

Esther Sullivan

- esthersullivan.net -

University of Colorado Denver, Department of Sociology
Campus Box 105, PO Box 173364, Denver, CO 80217

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

urban sociology, inequality & poverty, law & governance, housing, health, residential relocation

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado Denver, 2021 – present

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Colorado Denver, 2015 – 2021

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago	English	B.A. 2004
The University of Texas at Austin	Sociology	M.A. 2009
The University of Texas at Austin	Sociology	Ph.D. 2015

PUBLICATIONS

Books

2018 Esther Sullivan. *Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans' Tenuous Right to Place*. University of California Press.

- Robert Park Book Award, 2019, American Sociological Association
- Author Meets Critic Sessions: Law and Society Association 2019, Pacific Sociology Association 2020
- Reviewed in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Contemporary Sociology*, *City & Community*, *Law & Society Review*, *Journal of Law and Society*, *City, Housing and Society*
- Featured in: National Public Radio (NPR), National Geographic Explorer, Last Week Tonight with John Oliver, *The New Yorker*

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2022 Rumbach, Andrew, Esther Sullivan, Shelley McMullen, and Carrie Makarewicz. "You Don't Need Zoning to be Exclusionary: Manufactured Home Parks, Land-use Regulations and Housing Segregation in the Houston Metropolitan Area." *Land Use Policy* 123.

2022 Sullivan, E. "Personal, not real: Manufactured housing insecurity, real property, and the law." *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, 18(1): 119-138

2022 Esther Sullivan, Carrie Makarewicz, and Andrew Rumbach. "Affordable but Marginalized: A Sociospatial and Regulatory Analysis of Mobile Home Parks in the Houston Metropolitan Area." *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 88(2): 232-244.

- 2021 Esther Sullivan. "Becoming visible in the public sphere: Mobile home park residents' political engagement in city council hearings." *Qualitative Sociology*, 44(3), 349-366.
- 2021 Noah Durst, Esther Sullivan, Huiqing Huang, and Hogeun Park. "Building Footprint-Derived Landscape Metrics for the Identification of Informal Subdivisions and Manufactured Home Communities in South Texas." *Land Use Policy* 101: 105158.
- 2020 Andrew Rumbach, Esther Sullivan and Carrie Makarewicz. "Mobile Home Parks and Disasters: Understanding Risk to the Third Housing Type in the U.S." *Natural Hazards Review* 21 (2): 5020001.
- 2019 Noah Durst and Esther Sullivan. "The Contribution of Manufactured Housing to Affordable Housing in the United States: Assessing Variation among Manufactured Housing Tenures and Community Types." *Housing Policy Debate* 29 (6): 880-898.
- 2017 Esther Sullivan. "Moving Out: Mapping Mobile Home Park Closures to Analyze Spatial Patterns of Low-Income Residential Displacement" *City & Community* 16 (3): 304-329.
- 2017 Esther Sullivan. "Displaced in Place: Manufactured housing, mass eviction, and the paradox of state intervention." *American Sociological Review* 82 (2): 243-269.
- 2016 Esther Sullivan. "(Un)Intentional Community: Power and expert knowledge in a sustainable lifestyle community." *Sociological Inquiry* 86 (4): 540-562
- 2016 Esther Sullivan. "Individualizing Utopia: Individualist Pursuits in a Cohousing Community." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 45 (5): 602-627.
- 2015 Esther Sullivan and Carlos Olmedo. "Informality on the Urban Periphery: Housing Conditions and Self-help Strategies in Texas Informal Subdivisions." *Urban Studies* 52 (6): 1038-1053.
- 2014 Esther Sullivan. "Halfway Homeowners: Eviction and Forced Relocation among Homeowners in Manufactured Home Parks in Florida." *Law & Social Inquiry* 39 (2): 474-497. *Winner of American Bar Foundation *Law & Social Inquiry* Graduate Paper Prize.
- 2011 Esther Sullivan and Peter M. Ward. "Sustainable housing applications and policies for low-income self-build and housing rehab." *Habitat International* 36 (2): 312-323.

