

Stephan Thernstrom

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Education

B.S. with highest honors, Northwestern University, 1956
A.M. in History, Harvard University, 1958
Ph.D. in the History of American Civilization, Harvard University, 1962

Employment

Winthrop Professor of History, Harvard University, 1981-
Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute, 1999-
Chairman, History of American Civilization Program, Harvard University, 1985-1992
Director, Charles Warren Center for the Study of American History, Harvard University,
1980-83, 1986-87
Pitt Professor of American History and Institutions, University of Cambridge, 1978-79
Professorial Fellow, Trinity College, 1978-79
Professor of History, Harvard University, 1973-81
Professor of History, UCLA, 1969-73
Senior Associate, Institute of Government and Public Affairs, UCLA, 1969-73
Associate Professor of History, Brandeis University, 1967-69
Assistant Professor of History, Harvard University, 1966-67
Instructor, Harvard-Yale-Columbia Intensive Summer Studies Program Summer, 1966
Research Member, M.I.T.-Harvard Joint Center for Urban Studies, 1962-69
Instructor in History and Literature, Harvard University, 1962-65

Fellowships and Grants

Research grant, Smith Richardson Foundation, 2005-2006
Research grant, John M. Olin Foundation, 1998-99
John M. Olin Fellow, 1992-93
Research grant, Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, 1992-1993
Research grant, Smith Richardson Foundation, 1990-92
Research grant, Rockefeller Foundation, 1975-80
Research grant, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1975-1980
John S. Guggenheim Fellow, 1969-70
Research grant, Mathematical Social Science Board, 1965-68
American Council of Learned Societies Fellow for Computer-Oriented Research in the
Humanities, 1965-66

Research grant, American Philosophical Society, 1964-65
 Samuel S. Stouffer Fellow, Joint Center for Urban Studies, 1961-62
 Frederick Sheldon Travelling Fellow, 1959-60
 Woodrow Wilson Fellow, 1956-57
 Clarion DeWitt Hardy Scholar, 1953-1956

Prizes

2007 Bradley Prize for Outstanding Achievement
 2007 Thomas B. Fordham Foundation Prize for Distinguished Scholarship, for *No Excuses*
No Excuses was named one of "best books of 2003" by the *Los Angeles Times*, and a "2003 Notable Book" by the *American School Board Journal*.
No Excuses and *America in Black and White* were honored with the Peter Shaw Award from the National Association of Scholars
America in Black and White received the Caldwell Award from the Pope Center for Higher Education Policy, and was named a "notable book of the year" by the *New York Times*
 The *Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups* received the American Historical Association's Waldo G. Leland Prize and the R.R. Hawkins Award of the Association of American Publishers
The Other Bostonians was awarded the Bancroft Prize in American History and the Harvard University Press Faculty Prize

Professional Activities

National Council on the Humanities, 2002-
 Society of American Historians
 Editorial Board, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 1970-
 Editorial Board, *Journal of Family History*, 1976-
 Editorial Board, *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 1981-97
 Editorial Board, *Labor History*, 1970-75
 Co-editor, Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Modern History book series, Cambridge University Press, 1980-
 Co-editor, Harvard Studies in Urban History series, Harvard University Press, 1972-
 Co-editor, Documentary History of American Cities series, New Viewpoints Press, 1975-78
 Co-editor, *Perspectives in American History*, 2nd series, 1984-86
 Committee Member, Citizens' Initiative on Race and Ethnicity, 1999-2001
 Board of Directors, National Association of Scholars, 1990-97
 Board of Advisors, National Association of Scholars, 1997-
 Consultant, U.S. Civil Rights Commission studies of "The Economic Progress of Black Men in America" and "The Economic Status of Americans of Asian Descent"
 Panel Member, Committee to Review National Standards in U.S. History, Council on Basic Education, 1995
 Planning Committee, National Assessment of Educational Progress, 1994 Assessment in U.S. History

Textbook Advisory Committee, Education for Democracy Project, 1986-88
 History Area Committee, Foundations of Literacy Project, National Assessment of Learning, 1985-87
 Executive Board, Immigration History Society, 1983-88
 Board of Directors, Social Science Research Council, 1977-78

Current Teaching

American Social History 1920 to the Present
 History of American Immigration
 Race and Race Relations Since *Plessy*
 Seminar in American Social History
 Land of Opportunity? Social Class and Social Mobility in Modern American History

Research in Progress

1. With Abigail, my wife and collaborator in much of my recent writing, I am currently writing a volume tentatively titled *Don't Call It Segregation: The Myth of American Apartheid*.

