

Jill Witmer Sinha

Curriculum Vita

Post-Doctoral Visiting Fellow
Princeton University
Center for the Study of Religion
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EDUCATION & AWARDS

- 2000-2004 University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Social Welfare, Ph.D.
Title of dissertation: *African American youth and communities of faith: Capitalizing on compassion, at risk for greatness.*
- 1993-1997 Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wynnewood, PA, Divinity, M. Div.
Presidential Scholarship, 1993
Middler Award, 1995
Ellen Cushing Scholarship, 1996
- 1988-1992 Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, Psychology, B.A.
Psychology Honors
Magna Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

The role and capacity of community organizations in the following: forming social capital; community economic development; civic and social discourse; individual and community transformation; and social change. This includes but is not limited to social service provision and community organizing by faith based organizations and congregations in the United States and internationally.

The role and impact of religion or faith in adolescents' attitudes, behaviors, and life choices. Whether religious involvement functions as a pro-social influence on adolescents' engagement in the following areas is of interest: involvement in school-related or extracurricular activities, risk behaviors, and sense of purpose in life.

Social science research which respects the contributions of participants and seeks to benefit the community: this includes but is not limited to designing research according to the guidelines of participatory action research and giving special consideration to ethical concerns within minority or disenfranchised populations and youth.

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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| 2004-2005 | Princeton University, Princeton, NJ <i>Center for the Study of Religion</i> | Post Doctoral Fellow |
| 2004 | The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC <i>Faith and Organizations Research Project</i> Analyzed integration of religious values and traditions in social service program. | Research Consultant |
| 2002-2004 | University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA Faith- and Community-Based Demonstration Project see http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ccf/citizens/citz_resrch/citz_resrch_uopenn.html | Co-Principal Investigator |
| 1999-2004 | University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA <i>Program for the Study of Organized Religion and Social Work</i> Obtained grants, coordinated, and trained interviewers for the Philadelphia Census of Congregations and co-organized community conference. Analyzed data sets using SPSS and disseminated results in articles, paper presentations, and technical reports. | Coordinator |
| 1999-2000 | Eastern Seminary, Wynnewood, PA <i>Communities, Congregations, and Leadership Development Project</i> Conducted two case studies using ethnographic methods, analyzed results and prepared extensive summary reports. Co-authored articles on use of public funds by faith-based entities. | Researcher |
| 1996-1999 | Frankford Group Ministry, Philadelphia, PA <i>Services to Children in their Own Home (SCOH)</i> Facilitated individual and family service plans for youth at risk of neglect and abuse through home visitation. | Case Worker |
| 1994-1997 | Christian Community Health Fellowship, Philadelphia, PA | Editorial Asst. |
| 1991-1992 | Philadelphia Committee for the Homeless, Philadelphia, PA Developed and implemented survey and wrote technical report for state level advocacy for provision of medical services for homeless. | Research Associate |

GRANTS

- 2002-2004 Grant from Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Compassion Capital Fund, grant No. 90EW0002/01 to study “Exploring the impact of a faith-based program for at risk youth” (\$193, 456).
- 2002-2003 Grant from Department of Human Services, City of Philadelphia, to provide community and faith-based alternative education and social services for truant youth (\$120,000).
- 2001 Grant from Department of Human Services, City of Philadelphia, to convene strategic community networking and planning conference (\$15,000).
- 2001-2002 Grant from The Annie E. Casey Foundation, to conduct survey and write report on the re-integration of ex-prisoners through faith-based programs (\$26,000).
- 2000-2003 Doctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Work

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| 2004 | Lutheran Theological Seminary <i>Research Methods</i> | Adjunct Faculty |
| 2003 | Temple University <i>Introduction to Social Research</i> | Adjunct Faculty |
| 2002-2003 | University of Pennsylvania <i>Introduction to Social Work Research</i> | Teaching Assistant |
| 1996-1999 | Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary <i>Theological Foundations, Homiletics</i> | Teaching Assistant |