Book Reviews

- 2022 *Owning the Street: The Everyday Life of Property*. By Amelia Thorpe. *Contemporary Sociology*
- 2020 *The Sex Offender Housing Dilemma: Community Activism, Safety, and Social Justice*. By Monica Williams. *American Journal of Sociology* 125 (1): 319-321.

Other Scholarly Publications

- 2018 Esther Sullivan. “Dignity Takings and “Trailer Trash:” The case of mobile home park mass evictions.” *Chicago-Kent Law Review* 92 (3): 937-959.
- 2017 Esther Sullivan. “Manufactured homeowners live at risk of eviction – state policies can improve housing insecurity or make it worse.” London School of Economics American Politics and Policy forum (USAPP): <http://bit.ly/2fWFi6p>
- 2015 Esther Sullivan and Edna Ledesma. “Same Trailer, Different Park.” *Contexts* Winter.
- 2014 Esther Sullivan and Carlos Olmedo. “Away from cities, informal developments provide affordable housing for those on low incomes, but conditions are often poor.” London School of Economics American Politics and Policy forum (USAPP): <http://bit.ly/1qCK57B>
- 2010 “Urban Sustainability and Renewable Energy Applications for Colonia-Type Housing in the Southern U.S.” Latin America Housing Network Report.

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

National Science Foundation, Mapping Informal and Alternative Housing in the United States: A Big Data Approach for Examining Spatial Inequality. Co-Principal Investigator with Noah Durst (PI). Awarded August 2020: \$359,208

National Science Foundation. Empowering Environmental Justice Communities with Smart and Connected Technology: Air and Noise Pollution, Wellbeing, and Social Relations in Times of Disruption. Co-Principle Investigator with Shelly L Miller (PI, CU Boulder) and Shivakant Mishra (Co-PI). Awarded July 2020: \$1,800,000

University of Colorado Denver Chancellor’s Urban Engaged Scholar: 2019-2020.

The TIAA Chancellor’s Urban Engaged Scholars program recognizes outstanding contributions of CU Denver faculty to the Denver metro region through community-engaged scholarship that addresses current urban issues, involves community partners, and engages graduate and undergraduate students. \$4000

National Science Foundation. Collaborative Research Supplemental Grant: Modeling the Vulnerability of Mobile Home Parks to Disaster: A Longitudinal Study of Affordable Housing Loss after Hurricane Harvey.

National Science Foundation. Principle Investigator with Andrew Rumbach (PI, Texas A&M), Carrie Makarewicz (Co-PI, CU Denver) and Shannon Van Zandt (Co-PI, Texas A&M). Awarded May 2019: \$73,226

National Science Foundation. Collaborative Research: Modeling the Vulnerability of Mobile Home Parks to Disaster: A Longitudinal Study of Affordable Housing Loss after Hurricane Harvey. National Science Foundation (CMMI #1825341). Principle Investigator with Andrew Rumbach (PI, Texas A&M), Carrie Makarewicz (Co-PI, CU Denver) and Shannon Van Zandt (Co-PI, Texas A&M). Awarded September 2018: \$595,096

Quick Response Grant - Hurricane Harvey, Mobile Homes and Flood Risk. The Natural Hazards Center. December 2017: \$1,995

“Hurricane Harvey, Mobile Homes and Flood Risk.” Office of Research Services, University of Colorado Denver, October 2017: \$21,427

CU Denver Collaborative Research Fellowship, June 2016, \$4000

CU Denver New Faculty Grant, March 2016: \$12,468

CU Denver High Impact Practices Writing Intensive Courses Learning Communities Grant, \$2000

CU Denver ORS National Science Foundation Grants Conference Travel Grant, 2015: \$1200

CU Denver CLAS Dissemination Grant, 2015: \$1000

American Fellowship, American Association of University Women, 2014: \$20,000.