This volume will dispel the common misconception that African Americans today are highly "segregated," and even becoming more so. A mountain of census and other statistical data suggests that the process of racial integration is proceeding rapidly in many social realms. On the other hand, the African American ethnic group will surely not disappear, as social scientists like Gunnar Myrdal predicted. In the post-Jim Crow era, waves of immigration of an unprecedented scale vastly increased the ethnic complexity of the social order, and blacks were displaced by Latinos as the nation's largest ethnic group.

In these decades, we will demonstrate with comparative data, blacks came increasingly to resemble other American ethnic minorities. Their concentrations in certain neighborhoods and their distinctive institutions—churches, colleges, and a variety of social organizations—can be expected to endure well into the future. Just as there are still identifiably Jewish neighborhoods, religious and other institutions, and something that can be called American Jewish culture, so too there are and will continue to be African American neighborhoods, institutions, and a distinctive black subculture.

The presence of ethnic groups that lead a partially separate existence has long been an indelible part of our pluralistic social structure. However, our tolerance of the impulse to self-segregate should not entail support for current race-driven public policies that sharpen group consciousness and reinforce group boundaries—preferential admissions in higher education, racial preferences in hiring, and the racial gerrymandering of legislative districts. We expect to have a full draft of this study ready by September 2008.

2. When this work is in press, I will return to the issue explored in my first and third scholarly books, *Poverty and Progress: Social Mobility in a 19th-Century City* (1962) and *The Other Bostonians: Poverty and Progress in the American Metropolis, 1880-1970* (1973), the question of whether the United States is properly be described as "the land of opportunity." Recent years have seen the publication of a flood of volumes

with luridly pessimistic titles like *Silent Depression: The Fate of the American Dream*, *Declining Fortunes: The Withering of the American Dream*, *Cold New World*, *The Overworked American*, *The Overspent American*, and *A Future of Lousy Jobs?* The class structure is becoming more rigid, we have been told, and the middle class is disappearing in a new "hourglass society." Most of these claims are overblown and tendentious, but they do serve to establish that the question merits careful examination.

No one, as yet, has done what I consider a fair-minded and comprehensive synthesis of what the massive literature dealing with the class structure and social mobility reveals. Such an analysis would require placing the subject in a broad historical context, and engaging the problem of "American exceptionalism" by making systematic comparisons with other advanced industrial societies in Europe and elsewhere. I have kept up with some of the relevant literature over the past two decades, and have devoted considerable attention to the issue in my Harvard lecture course on American social history since 1920. But there is much more to be read, and I will proceed with that task when *The Myth of American Apartheid* is done.

Publications

Books

- No Excuses: Closing the Racial Gap in Learning*, Simon and Schuster, 2003 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- Beyond the Color Line: New Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity*, Co-editor (with Abigail Thernstrom), Hoover Institution Press, 2002
- America in Black in White: One Nation, Indivisible*, Simon and Schuster, 1997 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- Our Changing Population*, Prentice-Hall, 1991 (with Richard Gill and Nathan Glazer), *A History of the American People*, 2 vols., Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1984; revised edition, 1988
- Harvard Encyclopedia of American Ethnic Groups*, Editor, Harvard University Press, 1980
- The Other Bostonians: Poverty and Progress in the American Metropolis, 1880-1970*, Harvard University Press, 1973
- Poverty, Politics, and Planning in the New Boston: The Origins of ABCD*, Basic Books, 1969
- Nineteenth Century Cities: Essays in the New Urban History*, Co-editor (with Richard Sennett), Yale University Press, 1969
- Readings in the History of the United States*, Co-editor (with Neil Harris and David Rothman), 2 vols., Holt Rinehart Winston, 1969
- Poverty and Progress: Social Mobility in a 19th-Century City*, Harvard University Press, 1964

