

Curriculum Vitae
Courtnee Melton-Fant, PhD, MS

CURRENT INFORMATION

Rank/Title: Assistant Professor
Department: Division of Health Systems Management and Policy University of Memphis
School of Public Health
Business Address: Robison Hall 130 Memphis, TN 38152
Business Phone: (901) 678-3361
Email: cemelton@memphis.edu

EDUCATION

Date Received

Degree Received

Institution

December 2013

Doctor of Philosophy in Health Outcomes
and Policy Research

University of
Tennessee Health
Science Center

*Dissertation Title: The Relationship between Health Literacy and Health
Outcomes: A Mixed-Methods Study of African-American Adult Patients
with Asthma*

August 2008

Master of Science, Human Movement
Science

The University of Memphis

May 2006

Bachelor of Science, Human Movement
Science

The University of Memphis

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2019- University of Memphis School of Public Health, Memphis, TN
Assistant Professor,
Division of Health Systems Management and Policy

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

AIM-AHEAD SchARE Equity in Population Health AI: Beyond HER Training Program.
January 2025 – September 2025 (\$10,000)

Emerging Poverty Scholar, Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison,
2023-2025 (\$60,000)

Early Career Reviewer, William T. Grant Foundation, 2021 – 2023

Academic Research Fellow, Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change, University of
Memphis, April 2021-December 2021

Proposal Development Summer Institute, Russell Sage Foundation/Bill Gates Foundation, May
24-28, 2021

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Policy Analyst, The Sycamore Institute, Nashville, TN, 2016-2019

Clinical Translational Research Coordinator, Vanderbilt University, Division of Cardiovascular Medicine, Nashville, TN, 2014-2016

Postdoctoral Research Associate, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Research Center on Health Disparities, Equity, and the Exposome, Memphis, TN, 2013-2014

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Memphis, TN, 2010-2013

Research Assistant, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Department of Preventive Medicine, 2009-2010

Exercise Specialist, Church Health Center, Memphis, TN, 2008-2009

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

American Public Health Association

Interdisciplinary Association for Population Health Science

Urban Affairs Association

American Society of Law, Medicine, and Ethics

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED: PUBLISHED AND IN PRESS

Melton-Fant, C. (2023) Corporate influenced state preemption and health: A legal mapping analysis of workers' rights preemptions bills in the US South. *Social Science & Medicine*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2023.116255>

Melton-Fant, C. (2023) Heterogenous effects of local government spending on mortality across racial groups among working age adults in the US. *AJPM Focus*, 2(2): 100085. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.focus.2023.100085>

Wang, R. & **Melton-Fant, C** (2023) Does Inclusionary Housing Alleviate the Negative Health Impacts of Gentrification?, *Housing Policy Debate*, 33(1), 72-84. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10511482.2022.2099933>

Melton-Fant, C. (2022). Health equity and the dynamism of structural racism and public policy. *Milbank Quarterly*. 100(3); 628-649. DOI: [10.1111/1468-0009.12581](https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0009.12581)

Turchi, J., & **Melton-Fant, C.** (2022). Media Framing of COVID-19 Racial Disparities: Lessons from Memphis, Tennessee. *Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, 8(3), 355-369.

Melton-Fant, C. (2022). New Preemption as a Tool of Structural Racism: Implications for Racial Health Inequities. *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, 50(1), 15-22.

Melton-Fant, C., Harrison, A., & Mason, K. R. (2022). Race, mental health, and evictions filings in Memphis, TN, USA. *Preventive Medicine Reports*, 26, 101736.

Melton-Fant, C.E. (2020) Relationship between state preemption of inclusionary zoning policies and health outcomes: Is there disparate impact among people of color? *Housing Policy Debate*, 1-10.

Melton, C.E. Howard, S., & Cao, X. (2020) Sex Differences in the Association between Local Government Spending and Mortality: Evidence from Tennessee. *Southern Medical Journal*, 113(2), 64-69.

Melton-Fant, C. (2019) Childhood Adversity among Black Children: The Role of Supportive Neighborhoods. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 105, 104419.

Melton, C.E., Bailey, J., Holmes, G.N., Relyea, G., Graff, C., & Brown, L. (2015). Mediators of the association between health literacy and asthma outcomes in African-American adults. *International Journal Communication and Health*, 6, 82-92.

