

**ALKA V. MENON**  
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Department of Sociology  
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## **ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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2018- Assistant Professor of Sociology, Yale University  
Research Fellow, Macmillan Center for International and Area Studies  
Member, Council on Southeast Asian Studies  
Faculty Fellow, Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration

## **EDUCATION**

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2018 Ph.D., Sociology, Northwestern University  
2013 M.A., Sociology, Northwestern University  
2010 B.A., *Summa cum laude*, Cornell University  
*Majors:* College Scholar: Marriage and Society, Biological Sciences: Neurobiology and Behavior.

## **AREAS OF INTEREST**

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Health and Medicine; Race and Ethnicity; Science, Knowledge and Technology; Gender; Globalization; Culture; Sociology of the Body

## **PUBLICATIONS**

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### **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

- 2020 Nelson, C.A., L.M. Pérez-Chada, A. Creadore, S.J. Li, K. Lo, P. Manjaly, A. Pournamdari, E. Tkachenko, J.S. Barbieri, J.M. Ko, Alka V. Menon, R.I. Hartman, A. Mostaghimi. "Patient perspectives on the use of artificial intelligence for skin cancer screening." *JAMA Dermatology* 156(5):501-512. DOI: 10.1001/jamadermatol.2019.5014
- 2019 Menon, Alka V. "Cultural gatekeeping in cosmetic surgery: Transnational beauty ideals in multicultural Malaysia." *Poetics* 75: 1-11. DOI: 10.1016/j.poetic.2019.02.005
- Winner of the 2021 American Sociological Association Section on the Body and Embodiment Best Publication Prize*
- 2017 Menon, Alka V. "Do online reviews diminish physician authority? The case of cosmetic surgery in the U.S." *Social Science & Medicine* 181: 1-8. DOI: 10.1016/j.socscimed.2017.03.046

2017 Menon, Alka V. "Reconstructing Race in American Cosmetic Surgery." *Ethnic and Racial Studies* 40(4): 597-616. DOI: 10.1080/01419870.2016.1206590.

*Winner of 2017 American Sociological Association Section on the Body and Embodiment Graduate Student Paper Award*

*Winner of the 2016 Robert F. Winch Award for Best Student Paper in the Department of Sociology at Northwestern University*

2009 Linster, C., Menon, A.V., Singh, C.Y., & Wilson, D.A. "Odor-specific habituation arises from interaction of afferent synaptic adaptation and intrinsic synaptic potentiation in olfactory cortex." *Learning & Memory* 16(7): 452-59.

### **Book Chapters, Book Reviews, Essays**

Forthcoming Menon, Alka V. "Beauty, Race, and Hierarchy." *The Routledge Encyclopedia of Race and Racism*, ed. John Solomos. Routledge.

2021 Menon, Alka V. *Beauty Diplomacy: Embodying an Emerging Nation*, by Oluwakemi M Balogun. Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 50(5):394-395. DOI: [10.1177/009430612111036051a](https://doi.org/10.1177/009430612111036051a)

2021 Menon, Alka V. "Global disease surveillance systems and cooperation in COVID-19: Lessons not learned," in *Corona: Weltgesellschaft im Ausnahmezustand?*, edited by Markus Heidingsfelder and Maren Lehmann. Germany: Velbrück Wissenschaft, pp.117-126.

2020 Menon, Alka V. *Mobilizing Mutations: Human Genetics in the Age of Patient Advocacy* by Daniel Navon. University of Chicago Press. *American Journal of Sociology* 126(3): 741-743.

2016 Menon, Alka V. *Fatal Invention: How Science, Politics, and Big Business Re-create Race in the Twenty-first Century*, by Dorothy Roberts. *Spontaneous Generations* 8(1): 109-111.

