

Paul Lichterman currently is Associate Professor of Sociology and Religion at the University of Southern California. His research and writing interests include culture, religion, politics, civic organizations and social movements, qualitative methodology, and theory. His second book, **Elusive Togetherness: Church Groups Trying to Bridge America's Divisions** (Princeton University Press, 2005), compares nine religiously based community service groups responding to welfare reform. The study portrays different ways these mainline and evangelical Protestant groups tried, and often failed, to reach out to other community organizations and low-income people. Paul's research pursues questions such as: How do people practice citizenship and "build community" in a socially unequal, culturally diverse society? How do cultural customs or religious traditions shape people's engagement in civic life? Paul's work has appeared in *American Journal of Sociology*, *Sociological Theory*, *Theory and Society*, and has been translated into French and Italian; he has won a variety of book and article awards. Prior to coming to USC in 2004, Paul was associate professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin--Madison.