Coughlin, S. S., Matthews-Juarez, P., Juarez, P. D., **Melton, C. E.**, & King, M. (2014). Opportunities to address lung cancer disparities among African Americans. *Cancer medicine*, 3(6), 1467-1476.

Melton, C.E., Graff, C., Holmes, G.N., Brown, L., Bailey, J. (2014). Health literacy and asthma management among African-American adults: An interpretative phenomenological analysis. *Journal of Asthma*, 51(7), 703-713.

Melton, C.E., Tucker, P. S, Fisher-Wellman, K.H., Schilling, B.K., & Bloomer, R.J. (2009). Acute exercise does not attenuate postprandial oxidative stress in prediabetic women. *The Physician and Sportsmedicine*, 37(4), 27-36.

Bell, H. K., **Melton, C. E.**, Tucker, P. S., Fisher-Wellman, K. H., Schilling, B. K., & Bloomer, R.J. (2009). Acute exercise and postprandial oxidative stress in pre-diabetic Women. *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, 41(5), 37-38.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Melton-Fant, C. Threat of Workers' Rights Preemption and Employment Outcomes in the US South. *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*, revise and resubmit

EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES

Melton-Fant, C. E. (2021). Thinking Outside the Box: Why Inclusionary Zoning Is Important for Cardiovascular Health. *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*. doi:10.1161/circoutcomes.121.008415

**covered in The Boston Scope (11-11-21) “Affordable housing advocates say that implementing inclusionary zoning policies could be a fix”*

BOOKS

Melton-Fant, Courtnee. *Local Democracy Denied: State Preemption and the Fight for Workers’ Rights in the US South* (working title), Russell Sage Foundation, expected Fall 2026

BOOK CHAPTERS

Melton-Fant, C., Montez, JK, Pomeranz, J. “Public Health Preemption and Polarization: The Changing Public Health Policy Climate” In *Backlash: the War on Public Health* edited by Amy Fairchild, Ron Bayer, Cheryl Heaton, Marion Moser Jones, and Georges Benjamin. Oxford University Press, In press

**authors listed in alphabetical order*

POLICY BRIEFS AND WHITE PAPERS

Melton-Fant, C. (2023) 2023 State Interference in Tennessee. We Decide TN. <https://www.wedecidetn.org/blog/state-interference-report-2023>

Melton-Fant, C.E., Carr, D., & Montez, JK. "Addressing Health Equity In The New Preemption Era", *Health Affairs Forefront*, December 21, 2021. DOI:10.1377/forefront.20211216.30994

Guthrie, A., **Melton-Fant, C.E., & Lambert-Pennington,K.** (2021). COVID-19 and Evictions in Memphis. Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change, University of Memphis.

Melton-Fant, C. The Relationship Between State Preemption of Inclusionary Zoning and Health. (2021). The National League of Cities. The Impacts of Preemption on Equity Research Briefs. Available at: <https://www.nlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Preemption-Brief-1-The-Relationship-Between-State-Preemption.pdf>

PRESENTATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED

Melton-Fant, C. (2023) Workers’ Rights Preemption and Economic Outcomes in the US South.

Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference. Podium presentation.

Melton-Fant, C. (2021) Structural Discrimination and racial health inequities: The role of state preemption. 44th Annual Health Law Professors Conference (virtual)

Melton, C.E. (2020). Economic development and health outcomes: Can TIFS and PILOTs be used to improve health in distressed communities?(poster) American Public Health Association Annual Meeting (virtual).

Melton, C.E. (2015). Health literacy and health outcomes among African-American adults: a mixed methods analysis (podium), *Mixed Methods International Research Association Regional Conference, Drexel University.*

Melton, C.E., Holmes, G.N., Graff, J.C., Bailey, J.E., Relyea, G.E., & Brown, L.B. (2014). A mixed methods analysis of health literacy and asthma outcomes (poster), *Xavier University Seventh Health Disparities Conference.*

Melton, C.E. & Bailey, J.E. (2013). Self-efficacy and asthma knowledge do not mediate the relationship between health literacy and asthma outcomes among African-American adults, (podium), *National Communication Association Annual Meeting.*

Melton, C.E. & Bailey, J.E. (2013). Numeracy and cervical cancer screening, (poster), *American Public Health Association Annual Meeting.*

Melton, C.E. & Bailey, J.E. (2013). The relationship between health literacy and asthma outcomes among African-American adults (poster), *Academy Health, 2013 Annual Research Meeting.*

INVITED POSTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

Panelist, “Conceptualizing Tools to Improve Research Use in Politically Tumultuous Times,” William T. Grant Foundation Improving the Use of Research Evidence for Better Youth Outcomes Grantee Meeting, October 2024, Cape Town, South Africa.