Articles, Chapters, Reviews

- "Demographic Perspectives on Diversity, Racial Isolation, and the Seattle School Board's Plan to 'Cure' Residential Segregation," U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, *The Benefits of Racial and Ethnic Diversity in Elementary and Secondary Education*, November 2006 Briefing Report
- Social Science Brief to the Supreme Court of the United States in Support of Petitioners in *Parents Involved v. Seattle School District No. 1* and *Meredith v. Jefferson County Board of Education* (coauthored with David J. Armor and Abigail Thernstrom), August 2006
- "Q&A: Abigail and Stephan Thernstrom," *San Diego Tribune*, November 13, 2005
- "Busting Busing Myths," *New York Sun*, November 1, 2005
- "Talk About Affirmative Action," *National Review Online*, July 28, 2005 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Harvard's Crucible: A Question of Academic Freedom, and Meritocracy, and Sense," *National Review*, April 11, 2005
- "At Stake is Academic Freedom," *New York Sun*, March 17, 2005
- "Have We Overcome?" November 2004 *Commentary* (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Closing the Racial Gap in Education," *The Ripon Society's Congressional Report: Public Policies for Debate, 2005* (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Secrecy and Dishonesty: The Supreme Court, Racial Preferences, and Higher Education," *Constitutional Commentary*, Spring 2004 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Deconstructing the Urban NAEP Results," *Gadfly*, January 22, 2004 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Rediscovering the Melting Pot—Still Growing Strong," Tamar Jacoby, ed., *Reinventing the Melting Pot: The New Immigrants and What it Means to be American*, Basic Books, 2004
- "Does Your 'Merit' Depend upon Your Race? A Rejoinder to Bowen and Bok," in Steven M. Cahn, *The Affirmative Action Debate*, Routledge, 2nd edition, 2002 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "The Demography of Racial and Ethnic Groups," in Thernstrom and Thernstrom, *Beyond the Color Line: New Perspectives on Race and Ethnicity in America*, (2002)
- "Schools That Work," John E. Chubb and Thomas Loveless, eds., *Bridging the Achievement Gap*, Brookings Institution Press, 2002 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Racial Preferences in Higher Education: An Assessment of the Evidence," Stanley A. Renshon, ed., *One America? Political Leadership, National Identity, and the Dilemmas of Diversity*, Georgetown University Press, 2001 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Admissions Impossible: California without the SATs," *National Review*, March 19, 2001 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Even in This Election, It is Not Class Warfare," *Los Angeles Times*, November 27, 2000 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "The Wrong Answers," *Taking Sides*, ABCNEWS.com, June 16, 2000
- "Affirmative Action," *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Plenty of Room for All: Does the High Level of Immigration to the U.S. Hold a Lesson for Europe?" *Times Literary Supplement*, May 26, 2000

- "One Drop Still--A Racialist's Census," *National Review*, April 17, 2000
- "Answer the Census. The Alternative is Worse," *Wall Street Journal*, April 6, 2000
(with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Civil Rights: What Went Wrong?" *Wall Street Journal*, January 17, 2000 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Status Anxiety" (review of Nicolas Lemann's *The Big Test*), *National Review*,
December 6, 1999
- Comments for symposium on the definition of "merit," *New York Times*, October 23,
1999
- "Alamo in Ann Arbor," *National Review*, September 13, 1999
- "Black Progress," ch. 4 of Christopher Foreman, ed., *The African American Predicament*,
Brookings Institution Press, 1999 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Reflections on *The Shape of the River*," *UCLA Law Review*, June 1999 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Asian Americans versus Multiculturalism," *Academic Questions*, Spring 1999
- "Racial Preferences: What We Now Know," *Commentary*, February 1999 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Another Bend in *The Shape of the River*," *Washington Post*, December 14, 1998
- Breakfast Table," *Slate*, December 8-11 and 14-18, 1998; nine days of guest columns on
the current news
- "The Consequences of Colorblindness," *Wall Street Journal*, April 7, 1998 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Black Progress: How Far We've Come--and How Far We Have to Go," *The Brookings Review*,
Spring 1998 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "American Apartheid? Don't Believe It," *Wall Street Journal*, March 2, 1998 (with Abigail Thernstrom),
- Contribution to Symposium, "Is Affirmative Action on the Way Out? Should It Be?"
Commentary, March 1998 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Good News About Racial Progress," *Reader's Digest*, March 1998 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Diversity and Meritocracy in Legal Education: A Critical Evaluation of Linda F. Wightman's 'The Threat to Diversity in Legal Education,'" *Constitutional Commentary*,
Spring 1998
- "Farewell to Preferences?" *The Public Interest*, Winter 1998
- "The Scandal of the Law Schools," *Commentary*, December 1997
- "Dialogue" with Randall Kennedy on the subject of race in *Slate*; five exchanges between
October 14 and December 16, 1997 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "We Have Overcome: The Good News About Race Relations," *The New Republic*,
October 13, 1997 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Black Progress: The Greatest Gains Came Before Affirmative Action," *San Diego Union-Tribune*,
September 21, 1997 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "The Real Story of Black Progress," *Wall Street Journal*, September 3, 1997 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Caught in the Skills Gap: Why the Progress of Young Black Americans Has Gone Into Reverse,"
Times Literary Supplement, June 6, 1997 (with Abigail Thernstrom).
- "The Prescience of Gunnar Myrdal," *The Public Interest*, Summer 1997 (with Abigail Thernstrom).

