

WILLIAM JULIUS WILSON BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIOGRAPHY:

William Julius Wilson is Lewis P. and Linda L. Geyser University Professor at Harvard University. He is one of only 19 University Professors, the highest professional distinction for a Harvard faculty member. After receiving the Ph.D. from Washington State University in 1966, Wilson taught sociology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, before joining the University of Chicago faculty in 1972. In 1990 he was appointed the Lucy Flower University Professor and director of the University of Chicago's Center for the Study of Urban Inequality. He joined the faculty at Harvard in July of 1996.

Past President of the American Sociological Association, Wilson has received 41 honorary degrees. A MacArthur Prize Fellow from 1987 to 1992, Wilson has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Academy of Education, the American Philosophical Society, the Institute of Medicine, and the British Academy. In June 1996 he was selected by Time magazine as one of America's 25 Most Influential People. He is a recipient of the 1998 National Medal of Science, the highest scientific honor in the United States, and was awarded the Talcott Parsons Prize in the Social Sciences by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2003.

Other honors granted to Wilson include the Seidman Award in Political Economy (the first and only noneconomist to receive the Award); the Golden Plate Achievement Award; the Distinguished Alumnus Award, Washington State University; the American Sociological Association's Dubois, Johnson, Frazier Award (for significant scholarship in the field of inter-group relations); the American Sociological Association's Award for Public Understanding of Sociology; Burton Gordon Feldman Award ("for outstanding contributions in the field of public policy") Brandeis University; and the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Award (granted by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Los Angeles).

Professor Wilson is a member of numerous national boards and commissions, and was previously the Chair of the Board of The Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences and of the Russell Sage Foundation.

MEDIA:

<http://www.michaelfauntroy.com/2009/06/new-audio-michael-fauntroy-and-william-julius-wilson-discuss-racism.html> [discussion between WJW and Michael Fauntroy]

<http://www.wnyc.org/shows/lopate/episodes/2009/03/26> [Leonard Lopate Show]

<http://forum.wgbh.org/lecture/there-goes-neighborhood> [There goes the neighborhood lecture]

WORKS (CHRONOLOGICAL):

Wilson, William Julius. *More than Just Race: Being Black and Poor in the Inner City (Issues of Our Time)*, New York: Norton, W. W. & Company, Inc., 2009.

FROM PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION: A preeminent sociologist of race explains a groundbreaking new framework for understanding racial inequality, challenging both conservative and liberal dogma. In this provocative contribution to the American discourse on race, author William Julius Wilson applies a new analytic framework to three politically fraught social problems: the persistence of the inner-city ghetto, the plight of low-skilled black males, and the fragmentation of the African American family. Though the discussion of racial inequality is typically ideologically polarized--conservatives emphasize cultural factors like worldviews and behaviors while liberals emphasize institutional forces--Wilson dares to consider both institutional and cultural factors as causes of the persistence of racial inequality. He reaches the controversial conclusion that, while structural and cultural forces are inextricably linked, public policy can change the racial status quo only by reforming the institutions that reinforce it. This book will dramatically affect policy debates and challenge many of the leaders.

REVIEWS:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/10/arts/10iht-bookthu.1.20729849.html>

<http://www.slate.com/id/2213618/pagenum/all>

<http://www.theroot.com/views/why-more-just-race-matters>

Wilson, William Julius, Taub, Richard P. *There Goes the Neighborhood: Racial, Ethnic, and Class Tensions in Four Chicago Neighborhoods and Their Meaning for America*, Vintage, 2007.

FROM WIKIPEDIA: *There goes the Neighborhood* by William Julius Wilson and Richard P. Taub was written in 2006 and is an investigation about racial, ethnic and class tensions in four Chicago neighborhoods. The four Neighborhoods, Beltway, Dover, Archer Park and Groveland are found in the south and west side of Chicago (Fictitious names were chosen to protect their identities). Beltway was chosen as being the white neighborhood, Dover was chosen as being the white neighborhood in transition, Archer Park was chosen as being the Latino neighborhood, and Grovel as being the African American neighborhood.

REVIEWS:

<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/01/07/books/review/Price.t.html?pagewanted=2>

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/12/14/AR2006121401482.html>

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=89421354> (NPR piece)

Wilson, William Julius; Elliot, Delbert; Menard, Scott; Rankin, Bruce; Elliot, Amanda. *Good Kids From Bad Neighborhoods: Successful Development in Social Context*, Cambridge University Press, 2006.

FROM PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION: This is a study of successful youth development in poor, disadvantaged neighborhoods in Denver and Chicago - a study of how children living in the worst neighborhoods develop or fail to develop the values, competencies and commitments that lead to a productive, healthy responsible adult life. While there is a strong focus on neighborhood effects, the study employs a multicontextual model examining both the direct effects of the neighborhood ecology, social organization and contexts embedded in the neighborhood. The unique and combined influence of the neighborhood, family, school, peer group and individual attributes on developmental success is estimated. The view that growing up in a poor, disadvantaged neighborhood condemns one to a life of repeated failure and personal pathology is revealed as a myth, as most youth in these neighborhoods are completing the developmental tasks of adolescence successfully.