TEACHING COMPETENCIES

Social Research: Methods and Evaluation

Social Welfare: History, Policy, and Theory

Community Development, Evaluation, and Policy

Child Welfare

Spirituality/Religion in Practice and Research

Religion in Public Life

PUBLICATIONS

- Sinha, J. W., & Cnaan, R. A. (2004). *Exploring the impact of a faith-based demonstration program for at-risk youth*. Washington, DC: Administration for Children and Families, Health and Human Services. Technical report submitted.
- Sinha, J. W., Hillier, A., Cnaan, R. A., & McGrew, C. (2004). *Proximity matters: Understanding resident and commuter congregations through an ecological framework*. Manuscript submitted for publication.
- Sinha, J. W., Cnaan, R. A., & Gelles, R. (2004). *Is Religion relevant for teenagers? Impact of religion on risk behavior*. Manuscript submitted for publication.
- Sinha, J. W. (2005). *Studying faith and community-based interventions: methodological challenges*. Social Thought: Journal of Religion in the Social Services (in press).
- Unruh, H. R. & Sinha, J. W. (in press). Transitional Journey Ministry: A church-based welfare to work partnership model. In D. K. Ryden & J. Polet (Eds.), *Sanctioning Religion? The Constitution and faith-based public services*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.
- Cnaan, R. A., Gelles, R. J., & Sinha, J. W., (2004). Youth and religion: The Gameboy generation goes to "church." *Social Indicators Research*, 68, 175-200.
- Cnaan, R. A., Sinha, J. W., & McGrew, C. C. (2004). Congregations as social service providers: Services, capacity, culture, and organizational behavior. *Administration in Social Work*, 28(3/4), 47-68. Also in: H. Schmid (Ed.), *Organizational and institutional dilemmas of nonprofit human services*. Binghamton, NY: Haworth (in press).
- Cnaan, R. A., Kang, J. J., McGrew, C. C., & Sinha, J. W. (2003). Identiteit meetbaar maken: Gedachten van de andere kant van de Atlantische Oceaan (Incorporating religious identity into organizational identity: Thoughts from the other side of the Atlantic ocean). *Bulletin Onderwijs & Inspiratie*, 32 (5), 23-25.
- Sinha, J. W., Cnaan, R. A., Jones, D. L., & Dichter, S. (2003). Analysis of a collaborative faith-based demonstration project: The unique capacity of congregation- and community-based collaboration. In the Independent Sector *The Role of Faith-based Organizations in the Social Welfare System Spring Research Forum Working Papers* (pp. 159-168). Washington, DC: Independent Sector Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy.
- Rolland, H. U. & Sinha, J. W. (2001). Churches and public funds: risks or rewards? *Prism*, 6(3), 11-13
- Sinha, J. W., (2000) Cookman United Methodist Church and Transitional Journey: A Case Study in Charitable Choice. Charitable Choice Tracking Project, The Center for Public Justice

PRESENTATIONS

- Sinha, J. W. *African American Youth and Communities of Faith*. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, October, 2004.
- Sinha, J. W. *Results from Impact Study of NPC-UMC Demonstration Project*. Future Search II Conference, North Philadelphia United Methodist Churches, September 2004

- Sinha, J. W. & McGrew, C. C. *Proximity matters: Understanding resident and commuter congregations through an ecological framework*. Association for the Sociology of Religion, 66th Annual Meeting, August, 2004.
- Sinha, J.W., Williams, S., McCloud, F. *Exploring the Impact of a Faith-Based Program for At Risk Youth*. Rockefeller Institute of Government Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy Fall Research Conference, November, 2003
- Sinha, J. W. *Youth At Risk and God At Bay? Imago Dei in Their Own Words*. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, October 2003
- Sinha, J. W., Jones, D. L., Cnaan, R. A. & Dichter, S. *Analysis of a collaborative faith-based demonstration project*. Independent Sector Spring Research Forum, March 2003
- McGrew, C., Frazier, B., & Sinha, J. W. *Faith-based re-entry and reintegration of ex-prisoners*. Central Baptist Church, February 2003
- Cnaan, R.A., Gelles, R. & Sinha, J.W. *At-Risk youth, religion and risk behaviors*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, November 2002
- Sinha, J. W. *Communication with the Divine? Methodological concerns for interpreting religious experience*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, November 2002
- Sinha, J. W. *Philadelphia Census and Black Church*, Center for Urban Theological Studies, March 2002
- Sinha, J. W. *Using GIS in Survey Research*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, October 2001
- Sinha, J. W. *Cookman United Methodist Church and Transitional Journey: A Case Study in Charitable Choice*, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference, May, 1999

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY SERVICE

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| 2004-2005 | Lutheran Theological Seminary Philadelphia, PA | External Reviewer Doctoral Thesis |
| 2004 | Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion | Peer Reviewer |
| 2002-2004 | St. Vincent's Learning Lab for Adults Philadelphia, PA | Tutor |
| 2002-2004 | University of Pennsylvania School of Social Work | Colloquium Committee Research Committee |

PROFESSIONAL & PERSONAL AFFILIATIONS

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| 1999-present | <i>Society for the Scientific Study of Religion</i> |
| 2002-present | <i>Spirituality, Religion and Health Interest Group</i> , University of Pennsylvania and Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania |
| 2002-present | <i>Philadelphia Urban Coalition</i> , Philadelphia Leadership Foundation |
| 2004-present | <i>Society for Social Work Research</i> |
| 2004-present | <i>Association for the Sociology of Religion</i> |