

Marcus R. Donaldson

Arizona State University
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Education

Expected end 2028 - Ph.D., Sociology, T. Denny Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics, Arizona State University
2021 - M.S., Justice Studies, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University
2015 - B.S., Criminal Justice and Criminology, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Metropolitan State University of Denver

Areas of Interest

Justice and Equity in Sport, Community Sports, Sports Sociology, Community and Black Empowerment, Police Violence, Critical Race Studies, Guns in Society.

Work Experience

2024–Present - **Doctoral Research Assistant**, *BRIDGS Initiative, Arizona State University*

Supported by the Russell Sage Foundation, The American Gun Experience (AGE) is a groundbreaking initiative to create a nationally representative database focused on U.S. firearm survivors. This effort is based on 500 in-depth interviews and 2,000 survey responses. Currently leading a team of undergraduate researchers through the entire research design, running meetings, conducting data analysis, interviews, and will soon be co-authoring and publishing findings.

2023–2024 - **Doctoral Research Assistant**, *Center for Work and Democracy, Arizona State University*

Worked alongside the project lead researching the financial impact that police misconduct has on the city of Minneapolis, managed and created databases, and conducted archival research. Conducted in-person interviews across the Greater Phoenix area with contemporary working-class Americans to understand their economic values and thoughts on work and politics.

2021–2022 - **Community Resilience Coordinator**, *Office of Sustainability and Resilience, City of Tempe*

Recruited, hired, and managed a 5-person team dedicated to enhancing youth efficiency and involvement in urban cooling projects. Facilitated cross-sector collaboration with nonprofits, policymakers, academics, and international experts on environmental initiatives. Pre-planned, executed, and evaluated racial equity trainings, gave City Council and University presentations, and copy-edited Tempe's 2022 Climate Action Plan Update.

2017–2021 - **Lead Teacher**, *Aim High Organization, San Francisco, California and Remote*
Implemented in-person and online academic lessons, curriculums, and field trips for 90 students to foster engagement and growth. Created equitable and culturally responsive learning environments for students by leading diversity and inclusion presentations, anti-racism workshops, and cross-campus teacher training. Conferred with stakeholders and donors to discuss funding opportunities and community involvement.

2019–2021 - **Teaching Assistant**, *Women and Gender Studies and Justice Studies, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University*
Executed daily course responsibilities including attending classes, delivering lectures, grading papers, assignments, and exams, hosting in-person and virtual office hours with students each week, and providing feedback on course performance for up to 300 undergraduate students.

2020 - **Course and Curriculum Developer**, *African and African American Studies, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University*
Curated content for two courses, *The Global History of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade* and *Unruly Voices: Black Women and Cultural Narrative*, which was transferred from online to in-person classes. Analyzed articles, texts, and media for suitable curriculum material and met with faculty to discuss findings under the supervision of Dr. Mako Fitts Ward.

Teaching, Conferences, and Invited Presentations

2024 - **Poster Presenter**, “It’s More Than a Game: The NBA Foundation’s Role in Promoting Black Empowerment in Western U.S. Cities,” Institute for Social Science Research Spring 2024 Poster Competition, Arizona State University

2024 - **Guest Lecturer**, “JUS 521: Qualitative Data Analysis,” Graduate Course, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Guest lectured on conducting focus group analysis, developing a sound research design, navigating graduate school, and how to disseminate research.

2023 - **Guest Lecturer**, “JUS 521: Qualitative Data Analysis,” Graduate Course, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Conducted a Q&A session with masters, 4+1, and doctoral students on the research design process and ethical procedures when conducting internet-mediated focus groups on sensitive topics.

2022 - **Guest Lecturer**, “JUS 521: Qualitative Data Analysis”, Graduate Course, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Presented findings from my M.S. thesis, “Circulating Racial Trauma: How Black College-Age Students Experience and Cope with Police Brutality on Social Media,” and discussed data mining, storage, and the interview and focus group transcription process.

2021 - **Guest Lecturer**, “JUS 500: Justice Research Methods,” Graduate Course, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Presented findings from M.S. thesis, “Circulating Racial Trauma: How Black College-Age Students Experience and Cope with Police Brutality on Social Media,” and discussed the research process from pre-planning to publication.

2020 - **Guest Lecturer**, “JUS 500: Justice Research Methods,” Graduate Course, School of Social Transformation, Arizona State University

Lectured on formulating solid research questions, conducting focus groups in virtual settings, researching during a pandemic, and racial trauma on social media.

2020 - **Speaker**, “A Conversation on Christianity and Race,” Banner Church, Scottsdale, Arizona

Discussed the intersections of race and faith and how U.S. churches should respond to racism in the church and Christian communities.

Volunteer Experience/Memberships

2025–Present - **American Association for the Advancement of Science**, Member

2023–Present - **American Sociological Association**, Member

2021–2022 - **Sustainable Cities Network**, Member

2020–2022 - **Leadership Institute Fellow**, Aim High Organization

Publications

Donaldson, M. R. (2024, April 22). *It's More Than a Game: The NBA Foundation's Role in Promoting Black Empowerment in Western U.S. Cities*. Institute for Social Science Research Spring 2024 Poster Competition, Tempe, AZ. <https://tinyurl.com/33rd43au>

Donaldson, M. R. (2023). Book Review: Drawing Deportation. *International Migration Review*, 58(1), 482-484. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183231220292>

Donaldson, M. R. (2021). Op-Ed: Why you should never share videos of police violence against Black people. *AZ Central*. <https://tinyurl.com/4857rsf9>

References

Scott Brooks, Ph.D.

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Associate Professor, The Sanford School of Social and Family Dynamics,

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