

Laura J. Napolitano, PhD
Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
405-407 Cooper Street Camden, NJ 08102
Laura.napolitano@rutgers.edu

Employment

2013- Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey - Camden
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Graduate School Faculty (2019-)

September 2011- Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
August 2013 *Harold A. Richman Postdoctoral Fellow*

Education

2011 University of Pennsylvania
Ph.D. in Sociology

2007 University of Pennsylvania
M.A. in Sociology

2004 Saint Joseph's University
B.S. in Sociology

Areas of Interest

Family Support; Transition to Adulthood; Barriers to Support; Criminal Justice System and the Family; Child Welfare; Social Inequality; Qualitative Methods

Peer Reviewed Publications

Siegel, Jane and **Laura Napolitano**. "Adult and Child Visiting at Urban Jails: Visitor and Inmate Perspectives on Visiting Experiences and Policies." Forthcoming, *The Prison Journal*.

Stansfield, Richard, Thomas J. Mowen, **Laura Napolitano**, and John Boman. 2020. "Examining Change in Family Conflict and Family Violence After Release from Prison." *Criminal Justice and Behavior*, online first. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0093854820913311>.

Previ, Barbara*, **Laura Napolitano**, Michelle Meloy and Kristin Curtis. 2020. "Pathways Into College And Away From Crime: Perspectives of Black and Latino/a Youth Growing Up in Single-Mother Households In One of America's Most Dangerous Cities." *Children and Youth Services Review* 108, 104561. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2019.104561>.

Huo, Meng*, **Laura Napolitano**, Frank Furstenberg and Karen Fingerma. 2020. "Who Initiates the Help Older Parents Give to Midlife Children." *Journals of Gerontology: Series B* 75(4):907-918.

Tucker, Shelby*, Michelle Meloy, **Laura Napolitano**, Michelle Lyttle Storrod,* and Kristin Curtis. 2019. "Mentoring Vulnerable Youth in One of America's Most Dangerous Cities: From Tough Homes and Violent Streets to College Classrooms." *Youth Justice* 19(3):262-277.

Parsons, Jeanna*, Anne H. Gauthier, Sigrid Luhr*, Roberta R. Iversen, and **Laura Napolitano**. 2018. "Caught in Between: Neoliberal Rhetoric and Middle-Income Families in Canada and the United States." *Journal of Family Studies* 24(2):170-186.

Tevington, Patricia*, **Laura Napolitano**, and Frank Furstenberg. 2017. "Financing Children's Futures: Economic Strategies and Attitudes towards Postsecondary Education among Middle Income Families." *Sociological Forum* 32(4):726-747.

Pryce, Julia, **Laura Napolitano**, and Gina M. Samuels. 2017. "Transition to Adulthood of Former Foster Youth: Multi-Level Challenges to the Help-Seeking Process." *Emerging Adulthood* 5(5):311-321.

Napolitano, Laura. 2015. "I'm Not Going to Leave Her High and Dry': Young Adult Support to Parents During the Transition to Adulthood. *The Sociological Quarterly* 56(2):329-354.

Napolitano, Laura, Shelley Pacholok, and Frank F. Furstenberg. 2014. "Educational Aspirations, Expectations, and Realities for Middle-Income Families." *Journal of Family Issues* 35(9) 1200-1226.

Dworsky, Amy, **Laura Napolitano**, and Mark Courtney. 2013. "Homelessness During the Transition from Foster Care to Adulthood." *American Journal of Public Health* 103(S2):S318-S323.

Cherry, Carol, Mary Ropka, Jennifer Lyle, **Laura Napolitano**, and Mary Daly. 2013. "Understanding the Needs of Women Considering Risk Reducing Bilateral Salpingo-Oophorectomy." *Cancer Nursing* 36(3):E33-E38.

Iversen, Roberta R., **Laura Napolitano**, and Frank F. Furstenberg. 2011. "Middle-Income Families in the Economic Downturn: Challenges and Management Strategies Over Time." *Longitudinal and Life Course Studies* 2(3):286-300.

