

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2023-present Full Professor
Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2023-present Graduate Chair
Department of Sociology
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2017-2023 Associate Professor
Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
- 2010-2017 Assistant Professor
Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies
University of Nebraska-Lincoln

EDUCATION

- 2010 Ph.D. in Sociology
Graduate Certificate in Women's Studies
University of Michigan
- 2007 M.A. in Sociology
University of Michigan
- 2003 B.A. in Sociology
Certificate in Women's Studies
Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa
Ohio University Honors Tutorial College

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Books

Browne, Kath and Emily Kazyak (Editors). 2025. [*Polarising Sexualities and Genders: Divisions, Differences and LGBTQIA+ Equalities*](#). London: Bloomsbury.

Kazyak, Emily. (Editor). 2023. *Geographies of Sexualities*. New York: Routledge.

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

**Indicates current/former graduate or undergraduate student co-author*

Schwadel, Philip, Kelsy Burke, and Emily Kazyak. 2025. "The LGBT Politics of Religious Nones." *Sociology of Religion* 86 (3): 356-381.

Burke, Kelsy, Emily Kazyak, and Maia Behrendt*. 2024. “‘In a Religious Celebration’: The Religious Defense of LGBT Rights in U.S. Federal Courts.” *Journal of Homosexuality* 71 (10): 2400-2423.

Kazyak, Emily, Kelsy Burke, Maia Behrendt,* and Marissa Oliver.* 2024. “Religious Exemption, LGBT Rights, and the Social Construction of Harm and Freedom.” *Law & Social Inquiry* 49 (2): 980-1003.

Kazyak, Emily, Kelsy Burke, and Marissa Oliver,* Maia Behrendt.* 2023. “Making the Case: Examining Outcomes of Religious Claims in Federal Litigation Involving LGBT Rights.” *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 20: 1393-1406.

Burke, Kelsy, Emily Kazyak, Marissa Oliver*, and Payton Valkr.* 2023. “LG but not T: Opposition to Transgender Rights Amidst Gay and Lesbian Acceptance.” *The Sociological Quarterly* 64 (3): 471-492.

Kazyak, Emily, Rosalind Kichler*, Jess Morrow*, and Eliza Thor*. 2022. “Two Mothers, One Grandmother: Intergenerational Ambivalence in Heterosexual Mother-LBQ Daughter Relationships.” *Sexuality & Culture* 26 (5): 1639-1658.

Burke, Kelsy, Emily Kazyak, and Alice MillerMacPhee*. 2022. “LGBT Employment Nondiscrimination: Debating Sexuality and Citizenship” *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 19 (2): 470–482.

Kazyak, Emily, Kelsy Burke, Rosalind Kichler*, and Lora McGraw*. 2021. “‘Pee in Peace’ or ‘Make Everyone Uncomfortable’: Public Perceptions of Transgender Rights.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 7: 1-16.

Kazyak, Emily and Nicholas Park*. 2020. “Doing Family: The Reproduction of Heterosexuality in Accounts of Parenthood.” *Journal of Sociology* 56 (4): 646-663.

Kazyak, Emily, Kelsy Burke, and Mathew Stange*. 2018. “Logics of Freedom: Debating Religious Freedom Laws and Gay and Lesbian Rights.” *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 4: 1-18.

- **Among the top 10 most downloaded articles from the journal *Socius* in 2019**
- **Among the top 25 most downloaded articles from all journals published by the American Sociological Association in 2018**

Kazyak, Emily, Brandi Woodell*, Kristin Scherrer, and Emma Finken*. 2018. “Law and Family Formation among LGBTQ-Parent Families.” *Family Court Review* 56: 364-373.

Smyth, Jolene, Alexis Swendener*, and Emily Kazyak. 2018. “Women’s Work? The Relationship Between Farm Work and Gender Self-Perception.” *Rural Sociology* 83 (3): 654-676.

