

INVISIBLE**MEN**

**MASS INCARCERATION
AND THE MYTH
OF BLACK PROGRESS**
BECKY PETTIT



Dr. Becky Pettit
University of Washington

Wednesday, April 10, 2013

3:00pm-5:00pm

Engineering Room 189



Panel Guests:

Michael K. Brown, Ph.D.

University of California, Santa Cruz

Wilda L. White, JD

Thelton E. Henderson Center for Social Justice, UC Berkeley Law

Dorsey Nunn

Executive Director, Legal Services for Prisoners with Children

About the Book

For African American men without a high school diploma, being in prison or jail is more common than being employed—a sobering reality that calls into question post-Civil Rights era social gains. Nearly 70 percent of young black men will be imprisoned at some point in their lives, and poor black men with low levels of education make up a disproportionate share of incarcerated Americans. In *Invisible Men*, sociologist Becky Pettit demonstrates another vexing fact of mass incarceration: most national surveys do not account for prison inmates, a fact that results in a misrepresentation of U.S. political, economic, and social conditions in general and black progress in particular. *Invisible Men* provides an eye-opening examination of how mass incarceration has concealed decades of racial inequality.

About the Author

Becky Pettit holds a Ph.D in Sociology from Princeton University. She is a professor of Sociology at the University of Washington. Her past and present projects investigate the role of institutional factors in explaining differential labor market opportunities and aggregate patterns of inequality. Becky Pettit is the author of two books: *Gendered Tradeoffs* (coauthored with Jennifer Hook, 2009) and *Invisible Men* (2012), as well as of several articles. She has been a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation, Northwestern University and the American Bar Foundation.

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