

**MELISSA NOBLES**  
KENAN SAHIN DEAN | OFFICE OF THE DEAN  
SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND SOCIAL SCIENCES  
MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY  
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617-253-3450  
[mnobles@mit.edu](mailto:mnobles@mit.edu)

## **EDUCATION**

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<b>Yale University</b> Doctorate in Political Science Thesis: <i>“Responding with Good Sense:” The Politics of Race and Censuses in Contemporary Brazil</i>	<b>Ph.D.</b>	<b>May 1995</b>
<b>Yale University</b> Master of Arts, Political Science	<b>M.A.</b>	<b>May 1991</b>
<b>Brown University</b> Bachelor of Arts, Major in History	<b>B.A.</b>	<b>May 1985</b>

## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b> Kenan Sahin Dean, MIT School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Arthur and Ruth Sloan Professor of Political Science Tenured Full Professor of Political Science Tenured Associate Professor of Political Science Untenured Associate Professor of Political Science Cecil and Ida Green Assistant Professor of Political Science Assistant Professor of Political Science	July 2015– 2010– 2009–present 2002–2009 1999–2002 1997–1999 1995–1997
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## **ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

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Department Head, MIT Political Science Department June 2013–July 2015

- Run department of 28 professors, 13 staff members, 120 graduate and undergraduate students. Responsibilities include: hiring, promotion, budget, graduate admissions, external communications (with alumni, donors), webpage updates, and curriculum.
- Additional activities include: Establishment of new research program, MIT Gov/Lab; organization and management of department’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary (2015); Collaboration with members of Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences and Cambridge-based NGO Beyond Conflict on “Neuroscience and Social Conflict” Initiative.

▪ **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Professional Associations

- Faculty Collaborator, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Law Clinic, Northeastern University School of Law 2007–present
- Member, American Political Science Association (APSA) 1993–present
  - Vice-President 2013–2014
  - Member, Ithiel de Sola Pool Award Committee 2012–2013
  - Chair, Hubert Humphrey Award Committee 2011–2012
  - Member, Ralph Bunche Book Award Committee 2002–2003
- Section Organizer, “Ethnicity and Nationalism” Section, Midwest Political Science Association 2009
- Member, National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS) 1999–present
  - President 2007–2009
  - Annual Meeting Co-Organizer 2003
  - Comparative Politics Section Organizer 2002
- Member, Latin American Studies Association 1995–2000
- Member, New England Council of Latin American Studies 1995–1999
  - Elected Member, Executive Committee 1997–1999
- Steering Committee Member, Inter-University Committee on International Migration 1994–2004

Member, Editorial Boards

- American Political Science Review 2008–2012
- Perspectives on Politics 2009–present
- Journal of Politics 2008–2009
- Polity 2006–present

Referee, Publications and Proposals

Journals: *American Political Science Review, American Journal of Sociology, Journal of Politics, Polity, Science Magazine, Racial and Ethnic Studies, Ethnicities, Journal of Human Rights, DuBois Review, Perspectives on Politics.*

University Presses: Cambridge University Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, Stanford University Press, University of California Press, University of Michigan Press, Pennsylvania State Press, Manchester University Press.

Research Foundations: US National Science Foundation, Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

External Boards and Review Committees

- Advisory Board Member, Civil Rights and Restorative Justice Law Clinic (CRRJ), Northeastern Univ. School of Law 2007–present
- Member, External Review Committee, Department of Political Science, Amherst College April 2010
- Member, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Academic Advisory Council 2007–2009

## MIT Administrative Activities

### Institute Committees

- Member (SHASS Representative), Advisory Committee for Identification of Director of Institute-Wide Environment Initiative Spring 2014
- Member, Committee to Restructure Engineering Systems Division (Subcommittee on Governance) 2013–2014
- Member, Graduate Student Housing Working Group 2013–2014
- Member (SHASS Representative), Gender Equity Committee 2011
- Member, Committee on Nominations 2009–2010
- Member, Graduate Dean Search Committee 2002–2005
- Associate Chair, MIT Faculty 2007
- Member, Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP) 2007–2009
- Member, Committee on Graduate Programs (CGP) 2007–2009
- Member, Faculty Policy Committee (FPC) 2007–2010
- Chair, Committee on Graduate Programs (CGP) 2006–2007
- Co-Chair, Campus Committee on Race Relations 2004–2006

### School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Committees

- Member, Levitan Prize and SHASS Research Fund Selection Committee Fall 2013
- Burchard Fund Faculty Fellow 2009–2010
- Member, EEOC 2005–2007

### Department of Political Science

- Head June 2013–July 2015
- Associate Head 2012–2013
- Chair, Undergraduate Program Committee 2010–present
- Concentration Advisor 2005–2006
- Member, Faculty Search Committee: Political Theory 2009–2010
- Member, Senior Faculty Search Committee: African Politics 1999–2000
- Member, Faculty Search Committee: International Relations 2010
- Chair, Faculty Search Committee: Comparative Politics 2010
- Member, Faculty Search Committee: International Relations 2006
- Chair, Faculty Search Committee: Comparative Politics 2004

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### Books

- Melissa Nobles and Jun-Hyeok Kwak, eds., Inherited Responsibility and Historical Reconciliation in East Asia, New York: Routledge Press. 2013
- Melissa Nobles, The Politics of Official Apologies, New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. 2008
- Melissa Nobles, Shades of Citizenship: Race and the Census in Modern Politics, Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2000. Winner, W.E.B. Dubois Book Award.

