Pamela Oliver Biographical Statements.

September 2019

Here are four biographical statements about Pamela Oliver. If you have invited me to speak, you have permission to edit these bios to shorten them to your appropriate word limits or to pick out the information that is most relevant to your group. #1 combines her imprisonment and social movements work. #2 is a short bio focused on criminal justice issues. #3 is a long bio focused on criminal justice and #4 is a long bio focused more on her social movements work.

The first two focus on criminal justice issues, with a longer and shorter version. The second two combine prison issues with Oliver’s eminence in the study of collective action and social movements, again with a longer and shorter version. The fifth one merges the two shorter versions, given equal emphasis to both, and is a little longer than the other short bios.

#1 MERGED SHORT VERSION (combines social movements and criminal justice)

Pamela Oliver is professor emerita of sociology at the University of Wisconsin. She served as the chair of the Department of Sociology twice and was a member of the Asian American Studies Faculty Advisory Committee for many years. She has published many articles and a book on collective action and social movements, including her influential work on the "critical mass" with Gerald Marwell, studies of news coverage of protests, and theoretical work on the coevolution of movements, protest and news coverage. Her current NSF-funded project tracks news coverage of Black protests between 1990 and 2012. Since 1999, she has devoted much of her time to analyzing and speaking about statistical patterns of racial disparity in criminal justice in Wisconsin and the nation. She has made over 100 public presentations on these issues and served on the Governor's Commission to Reduce Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice in 2007-8 and the Dane County Task on Racial Disparities 2008-9. The social movements and criminal justice work come together in integrated theories of ethnic conflict, social movements, social control, and repression. For over thirty years, she taught "Ethnic Movements in the US" which compared American Indian, African American, Mexican American, and Asian American movements and politics. She has an active “public sociology” presence through her academic blog Race, Politics, Justice <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/soc/racepoliticsjustice/>

where she has posted articles on both social movements and imprisonment patterns.

#2. SHORT BIO (for criminal justice topics): Pamela Oliver is professor emerita of sociology at the University of Wisconsin who has published many articles and a book on collective action and social movements. Since 1999, she has devoted much of her time to analyzing and speaking about statistical patterns of racial disparity in criminal justice in Wisconsin and the nation. She has made over 100 public presentations on these issues and served on the Governor's Commission to Reduce Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice in 2007-8 and the Dane County Task Force on Racial Disparities 2008-2009. She has written several papers and blog posts about patterns of incarceration over time in the US and Wisconsin that can be access through. her blog <https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/soc/racepoliticsjustice/>

#3. LONG BIO (for criminal justice-related things)

Pamela Oliver received her PhD in sociology from the University of North Carolina in 1977. She was an assistant professor at the University of Louisville from 1976-1980, and has been at the University of Wisconsin since 1980. She became a full professor in 1990 and a Conway-Bascom Professor in 2004 and served two terms as department chair. She became Professor Emerita in May 2019. She is well-known for her work on collective action and social movements, and has published numerous influential articles and a book (with Gerald Marwell) on these topics. She has several National Science Foundation grants and has served on the National Science Foundation's Sociology Advisory Committee and has received multiple NSF grants for her research. Her current NSF-funded social movement project is uses news sources to describe patterns of Black protest between the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter eras.

Her work on the causes and consequences of the racial disparity in imprisonment began out of her community service involvement. She has done a detailed analysis of racial disparities in imprisonment and arrest in Wisconsin using both Department of Corrections and data and publicly-deposited National Corrections Reporting Program data. She has served on the board of several non-profit organizations and community advisory committees concerned with criminal justice issues and has made over a hundred presentations to public officials and general audiences as well as given numerous interviews to various news media about patterns of racial disparity in imprisonment. Because of her leadership in this area, she was asked to serve on the Governor’s special Commission to Reduce Racial Disparities in the Wisconsin Justice System, which met April 2007 – January 2008 and issued its report in February 2008; she played a major role in helping to draft this report and authored (with her collaborator James Yocom) several appendices, including a comparison of arrests and prison sentences by race to assess where in the system disparities occur, and a detailed analysis of probation and parole revocations. She served on Dane County's racial disparities task force in 2008-9, and continues to work with public officials and non-profit groups in Wisconsin concerned about these issues. She has written papers and blogs analyzing imprisonment patterns in Wisconsin and nationally which can be accessed at <https://www.ssc.wisc.edu/soc/racepoliticsjustice/>

# #4. LONG BIO (combines social movements and criminal justice)

Pamela Oliver received her PhD in sociology from the University of North Carolina in 1977. She was an assistant professor at the University of Louisville from 1976-1980, and has been at the University of Wisconsin since 1980. She became a full professor in 1990 and a Conway-Bascom Professor in 2004 and served two terms as department chair. She became Professor Emerita in May 2019. She is well-known for her work on collective action and social movements, and has published a number of influential articles in the American Sociological Review and the American Journal of Sociology and other sociological journals. She is the author with Gerald Marwell a series of widely-cited articles and a book on the Critical Mass in Collective Action. She has received a number of National Science Foundation grants and has served on the National Science Foundation's Sociology Advisory Committee, and has received multiple NSF grants for her research. She has been elected to terms as chair of the ASA sections on "Collective Behavior and Social Movements," "Political Sociology," and “Rational Choice.”

Her current research is in two streams. One continues her work on collective action and social movements with an emphasis on Black movements and, theoretically, on the coevolution of protest movements, political institutions, repressive practices, and news media coverage. Her current NSF-funded social movement project is uses news sources to describe patterns of Black protest between the Civil Rights and Black Lives Matter eras. The other is an examination of the causes and consequences of the racial disparity in imprisonment in the US 1983-2013, linking theories of crime control, repression, and ethnic conflict in understanding the patterns of mass incarceration in the 1980s and 1990s and how things shifted after 2000. These streams join in work integrating ethnic conflict and social control with theories of social movements, with a special emphasis on Black movements. She has done a detailed analysis of racial disparities in imprisonment and arrest in Wisconsin, and has made over a hundred presentations to public officials and general audiences as well as given numerous interviews to various news media about patterns of racial disparity in imprisonment. She has served on the boards of several non-profit organizations concerned with criminal justice issues. Because of her leadership in this area, she was asked to serve on the Governor’s special Commission to Reduce Racial Disparities in the Wisconsin Justice System, which met April 2007 – January 2008 and issued its report in February 2008; she played a major role in helping to draft this report and authored several appendices. Subsequently, she served on Dane County's task force on racial disparities. She taught a popular sociology class, "Ethnic Movements in the US," for over thirty years. This class compared American Indian, African American, Mexican American, and Asian American movements and politics. She was a member of the Asian American Studies Faculty Advisory Committee for many years. She sometimes gives public versions of lectures about the racial history of the United States that draw on those course lectures.

She has an active “public sociology” presence through her academic blog Race, Politics, Justice <http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/soc/racepoliticsjustice/>

where she has posted articles on both social movements and imprisonment patterns.