

Sarah A. N. Akers

Department of Sociology
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EDUCATION

Washington State University; Vancouver, WA Doctorate Expected Fall 2019

Topic area: Sociology of Family Organization — Gender Beliefs and Roles, Nontraditional Earner Structure

Dissertation title: “Breadwinner Wives: Gender Roles and Identities in Marriages with Non-traditional Earner Structures”

Washington State University; Pullman, WA Master’s of Arts 2013

Topic area: Sociology of Family Organization — Couple Formation, Interracial Couples, Transition to Adulthood

Thesis title: “More of the Same?: Young Adult Perceptions of Black/White Interracial Relationships”

Grand Valley State University; Allendale, MI Bachelors of Science 2008

Bachelor of Sociology

Emphasis areas in independent research: social, political, and economic issues in Africa, and genocide and ethnic conflict both throughout history and currently occurring.

Bachelor of Psychology

Research assistant for the Value of Children research project: participant recruitment, conducted structured interviews, and coded data using SPSS statistical software.

Henry Ford Community College; Dearborn, MI Associates of Arts 2005

Associate of Art Foundations

Associate of Graphic Design: Certificate of Print Design

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Instructor of Record

Washington State University; Vancouver, WA:

Social Problems - Sociology 102; January 2017—May 2017

The Family - Sociology/Women’s Studies 351; August 2016—December 2016

Introduction to Sociology - Sociology 101; June 2016—August 2016

Social Problems - Sociology 102; January 2016—May 2016

Introduction to Sociology - Sociology 101; August 2015—December 2015

Social Problems - Sociology 102; January 2015—May 2015

Washington State University; Pullman, WA:

Sociology of Sex, Relationships and Marriage - Sociology/Women's Studies 251; August 2014—December 2014

Sociology of Sex, Relationships and Marriage - Sociology/Women's Studies 251; May 2014—June 2014

Eastern Oregon University; La Grande, OR:

Sociology of Families - Sociology 338 (online); April 2013—June 2013

Teaching Assistant

Washington State University; Pullman, WA:

Social Problems - Sociology 102; August 2013—May 2014

Principles and Research Methods in Social Science - Honors 270; January 2013—May 2013

Social Deviance - Sociology 360; August 2012—December 2012

Introduction to Sociology - Sociology 101 Discussion Leader; August 2011—May 2012

MENTORING AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Critical Literacies Achievement and Success Program (CLASP) Mentor, WSU; Vancouver, WA Fall 2015

Mentorship included meeting with students who are first generation or deemed to be at risk of not graduating, providing extra support, interaction, and instructor connections for these students, and meeting with other members of CLASP to improve pedagogy and student experiences at WSU.

Sociology Graduate Student Mentor, WSU; Pullman, WA Summer 2012 & Summer 2013

Mentorship included contacting and connecting with a member of incoming cohort of graduate students in the Sociology department, and providing them with information to make their transition to Pullman, WA, and graduate school easier and smoother.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Research, WSU, Sociology; Pullman & Vancouver, WA Fall 2013

Present

My responsibilities for this project include: constructing a research proposal, running early statistical analysis to provide foundational information, designing an interview guide, recruiting participants for in-depth interviews, conducting and transcribing interviews, managing qualitative data, analyzing the results, and producing a written report.

**Research Assistant for Dr. Katrina Leupp, WSU; Vancouver, WA Summer 2015
May 2016**

I performed quantitative data management in STATA using the National Longitudinal Study of Youth (NLSY) datasets.

Thesis Project on Interracial Relationships in the Transition to Adulthood, WSU; Vancouver, WA — Spring 2012 December 2013

I designed and implemented an experiment. Then, I quantitatively analyzed the results, produced a report, and defended the conclusions to a faculty committee.

Graduate Coursework in Research Methods; Pullman, WA 2011 2014

I focused on various research methods throughout my graduate coursework including: experimental, qualitative, survey, life-course, and advanced statistical methods.

Research Assistant for the Value of Children and Intergenerational Study at Grand Valley State; Allendale, MI 2007 2008

I was responsible for participant recruitment, conducting structured interviews, and coding data using SPSS statistical software.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Presenter, American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting August 2016

Paper title: “A Measurement Model for Traditional Gender Beliefs Using the General Social Survey” — this is a quantitative, working paper presented at a roundtable discussion.

Presider, American Sociological Association (ASA) Annual Meeting August 2016

I served as a presider at a roundtable discussion entitled “Gender Norms/Beliefs and Family Formation.”

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY

Article Review November 2018

Journal: Sociological Focus.

Book Review November 2015

Investigating Social Problems, first edition, edited by A. Javier Trevino, SAGE Publications.

Book Review for In-Progress Chapters June 2015

Sociology of Sexualities (tentative title), SAGE Publications.

COMMITTEE AND DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Qualitative Research Group Fall 2014 Present

This is a graduate student and faculty group led by Dr. Jennifer Sherman in which participants take turns submitting original work for the others to read and critique. Meetings also include discussions of issues in qualitative research.

Graduate Studies Committee December 2013 May 2016

For this committee, I assisted the Directors of Graduate Studies in their recruitment of graduate students for the next year’s cohort and in updating and improving the department’s website.

Exploratory Faculty Awards Committee Spring 2013 Spring 2014

On this committee I was responsible for researching, rethinking, and rewriting the description of the annual departmental faculty award, the Louis N. Gray award.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA) 2015
Sections: Family, and Sex and Gender.

Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) 2018

AWARDS AND HONORS

Fred R. Yoder Graduate Fellowship 2015
In the amount of \$1,500 for Dissertation Research.

**College of Arts and Sciences Graduate Student Professional Development Award
2015**
In the amount of \$750 available for Dissertation Research.

Fred R. Yoder Graduate Fellowship 2014
In the amount of \$300 for Dissertation Research.

Fred R. Yoder Graduate Fellowship 2013
In the amount of \$500 for Thesis Research.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Sociology of the Family: Couple Dynamics, Family Organization, and Roles

Gender: Gender Roles, Ideologies, and Performances

Work: As Related to Gender and Family

Race: Social Distance, Interracial Relationships