- Review of Michael Lind, *The Fourth American Revolution*, *The Public Interest*, Winter 1996
- Review of Dinesh D'Souza, *The End of Racism* and Manning Marable, *Beyond Black And White*, December 8, 1995 *Times Literary Supplement*
- "Critical Observations on the Draft Final Report of the Special Committee on Race and Ethnicity to the D.C. Circuit Task Force on Gender, Race, and Ethnic Bias," *Public Interest Law Review*, 1995
- "The Promise of Racial Equality," in Lamar Alexander and Chester E. Finn, eds., *The New Promise of American Life*, The Hudson Institute, 1995 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- Review of Peter Brimelow, *Alien Nation*, *Washington Post Book World*, April 2, 1995
- "The Black-White Student Mismatch Problem in University Admissions," *Journal of Blacks in Higher Education*, Winter 1994/1995
- "Racial Bias in the Federal Courts?" *Wall Street Journal*, March 22, 1995
- "Reflections on Race, the Central City, and the Economy," *The Aspen Institute Quarterly*, Winter 1994 (with Abigail Thernstrom)
- "Asian Americans: The Declining Significance of Race," *The American Experiment*, Center for the New American Community, Summer 1993
- "Hello Columbus," *American School Board Journal*, October 1991 [reprinted in Spring, 1992 *American Educator*]
- "American Ethnic Statistics," in Donald L. Horowitz and Gerard Noiriel, ed., *Immigrants in Two Democracies: French and American Experience*, New York University Press, 1992
- "McCarthyism Then and Now," *Academic Questions*, Winter 1990-91
- "The Minority Majority Will Never Come," *Wall Street Journal*, July 26, 1990
- "Counting Heads: New Data on the Ethnic Composition of the American Population," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Summer 1989.
- "Just Say Afro," *The New Republic*, January 23, 1989. □ □
- "Poverty and Progress Revisited: A Response to Reiss, Frisch, and Pessen," *Social Science History*, Spring 1986
- "Poor but Hopeful Scholars," Oscar Handlin, ed., *Glimpses of the Harvard Past*, Harvard University Press, 1986
- "The Humanities and Our Cultural Heritage," Chester Finn, Diane Ravitch, and P. Holley Roberts, ed., *Challenges to the Humanities*, Holmes and Meier, 1985
- "Comments on Zunz," *Journal of American Ethnic History*, Spring 1985
- Review of Hasia Diner, *Erin's Daughters in America* and Dennis Ryan, *Beyond the Ballot Box*, *New England Quarterly*, June 1984
- "Ethnic Pluralism: The U.S. Model," Charles Fried, ed., *Minorities: Community and Identity*, Springer-Verlag, 1983
- "Ethnic Groups in American History," Lance Liebman, ed., *Ethnic Relations in America*, Prentice-Hall, 1982
- Review of Thomas Sowell, *Ethnic America: A History*, *Washington Post Book World*, August 16, 1981
- "A Conversation with Stephan Thernstrom," Brace Stave, ed., *The Making of Urban History*, Sage, 1977
- "The New Urban History," Charles Delzell, ed., *The Future of History*, Vanderbilt University Press, 1977
- "Two Centuries of Immigrants," *The American Issues Forum*, 1976

