

# Megan L. Jordan

Vanderbilt University  
Sociology Department

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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**2021** Summer Lecturer  
Department of Sociology  
Vanderbilt University

## EDUCATION

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**Current** Ph.D. Candidate in Sociology, Vanderbilt University  
*Dissertation Title: "A Labor of Love: The Emotional Dynamics of Activist Work"*  
*Committee: Joshua Murray, Alexandre Frenette, Bianca Manago, and Maria Magdalena Campos-Pons*

**2019** Master of Arts in Sociology, Vanderbilt University  

- *Exams in: Power Dynamics; Sociology of Emotions (Both passed with distinction)*
- *One of one master's level Graduate Student Marshal*

**2016** Bachelor of Science in Sociology, Jacksonville State University  
*Summa Cum Laude; Graduated with Honors*  
*Majors: Sociology (GPA:4.0) & Psychology (GPA:4.0)*

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

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Social Movements, Power, Artist Activism, Emotional Labor, Intersectionality, Work & Labor

## RESEARCH IN PREPARATION OR UNDER REVIEW

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Jordan, Megan. "The Emotional Labor of Activism: The Role of Love in Sustaining Movement Actors."  
Dissertation Research. Advisor: Dr. Joshua Murray.

Jordan, Megan. "Activist Burnout: Social Movement Actors as Workers." Dissertation Research. Advisor: Dr. Joshua Murray.

Jordan, Megan. "Power to the People: A Bottom-Up Approach to Racial Inequality Alleviation"

Jordan, Megan. "Boundaries and Potentials of Artist Activism: An Investigation of the Role of Artists in Movements of the Covid-19 X BLM Era."

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Peer Reviewed Articles*

Murray, Joshua, and **Megan L. Jordan**. 2019. "Sources of Continued Corporate Dominance." *Class, Race and Corporate Power* 7,2.

### *Opinion Editorial*

**Megan L. Jordan**, Joshua Murray, Michael Swartz, and Kevin A. Young. December 24, 2020. "When Black Movements Win, Everybody but the 1 percent Wins." *Truthout*. Op-ed. <https://truthout.org/articles/when-black-movements-win-everybody-but-the-1-percent-wins/>

### *Policy Reports, White Papers, and Gray Literature*

Cornfield, Daniel B., Rachel Skaggs, Elizabeth Barna, **Megan Jordan**, and Megan Robinson. 2018. "Equity and Engagement in the Arts: Regional Differences in the Missions of Local Arts Agencies in the United States." Policy Report of the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise and Public Policy.

Imran, Sarah, Ken Chilton, Tessa Edelman, Melody Fowler-Green, **Megan Jordan**, Ian Montgomery, Zac Oswald, Lauren Plummer, Sara Safransky, Austin Sauerbrei, and Rachel Underwood. 2018. "Understanding Nashville's Housing Crisis, Part 2: How do People Lose Their Homes?" Metro Human Relations Commission. [www.housing101.us](http://www.housing101.us)

Imran, Sarah, **Megan Jordan**, Rachel Underwood. 2018. "The State of Black Nashville: 50 Years Since the Assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr." Metro Human Relations Commission.

### *Published Artworks*

Jordan, Megan. 2019. *Lady Liberty*. Acrylic on Canvas. *The Vanderbilt Review* Vol 32

Jordan, Megan. 2019. *Breaking the Data Jar*. PolicyLink's exposure blog.

### *Professional Blog*

Jordan, Megan. 2019. "Our Journey with Quess?" PolicyLink. <https://equityis.exposure.co/our-journey-with-quess>

## CREATIVE ACTIVITY

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Sept '21- Dec '22

*Art of Healing*. Featured artist in this Covid-inspired mental health and physical health themed exhibition. Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, & Public Policy.

*Go to the Ground* 24 x 36 inches, acrylic and metallic gold flakes

*Let Me Spell It Out for You* 30 x 40 inches, mixed media

Aug-Sept '21

*Art of Craft*. Featured as one of thirteen fine craft artists. Centennial Art Center. Nashville, Tennessee.

*Until We're All Free* 30 x 40 inches, acrylic

*Release* 22 x 26 inches, mixed media

*I, Too, am America* 24 x 36 inches, mixed media

<i>For the Children</i>	16 x 20 inches, acrylic
<i>Hope of the Horizon</i>	20 x 24 inches, acrylic
<i>Lady Liberty</i>	24 x 36 inches, mixed media

**Aug '21 -Oct '21** *Vignettes*. Featured as one of eight artists in this activism themed exhibition. Fido. Nashville, Tennessee.

