Foundation, Oxford, New York University Press, *Sociological Perspectives*, *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*, *Social Problems*, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *Gender & Society*, *Journal of Youth Studies*, and *Qualitative Sociology*.
- Consultant, New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, 2014-2015.
- Consultant, Diversity and Inclusion Training Program, US Department of Veterans Affairs, 2012-2013.

# JENNIFER M. SILVA

## REFERENCES

Robert D. Putnam  
Professor of Public Policy  
Harvard University  
79 JFK Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
(617) 495-0539  
Robert\_Putnam@hks.harvard.edu

Bruce Western  
Professor of Sociology  
Columbia University  
501 Knox Hall  
606 West 122nd Street, 5th Floor, Suite 501  
New York, NY 10027  
(212) 854-2973  
bw2562@columbia.edu

Andrew J. Cherlin  
Benjamin H. Griswold III Professor of Public Policy  
Department of Sociology  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland 21218  
(410) 516-2370  
cherlin@jhu.edu