Mahesh Somashekhar

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APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, *University of Illinois-Chicago Department of Sociology*, 2018-

Postdoctoral Research Associate, *University of Washington Department of Sociology*, 2016-2018

- Research Fellow, *eScience Institute*
- Affiliate, *Evans School of Public Policy and Governance*
- Affiliate, *Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences*
- Member, *Urban@UW Initiative*

EDUCATION

PhD, Sociology, Princeton University, 2016

MA, Sociology, Princeton University, 2010

BS, Engineering Management Systems (Economics Minor), Columbia University, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Articles

Somashekhar, Mahesh. Forthcoming. "Racial Inequality between Gentrifiers: How the Race of Gentrifiers Affects Retail Development in Gentrifying Neighborhoods." *City & Community*. [doi.org/10.1111/cico.12421]

- Media Coverage by the Chicago Defender

Somashekhar, Mahesh. Forthcoming. "Can We Bring Culture into the Large-Scale Study of Gentrification? Assessing the Possibilities Using Geodemographic Marketing Data." *Urban Affairs Review*. [doi.org/10.1177/1078087420921459]

Somashekhar, Mahesh. 2019. "Neither Here nor There? How the New Geography of Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship Disadvantages African Americans." *Social Problems*. 66(3):373-391.

- Winner, AAG Business Geography Specialty Group Student Paper Competition, 2015
- Featured on the American Sociological Association's Works-in-Progress Blog

Somashekhar, Mahesh. 2019. "Ethnic Economies in the Age of Retail Chains: Comparing the Presence of Chain-Affiliated and Independently Owned Ethnic Restaurants in Ethnic Neighborhoods." *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* 45(13):2407-2429.

Somashekhar, Mahesh. 2018. "Has the Suburbanization of Ethnic Economies Created New Opportunities for Income Attainment?" *Social Science Quarterly* 99(1):62-79.

Yeung, King-To and **Mahesh Somashekhar**. 2016. "Sensing Agency and Resistance in Old Prisons: A Pragmatist Analysis of Institutional Control." *Theory, Culture, and Society* 33(3):79-101.

Somashekhar, Mahesh. 2014. "A Theoretical and Empirical Foundation for the Study of Non-Urban Ethnic Economies in the U.S." *Michigan Sociological Review* 28:1-34.

Somashekhar, Mahesh. 2014. "Diversity through Homophily? The Paradox of How Increasing Similarities between Recruiters and Recruits Can Make an Organization More Diverse." *McGill Sociological Review* 4:1-18.

Public Engagement

Somashekhar, Mahesh and Giacomo Negro. 2020. "Commentary: Chicago is Right to Study Whether Gay-Owned Businesses Should Get Contract Set-Asides." *Chicago Tribune*, January 30, p. A16.

Somashekhar, Mahesh. 2019. "Why Some Immigrant Entrepreneurs Thrive Where African-American Entrepreneurs Cannot." *Work in Progress: Sociology on the Economy, Work and Inequality* (http://www.wipsociology.org/2019/08/07/why-some-immigrant-entrepreneurs-thrive-where-african-american-entrepreneurs-cannot/).

Policy Briefs

Boris, Elizabeth T., Loren Renz, Mark A. Hager, Rachel Elias, and **Mahesh Somashekhar**. 2008. *What Drives Foundation Expenses and Compensation?* Washington D.C.: Urban Institute.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Somashekhar, Mahesh. "The Entrepreneurship Patterns of Undocumented Mexican and Central American Immigrants in the United States." Under Review.

Somashekhar, Mahesh, Jason Orne, Giacomo Negro, and Fabrizio Perretti. "An Organizational Theory of Cultural Enclaves: The Case of Gay Villages in the United States."

WORKING PAPERS

Somashekhar, Mahesh, James Buszkiewicz, Scott W. Allard, and Jennifer Romich. "How Do Immigrant-Owned Firms Respond to Minimum Wage Increases? Evidence from Seattle."

Somashekhar, Mahesh, Chris Hess, Ian Kennedy, and Kyle Crowder. "Does Residential Segregation Always Mean Spatial Separation? Home Fortification in Mixed-Income Neighborhoods across the United States."

Orne, Jason and **Mahesh Somashekhar**. "The Spatial Consolidation of Businesses into Philadelphia's Gayborhood, 1945-2015."

