

PA Diversity Committee Co-Chair Bios

Amanda E. Lewis

Amanda is the Director of the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy and an Associate Professor in the Departments of African American Studies and Sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research focuses on how race shapes educational opportunities and on how our ideas about race get negotiated in everyday life. Her book on how race shapes everyday life in elementary schools, *Race in the Schoolyard: Negotiating the color-line in classrooms and communities* (Rutgers University Press 2003), has received several awards and was featured in a number of media outlets. Her research has appeared in a number of academic venues including *Sociological Theory*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *American Behavioral Scientist*, *Race and Society*, and *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*, *The Sociology of Race and Ethnicity*, and *The Du Bois Review*. Her new book with co-author John Diamond, is titled *Despite the Best Intentions: Why racial inequality persists in good schools* (Oxford University Press, 2015). She lectures and consults regularly on issues of educational equity and contemporary forms of racism. Amanda's daughter, Nyla, is in 7th grade.

Beth Richie

Beth E. Richie, PhD, is Head of the Department of Criminology, Law and Justice and Professor of African American Studies at The University of Illinois at Chicago. Author of *Arrested Justice: Black Women, Violence and America's Prison Nation*, her work focuses on structural racism, gender-based violence and the problem of mass imprisonment. Richie's work has been supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The National Institute for Justice and The National Institute of Corrections. Dr. Richie was awarded an Honorary Degree from the City University of New York Law School, and serves as a Sr. Advisor to the NFL working on their domestic violence and sexual assault prevention program. She and her partner, Cathy Cohen are parents to Ella Cohen-Richie, who is in 9th grade.