### **Op-eds**

2021 Amir, Sulfikar and Alka Menon. "Kerentanan Pandemi dan Paradoks Resiliensi." *Media Indonesia* Kolom Pakar 27 September, p.6. (in Bahasa Indonesia. Title in English: "Pandemic vulnerability and the paradox of resilience")

2020 Lanzarotta, Tess and Alka V. Menon. "[Public Health Needs the Mail](#)." *Slate, North Carolina Inquirer*.

### **RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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2021-2024 Designing Accountable Software Systems, CISE/CCF 2131466, U.S. National Science Foundation Social science PI: Alka Menon, Computer science PI: Christian Kaestner. Co-PIs: Xenophon Papademetris, Lynn Fiellin

- 2021-2024 Academic Research Fund Tier-1 Grant for “State Politics and the Covid-19 Mitigation in Southeast Asia,” Singapore Ministry of Education. PI: Sulfikar Amir, Collaborator: Alka Menon.
- 2021-2022 Public Voices Fellowship, Yale University
- 2016-2018 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, Section of Science, Technology & Society, National Science Foundation
- 2013-2015 Graduate Affiliate, Medical Humanities and Bioethics Program, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University
- 2014 Social Science Research Council Dissertation Prospectus Development Fellowship
- 2011-2017 Mellon Fellow in Interdisciplinary Studies, Science Studies, Northwestern University

## **AWARDS**

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- 2021 American Sociological Association Section on the Body and Embodiment Best Publication Prize for “Cultural gatekeeping in cosmetic surgery: Transnational beauty ideals in multicultural Malaysia”
- 2017 American Sociological Association Section on the Body and Embodiment Graduate Student Paper Award for “Reconstructing Race and Gender in American Cosmetic Surgery”
- 2016 Robert F. Winch Award for Best Published Paper for “Reconstructing Race and Gender in American Cosmetic Surgery,” Department of Sociology, Northwestern University
- 2013 Robert F. Winch Award for Best 2<sup>nd</sup> Year Paper, Department of Sociology, Northwestern University
- 2010 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Undergraduate Research Prize, Department of Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Cornell University
- 2010 Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, Cornell University

## **INVITED TALKS**

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- 2021 “Race, Beauty, and Bodily Capital in a Comparative Perspective”
- Panel Discussion, Culture and Social Analysis Workshop, Harvard University
- 2021 “Crafting Race: Global Cosmetic Surgery and the Art and Science of Racial Difference”
- Health and Society Working Group, University of California at Los Angeles, 18 November
  - Sociology Colloquium, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, 15 October
  - Yale Center for Race, Indigeneity and Transnational Migration, 30 September
- 2021 “Race, Standardization and Cosmetic Surgery”

- Department of Plastic Surgery Grand Rounds, Yale School of Medicine, 28 July
- 2020 “Constructing an Asian Look: Beauty Ideals and Cosmetic Surgery in Malaysia”
- Institute of Malaysian and International Studies, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, 4 March
  - Monash University Malaysia, School of Arts and Social Sciences, 5 March
- 2019 “Producing Racial Profiles: Global Cosmetic Surgery and the Art of Standardization”
- Fries Center for Global Studies, Wesleyan University, 28 February
  - Sociology Colloquium, Boston University, 7 October
  - Department of Sociology & Criminal Justice, St. Francis College, 23 October
  - Sociology Colloquium, University of California at Santa Barbara, 6 November
  - Science and Technology Studies Colloquium, Cornell University, 18 November
- 2019 “Constructing an Asian Look: Beauty Ideals and Cosmetic Surgery in Malaysia”
- Southeast Asia Colloquium, Yale University, 18 September

#### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS** *(selected)*

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- 2021 “Looking Right”: Racialized Clinical Judgment in U.S. and Malaysian Cosmetic Surgery
- Session on Culture and Identity, American Sociological Association
- 2021 “Beauty Matters: Race and Inequality in U.S. Cosmetic Surgery”
- Beauty and Inequality: A Virtual Workshop, KU Leuven
  - Society for the Social Studies of Science, Toronto, CA (virtual meeting)
- 2020 “Racial Projections and the Role of Clinical Judgment in U.S. Cosmetic Surgery”
- Body and Embodiment Section Roundtables, American Sociological Association
- 2020 “Guidelines and Global Expertise in the Prevention and Treatment of Ebola Virus Disease”
- Problem-Solving Sociology Workshop, Singapore Management University, 16-17 March
- 2019 “Producing Racial Profiles: Global Cosmetic Surgery and the Art of Standardization”
- Science & Technology Studies Colloquium, Cornell University, 18 November
- 2019 “Selling Surgery: The Role of Race in Transnational Medical Markets”
- Race in the Marketplace (RIM) Research Forum, Universite Paris-Dauphine, Paris, France
  - Race in Medicine Beyond the Lab: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Mobilizations, King’s College London, 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September
- 2019 “Cultural gatekeeping in cosmetic surgery: Transnational beauty ideals in multicultural Malaysia”