REVIEWS:

http://www.upi.com/Health_News/2006/12/15/Good-kids-from-bad-neighborhoods/UPI-38671166197276/

Wilson, William Julius. *The Bridge over the Racial Divide: Rising Inequality and Coalition Politics*, University of California Press, 2001.

FROM PUBLISHER DESCRIPTION: In a work that will significantly influence the political discussion with respect to race and class politics, one of the country's most influential sociologists focuses on the rising inequality in American society and the need for a progressive, multiracial political coalition to combat it. The culmination of decades of distinguished scholarship, *The Bridge over the Racial Divide* brilliantly demonstrates how political power is disproportionately concentrated among the most advantaged segments of society and how the monetary, trade, and tax policies of recent years have deepened this power imbalance. Developing his earlier views on race in contemporary society, William Julius Wilson gives a simple, straightforward, and crucially important diagnosis of the problem of rising social inequality in the United States and details a set of recommendations for dealing with it. Wilson argues that as long as middle- and working-class groups are fragmented along racial lines, they will fail to see how their combined efforts could change the political imbalance and thus promote policies that reflect their interests. He shows how a vision of American society that highlights racial differences rather than commonalities makes it difficult for Americans to see the need and appreciate the potential for mutual political support across racial lines.

REVIEWS:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/product-description/0520229290/ref=dp_proddesc_0?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books
<http://www.nfg.org/reports/73bridge.htm>
<http://uchicagolaw.typepad.com/faculty/2008/11/when-good-kids.html>

Wilson, William Julius. *When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor*, Vintage, 1997.

FROM PBS DESCRIPTION: More often than not, politicians, journalists and social activists paint simple portraits of the impoverished. The mostly-black residents of America's inner-cities, for example, are often depicted as deprived due either to laziness or racism. But in the book "When Work Disappears: The World of the New Urban Poor," Dr. William Julius Wilson, a Harvard sociologist, creates a more complex picture of the forces shaping inner city neighborhoods. While not denying that "ghetto" culture and racism are factors in urban

poverty, Dr. Wilson believes the joblessness created by the loss of manufacturing jobs and the "suburbanization" of America, are in fact more responsible for the isolation and continued poverty of America's inner cities. The same shifts in the economy that make it difficult for all Americans to maintain their standard of living are hurting the inner city poor, Wilson says in his book, just at a much greater extent. Wilson's solution: programs that fight poverty but also help the working and middle classes. Wilson is a proponent of work programs modeled after Depression-era projects that offered jobs to anyone who needed one. He also argues that the creation of universal health care, a national child care system and national education standards as well as improvements and expansions of public transportation and job training would make the jobs created in a new global economy accessible to the inner city poor. Furthermore, they would also help the struggling working and middle classes.

REVIEWS:

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/product-](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/product-description/0679724176/ref=dp_proddesc_0?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books)

[description/0679724176/ref=dp_proddesc_0?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/product-description/0679724176/ref=dp_proddesc_0?ie=UTF8&n=283155&s=books)

http://www.markorton.com/In_Depth/Reviews/WhenWorkDisappears_Wilso.html

<http://journalism.nyu.edu/portfolio/books/book289.html>

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/forum/november96/wilson_11-29.html (PBS special)

Wilson, William Julius. *The Truly Disadvantaged: The Inner City, the Underclass, and Public Policy*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1990.

FROM NY TIMES REVIEW: *The Truly Disadvantaged* should spur critical thinking in many quarters about the causes and possible remedies for inner city poverty. As policy makers grapple with the problems of an enlarged underclass they—as well as community leaders and all concerned Americans of all races—would be advised to examine Mr. Wilson's incisive analysis. —Robert Greenstein, *New York Times Book Review*

REVIEWS:

<http://www.nytimes.com/books/98/12/06/specials/wilson-disadvantaged.html>

<http://rrp.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/20/4/159>

Wilson, William Julius. *The Declining Significance of Race: Blacks and Changing American Institutions*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1980.

FROM Pierre van den Berghe, "Sociology and Social Research: This new paperback edition includes a major new essay in which William Julius Wilson not only reflects on the debate surrounding his book, but also presents a provocative discussion of race, class, and social policy." Wilson has written a profound and provocative book that is destined to become a classic in the field. He has articulated the issues with which future researchers will have to deal. Truly, he has made a contribution to social science."--Wilson Record, "American Journal of Sociology" "The intellectual strength of this book lies in his capacity to integrate disparate findings from historical studies, social theory and research on contemporary trends into a complex and original synthesis that challenges widespread assumptions about the cause of black disadvantage and the way to remove it."--Paul Starr, "New York Times Book Review" This is a short but important book. . . . Wilson presents a cogent and convincing interpretation of how the changing political and economic structure of the United States profoundly affected the position of black Americans."--

REVIEWS:

<http://www.jstor.org.proxy.lib.ohio-state.edu/stable/656719?&Search=yes&term=%22declining+significance+of+race%22&list=hide&searchUri=%2Faction%2FdoBasicSearch%3FQuery%3D%2522declining%2Bsignificance%2Bof%2Bbrace%2522%26wc%3Don%26dc%3DAll%2BDisciplines&item=4&t1=696&returnArticleService=showArticle>