Kefalas, Maria, Frank Furstenberg, Patrick J. Carr, and **Laura Napolitano**. 2011. "Marriage is More than Being Together: The Meaning of Marriage for Young Adults." *Journal of Family Issues* 32(7): 845-875.

Reprinted in *Crossings to Adulthood: How diverse young Americans understand and navigate their lives*, T.S. Swartz, D. Hartmann, and R.G. Rumbaut (editors). Boston: Leiden.; *Family in Transition: Sixteenth Edition*, A.S. Skolnick and J.H. Skolnick, (editors). Boston: Pearson.; *The Family Issues Reader*, C. Shehan (editor). London: Sage.

Napolitano, Laura. 2010. "'You Can't Count on Nobody in Life:' Homeless Youth and the Transition to Adulthood." *Sociological Studies of Children and Youth* 13:107-130.

Carr, Patrick J., **Laura Napolitano**, and Jessica Keating. 2007. "We Never Call the Cops and

* denotes graduate student co-author

Here is Why: A Qualitative Examination of Legal Cynicism in Three Philadelphia Neighborhoods.” *Criminology* 45(2):445-480.

Manuscripts in Progress

Napolitano, Laura, Frank Furstenberg, and Karen Fingerman. “How Families Give and Receive: A Qualitative Study of Support Exchanges.” *Revise and Resubmit*

Siegel, Jane, Kate Luther, and **Laura Napolitano**. “Longitudinal Perspectives on Mother-Child Separation due to Incarceration.” In *Incarcerated Mothers and their Children: Separation, Loss, and Reunification*, edited by J. Poehlmann-Tynan and D. Dallaire. Springer. *Revise and Resubmit*

Stansfield, Richard, Daniel Semenza and **Laura Napolitano**. “The Risk of Family Violence after Incarceration: An Integrative Review.” *Revise and Resubmit*

Napolitano, Laura, Patricia Tevington, Patrick Carr and Maria Kefalas. “‘Longer than I would’ve originally liked and originally thought:’ Postsecondary Debt and Marriage Plans for Young Adults Coming of Age in the Great Recession.” *Under Review*

Napolitano, Laura and Jane Siegel. “Selective Fathering and Child Visitation at a Local Child.” *In Progress*

Policy Briefs

Napolitano, Laura, Yafit Sulimani-Aidan, and Mark E. Courtney. 2015. “Extended Foster Care in California: Youth and Caseworker Perspectives.” Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Napolitano, Laura and Mark E. Courtney. 2014. “Residential Settings for Young Adults under AB 12: A Preliminary Investigation.” Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Courtney, Mark E., Pajarita Charles, Nathanael J. Okpych*, **Laura Napolitano** and Katherine Halsted*. 2014. “Findings from the California Youth Transitions to Adulthood Study (CalYOUTH): Conditions of Foster Youth at Age 17.” Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Courtney, Mark, Amy Dworsky and **Laura Napolitano**. 2013. “Providing Foster Care for Young Adults: Early Implementation of California’s Fostering Connections Act.” Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Dworsky, Amy, **Laura Napolitano**, Elizabeth Barisik, Swathi Reddy, Martha Simon. 2013. The Demoiselle-2-Femme (D2F) Pregnancy Prevention Program Evaluation: Findings from the First Baseline Survey. Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago.

Other Written Work

Napolitano, Laura. 2016. “Review of *The Long Shadow: Family Background, Disadvantaged Urban Youth, and the Transition to Adulthood*.” *Contemporary Sociology* 45(3): 279-280.

Awards and Fellowships

- 2020 Research Council Grant, Rutgers University - \$5000
- 2020 Provost's Fund for Research – Catalyst Grant, Rutgers University - Camden \$7500
- 2020 Writing and Design Lab Fellow, Rutgers University – Camden
- 2019 *Opportunity Youth Research Project*, Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities and the Community Change Influence Unit of the Annie E. Casey Foundation (*Not funded, Proposal in Top 3*) \$30,000
- 2018 OASIS Leadership and Faculty Development Fellow, Rutgers University
- 2016 Digital Teaching Fellowship, Rutgers University - Camden
- 2014-2015 *Qualitative Interviews in the Family Exchanges Study II*, MacArthur Network on Transitions to Adulthood Laura Napolitano (PI) and Karen Fingerman (coinvestigator), \$25,000.
- 2014 Civic Engagement Faculty Fellow, Rutgers University – Camden
- 2011-2013 Harold A. Richman Postdoctoral Fellowship, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago
- 2012 Building Careers for Research in Child Maltreatment and Intimate Partner Violence: Early Career Scholar Training Program
- 2005-2010 William Penn Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2010 Gertrude and Otto Pollak Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2009 Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students
- 2009 Gertrude and Otto Pollak Summer Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2007 Conference travel funding, University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences

Conference presentations

Tevington, Patricia and **Laura Napolitano**. 2019. “Life and Debt for Young Adults Coming of Age in the Great Recession.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY.

Napolitano, Laura and Jane Siegel. 2018. “Children’s Visitation at a Local Jail: Incarcerated Fathers’ Perspectives.” Paper presented at the annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.

Napolitano, Laura. 2018. “Young Adults, Foster Care, and Homelessness.” Presented at Rutgers University – Camden Chancellor’s Research Spring Symposium, *Fair Housing Act at 50: Successes, Failures and Opportunities*, Camden, NJ.

Napolitano, Laura. 2018. “Family Support, Higher Education and the Transition to Adulthood.” Presented at the Annual Conference of the Working Class Studies Association, Stony Brook, NY.

Napolitano, Laura and Jane Siegel. 2017. "Conducting Research in Jails: Unique Challenges, Crucial Perspectives." Paper presented at the annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Philadelphia, PA.

Siegel, Jane, **Laura Napolitano** and Brianna Chrzanowski*. 2016. "Visitor and Prisoner Views on Visitation Policies and Practice in an Urban Jail System." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, New Orleans, LA.

Siegel, Jane, **Laura Napolitano**, Mark Bodrog*, Matthew Hackman* and Brenna Stone*. 2015. "Visiting Mom or Dad in Jail: A Comparison of Child-Parent Visitation in Male and Female Jails." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Washington D.C.

Kefalas, Maria, Patrick Carr, Patricia Tevington* and **Laura Napolitano**. 2015. Redshirting and Real Jobs: Job-Seeking for Elite, Middle and Working Class College Graduates during the Great Recession." Paper presented at Youth, Jobs, and the Future: Solutions to Youth Unemployment Conference, sponsored by Hunter College of the City University of New York and the University of California at Berkeley's Institute for the Study of Societal Issues, New York, NY. (Invited presentation).

Tevington, Patricia*, **Laura Napolitano** and Frank F. Furstenberg. 2015. "Financing Children's Futures: Economic Strategies and Attitudes towards Postsecondary Education among Middle Income Families." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

Napolitano, Laura and Mark E. Courtney. 2015. "Residential Settings of Young Adults under AB12: A Preliminary Investigation." Paper presented at the Society for Social Work and Research annual conference, New Orleans, LA.

Siegel, Jane and **Laura Napolitano**. 2014. "Child and Family Visitation at a Local Jail." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

Napolitano, Laura, Patricia Tevington*, and Frank F. Furstenberg. 2014. "Middle-Income Families and the Great Recession: Examining Challenges Over Time." Paper accepted at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA. (Declined presentation due to medical condition.)

Pryce, Julia, **Laura Napolitano**, and Gina Miranda Samuels. 2012. "The Role of Mentors in the Lives of Young Adults Who Have Aged Out of the Child Welfare System." Paper presented at the Biennial Meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development, Tampa, FL.

Napolitano, Laura. 2012. "A Higher Education Mismatch: Beliefs and Experiences of Low Income Youth in Higher Education." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Denver, CO.

Napolitano, Laura. 2011. "Education Aspirations, Expectations, and Realities for Middle-Income Families in the United States." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV.

Napolitano, Laura. 2011. "'I Just Wanna Be a Good Person: A Longitudinal, Qualitative Examination of Criminal Behavior and the Transition to Adulthood.'" Paper presented at the University of Pennsylvania Urban Ethnography Workshop, Philadelphia, PA.