- Kazyak, Emily and Mathew Stange*. 2018. "Backlash or a Positive Response? Public Opinion of LGB Issues after *Obergefell v. Hodges*." *Journal of Homosexuality* 65 (4): 2028-2052. Published in special issue "The Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on LGBTQ Activism, Politics, Communities, and Identities."
- Schmitz, Rachel* and Emily Kazyak. 2017. "Checking Privilege at the Door: Men's Reflections on Masculinity in Women's and Gender Studies Courses." *Gender Issues* 34 (2): 129-48.
- Kazyak, Emily, Nicholas K. Park*, Julia McQuillan, and Arthur L. Greil. 2016. "Attitudes Toward Motherhood Among U.S. Sexual Minority Women." *Journal of Family Issues* 37 (13): 1771-1796.
- Kazyak, Emily and Brandi Woodell*. 2016. "Law and LGBTQ-Parent Families." *Sexuality & Culture* 20 (3): 749-768.
- Park, Nicholas K.*, Emily Kazyak, and Katie Slauson-Blevins*. 2016. "How Law Shapes Experiences of Parenthood for Gay and Lesbian Couples." *Journal of GLBT Family Studies* 12 (2): 115-137.
- Stange, Mathew* and Emily Kazyak. 2016. "Examining the Nuance in Public Opinion of Pro-LGB Policies in a 'Red State.'" *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 13 (2): 142-157.
- Schmitz, Rachel* and Emily Kazyak. 2016. "Masculinities in Cyberspace: An Analysis of Portrayals of Manhood in Men's Rights Activist Websites." *Social Sciences* 5 (2): 1-16. Published in special issue "Backlash: Contemporary Obstructions to Social Justice."
- Woodell, Brandi*, Emily Kazyak, and D'Lane Compton. 2015. "Reconciling LGB and Christian Identities in the Rural South." *Social Sciences* 4 (3): 859-878. Published in special issue "LGBTQ Lives in Context: The Role of Place."
- Kazyak, Emily. 2015. "'The Law's the Law, Right?' Sexual Minority Mothers Navigating Legal Inequities and Inconsistencies." *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 12 (3): 188-201.
- Scherrer, Kristin S., Emily Kazyak, and Rachel Schmitz*. 2015. "Getting 'Bi' in the Family: Bisexual People's Disclosure Experiences." *Journal of Marriage and Family* 77 (3): 680-696
- Kazyak, Emily. 2012. "Midwest or Lesbian? Gender, Rurality, and Sexuality." *Gender & Society* 26 (6): 825-848. Lead article
- **Distinguished Article Award, Honorary Mention, American Sociological Association Section on Sexualities**
 - **Reprinted in: *Exploring Masculinities: Identity, Inequality, Continuity and Change*. Edited by C.J. Pascoe and Tristan Bridges. Oxford University Press, 2015.**

Kazyak, Emily. 2011. "Disrupting Cultural Selves: Constructing Gay and Lesbian Identities in Rural Locales." *Qualitative Sociology* 34 (4): 561-581.

Kazyak, Emily. 2011. "Same-Sex Marriage in a Welcoming World: Rights Consciousness of Heterosexuals in Liberal Religious Institutions." *Sexuality Research and Social Policy* 8 (3): 192-203

Martin, Karin, David Hutson, Emily Kazyak, and Kristin Scherrer. 2010. "Advice When Children Come Out: The Cultural 'Tool-Kits' of Parents." *Journal of Family Issues* 31 (7): 960-991.

Martin, Karin and Emily Kazyak. 2009. "Hetero-romantic Love and Heterosexiness in Children's G-Rated Films." *Gender & Society* 23 (3): 315-336.

- Reprinted in: *Gendered Lives, Sexual Beings: A Feminist Anthology*. Edited by Joya Misra, Mahala Dyer Stewart, and Marni Alyson Brown. Sage, 2018.
- Reprinted in: *Cinematic Sociology: Social Life in Film, 2nd edition*. Edited by Jean-Anne Sutherland and Kathy Feltey, Sage Press, 2018.
- Reprinted in: *Feminist Frontiers, 9th Edition*. Edited by Verta Taylor, Nancy Whittier, and Leila J. Rupp. McGraw Hill, 2012.
- Reprinted in: *Understanding Society: An Introductory Reader, 4th Edition*. Edited by Margaret L. Andersen, Kim Logio, and Howard F. Taylor. Wadsworth, 2011.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Kazyak, Emily. 2025. "[Incommensurable Realities: LGBTQ Bodies and the Construction of Religion, Sexuality, and Discrimination in U.S. Federal Religious Exemption Litigation](#)" in *Polarising Sexualities and Genders: Divisions, Differences and LGBTQIA+ Equalities*, edited by Kath Browne and Emily Kazyak. London: Bloomsbury.