<i>All Hands</i>	24 x 36 inches, acrylic and metallic gold flakes
<i>There</i>	12 x 36 inches, acrylic
<i>Craving Contact</i>	36 x 12 inches, acrylic

**April 2021** *For the Children*. Black Lives Matter Nashville's Black 3<sup>rd</sup> Space Virtual Exhibition. Nashville, Tennessee.

**Feb 12-13, '21** *Salon de Idaho*. Solo exhibition at the house that once stood as 4112 Idaho Ave, Sylvan Park—a now empty lot that will soon be the site of a tall and skinny. My friend, who was a renter of this house, was pushed out of his home with less than 60 days-notice during COVID-19. The owner was pressured by developers to sell due to personal financial and health concerns. We decided the best way to say farewell to the home before demolition was to host a salon of social justice art and live classical music. The exhibit was interactive, calling for viewers to respond to prompts in each room to questions like ‘What does your radically imagined new world look like?’ Themes of the works displayed included police and prison abolition, feminism, people power, and environmental justice.

**Sept 2020** *Go to the Ground*. Black Lives Matter Nashville's Black 3<sup>rd</sup> Space Virtual Exhibition. Nashville, Tennessee.

**March 2020** *Release: Art for Self-Care*. Invited speaker & panelist for Vanderbilt University Counseling Center's Black Girl Magic Workshop. Cancelled Due to Covid-19.

**July – Oct '19** *When Private Meets Public*. Grand Opening Artist for the Bishop Johnson Black Cultural Center's Student Art Gallery. Vanderbilt University.

**August 2019** *Breaking the Data Jar*. Artist Talk and Exhibition. PolicyLink Headquarters. Oakland, California.

**June 4-8<sup>th</sup>, 2018** *We, too, are America. Artist-in-Residence*. “Reclaiming Our Time: Public Theology, Racial Justice, and the Fight for Democracy.” Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

## **PRODUCTIONS**

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**2021** *Consultant Producer* for the film *Many Fires This Time: We the 100 Million*. This film is a cumulation of a two-year project I was a part of as a *Summer Associate* (2019) and *Creative Research Consultant* (2019-2020) at PolicyLink. Our project consisted of a series of workshops on several issues intersecting with economic insecurity (asylum seeking, caregiving & healthcare access, policing, water justice, privatization of education, housing justice, Indigenous sovereignty) in six different locations around the country. Our goal was to highlight the intersecting and compounding issues facing the “100 million” – the roughly 100 million people living in the U.S. that are economically insecure. I worked on this project as a planner, experimenter, researcher, graphic designer, and artist. <https://www.manyfiresfilm.com/>  
<https://www.policylink.org/wethe100million/creative-documentation>

## **INVITED SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS**

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“My Journey into Artist Activism.” Invited Keynote Speaker for Jacksonville State University’s 2021 celebration of the National Day of Racial Healing and Grand Opening of their Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Center. Jacksonville State University, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

“Definitions from How to Be an Anti-Racist” Invited panel host to represent academic community for Nashville Metro Human Relations Commission’s citywide anti-racist book club of Ibram X. Kendi’s *How to Be an Anti-Racist*. Just Conversations series. Nashville Metro Human Relations Commission, December 2020.

“Art Activism & Defund the Police.” Invited Speaker for Vanderbilt University’s McGill Hour. Vanderbilt University, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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Jordan, Megan. (August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021). “Emotional Labor of Activism: The Role of Love in Sustaining Movement Actors.” Paper Session on Altruism, Morality, and Social Solidarity: Advocating for Morality and Prosociality in Unsettled Times, American Sociological Association, Online.

Murray, Josh, Megan Jordan\*, Kevin Young, & Michael Schwartz (August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021). “When Black Movements Win, the Whole 99% Wins.” Paper Session on Racial Capitalism and Abolitionist Marxisms, American Sociological Association, Online. \*=Presenter.

Jordan, Megan. (August 2020: Canceled due to Covid-19). “Power to the People: An Intersectional Class Approach to Racial Inequality Alleviation”. Refereed Roundtable, Section: Political Sociology, American Sociological Association, San Francisco, California.

Jordan, Megan. (June 2018). “Blue-green Coalitions: The Importance of Coalitions in Divisive Times.” Paper presentation and panelist at the annual meeting of the Labor Research & Action Network, Nashville, Tennessee.

Cornfield, Daniel. Barna, Elizabeth. Jordan, Megan. Robinson, Megan. (March 2018). “Equity and Community Engagement in the Arts: The Roles of Local Arts Agencies in the United States.” Research presentation at the annual Mike Curb Luncheon, Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy, Vanderbilt University.

