

VICTOR TAN CHEN

Institute for Research on Labor and Employment
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EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley. National Science Foundation and American Sociological Association postdoctoral fellow (affiliated with the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment and the Department of Sociology). *2012-2014.*

Harvard University, PhD in Sociology and Social Policy. *2012.*

Harvard College, BA in History and Literature, magna cum laude. *1998.*

DISSERTATION

“Meritless: Unemployed Autoworkers, the Social Safety Net, and the Culture of Meritocracy in America and Canada.”

- *Committee:* William Julius Wilson (cochair), Katherine S. Newman (cochair), Bruce Western.
- *Labor and Employment Relations Association’s Thomas A. Kochan and Stephen R. Sleigh Best Dissertation Award.*

PUBLICATIONS

Chen, Victor Tan. *Meritless: Hard Times for the Unskilled and Unemployed and the Paradox of Meritocracy* (Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, under review).

Newman, Katherine S., and Victor Tan Chen. *The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America.* Boston: Beacon Press, 2007.

Chen, Victor Tan, and Katherine S. Newman. “Streetwise Economics.” In *Chutes and Ladders: Navigating the Low-Wage Labor Market*, edited by Katherine S. Newman. New York and Cambridge, MA: Russell Sage Foundation and Harvard University Press, 2006.

Chen, Victor Tan, and Katherine S. Newman. “The Missing Class: The Near Poor.” *Poverty & Race* 16, no. 6 (November/December 2007): 3-8.

Newman, Katherine S., and Victor Tan Chen. "The Crisis of the Near Poor." *The Chronicle of Higher Education* 54, no. 6 (2007): B10-11.

Chen, Victor Tan. "Global Confederates: From Social Movements to 'Movements of Movements,' the Strange Career of Global Justice Activism." Master's thesis, Harvard University, 2005. *Committee:* William Julius Wilson, Martin K. Whyte, Sidney G. Tarrow.

Chen, Victor. "Mariners, Renegades, and Cannibals: Class, Race, and Nation in the National Maritime Union, 1920-1950." Senior thesis, Harvard College, 1998.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Economic sociology; work and labor markets; social stratification and inequality; comparative social policy; qualitative methods.

HONORS AND GRANTS

Labor and Employment Relations Association. Cowinner of Thomas A. Kochan and Stephen R. Sleigh Best Dissertation Award, \$500 prize. *2012.*

Graduate Society, Harvard University. Dissertation Completion Fellowship. *2011-2012.*

Joblessness and Urban Poverty Research Program, Harvard University. Dissertation award, \$30,000 grant. *2009.*

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University. Canada Research Fellow, \$10,000 grant. *2009.*

Library Journal, Best Business Books of 2007. *The Missing Class* was named one of the two best books on the US economy. *2007.*

Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy. Doctoral fellowship, including a 2005 European Network on Inequality (ENI) fellowship at Sciences Po Paris. *2002.*

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Honorable mention. *2002.*

Jens Aubrey Westengard Fund. Harvard University award for summer research. *2002.*

Investigative Reporters and Editors. Computer-assisted reporting fellowship. *2000.*

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Instructor/Teaching Fellow

Sociology 96: Community Research Internship, Harvard University, Spring 2004

Designed and taught an undergraduate seminar in which students interned at nonprofit organizations and reflected on their public service through readings in sociology and other fields. As the course's sole instructor, developed course syllabus, assisted students in securing internships, led weekly discussions, invited guest speakers, evaluated response papers and term papers, and assigned grades.

Research Assistant

Harvard University, 2003-2004

Assisted with research that led to two publications:

- Newman, Katherine S. *Chutes and Ladders: Navigating the Low-Wage Labor Market*. New York and Cambridge, MA: Russell Sage Foundation and Harvard University Press, 2006.
- Putnam, Robert D. "E Pluribus Unum: Diversity and Community in the Twenty-first Century." *Scandinavian Political Studies* 30, no. 2 (2007): 137-74.

Editor in Chief

In The Fray Magazine, 2000-2004, 2011-present

Cofounded an online magazine devoted to personal stories on global issues, which has published articles from all seven continents and received national recognition from the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association, the National Press Photographers Association, and the Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation. As the magazine's volunteer editor, work closely with young writers, photographers, and artists to develop articles for publication. Manage and mentor other editors and staff members located across the country. Oversaw the launch of a redesigned site in 2011.

PRESENTATIONS AND MEDIA

Chen, Victor Tan. "Meritless: Blue-Collar Responses to Unemployment in a Culture of Meritocracy." Invited lecture at Stanford University's Economic Sociology Workshop. June 3, 2013.

Chen, Victor Tan. "'My Job Was Like My Mother and Father': The Impact of Social Policy on the Families of Unemployed Autoworkers in Detroit and Windsor." Invited lecture at the City College of New York's Social Science Seminar. December 1, 2011.

Chen, Victor Tan. Interview. *It's A New Day* (WJZD). June 24, 2009.

Chen, Victor Tan. Guest Speaker. "Journalism and the American Road." David Dent, Class Instructor. New York University. October 28, 2008.

Chen, Victor Tan. "The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America." Invited lecture at the New York Public Library, Mid-Manhattan Branch. December 10, 2007.

Newman, Katherine S., and Victor Tan Chen. "The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America." Invited lecture for *Book TV (C-SPAN2) / Cambridge Forum (WGBH)*. December 5, 2007.

Chen, Victor Tan. "The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America." Invited lecture at United for a Fair Economy, Boston. December 5, 2007.

Newman, Katherine S., and Victor Tan Chen. "The Missing Class: Portraits of the Near Poor in America." Invited lecture at the New America Foundation, Washington, DC. October 1, 2007.

Chen, Victor Tan. Interview. *Late Mornings with Jeff Schechtman* (KVON). September 24, 2007.

Chen, Victor Tan. Interview. *Sound Off with Sasha* (WVCU). September 7, 2007.

MEDIA REFERENCES TO WORK

Longhofer, Wesley, Shannon Golden, and Arturo Baiocchi. "A fresh look at sociology bestsellers." *Contexts*, Spring 2010.

Herbert, Bob. "Sharing The Pain." *New York Times*, March 11, 2008.

"Katherine Newman on The Missing Class." *Bill Moyers Journal*, November 2, 2007.

Herbert, Bob. "Send In the Clowns." *New York Times*, October 6, 2007.

Uchitelle, Louis. "Is There (Middle Class) Life After Maytag?" *New York Times*, August 26, 2007.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Computer: Stata, PHP, MySQL, CSS, HTML/XHTML, and Unix.

Journalism: Worked as a reporter for *Newsday*. Wrote for the *Miami Herald*, the *Oregonian*, the *Philadelphia Daily News*, and the *Minority Law Journal*. Organized and moderated panels on the media and civil rights at meetings of the Asian American Journalists Association and the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

Language: Proficient in reading, writing, and speaking Spanish (researcher-writer for the *Let's Go* travel guide for Chile; summer study at the University of León in Spain).

Nonprofit management: Served as president and executive director of In The Fray, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Managed board/staff in all areas, including grantwriting and marketing. Authored biennial report for the Asian American Federation of New York.