- "Rejoinder to Alcorn and Knights," *Historical Methods Newsletter*, June 1975
- "A Comment on Socialism and Social Mobility," S.M. Lipset and John Laslett, eds., *The Failure of a Dream?* Doubleday, 1974
- "The Growth of Los Angeles in Historical Perspective," Werner Z. Hirsch, ed., *Los Angeles: Viability and Prospects for Metropolitan Leadership*, Praeger, 1971
- "Reflections on the New Urban History," *Daedalus*, Spring 1971
- Foreword to Michael Katz, *Class, Bureaucracy, and Schools*, Praeger, 1971
- Review of John Armstrong, *Factory Under the Elms*, *Journal of American History*, December 1970
- Review of Mayer and Wade, *Chicago: Growth of a Metropolis*, *American Historical Review*, October 1970.
- "Men in Motion: Some Data and Speculations on Urban Population Mobility in Nineteenth-Century America," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Autumn 1970 (with Peter Knights)
- "Working Class Social Mobility in Industrial America," Melvin Richter, ed., *Essays in Theory and History: An Approach to the Social Sciences*, Harvard University Press, 1970
- "The Myth of American Affluence," *Commentary*, October 1969
- Review of Daniel P. Moynihan, *Maximum Feasible Misunderstanding*, *Commentary*, May 1969
- "Poverty in Historical Perspective," Daniel P. Moynihan, ed., *On Understanding Poverty*, Basic Books, 1969
- "Quantitative Methods in History: Some Notes," S.M. Lipset and Richard Hofstadter, ed., *Sociology and History: Methods*, Basic Books, 1968
- Comments for Symposium on Black Power, *Partisan Review*, April 1968
- "Notes on the Historical Study of Social Mobility," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, Spring 1968
- "The Case of Boston," *Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 1968
- "The Historian and the Computer," Edmund Bowles, ed., *Computers in Humanistic Research*, Prentice-Hall, 1967
- "Up From Slavery," *Perspectives in American History*, 1967
- Review of Richard Elman, *The Poorhouse State*, November 13, 1966 *Washington Post Book Week*
- Review of Gerhard Lenski, *Power and Privilege*, *American Sociological Review*, October 1966
- Review of Christopher Lasch, *The New Radicalism in America*, *Dissent*, January 1966
- Review of E.P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, *Dissent*, Winter 1965
- "'Yankee City' Revisited: The Perils of Historical Naïveté," *American Sociological Review*, April 1965
- Review of Donald B. Cole, *Immigrant City*, *Journal of Economic History*, June 1964
- "Oswald Garrison Villard and the Politics of Pacifism," *Harvard Library Bulletin*, Winter 1960
- Review of S.M. Lipset and Reinhard Bendix, *Social Mobility in Industrial Society*, *Dissent*, Autumn 1960

Expert Witness Work

I have served as an expert witness or consultant in 27 federal cases in 10 states. I have submitted evidence about the history of racial and ethnic groups in the United States, the history of discrimination, and the interpretation of statistical data used to make inferences about discrimination. I have also done work as an expert witness on the question of historical awareness of the hazards of smoking in cases in New York and Massachusetts.

Voting Rights

Aldasoro v. El Centro School District (California)
Allen v. Pataki and Rodriguez v. Pataki (New York)
Anthony v. State of Michigan (Michigan)
Arise for Social Justice v. City of Springfield (Massachusetts)
Concerned Citizens v. Hardee County Board of Commissioners (Florida)
Cuthair v. Montezuma-Cortez School District (Colorado)
DeBaca v. County of San Diego (California)
Johnson v. DeSoto County Board of Supervisors (Florida)
Large v. Fremont County (Wyoming)
NAACP v. Austin (Michigan)
Reyes v. City of Dinuba (California)
Ruiz v. City of Santa Maria (California)
Shaw v. Hunt (North Carolina)
United States of America v. City Council of Augusta (Georgia)
Washington v. Arcadia City Council (Florida)

Racial Preferences in Education

Coalition for Economic Equity v. Wilson (California)
Ho v. San Francisco Unified School District (California)
Hopwood v. Texas (Texas)
McLaughlin v. Boston School Committee (Massachusetts)
Roe v. Houston Independent School District (Texas)
Spears v. Nova Southeastern University (Florida)
Wessmann v. Boston School Committee (Massachusetts)
Worley v. Florida (Florida)

Employment Discrimination

Pierre-Louis v. Merit Oil (New York)

Discrimination in the Provision of Public Services

Committee Concerning Public Improvements v. City of Modesto (California)

Smoking Awareness

DeFazio v. Brown and Williamson (New York)
Johnson v. Brown and Williamson (Massachusetts)