

How Things Fall Apart: Race, Gender and Suspicion in Police-Civilian Encounters



Date: April 7th, 2016

Time: 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Location: Room 112, Social Ecology I

Over the last year, the #BlackLivesMatter and #SayHerName campaigns have turned the nation's attention to the too-often troubled relationship between Black communities and the police. The video recordings of encounters that begin over seemingly minor infractions – like jaywalking – and end with force, including, at times, lethal force, leave us wondering: How do these encounters go so badly, so quickly? What role does race, gender or bias play in these encounters? In this talk, Professor Jones draws on years of field research among Black residents in urban neighborhoods, along with interviews with police officers and findings from the analysis of video recordings of police-civilian encounters (both citizen video and video collected in collaboration with law enforcement) to illustrate how race, gender and suspicion shape the earliest moments of police-civilian encounters. Professor Jones will share findings from her ongoing collaborative research in this area (with Geoffrey Raymond, UCSB and Kristin Precoda, SRI International), which reveals key interactional adjustments that could be used to improve the quality of police encounters with the public.

Nikki Jones is an associate professor in the Department of African American Studies at UC-Berkeley. Her research, writing and teaching focuses on the experiences of African American men, women and youth with the criminal justice system, policing and with various forms of violence. She is also a faculty affiliate with the Center for the Study of Law and Society; the Center for Race and Gender; and the Department of Women and Gender Studies at UC-Berkeley. Professor Jones' areas of expertise include urban ethnography, race and ethnic relations and criminology and criminal justice, with a special emphasis on the intersection of race, gender, and justice. She has published three books, including the sole-authored *Between Good and Ghetto: African American Girls and Inner City Violence* (2010), published in the Rutgers University Press Series in Childhood Studies (betweengoodandghetto.com). Her research appears in peer-reviewed journals in sociology, gender studies, and criminology. Jones' next book, *The Chosen Ones: Black Men, Violence and the Politics of Redemption* (forthcoming with University of California Press) draws on several years of field research in a San Francisco neighborhood to examine how African American men with criminal histories change their lives, and their place in the neighborhood once they do. Her current research efforts are focused on the systematic analysis of video records that document routine encounters between police and civilians, including young Black men's frequent encounters with the police.

Please RSVP by April 5th at: <http://cls.soceco.uci.edu/rsvpNikkiJonesColloquium>