Kazyak, Emily and Emma Finken*. 2019. "Law and Same-Sex Couples' Experiences of Childbirth." Pp. 176-187 in *Health and Well-being of Sexual Minority Couples*, edited by Hui Liu, Rin Reczek, and Lindsey Wilkinson. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Invited Publications

Kazyak, Emily and Kelsy Burke. 2021. "[From Smith to Fulton: The Shifting Perceptions of Religion and LGBT rights in the Courts](#)." *Berkley Forum*. Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs. Georgetown University.

Kazyak, Emily. 2020. "Introduction: Special Issue: Geographies of Sexualities." *Journal of Lesbian Studies* 24 (3): 173-185.

- **Among the top 10 most downloaded articles from *Journal of Lesbian Studies* in 2021**

Burke, Kelsy and Emily Kazyak. 2019. "A Red-State View of Religious Liberty and Non-Discrimination Protection for LGBT people." *Contexts* 63-65.

Kazyak, Emily. 2016. "Rural and Urban Communities." In *The SAGE Encyclopedia of LGBTQ Studies*, pp. 973-976. Edited by Abbie Goldberg. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

Book Reviews

Kazyak, Emily. 2019. *How Places Make Us: Novel LBQ Identities in Four Small Cities* by Japonica Brown-Saracino. *American Journal of Sociology* 125 (1): 272-274.

Kazyak, Emily. 2014. *Just Queer Folks: Gender and Sexuality in Rural America* by Colin R. Johnson. *Gender & Society* 28 (3): 507-509.

Kazyak, Emily. 2010. *Out in the Country: Youth, Media, and Queer Visibility in Rural America* by Mary L. Gray. *Journal of Research in Rural Education* 25 (6): 1-2.

Public Writing

Burke, Kelsy and Emily Kazyak. 2023. "[The Colorado website designer's win is one of dozens of federal cases where religious beliefs and LGBTQ+ rights have clashed – and the pattern might not be what you think.](#)" Op-ed published in the national magazine, *The Conversation*

- Reprinted in national outlets including [Yahoo](#), [Religious News Service](#)

Burke, Kelsy, Emily Kazyak, and Philip Schwadel. 2023. "'Nones' and LGBTQ Politics." Research brief published by Public Religion Research Institute.

Burke, Kelsy and Emily Kazyak. 2022. "[Americans' support for transgender rights has declined. Here's why.](#)" Op-ed published in *The Washington Post*.

Burke, Kelsy and Emily Kazyak. 2020. "[Devil in the detail of SCOTUS ruling on workplace bias puts LGBTQ rights and religious freedom on collision course.](#)" Op-ed published in the national magazine, *The Conversation*

- Reprinted in national outlets including [Alternet](#), [Curve Magazine](#), [Towleroad](#)

Kazyak, Emily and Kelsy Burke. 2019. "[Nebraskans Support LGBT Protections.](#)" Op-ed published in *Lincoln Journal Star*

Kazyak, Emily and Kelsy Burke. 2018. "[Nebraskans who support and oppose 'religious freedom' laws actually share many of the same values.](#)" Op-ed published in the national magazine, *The Conversation*

- Reprinted in national outlets including [Salon](#)

Kazyak, Emily. 2015. "[Gender and Acceptance of Lesbian Women and Gay Men in Small Town, USA.](#)" *Gender & Society* Blog

RESEARCH GRANTS

External Grants

- 2023-2026 National Science Foundation. Build and Broaden Program. \$519,905.
Co-PI: Dr. Emily Kazyak (PI: Dr. K Scherrer)
"Navigating Change in Intergenerational Family Relationships: Cohort, Age, Family Role and Social Marginalization"
- 2022-2023 National Science Foundation. Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES) – Sociology Program. \$4,354.
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
Supplemental Award "Research Collaboration Opportunity in Europe for NSF Awardees" for "Religious Exemption Laws and Minority Rights"
- 2019-2023 National Science Foundation. Division of Social and Economic Sciences (SES) – Sociology Program. \$324,228.
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak (Co-PI: Dr. Kelsy Burke)
"Religious Exemption Laws and Minority Rights"