Panelist, “Using Research for Equitable Policymaking,” William T. Grant Foundation Evidence in Policy Workshop, March 19-20, 2024.

Panelist, “Undoing Accountability; Trends in State Preemption of Local Oversight,” National Association of Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement Annual Conference, November 2023.

Presenter, “Workers’ Rights Preemption and Economic Outcomes in the US South,” Russell Sage Foundation, Pipeline Grants Capstone, July 2023.

Presenter, “The Politics of State Preemption: Implications for Health and Economic Inequality,” Claremont Graduate University, Inequality Transdisciplinary Research Symposium, June 2023.

Plenary Speaker, “Evaluating Policy with an Equity Lens,” All Members Advocacy Meeting, California Association of Family Physicians, March 2023

Panelist, Plenary Session on Abusive Preemption. Local Progress National Convening. August 2022. Denver, CO.

Presenter, Health Law and Anti-Racism: Reckoning and Response Symposium. University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, March 30, 2022. Philadelphia

Panelist, “Preemption: How the Weapon of Choice for Preventing Local Policy Making is Impacting Health and Health Equity”, Public Health Law Summit, The Network for Public Health Law. April 26, 2022.

“Looking Back to Move Forward: Historical Antecedents to Social Determinants of Health and Healthcare Disparities”. June 22, 2022. Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds, University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Speaker, (2021) Cause of the Causes: How Public Policy Shapes the Social Determinants of Health. Department of Dermatology Grand Rounds, University of Tennessee Health Science Center.

Speaker, (2021) Cause of the Causes: How Public Policy Shapes the Social Determinants of Health. Arcadia University, Philadelphia, PA (virtual).

Panelist, Wiped Out: Medical Debt in America, Aspen Ideas: Health, Aspen, CO. June 2019

Panelist, University of Memphis Health Care Research Journal Club. Panel Discussion on Health Care Delivery in 2017 and Beyond, with a Focus in Tennessee and the Mid-South Region. February 2017.

CURRENT RESEARCH SUPPORT

Examining the impact on health and racial equity of states’ preemption of workers’ rights, with a focus on communities of color in the US South, July 2024 – June 2026, 15% effort

Role: PI

Funder: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

Amount: \$236,517

Structural and political impediments to improving health outcomes in the US South.

June 2023 – November 2025, 20% effort

Role: PI

Funder: The Commonwealth Fund

Amount: \$112,885

Applying a critical lens to use of research evidence in state policymaking. June 2023 – December 2025, 10% effort

Role: PI
Funder: William T. Grant Foundation
Amount: \$43,417

PAST RESEARCH SUPPORT

Gender and race heterogeneity: The effects of worker-related preemption policies on economic outcomes in the South. June 2022 – September 2023.

Role: PI
Funder: Russell Sage Foundation.
Amount: \$29,975

Heterogenous effects of local government spending on mortality across racial groups

Role: PI
Funder: Network on Life Course Health Dynamics and Disparities in 21st Century America (NLCHDD) via grant # R24AG045061 from NIA
Amount: \$20,000

The geography of evictions in Memphis: relationships between eviction filings and neighborhood socioeconomic and health outcomes, Melton-Fant, C.E., Ramsey, K., and Harrison, A.

Role: PI
Funder: West Cancer Foundation
Amount: \$6,750

Does state level preemption of inclusionary zoning policies contribute to racial and socioeconomic health inequities among adults? 01/2020 – 04/2020

Role: PI
Amount: 6,000
Source: National League of Cities/Urban Affairs Association Preemption Fellowship

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Racial, Gender, and Socioeconomic Disparities in Access to Care and Health Outcomes Among Patients with Ambulatory Care Sensitive Conditions, S. Surbhi (PI), A. Dobalian, C.E. Melton, M.P. Powell

Role: Co-PI
Funder: CORNET Funds University of Memphis, University of Tennessee Health Science Center
Amount: 25,000

SUBMITTED

National Institutes of Health, **PI, Evaluating the effects of local housing policies on racial health inequities,** July 2024 – June 2029, \$1.2 million, **15% effort,** (not funded)

Friend or Foe: Does public housing redevelopment mitigate or promote racial health inequity? Melton-Fant, C (PI), Lambert-Pennington, Katherine (CO-I), Downey, D. (CO-