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

Faculty Fellow, UIC Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy, 2019-2020

Funded Participant, Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute on Migration Research Methods, 2020

Funded Participant, University of Cincinnati Conference on Quantitative Approaches to Studying Gentrification in the United States, 2019

Scholarship Recipient, University of Washington Summer Institute in Statistics and Modeling in Infectious Diseases (Module on Spatial Statistics in Epidemiology and Public Health), 2017

University of Washington Office of Postdoctoral Affairs Travel Grant, 2017 ($600)

AAG Business Geography Specialty Group Student Paper Award, 2015

Funded Participant, Berkeley Summer Workshop in Formal Demography, 2015

Visiting Affiliate, University of Maryland Population Research Center, 2014-2015

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

As Professor, University of Illinois-Chicago

SOC 201: Introductory Sociological Statistics
SOC 300: Introduction to Sociological Research Methods
SOC 401: Sociological Statistics

As Instructor, University of Washington

SOC/STAT/CSSS 221: Statistics for the Social Sciences
SOC 215: Urban Sociology
PB AF 565: GIS and Public Policy

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

"Racial Inequality between Gentrifiers: How the Race of Gentrifiers Affects Retail Development in Gentrifying Neighborhoods."
Wichita State University, Wichita, KS, 2020
Northwestern University, Chicago, IL, 2019
University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2018

"Neither Here nor There? How the Changing Geography of Ethnic Minority Entrepreneurship Disadvantages African Americans."
University of California-Riverside, Riverside, CA, 2020
Evans School of Public Policy and Governance, Seattle, WA, 2016

"Rethinking Data Science for the Social Sciences: Urban Sociology."
University of Washington, Seattle, WA, 2016

"The Expanding Geography of Ethnic Economies and Its Effect on Immigrant Entrepreneurs and Workers."
Georgetown University, Washington, DC, 2014

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Can We Bring Culture into the Large-Scale Study of Gentrification? Assessing the Possibilities Using Geodemographic Marketing Data."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 2020

"Can We Measure Gentrifiers in Addition to Measuring Gentrification? The Possibilities Using Geodemographic Marketing Data."
Conference on Quantitative Approaches to Studying Gentrification in the United States, Cincinnati, OH, 2019

"Where Goes the Gayborhood? The Evolution of LGBTQ Organizational Clusters in the U.S."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, 2019

"The Spatial Consolidation of Businesses into Philadelphia's Gayborhood, 1945 – 2015."
Organization of American Historians Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2019

"The Entrepreneurship Patterns of Undocumented Immigrants in the United States."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2018

"If You Build It, They Will Come: Retailers and Racial Gentrification."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, 2017

"The Diversity of Chain Retailers and the Communities They Enter."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, 2016

"Second-Generation Immigrant Entrepreneurship: An Intergenerational Success Story?"
Population Association of American Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 2016

"Reaching Out or Reaching In? On the Location of Suppliers to Firms in Resource Deprived Business Clusters."
Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2015

"New Destinations, Transnational Spaces, and the Importance of Long-Distance Social Ties to the Most Marginalized Ethnic Entrepreneurs."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 2014
"Spatial Diversity in the Decline of Ethnic Economies during the Great Recession."
Population Association of American Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2014

"Did Ethnic Economies Buffer Immigrant Workers from the Effects of the Great Recession?"
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, 2014

"A Theoretical and Empirical Foundation for the Study of Non-Urban Ethnic Economies in the United States."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, 2013

"The Suburbanization of Ethnic Economies across America, 1990-2010."
Population Association of American Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, 2013

"Heterogeneity through Homophily? How Dyadic Similarities Can Make Organizations More Diverse."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV, 2011

"The Social Integration of the Civic Generation: Effects of World War II on Freemasonry in Anacostia, Washington DC."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 2010

"The Effects of World War II on Freemasonry in Anacostia, Washington DC."
Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, 2010

"What Drives Foundation Expenses and Compensation?"
ARNOVA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2007

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Service to the Discipline

Associate Editor, *Sociological Perspectives*, 2020-2022

Member, Jane Addams Article Award Committee, Community and Urban Sociology Section, *American Sociological Association*, 2021

Co-Organizer, Workshop on "Urban Homelessness and Underserved Communities."
Eighth International Conference on Social Informatics, Seattle, WA, 2016

Service to the University

Member, Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2020-2021

Member, Graduate Committee, Department of Sociology
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2019-2020

Advisory Committee Member, Inter-Disciplinary Social Science and Data Science Working Group
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2018-

Organizer, Quantitative Research Working Group
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2018-

Teaching Aide, "Version Control with Git."
University of Washington Software Carpentry Workshop, Seattle, WA, 2017

Meetings

Presider, Roundtable Sessions on "Organizations in Urban Sociology" and "Entrepreneurship."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, 2019

Discussant, Panel Session on "Segregation and Attitudes around the World."
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2017

Presider, Roundtable Session on "Race, Gender, and Class and Critical Analyses across Contexts."
American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 2014

Reviewer

Occasional Reviewer, *Academy of Management Entrepreneurship Division*, *American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, City & Community, Diaspora Studies, International Migration Review, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of Urban Affairs, PLOS One, Planning Perspectives, Social Forces, Sociological Perspectives, Sociological Theory*, *Urban Affairs Review, Urban Studies*

Memberships

American Sociological Association (ASA)
Population Association of America (PAA)
Association of American Geographers (AAG)
Urban Affairs Association (UAA)
Scholars Strategy Network (SSN)