American Association of University Women Texas Chapter Dissertation Fellowship, 2014: \$2500.

National Science Foundation and American Sociological Association travel grant for International Sociological Association XVIII World Congress, 2014: \$1500.

William C. Powers Fellowship, The University of Texas at Austin, 2012: \$36,000.

Harry E. and Bernice M. Moore Fellowship, Hogg Foundation for Mental Health, 2012: \$20,000.

Dean's Prestigious External Fellowship supplement, The University of Texas, 2012: \$1,000.

Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies Grant, 2011: \$10,000.

INVITED TALKS

Plenary Address: Innovations in Manufactured Housing. In Prosperity Now / I'M Home. Prosperity Now. September 21, 2021

New York University. “Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans’ Tenuous Right to Place.” New York, NY. October 30, 2020

Manufactured Housing Communities Coalition of Virginia, Plenary Address. October 5, 2020.

Stanford University. “Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans’ Tenuous Right to Place.” Palo Alto, CA. May 7, 2020.

American Bar Foundation. “Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans’ Tenuous Right to Place.” Chicago, IL. February 5, 2020.

Georgetown University Sociology of Housing Symposium. 2019. “Private Poverty Housing: Mobile Home Parks and the Financialization of Affordable Housing” Washington D.C. October 4, 2019.

Rice University Sociology Lecture Series. “Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans’ Tenuous Right to Place.” Houston, TX. October 22, 2019.

Columbia University Lectures in Planning. “Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans’ Tenuous Right to Place.” New York, NY. November 26, 2018.

University of Arizona, Department of Geography, Graduate Symposium. “Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans’ Tenuous Right to Place.” October 11, 2018.

“The Socio-Spatial Dimensions of Disaster Risk in Mobile Home Parks: Learning From the 2013 Colorado Floods.” Center for Science and Technology Policy Research (CSTPR) at the Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences (CIRES), a partnership of the University of Colorado Boulder and NOAA. November 2017.

Plenary Address: “Housing as a Social Determinant of Health.” Public Health in the Rockies. Keystone, CO. October 4th, 2017.

Plenary Address: “Manufactured Insecurity.” I’M Home Conference. Prosperity Now. Providence, RI. October 2-4, 2017.

Invited Presentation: Geospatial Mapping of Mobile Home Park Insecurity in Texas. I’M Home Conference. CFED. San Antonio, TX. November 14-16, 2016.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Manufactured Home Parks, Land-Use Regulations and Housing Segregation in the Houston Metropolitan Area.” Association of American Geographers, Annual Conference. February 25, 2022

“Identifying manufactured home parks and mapping disaster exposure in the Houston Metropolitan Area.” Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning, Annual Conference. October 18, 2021

“Housing and Hazards: How Should We Protect Vulnerable Homes?” UCLA Luskin Center for Innovation Housing Symposium. September 9, 2021

“Beyond the Owner-Renter Divide in Disaster Planning: A Geographical Analysis of Mobile Home Park Damage and Recovery after Hurricane Harvey.” Carrie Makarewicz, Esther Sullivan, Andrew Rumbach. American Association of Geographers. Denver, CO. April 10, 2020

“Building Footprint-Derived Landscape Metrics for the Identification of Informal Subdivisions in South Texas.” Noah Durst and Esther Sullivan. American Association of Geographers. Denver, CO. April 10, 2020

“The financialization of affordable housing, the case of mobile home parks.” Esther Sullivan. American Association of Geographers. Denver, CO. April 10, 2020

Book Salon for *Manufactured Insecurity: Mobile Home Parks and Americans' Tenuous Right to Place*. Pacific Sociological Association. Eugene, OR. March 27, 2020

"Mobile Home Parks and Disasters: The Vulnerability of America's Third Housing Type." Andrew Rumbach, Esther Sullivan, Carrie Makarewicz. American Sociological Association. New York, NY. August 10, 2019.