- Comparative Research Workshop, Sociology Department, Yale University
  - Session on Popular Culture, American Sociological Association meeting, 10 August, New York, NY
- 2019 “Objectifying the Face”: Visualization Technologies and the Doctor-Patient Relationship in Cosmetic Surgery
- Holmes Workshop, Department of History of Science and Medicine, Yale University, 11 February
  - Workshop on Science and Technology and Gender and Sexuality Colloquium, Columbia University, 14 April
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Global Science, Technology, and Society (Global STS 2.0), Nanyang Technological University, Makassar, Indonesia, 26 July
  - Society for the Social Studies of Science meeting, New Orleans, LA, 3-7 September
  - Culture Workshop, University of California at Santa Barbara, 7 November
- 2019 “Constructing an Asian Look: Global Cosmetic Surgery and the Art of Standardization”
- Culture Workshop, New York University, 24 October
- 2018 “Producing Racial Profiles: Global Cosmetic Surgery and the Art of Standardization”
- Science and Technology Studies Colloquium, Brown University
  - Health, Humanities, and History Workshop, Yale University

## TEACHING

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Race, Medicine and Technology—Combined Graduate/Undergraduate Seminar  
 Methods of Inquiry—Undergraduate Seminar  
 Health and Illness in Social Context—Undergraduate Lecture  
 Sociology of Beauty—Undergraduate Lecture  
 Senior Essay Seminar—Undergraduate Seminar  
 Sociology of Infectious Disease—Graduate Seminar (Medical School)  
 Sociology of the Body—Graduate Seminar (Medical School)  
 Second-Year Paper Seminar—Graduate Seminar

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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### Editorial Boards

2020-present Editorial Board Member, *Sociological Theory*, American Sociological Association

### National Associations

2021-2022 ASA Section on Body & Embodiment Nominations Committee

2021 ASA Annual Meeting – Organizer, Regular Sessions on Sociology of Science

2021 Society for the Social Studies of Science Panel organizer

2019-present ASA Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section Council Member

- Chair of Mentoring Committee (2020)
- Chair of Star Nelkin Best Paper Award Committee (2021)
- 2017-2018 ASA Body and Embodiment Section Graduate Research Paper Award Committee
- 2015-2018 ASA Science, Knowledge and Technology Section Council Member (Graduate Representative)
- 2014-2015 Student Editorial Advisory Board Member, *Social Problems*, Society for the Study of Social Problems

### **Yale University**

- 2021-2022 Sociology Department Faculty Search Committee  
Committee for the Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships
- 2020-2021 School of Public Health Racism and Health Faculty Search Committee  
Sociology Graduate Admissions Committee  
Council on Southeast Asian Studies Postdoctoral Fellow Selection Committee  
Department of History of Science and Medicine Students for Health Equity Action (SHEA) Committee
- 2018-2019 Postgraduate Fellowships Committee  
Sociology Department Sussman Dissertation Prize Committee  
Sociology Department Mildred Frank Priest Prize Committee

### **Ad-hoc Reviewer**

*American Journal of Sociology, Sociological Theory, Law and Social Inquiry, Gender & Society, Qualitative Sociology, Social Science & Medicine, American Journal of Cultural Sociology, Kybernetes, Poetics*

### **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Sociological Association, Society for the Social Studies of Science, Sociologists for Women in Society, Association of Asian American Studies

### **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

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Public Health Associate, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA and Houston, TX, 2010-2011. Stationed at the City of Houston Bureau of Tuberculosis Control.

### **PRESS COVERAGE**

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sResearch and writing featured in Slate, CNN, WIRED, Media Indonesia