

Daniel Cornfield

Professor of Sociology at Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN, US

Expert in the American labor movement, the creative class, and work and occupation issues generally.

Biography

Dan Cornfield is Professor of Sociology, Political Science, and American Studies at Vanderbilt University, Editor-in-Chief of Work and Occupations, and a Fellow of the Labor and Employment Relations Association. His work on artist careers, labor, civil rights, and immigration addresses the formation of inclusive and expressive occupational communities and their impact on cultural pluralism. During his Fellowship year at the Curb Center, Cornfield and a team of sociology graduate students will examine the role of local arts agencies in promoting cultural equity and community engagement in the arts in the U.S. His *Beyond the Beat: Musicians Building Community in Nashville* (Princeton University Press) addresses how indie musicians strengthen their inclusive and diversifying peer community of artists in the contemporary era of the gig economy and heightened identity politics, based on his in-depth interviews with 75 Nashville popular-music musicians. Dan's work has been widely published in social science journals, including the *American Journal of Sociology*, *Social Forces*, and the *ILR Review*. Among his books are *Becoming a Mighty Voice* (Russell Sage Foundation) and *Worlds of Work* (Springer), co-edited with Randy Hodson. He has chaired the Metropolitan Nashville Human Relations Commission, advised WNPT (Nashville public television) in the production of its Emmy Award-winning documentary series on Nashville immigrants *Next Door Neighbors*, and presently advises the Future of Music Coalition on its artist revenue streams project and the National Endowment of the Arts on its research lab initiative, *The Arts, Creativity, Cognition and Learning*. Cornfield earned his BA (1974), MA (1977), and PhD (1980) all in sociology from the University of Chicago.

Areas of Expertise

Labor & Employment, Creative Class, Unionization, Labor Unions, Musicians

Affiliations

Sociological Research Association : Member, WNPT (formerly WDCN) Public Television Corporation : Chair, Community Advisory Board, American Sociological Association : Member, Asociación Latinoamericana de Sociología del Trabajo : Member, Southern Sociological Society : Member, Labor and Employment Relations Association : Member, Society for the Study of Social Problems : Member

Education

University of Chicago

Ph.D. Sociology

University of Chicago
M.A. Sociology

University of Chicago
B.A. Sociology

Accomplishments

2008-09 Harvie Branscomb Distinguished Professor Award
Vanderbilt University

Award for Affirmative Action and Diversity Initiatives
Vanderbilt University, 2000

Excellence in Education Award

Labor and Employment Relations Association (formerly, the Industrial Relations Research Association), 2000, for outstanding teaching in the academic area of sociology (inaugural year of this award)

Outstanding Graduate Teacher Award

College of Arts and Science, Vanderbilt University, 1993

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