"Mobile Home Parks and Disasters: The Vulnerability of America's Third Housing Type." Andrew Rumbach, Esther Sullivan, Carrie Makarewicz. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Greenville, SC. October 25, 2019.

"Mobile Home Parks and Disasters: The Vulnerability of America's Third Housing Type." Andrew Rumbach, Esther Sullivan, Carrie Makarewicz. Natural Hazards Researchers Meeting. Broomfield, CO. July 17, 2019

"The Contribution of Manufactured Housing to Affordable Housing in the US: Assessing Variation among Manufactured Housing Tenures and Community Types" Noah Durst and Esther Sullivan. Urban Affairs Association. Los Angeles, CA. April 25, 2019

"Do Mobile Homes Affect Wealth?: Analysis of a Cohort Entering Adulthood During the Mobile Home Boom." Brian Levy and Esther Sullivan. American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA. August 12, 2018

"The Social Life of the Housing Crisis." Esther Sullivan. American Anthropological Association, Washington DC. December 3rd, 2017.

"Halfway Homeowners, Halfway Citizens: Mobile Home Parks and Uneven Recovery after the 2013 Colorado Floods." Esther Sullivan. Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning. Denver, CO. October 27, 2017

"Daily life under the 'specter of dislocation.'" Esther Sullivan. American Sociological Association. Montreal, Canada. August 14th, 2017.

"Property takings and mobile home park evictions." Esther Sullivan. Law & Society Association. Mexico City, Mexico. June 23rd 2017.

"Dignity Takings and 'Trailer Trash'" Esther Sullivan. Chicago Kent Law School Symposium. Chicago, IL. November 4, 2016.

"Displaced in Place: Social Policy and Forced Relocation from Mobile Home Parks in Comparative Perspective," Esther Sullivan. Social Science History Association, Baltimore MD, November 12-15, 2015

"Mapping mass eviction: Geospatial analysis of closed mobile home parks in the greater metropolitan area of Houston TX." Esther Sullivan. American Sociological Association, Chicago IL, August 21-25, 2015

“State governance of mass eviction in low-income mobile home communities,” Esther Sullivan. Law & Society Association, Seattle WA, May 28-30 2015.

“Managing mass eviction: Forced relocation in mobile home parks and the paradox of state intervention,” Esther Sullivan. American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA, August 16-19, 2014.

“Assessing housing’s contribution to poor health: a mixed-method geospatial and case study approach in Texas informal periurban communities,” Esther Sullivan. International Sociological Association World Congress, Yokohama, Japan, July 17-20, 2014.

“Halfway Homeowners: Eviction and Forced Relocation among Homeowners in Manufactured Home Parks in Florida,” Esther Sullivan. American Sociological Association, New York, NY, August 10-13, 2013.

“Informal Development in Low-income Communities: Housing Conditions and Self-help Strategies in Informal Subdivisions in Texas,” Esther Sullivan. International Sociological Association RC43 Conference: At home with the Housing Market, Centre for Urban Studies, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, July 10-12, 2013.

“Informal Development in Low-income Communities: Housing Conditions and Self-help Strategies in Informal Subdivisions in Texas,” Esther Sullivan. American Sociological Association, Denver, CO, August 18th, 2012.

“Manufacturing Insecurity: Assessing Eviction and Displacement of Mobile Home Park Residents,” Esther Sullivan. American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV, August 20th 2011.

“(Un)Intentional Community: Legitimizing Power in a Collectivist Organization,” American Sociological Association, Atlanta GA, August 17th 2010.

“Community when Convenient: Individualist Pursuits in a Communal Organization,” Esther Sullivan. British Sociological Association, Glasgow, Scotland April 7th 2010.

“Sustainable Home Retrofitting Technologies for Low-Income Communities and *Colonias*,” Esther Sullivan. Latin American Housing Network Policy Conference, Austin TX, May 2010.