Internal Grants

- 2023 Behavioral Health POE Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$11,592.
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
"Let Them Grow? Parental Advice About Kids Medically Transitioning"
- 2023 Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs Program, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$3,000.
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
"Human Rights, Sexual Freedom, and Global Politics"
- 2022 Research Impact and Engagement Grant, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$5,000
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
"Polarising Sexual and Gendered Lives: Divisions, Differences and LGBTQI+ Equalities"
- 2022 Layman New Directions Grant, Office of Research and Economic Development, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$10,000.
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
"Intergenerational Support, Health, and Wellbeing in Minority Families"

- 2022 Behavioral Health POE Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$7,985
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
“Law and Health in Minoritized Populations”
- 2021 Research Impact and Engagement Grant, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$5,000
Co-Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak (PI: Dr. Kelsy Burke)
“Nebraskan Attitudes about LGBT Rights”
- 2019 Collaboration Initiative. University of Nebraska. \$20,000.
Co-Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak (PI: Dr. Debra Hope)
“Nebraska Consortium on Sexual and Gender Minority Health”
- 2018 Haas Faculty Award for Research in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$5,000
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak (Co-PI: Dr. Kelsy Burke)
“Public Opinion of LGBTQ Rights”
- 2016 Social & Behavioral Science Research Consortium Seed Grant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$4,959
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
“Recruiting Sexual Minority Populations Using Probability Sampling: A Feasibility Study”
- 2015 Research Council Faculty Seed Grant, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$8,500
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
“The Role of Family Support in Sexual Minority Parent Families”
- 2015 Enhance CAS Faculty Enhancement Program, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$5,000
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
“Assessing Changes in Public Opinion of LGB Rights”
- 2015 Haas Faculty Award for Research in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$5,000
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
“Law and Social Acceptance in Minority Families”
- 2012 Layman Award, Office of Research and Economic Development, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$10,000
Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
“Making Laws Matter: How Families Navigate Legal Uncertainty”
- 2011 Haas Faculty Award for Research in Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln. \$5,000

Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
“Gender and Sexuality in the Rural Midwest”

- 2008 Dissertation Research Grant, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan. \$2,500
- 2008 Research Grant, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan. \$500
- 2008 Graduate Student Research Grant, Rackham School of Graduate Studies, University of Michigan. \$3,000
- 2008 Research Grant, Center for the Education of Women, University of Michigan. \$750
- 2000-2002 Voinovich Undergraduate Research Scholar Grants, Ohio University Honors Tutorial College

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2023 [Inclusive Excellence Scholar Residency](#), awarded by the University of Dayton
- 2021 College Distinguished Teaching Award, awarded by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts & Sciences
- 2021 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, awarded by the Nebraska Association for Sociology Graduate Students, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Sociology
- 2018 Early Career Award, awarded by the American Sociological Association Section on Sexualities
- 2018 International Travel Award, awarded by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts & Sciences
- 2016 Dean’s Award for Excellence in Graduate Education, awarded by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Office of Graduate Studies. University-wide award given annually to one Full Professor and one Assistant or Associate Professor
- 2015 Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award, awarded by the Nebraska Association for Sociology Graduate Students, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Sociology
- 2015 LGBTQA+ Voice for Equality in Nebraska, awarded by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln LGBTQA+ Resource Center

- 2013 Distinguished Article Award, Honorary Mention, American Sociological Association Section on Sexualities
- 2010 One-Term Dissertation Fellowship awarded by the University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies
- 2009 SAGE & Pine Forge Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award
- 2009 American Sociological Association Student Forum Travel Award
- 2009 Funded participant for “A Primer on Empirical Research on Sexual Orientation” training sponsored by The Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law
- 2007 Fellowship to recognize outstanding progress awarded by the University of Michigan Department of Women’s Studies
- 2006 High Pass on Preliminary Examination in Gender and Sexuality awarded by the University of Michigan Department of Sociology
- 2004-2006 Regents Fellowship awarded by the University of Michigan Rackham School of Graduate Studies to support outstanding incoming doctoral students
- 2002 Phi Beta Kappa, Ohio University
- 2000-2003 Dean’s Scholarship awarded by Ohio University
- 1999-2000 Freshmen Provost Scholarship awarded by Ohio University