Rider, Erin. Jordan, Megan. (2016). “iPad Use to Enhance Critical Thinking Skills: A 24/7 Learning Engaged Classroom.” Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, Georgia.

## **GRANTS HONORS, AND AWARDS:**

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Tanne Foundation Fellow, Artist Award for social change art. Selected at a national level. Tanne Foundation. *Award amount not to be disclosed.* <http://tannefoundation.org/awards/megan-meg-jo-jordan>

Arrowmont/Windgate University Fellow, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts. *Awarded full tuition and \$300.*

Community Engaged Scholar Award, Meharry Medical College - Vanderbilt University Medical Center’s Community Engaged Research Core’s Community Scholars Program (\$6,000) 2021-2022.

*Design and facilitate community engaged research project utilizing qualitative research methods and Theatre of the Oppressed techniques with community partner, Workers’ Dignity, to build solidarity and*

*better understandings of issues facing Black workers in the Greater Nashville Area during the COVID-19 pandemic.*

Curb Public Scholar Fellowship, Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy (\$2,000), 2020-2022.

*Recruit and manage a team of community members from Black Nashville Assembly, Nashville People's Budget Coalition, Tennessee Advocates for Planned Parenthood, Working Families Party, and Workers' Dignity for the purpose of encouraging sustainable coalition work in the Greater Nashville Area and creating ways of using art for civic engagement across these organizations' causes.*

Small Research Grant, Vanderbilt Sociology Department (\$500), 2021.

Conference Travel Grants (3), Vanderbilt Graduate School & Department of Sociology (\$500-1,000), 2020-2021.

University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine: 2020 Arts in Medicine Summer Intensive Scholarship (Postponed due to Covid)

Vanderbilt Student Marshal, The Graduate School of Vanderbilt University, 2019.

*The Graduate School selects one Student Marshal of all graduating Masters students "who have devoted time and energy to their fellow students and to their studies at Vanderbilt."*

Executive Women's International Scholarship (\$2,500), 2013.

100 Black Men of America Scholarship (\$1,000), 2013.

## **OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

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### PolicyLink

2019-2020 Summer Associate (in-person) and later Creative Research Consultant (remotely).

My work bridged asset-based data research with the community-engaged art methodologies (i.e. Augusto Boal's Theatre of the Oppressed; John O'Neal & Free Southern Theater's story circles; spoken word; and poetry writing) of A Scribe Called Quess? – a New Orleans spoken word poet—to encourage community engagement, healing, and policy creation. My work centered a decolonial perspective of narrative shifting and data presentation. Likewise, I used a community engaged approach in the creation of all graphics. I partnered with the following community organizations to create content: Mujeres Unidas y Activas, Centro Legal de la Raza, Appalshop, and Letcher County Culture Hub.

### Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, & Public Policy, Vanderbilt University

2017-2019 Research Assistant for Dr. Dan Cornfield. *Research: Artist Activism & Local Art Agency Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.* Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, & Public Policy

2018 Researcher at the Curb Center for Art, Enterprise, and Public Policy, Vanderbilt University. Research ways in which music brings diverse, sometimes segregated, communities together.

### Nashville Metro Human Relations Commission

2018 Research Intern. Research issues of affordable housing and mechanisms of displacement in the Nashville area. Create a pamphlet of this research to disseminate to a lay audience as well as council and commission members. Compose a poverty report examining Nashville Metro fifty years since the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Issues we examine that relate to poverty include segregation, education, health outcomes, housing, wages, and job availability.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### Vanderbilt University

Instructor of Record, Vanderbilt University Department of Sociology, *Introduction to Sociology: Special Focus in Media and Social Movements*.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Vanderbilt University Department of Sociology, 2017-2021

*Artists, Community, and Democracy*

*Climate Change & Society*

*Energy Transitions*

*Environment & Society*

*Introduction to Sociology*

*Politics, Economics, and Social Change*

*Self, Society, and Social Change*

*Social Movements*

*Sociology Through Baseball*

*War & Capitalism*

## **EDITORIAL SERVICE:**

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Associate Editor, *Work and Occupations*, 2018 - 2019

Ad Hoc Journal Reviewer: *Work and Occupations*

## **SERVICE TO THE UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY**

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2021 The Featured Visual Artist for the Recovery Block Party. Designed, created, and directed a community mural project to promote the BREATHE Act, THRIVE Act, and PRO Act. Sponsored by Workers' Dignity, Black Nashville Assembly, Nashville People's Budget Coalition, PATHE Nashville, The Frontline, and Unemployed Workers United. Nissan Stadium Parking Lot, April 11th, 2021.

