

**MARIA KEFALAS**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY**  
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## **EDUCATION**

Ph.D.                Sociology, University of Chicago, 1999  
M.A.                Sociology, University of Chicago, 1995  
B.A.                Economics, Wellesley College, 1989

## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

Culture  
Family  
Inequality  
Urban and Community Studies

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

Faculty Merit Award for Excellence in Research, Saint Joseph's University, 2003  
Rutgers University, Childhood Studies Seminar, Junior Faculty Fellow, 2003-2004  
MacArthur Foundation, Associate Member, Network on the Transitions to Adulthood, 2002 to present  
Vida Dutton Scudder Dissertation Fellowship, 1996-1997  
University of Chicago, Unendowed University Fellowship, 1992-1996  
Wellesley College Chair at Brookings, 1989-1990  
Wellesley College Scholar, Wellesley College, 1989

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

### *Books*

Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas, *Promises I Can Keep: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2005.

Kefalas, Maria, *Working-Class Heroes: Protecting Home, Community and Nation in a Chicago Neighborhood*, Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 2003.

### *Articles and Book Chapters*

Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas, "Unmarried Because They Value Marriage," *Washington Post*, May 1, 2005, B3.

Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas, "Unmarried with Children," *Contexts*, Volume 3 (2), (*Forthcoming*) May 2005.

Edin, Kathryn, Maria Kefalas, and Joanna Reed, "A Peek Inside the Black Box: What Marriage Means to Low-Income Unmarried Parents," Symposium on the Future of Marriage and Cohabitation, *Journal of Marriage of Family*, Volume 66 (4), November 2004.

Kefalas, Maria, "Rethinking Class and Culture in the Case of Single Motherhood," In *Blackwell Companion to the Sociology of Culture*, Eds. Mark Jacobs and Nancy Weiss Hanrahan, Malden, MA: Blackwell Press, February 2005.

Kefalas, Maria, "Chicago's Last Garden Spot," *Contexts*, Volume 1(3), Fall 2002.

#### *Reviews*

Kefalas, Maria, "Book Review: *Race in the Schoolyard*," *American Journal of Sociology*, March 2004.

Kefalas, Maria, "Book Review: *The Secret Lives of Girls*," *Violence Against Women*, March 2004.

#### *Works in Progress*

Carr, Patrick and Maria Kefalas. Working title: *Coming of Age in Ellis, Iowa*. Book manuscript.

Kefalas, Maria, "Looking for Middle America," Herbert Gans Symposium, *City and Community*, (Forthcoming: date for publication to be announced)

Kefalas, Maria, Frank Furstenberg, and Laura Napolitano. "Someday I'll Get Married: Meanings and Context of Marriage in Early Adulthood." Paper to be submitted for review in Spring 2005.

Kefalas, Maria and Kathryn Edin, "What Motherhood Does: The Social Meaning of Motherhood and Children Among Low-Income Single Mothers." Paper submitted for review in April 2005.

Carr, Patrick and Maria Kefalas. "Straight from the Heartland: Coming of Age in Ellis, Iowa," in *Coming of Age in America*, Eds. Patrick Carr, Jennifer Holdaway, Maria Kefalas, and Mary Waters.

Carr, Patrick and Maria Kefalas, "How Do We Keep Young People From Leaving," Op-Ed piece submitted to *Los Angeles Times*.

#### **RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2003-2004 Rutgers University, Junior Fellow in Childhood and Children Studies, Camden, NJ \$3000

2003 Faculty Development Grant, Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA \$5,000.

2002 Program Evaluation: Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, Pew Charitable Trust, Philadelphia, PA \$25,000.

- 2002 -2005 Transitions to Adulthood Network, Heartland Project, Charles D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago, IL, \$ 300,000.
- 2001 Co-Principal Investigator with Kathryn Edin, William T. Grant Foundation, New York, NY, \$71,207.76.