## Articles

- “The Prosecution of Human Rights Violations,” Annual Review of Political Science, volume 13, (2010): 165 – 82.
- “Reparations Claims: Politics by Another Name,” Political Power and Social Theory, 18 (2007): 253-258.
- “History Counts: A Comparative Analysis of Racial/Color Categorization in US and Brazilian Censuses,” vol.90, no. 11 (2000): 1738 – 1745.

## Chapters in Edited Volumes

- “Revisiting the ‘Membership Theory of Apologies: Apology Politics in Australia and Canada,” in On the Uses and Abuses of Political Apologies, Mihaela Mihai and Mathias Thaler, eds, Palgrave Press, 2014.
- Co-author with Jun-Hyeok Kwak, “‘Inherited’ responsibility and historical reconciliation in East Asian Context,” in Inherited Responsibility and Historical Reconciliation, New York: Routledge Press, 2013.
- “The Challenge of Census Categorization in the Post-Civil Rights Era,” in Identity Politics in the Public Realm, Avigail Eisenberg and Will Kymlicka, eds. Vancouver: UBC Press, 2011.
- “Racial/colour categorization in US and Brazilian censuses,” in Categories and Contexts: Anthropological and historical studies in critical demography, Simon Szreter and Hania Sholkamy, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.
- “Lessons from Brazil: The Ideational and Political Dimensions of Multiraciality,” in The New Race Question: How the Census Counts Multiracial Individuals, Joel Perlmann and Mary Waters, eds. New York: Russell Sage Foundation Press, 2002.
- “Racial categorization and censuses,” in Census and Identity: The Politics of Race, Ethnicity, and Language in National Censuses, David I. Kertzer and Dominique Arel, eds. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

## Book Reviews

- Review of Enduring Injustices by Jeff Havel-Spinner (Cambridge University Press, 2012). Perspectives on Politics, vol. 11, no.1 (March 2013): 302 – 303.
- “‘Here a Ghetto, There a Ghetto:’ The Value and Peril of Comparative Study,” Symposium on Urban Outcasts: A Comparative Study of Advanced Marginality by Loic Wacquant (Polity Press, 2008). Urban Geography, vol 31, no. 2 (2010):158-161.
- Review of Race in Another America: The Significance of Skin Color in Brazil by Edward Telles (Princeton University Press, 2004). American Journal of Sociology vol.110, no.6 (2005):1805-1807.
- Review of Truth v. Justice: The Morality of Truth Commissions by Robert I. Rotberg and Dennis Thompson, eds., (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2000). American Political Science Review, vol. 95, no.2 (2001):468-469.

## Other Publications

- “Uncharted Territory: Jim Crow Violence in Comparative Perspective,” National Political Science Review, Vol. 15, 2013 (forthcoming)
- “Pursuing Justice in Comparative Perspective,” Northeastern Law School Civil Rights and Restorative Justice website, 2010
- “The Myth of Latin American Multiracialism,” Daedalus vol.134, no.1 (2005): 82-85.
- “The Other Side of American Exceptionalism: The Comparative Studies of Racial Politics,” APSA-CP Newsletter, Vol. 15, no. 1 (2004): 13-15.
- Issues in Census 2000: Racial Categorization,” in Beyond the Color Line? Race, Representation, and Community in the New Century, Alex Willingham, ed. New York: NYU Brennan Law Center, (2001): 2-10.

## Works-in-Progress

Development of Database: Racial Murders in the U.S South, 1930-1954. (Co-developing with the Civil Rights and Restorative Justice (CRRJ) Law Clinic at Northeastern University School of Law.) This database is the first of its kind to document -- using newspaper articles, court records, Department of Justice and FBI files, NAACP files, other written materials, and interviews with family members – the facts and circumstances of unexamined and under-examined racial murders.

