



**Valerie Purdie-Vaughns, PhD**

**Assistant Professor of Psychology  
Columbia University**

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Dr. Purdie-Vaughns is a professor in psychology and the founding director of the Laboratory of Intergroup Relations and the Social Mind at Columbia University. She is an expert on racial and gender achievement gaps in academic and workplace settings and improving educational outcomes through interventions. Her expertise also includes health disparities.

She has received numerous federally funded grants for her research studies and has given several statewide addresses on diversity issues, including talks at the White House Conference on Education and at academic institutions such as Harvard, Stanford and Princeton Universities. She has served in advisory and analyst roles for organizations like the National Science Foundation, American Education Research Association and National Public Radio. She earned a Columbia University Basketball Varsity Letter ('89-'93).

**Current Academic and Professional Appointments:**

- Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Columbia University
- Founder and Director, Laboratory for Intergroup Relations and the Social Mind
- Core Faculty, Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Institute, Columbia Univ.
- Faculty Fellow, Institute for Research on African-American Studies, Columbia University

**Education:**

- Stanford University, Ph.D. in Social Psychology (Advisor: Claude M. Steele)
- Columbia University, B.A. in Psychology

**Areas of Expertise:**

- Diversity in schools, law firms, and federal agencies (fire and police departments),
- Race, gender and cardiovascular disease
- Concealment, covering and the workplace in schools, law firms, and federal agencies.

**Select Publications:**

- "[Social identity contingencies: how diversity cues signal threat or safety for African Americans in mainstream institutions.](#)"
- "[Intersectional invisibility: The distinctive advantages and disadvantages of multiple subordinate-group identities.](#)"
- "[Looking deathworthy perceived stereotypicality of black defendants predicts capital-sentencing outcomes.](#)"
- "[Recursive processes in self-affirmation: Intervening to close the minority achievement gap.](#)"

**Teaching Areas (Graduate and Undergraduate):**

- Cultural Psychology, Social Psychology
- History of Psychology, Research Methods