“The Nature of the Innerburbs in Comparative Perspective,” Esther Sullivan. Latin American Housing Network Policy Conference, Austin TX, April 2009.

PUBLIC DISSEMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP

Public Talks

TEDxMileHigh Talk. Ellie Caulkins Opera House, Denver, July 7, 2017:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gV8Cy8rIock>

Policy Blogs

Urban Institute, *How Housing Matters*: <https://howhousingmatters.org/articles/different-state-policies-affect-evicted-manufactured-homeowners/>

Media

HBO *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver*, “Mobile Homes,” April 8, 2019.

Colorado Public Radio, “Colorado Matters.” On-air interview May 23rd, 2017:

<http://www.cpr.org/news/story/the-denver-metros-hunger-for-housing-is-squeezing-its-few-mobile-home-parks>

VOX Curbed. “Mobile-home parks represent changing face of affordable housing challenge”:

<https://www.curbed.com/2017/11/10/16633964/mobile-home-parks-represent-changing-face-of-affordable-housing-challenge>

Huffington Post: “Why Some Cities Are Buying Mobile Home Parks” :

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/why-some-cities-are-buying-trailer-parks_us_59ef4eebe4b08bce72fe03b2?section=us_huffpost-partners

The Denverite: <https://www.denverite.com/mobile-homes-35666/>

National Geographic, “National Geographic Explorer.” Season 10, Episode 8, “Mobile Home

Economics: <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/explorer/videos/mobile-home-economics/>

Houston Press, “Houston's Trailer Parks Offer Cheap Housing in a Pricey City, But With a Catch”

May 23rd, 2017: <http://www.houstonpress.com/news/houstons-trailer-parks-offer-cheap-housing-but-leave-residents-vulnerable-9485409>

The Atlantic, CityLab, “The Other Affordable Housing Crisis”:

<http://www.citylab.com/housing/2015/09/the-other-affordable-housing-crisis/406405/>

Follow-up in *The Atlantic* CityLab, “One thing HUD Can Do To Help Save Trailer Parks”:

<http://www.citylab.com/housing/2015/09/one-thing-hud-can-do-to-save-trailer-parks/407395/>

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Subject matter consultant: Colorado Center on Law and Policy
- Subject matter consultant: 9 to 5 Colorado Anti-eviction Campaign
- Subject matter consultant: PlaceMatters
- Subject matter consultant: CO State Senator John Kefalas (CO District 14),
- Subject matter consultant: Resilient Together Colorado,
- Subject matter consultant: Aurora City Council
- Subject Matter Expert: Denver Channel 7 ABC News, *The Aurora Sentinel*, *The Denver Post*, *The Austin Chronicle*, *The Arizona Daily Sun*, PEW Charitable Trust Stateline, San Francisco Public Radio, Southern California Public Radio, Colorado Public Radio, *Bloomberg*, *Reuters*

PRODUCED PLAYS

“One Week in October” An original play exploring the life, death, and revolutionary writings of Frantz Fanon. Produced at The University Theatre, Chicago, May 2004.

*Winner of the Olga and Paul Menn Foundation Prize for dramatic literature.

“Benched” An original play debuted at The New Playwright’s Festival. Miami, 2000.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- American Sociological Association, Robert Park Book Award Committee, 2020
- Law & Society Association, Collaborative Research Committee on Socio Legal Approaches to Property, Board Member 2016-2018
- Law & Society Association, Conference Session Organizer, Socio Legal Approaches to Property, June 2018
- Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, Conference session Discussant, “Property Policy Impacts.” June 2018
- American Sociological Association, Sociology of Law Section Distinguished Book Award Committee, 2018
- Referee of scholarly manuscripts: *American Sociological Review*, *Sociological Forum*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Law & Social Inquiry*, *International Development Planning Review*, *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, *Planning Theory*

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Member: American Sociological Association (Sections on Community and Urban Sociology and Inequality, Poverty and Mobility), British Sociological Association, Urban Affairs Association