## **TEACHING, RESEARCH, AND RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE**

- July 2002 – present Associate Member, Transitions to Adulthood Network, John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, Chicago, IL.
- Principal Investigator for the Heartland Study, a qualitative study examining the transitions to adulthood among 104 young adults (aged 20 to 31-years-old) who attended high school in a rural Iowa town during the early and mid – 1990s. The data will be used as part of a national study funded by the MacArthur Foundation examining how an ethnically, racially, geographically and economically diverse group of “twenty-somethings” achieve the turning points of adulthood (specifically marriage, children/family formation, education, and work) paying particular attention to civic participation, religious life, military experience, the impact of September 11<sup>th</sup>, and notions of identity and success. See <http://www.pop.upenn.edu/transad> for more information.
- Aug. 2001- present Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Faculty Fellow, Institute for Violence Research and Prevention, Saint Joseph’s University, Philadelphia, PA
- Aug. 2000- Aug. 2001 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Barnard College, Columbia University, New York, NY
- Sept. 1998 - July 2000 Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
- Co-Principal Investigator William T. Grant Foundation grant with Kathryn Edin at the University of Pennsylvania's Population Studies Center. In the study, we explore the meaning of motherhood, marriage and the social role of children in a comparative study of low-income African American, Latina, and white single mothers in Philadelphia, PA and Camden, NJ.
- Fall 1996 - Fall 1997 Visiting Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Illinois-Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- 1993-1996 Researcher, Comparative Neighborhood Study, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.
- Principal Investigators: William J. Wilson and Richard Taub. Field researcher in a Southwest Side Chicago neighborhood studying all aspects of community life as part of a comparative neighborhood study of four working-class/lower-middle-class neighborhoods.
- 1996-1998 Coordinator, Culture and Society Workshop, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL.

1989-1990

Research Assistant, Brookings Institution, Washington, DC.

### **SELECTED PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas, "How Motherhood Transforms the Lives of Poor Women," University of Pennsylvania, School of Social Work, Colloquium Series, February 19, 2005.

Kefalas, Maria, "When Girlhood Ends and Motherhood Begins: How Childbearing Transforms the Lives of Low-Income, Single Mothers," Schubert Center for Child Development, Girlhood Lecture Series, Case Western University, Cleveland, OH, October 27, 2004.

Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas, "How Motherhood Transforms the Lives of Poor Women," Invited Paper Session, Section on the Sociology of Culture, Reproduction of Poverty and Privilege, American Sociological Association Meetings, San Francisco, CA, August 15, 2004.

Carr, Patrick and Maria Kefalas, "Straight Out of the Heartland: Transitions to Adulthood Among Rural Iowa Adults," MacArthur Foundation's Transitions to Adulthood Conference, University of Pennsylvania, December 4-5, 2003

Kefalas, Maria, "Childrearing Strategies and Philosophies Among Low-Income, Single, Latina, White, and African American Mothers," Childhood Studies Seminar Series, Rutgers University, October 22, 2003.

Edin, Kathryn and Maria Kefalas, "What Every Republican (And Some Democrats) Want to Know: Why Poor Women Put Motherhood Before Marriage," Harvard University, Weiner Inequality and Social Policy Seminar Series, Cambridge, MA, April 14, 2003.

Kefalas, Maria, "Labor of Love: Meaning and Motherhood Among Low-Income Single Mothers," Department of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, October 18, 2002.

Kefalas, Maria, "Domesticity, Bungalows, and Working-Class Identity", Race/Ethnicity, Self/Culture, and Inequality Conference, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 15-19 2002.

Kefalas, Maria, "Home Sweet Home: The Cultural Landscape of Working-Class Wives and Mothers," Department of Sociology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, March 13, 2002.

Kefalas, Maria, "Working-Class Heroes: Insights on the Cultural Landscape of the Working Class," Casey Journalism Center's Conference "Reporting on Working Families," University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, October 11, 2001.

Kefalas, Maria, "Labor of Love: Motherhood, Meaning, and Making 'Order' Among Low-Income Single, White Mothers," Baruch College School of Public Affairs Faculty Development Seminar Series, New York, NY, October 23, 2001.

Kathryn Edin and Maria Kefalas, "What Role Do Children Play in the Lives of Low-Income Single Mothers?" Special Paper Session on "Marginalized Families and Communities," Sponsored by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, American Sociological Association, Association of Black Sociologists, and Society for the Social Problems, Anaheim, CA, August 2001.

Kefalas, Maria, "Lawns and Order: The Meaning of Place and Home, " Presented at Princeton University, Culture and Inequality Workshop, Department of Sociology, October 1999.

**OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Reviewer: *American Sociological Review*, *American Journal of Sociology*, and *Sociological Forum*  
Membership Chair, Sociology of Culture Section, American Sociological Association