<https://www.megjoart.com/projects>

2021 Guest Lecturer, "Varieties of Artist Activism" for 'The Social World of Arts' an Art Education course taught by Dr. Rachel Skaggs at the Ohio State University.

2021 Judge for Vanderbilt University's Climate Hub Awards 2021. Serve on a panel of three scholars to review multidisciplinary projects that bridge climate to society with the goal of make accessible knowledge about the climate crisis and environmental sustainability.

2021 Vice President of Tennessee Craft Midstate Chapter. Design and lead the Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) Outreach and Amplification effort. Co-Chair of the Tennessee Craft State Board's Community Engagement Committee. Led writing of Tennessee Craft's first Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Statement.

2021 Lead Artist for RIOT (Radical Imaginers of Tennessee): a zine team made up of a coalition of abolitionist organizers from across several diverse social justice movement bodies in Middle Tennessee.

2020 Guest Lecturer, "Artist Activism: The Role of Artists in Social Change" for 'Introduction to Sociology' course taught by Professor Yvonne Chen, PhD(c) at the SAE Institute of Nashville.

2020 Artist. Nashville BLM Street Mural. Selected as one of eight artists to paint the Nashville Black Lives Matter Street Mural on Woodland Street. October 17th, 2020.

<https://www.tennessean.com/story/news/2020/10/17/artists-work-complete-black-lives-matter-mural-near-nissan-stadium/3670970001/>

2020 Guest Lecturer, "Artist Activism: The Role of Artists in Social Movements" for 'The Social World of Arts' course taught by Dr. Rachel Skaggs at Ohio State University, Arts Management program.

- 2019-2020 Artist-Researcher for Vanderbilt Climate Change Initiative, Education App Development Project. Department of Engineering, Vanderbilt University. Collaborate on an interdisciplinary team of environmental engineers, coders, and artists to create engaging, research-informed art to educate high school students on sustainability, climate change, and green jobs.
- 2019 Community Affairs Chair of the Organization of Black Graduate & Professional Students
- 2018-2019 Qualitative Research Chair of the Graduate Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Graduate School, Vanderbilt University. Conduct a qualitative analysis of DGS survey data on the significance and use of GRE exam scores in recruitment. Maintain confidentiality and retain thick description.
- 2018-2019 Social Events Chair, Department of Sociology, Vanderbilt University. Coordinate events to promote positive work-life balance among Sociology graduate students.
- 2016 Created and implemented a Graduate School Q&A Panel for students interested in pursuing higher learning. Collaborated with a wonderful panel of faculty to answer any questions on the topic of graduate school.
- 2014-2016 Founding Vice President of the National Society of Leadership & Success, Jacksonville State University  
Created and led the largest student organization on the college campus. Recruited and maintained 1300+ members.
- 2014-2015 Student Government Association Senator, Jacksonville State University. Voice the interests of the students I represented in a congressional fashion. Write and vote on legislation affecting the campus and student body.
- 2015 Success Networking Team Coordinator of the National Society of Leadership & Success, Jacksonville State University. Advising students on strategies of pursuing their long term, personal goals.
- 2015 Student Representative for University-Wide Classroom Renovation Project, Department of Sociology, Jacksonville State University. Served on Faculty & Student board to improve physical classroom design to increase learning.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY & CONTINUING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES**

- 2021, Decolonizing the Classroom, Vanderbilt University, Center for Teaching.
- 2021, Inclusive Teaching & Microaggressions, Vanderbilt University.
- 2021, Resilience and Managing Stress Reactions, Vanderbilt University.
- 2021, Imposter Syndrome in Academic Spaces, Vanderbilt University.
- 2021, THRIVE Mosaic, Strategic Networking, Vanderbilt University, Graduate Leadership Institute.
- 2020, Culture is the Engine to Protect Democracy, Culture Surge, Artist Training.
- 2020, Art and Resistance in the Era of COVID-19, Women's March, Artist Training.
- 2019, Social Cohesion, Arts & Culture, and Health Equity Convening, Center for the Arts in Medicine, University of Florida. Lexington, Kentucky.

## **AFFILIATIONS**

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2017-present, American Sociological Association

2017-present, Southern Sociological Society

## **PRESS COVERAGE**

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2021 [Tanne Foundation](#)

2021 [Tennessean](#)

2021 [Nashville Metro Human Relations Commission](#)

2020 [Nashville Scene](#)

2020 [Tennessean](#)

2020 [WKRN Nashville Local News](#)

## **REFERENCES**

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