Iversen, Roberta Rehner, **Laura Napolitano** and Frank Furstenberg. 2011. "Middle-Income Families and Economic Downturn: Changes and Continuities Over Time." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Social Work and Research, Tampa, FL.

Napolitano, Laura. 2010. "Why Some Things Change and Others Stay the Same: A Longitudinal, Qualitative Examination of Criminal Behavior and the Transition to Adulthood." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, San Francisco, CA.

Napolitano, Laura. 2010. "I Just Wanted to be Close: Geographic (Im)Mobility and the Transition to Adulthood." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA.

Napolitano, Laura. 2010. "Struggling to Achieve: A Qualitative, Longitudinal Examination of the Transition to Adulthood." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Boston, MA.

Napolitano, Laura. 2009. "The Qualitative Interview as Interaction Ritual." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA.

Napolitano, Laura. 2009. "Families in the Middle: A Qualitative Examination of Middle Income Families in the United States." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Society, Baltimore, MD.

Carr, Patrick J. and **Laura Napolitano.** 2008. "What Moms Supply: An Analysis of Delinquent and Non-delinquent Girls in Three High Crime Philadelphia Neighborhoods." Paper presented at The American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO.

Kefalas, Maria, Frank F. Furstenberg, Patrick J. Carr and **Laura Napolitano.** 2007. "Marriage is More than Being Together: Mapping the Meaning of Marriage and the Transition to Adulthood." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY.

Napolitano, Laura. 2007. "You Can't Count on Nobody in Life: Homeless Youth and the Transition to Adulthood." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological, Philadelphia, PA.

Carr, Patrick, **Laura Napolitano**, Joshua Power, and Kara Power. 2006. "I Want To Be Making It and Going to School: Risk, Resilience and the Educational Experiences of Homeless Youth." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Quebec.

Keating, Jessica and **Laura Napolitano**. 2004. "We Never Call the Cops and Here's Why: A Qualitative Examination of Legal Cynicism and Informal Social Control in Three Philadelphia Neighborhoods." Paper presented at the American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN.

Napolitano, Laura. 2004. "Preliminary Findings of the Philadelphia Youth Study." Paper presented at the Eastern Sociological Society's Annual Meeting, New York, NY.

Teaching

Rutgers University, Camden

Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice

Assistant Professor

Sociology of Family; Methods and Techniques of Social Research
(Fall 2013, 2015-2019; Spring 2014- 2016, 2019**, 2020**)

University of Pennsylvania

Department of Sociology

Instructor

The Family (Spring 2010)

Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Sociology (Spring 2008); Sociology of Media and Popular Culture
(Spring 2007); The Family (Fall 2006)

Media

Interviewed and quoted in article entitled "It costs more than \$70,000 a year for a Philadelphia family of four to live without help; in the suburbs, up to \$88,000." *Philadelphia Inquirer*, February 17, 2020.

Interviewed and quoted in article entitled "Big reward, few answers in Camden girl's slaying." *Courier Post* (NJ), September 16, 2016.

Service to the Discipline

Ad hoc Reviewer: *Criminology, American Journal of Sociology, American Sociological Review, Social Problems, Child and Family Social Work, Journal of Interpersonal Violence, The Sociological Quarterly, Children and Youth Services Review, Journal of Family Issues*

2019 Special Session Organizer and Discussant "Youth, Young Adults and Homelessness" American Sociological Association Annual Meeting
2017 ASC Local Arrangements Committee, American Society of Criminology Annual Meeting

** Taught as civic engagement course

2017 Session Organizer “Conducting Research in Jails: Opportunities and Challenges”
2015 Roundtable Discussant, Family Violence Roundtable, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting

University Service

2019- Ad hoc committee on Civic Engagement and the Tenure Process, Rutgers University - Camden
2018-2020 Faculty Senate, Member at Large, Rutgers University- Camden
2015-2020 Admissions and Retention Committee, Rutgers University- Camden
2010 Selection Committee for Penn Prize for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Students, University of Pennsylvania

Department Service

2019- Undergraduate Program Coordinator
2015- Budget Committee Chair
2017 Search Committee – Assistant professor position
2014 General Education Requirement: Department Planning Committee

Professional Memberships

American Sociological Association; American Society of Criminology