I). 13% effort. Evidence for Action: Innovative Research to Advance Racial Equity. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Invited to revise and resubmit full proposal. 04/2023 – 03/2026
Amount: \$773,000 (not funded)

Assessing the role of racism on delays in care among Black and African American persons with peripheral artery disease who have undergone amputation. Grant, C.(PI), R21, National Institute of Health. 7/2023 – 6/2025. 15% effort
Sub-award Amount: \$66,275 (not funded)

Zoning for health: Understanding the relationship between racial health inequities and residential land use regulation. Melton-Fant, C.E. (PI) Submitted in December 2020 to Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grants Competition
Amount: \$23,000 (not funded)

Neighborhood investment disparities in Memphis: Examining the relationship between race, community disinvestment and health. Melton-Fant, C.E. (PI) Submitted in November 2019 to Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grants Competition
Amount: \$17,986 (not funded)

COMMITTEES AND SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

SCIENTIFIC REVIEW ACTIVITIES

Journals: *Ad-hoc Peer Reviewer:*

Patient Education and Counseling

Milbank Quarterly

Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes

American Journal of Epidemiology

American Journal of Preventive Medicine

Sociology of Race & Ethnicity

Social Science & Medicine

American Journal of Public Health

Cities & Health

Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs

Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate Courses

- Public Health Systems & Policy I (Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall, 2023)
- Public Health Systems & Policy I, online (Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023)
- Population Health Management & Policy, online (Spring 2025)

Graduate Courses

- Health Economics, Co-Instructor (Fall 2019, Fall 2020)
- Health Policy and Organization of Health Services, Co-Instructor, Spring 2020
- Population Health Management, Fall 2022
- Health Policy, Theory, and Methods (Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024)
- Health Policy and the Organization of Health Services, online (Spring 2025)

ADVISING

Master of Health Administration Students

2019 - Barakallah Owolabi, William Holcomb

2020 - Angela Sherrill, Jacob Norman, Miya Kennedy, Mystery Bowen, Shakeira Herring,

2021 – Beck Thomas, Diveena Davis, Emmanuel D’Angelo, Sharda Shuttlesworth

2022 – Gracie Morton, Rachel Hall, Rikin Darmendra, Shayan Kabani, Sruthi Ranganathan

2023 – Robert Hayes, Zacharia Obaji

Dissertations

2024 Michelle Clayton, University of Tennessee Health Science Center (Committee member)

2024 Khadesia Howell, RAND Graduate School (Committee member)

2024 Nicholas Rummell, University of Memphis, Liberal Studies (Committee member)

2024 Kirin Kamble, University of Memphis, School of Public Health (Committee member)

2022 Ashley Williams, University of Memphis, School of Public Health (Committee member)

2021 Courtney Sievers, University of Memphis, school of Public Health (Committee member)

Research Mentees

2024 Alex Blevins, undergraduate student, University of Memphis, Department of Anthropology

2023 Emily Shepard, undergraduate student, University of Memphis, School of Public Health

2023 Rebecca Schweitzer, St. Mary’s High School

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

MHA Admissions Committee, Division of Health Systems Management and Policy, School of Public Health, 2019 – 2024

Strategic Planning Committee, School of Public Health, 2023

Committee on Faculty Affairs and Development, School of Public health, 2019 – 2022

Curriculum Committee, School of Public Health, 2022

Scholarships and Awards Committee, School of Public Health, 2022

Search committee, Health Systems Management and Policy Division Director, School of Public Health, 2022-2024

Search committee, MHA Program Director, School of Public Health, 2022- present

Search committee, Dean of the School of Public Health, School of Public Health, 2021

Search committee, Pre-award Coordinator, School of Public Health, 2021

Judge, Student Research Forum, University of Memphis, 2021

Search committee, Instructor Coordinator for Undergraduate program, School of Public Health, 2020

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION AND COMMUNITY

United Way of the Mid-south, Driving the Dream Data Interoperability Workgroup, 2019 – 2020

Member, We Decide TN (statewide advocacy group), 2020 – 2024

Member, Institute for Health Outcomes and Policy Research, University of Tennessee Health Science Center, Executive Committee, January 2023 – present

Member, Apolitical Foundation Advisory Council on the Mental Wellbeing of Politicians, 2024

Member, Health, Educational and Housing Facility Board, City of Memphis, 2025 - present