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS**

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Fellow, Radcliffe Institute For Advanced Study, Harvard University	2003–2004
American Political Science Association, Ralph Bunche Book Award, Honorable Mention	2001
National Conference of Black Political Scientists, 2000 W.E.B. Dubois Outstanding Book Award	2001
Fellow, Institute on Race and Social Division, Boston University,	2000–2001
Wade Fund Research Grant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology	1999
Cecil and Ida Green Career Development Professor, MIT	1997–2000
New England Council of Latin American Studies Best Dissertation Prize	1995
John F. Enders Prize Fellowship for Dissertation Research, Yale University	1992

## TEACHING

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### Graduate

- Transitional Justice
- Ethnic Politics I
- Nationalism
- Foundations of Political Science

### Undergraduate

- Introduction to Comparative Politics
- Ethnic Conflict in World Politics
- Introduction to Latin American Studies
- Social Movements in Comparative Perspective

## SEMINARS, COLLOQUIA (Selected)

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- “Global Historical Reconciliation Efforts in Comparative Perspective,” Keynote lecture and Paper delivered at “The Past not passed away?: Transitional Justice and Inherited Responsibility in East Asia,” International Conference Center, Waseda University, Tokyo, Japan, November 2013
- “Comparative Examination of Apology and Reparations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” Paper delivered at “Does Reparations have a Future? Rethinking Racial Justice in a ‘Color-Blind’ Era, Carter G. Woodson Institute, University of Virginia, March 2013
- Roundtable Participant, “Symposium on Subnational Authoritarianism: The American South in Comparative Perspective,” Center for European Studies, Harvard University, February 2013
- “Transitional Justice in Comparative Perspective.” Paper prepared for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, September 2011
- “Pursuing Justice in Comparative Perspective,” Talk delivered to invited state legislators from US southern states, Clinton Center for Public Service, University of Arkansas, November 2010
- “Prospects for Truth and Reconciliation in the American South: Some Preliminary Observations,” Miller Center for Public Affairs, University of Virginia, April 2010
- “Historical Reconciliation in Comparative Perspective.” Paper delivered at “Searching for a New East Asian Order: Historical Reflections and Current Issues,” Asiatic Research Institute, Korea University, Seoul, South Korea, March 2010
- “The Weight of History and the Value of Apologies.” Talk delivered at lecture series, Program in Law and Public Affairs and African-American Studies, Princeton University, April 2009
- “Apologies and Reparations in the Age of Obama,” Paper presented at “Still Two Nations?” Conference in Honor of John Hope Franklin, Duke University, March 2009
- “More than Numbers: The Political and Social Stakes of Ethnic and Racial Categorization in Censuses.” Paper presented at How Public Institutions Assess Identity Claims Conference, Ethnicity and Democratic Governance Workshop, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario, September 2008
- “The Politics of Official Apologies.” Lecture presented at the Project on Democracy and Development, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies, Princeton University, March 2008

- “A Membership Theory of Apologies.” Paper prepared for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, September 2007
- “Apologies and the Meanings of Reconciliation.” Paper presented at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, April 2006
- Official Apologies in Domestic Politics: Do They Matter?.” Paper prepared for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C., September 2005
- “Apologies and the Meanings of Reconciliation.” lecture presented at Historical Injustices: Restitution and Reconciliation in International Perspective conference, Brown University. March 2005
- “Official Apologies and their Effects on Political Membership in Democracies.” Paper prepared for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 2003
- “Assessing the Effects of International Human Rights on the Emergence of Domestic Official Apologies.” Paper prepared for the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 2003
- “The Case for Reparations,” Public lecture presented at “Debating Reparations for Slavery” (with Prof. Glenn Loury), Ford Hall Forum, Old South Meeting House, Boston, MA, October 2002
- “The End of Race? Science, Politics, and the Census,” paper delivered at the annual meeting of the American Bar Association, Chicago, IL., August 2001
- “When States Apologize: The Politics of Official Apologies,” Talk delivered to MacArthur Transnational Security Seminar, MIT, May 2001
- “Looking Forward from Census 2000: Rethinking Race and Civil Rights Advocacy,” talk delivered to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Annual Training Institute, VA, October 2000
- “Race and the Census in Modern Politics,” The Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, September 2000
- “Conceptual Difficulties in Measuring Race and Poverty in Latin America,” talk delivered at World Bank, Washington, D.C., June 2000
- “Racial Categorization in Censuses in the U.S. and Brazil,” Bi-annual meeting of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Cairo, Egypt, September 1999
- “Racial Politics in the United States and Brazil,” Public Lecture Series delivered in Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, and São Paulo, Brazil. Sponsored by the U.S. Information Agency of the U.S. Consulate, April 1998
- “Whither the Myth of Brazilian Racial Democracy? Prospects for Legal Remedies of Past and Present Discrimination,” talk delivered at Graduate Seminar Lecture Series, Harvard Law School, April 1997
- Convener and Organizer of two-day Academic Workshop, “The Politics of Counting: Race, Ethnicity, and Censuses in Modern Politics,” supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and MIT Center for International Studies, MIT, November 1996