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Presentations

- 2024 American Association of State Colleges and Universities Grants Resource Center Virtual Summit
“Securing NSF B2 Funding” (with Dr. K Scherrer)
- 2023 University of Dayton.
[Invited Inclusive Excellence Scholar Residency Speaker](#)
- 2021 Vanderbilt University Sociology Department Colloquium.
Invited presenter on “Religion, Sexuality, and Freedom: The Social and Legal Landscape of Religious Liberty and LGBTQ Rights” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke)
- 2021 University of South Carolina Women’s and Gender Studies Colloquium.
Invited presenter on “Religion, Sexuality, and Freedom: The Social and Legal Landscape of Religious Liberty and LGBTQ Rights” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke)

- 2020 Pacific Sociological Association Conference. Eugene, Oregon.
Invited panelist on “Rural Landscapes through a Different Lens: Sexualities in Rural America”
- 2014 American Sociological Association Conference. San Francisco, California.
Invited panelist on “Queer Life Outside the Center”

Conference Presentations

- 2025 American Sociological Association. Chicago, Illinois
“Intergenerational Solidarity and Social Support in GLBQ+ People’s Family Systems.”
(with Dr. K Scherrer)
- 2025 American Sociological Association. Chicago, Illinois.
“Advice to Parents of Transgender Children: Strategies of Affirmation, Questioning, and Disaffirmation” (with Drs. David Hutson, K Scherrer, and Karin Martin)
- 2025 Pacific Sociological Association Conference. San Francisco, California.
“Social Media Platforms Influence on Recruitment of Generationally Diverse Study Participants” (with Dr. K Scherrer and Ezra Toledo)
- 2025 Pacific Sociological Association Conference. San Francisco, California.
““I Know That You’ll Love Me Anyways, But I Still Want You to Respect Me”: The Intergenerational Family Relationships of LGBQ+ people” (with Dr. K Scherrer, Amelia Federico, M Gillis, Ezra Toledo and Alejandra Vasquez)
- 2022 American Sociological Association Conference. Los Angeles, California.
““In a Religious Celebration’: Federal Case Law Involving Religion-Based Claims that Support LGBT Rights” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke and Maia Behrendt)
- 2022 Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting. Santa Ana Pueblo, New Mexico.
“LG but not T: Opposition to Transgender Rights Amidst Gay and Lesbian Acceptance”
(with Dr. Kelsy Burke and Cadyn Williamson)
- 2021 American Sociological Association Conference. Virtual.
“Religious Exemption, LGBTQ Rights, and the Social Construction of Harm and Freedom” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke, Lora McGraw, and Maia Behrendt)
- 2021 Midwest Sociological Association Conference. Virtual.
“Intergenerational Ambivalence in LGBTQ Families” (with Rosalind Kichler, University of Jess Morrow, and Eliza Thor)
- 2020 American Sociology Association Conference. Virtual.
“Bathroom Battles: Public Perceptions of Transgender Rights and the Making of Sex and Gender” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke and Rosalind Kichler)

- 2019 Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting. Denver, Colorado.
“Feminist Strategies for Academic Advancement” (with Drs. Laura Hirshfield, Zakiya Luna, Carla Pfeffer, and K Scherrer)
- 2018 American Sociological Association Section on Sexualities Pre-Conference. Philadelphia.
“Queer Citizenship: Debating Discrimination and Religious Exemption” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke and Alice MillerMacPhee)
- 2018 International Sociological Association Conference. Toronto, Ontario, Canada.
“Doing Family: The Reproduction of Heterosexuality in Accounts of Parenthood”
(with Dr. Nicholas Park)
- 2018 Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting. Atlanta, Georgia.
“Promising Practices: Developing and Sustaining Feminist Working Groups in the Academy” (with Drs. Laura Hirshfield, Zakiya Luna, Carla Pfeffer, and Kristin Scherrer)
- 2017 American Sociological Association Conference. Montreal, Quebec, Canada
“Logics of Religious Freedom” (with Drs. Kelsy Burke and Mathew Stange)
- 2016 Midwest Sociological Society Conference. Chicago, Illinois.
“All in the Family? (Mis)Recognition of LGBTQ Parents” (with Dr. Nicholas Park)
- 2015 American Sociological Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois.
Identity and Culture Panel
“Country Rednecks and City Cosmopolitans”
- 2015 Social Theory Forum Conference. Boston, Massachusetts.
“The Promise and Pitfalls of Intersectional Approaches in Sexuality Studies”
- 2015 Southwestern Social Science Association Conference. Denver, Colorado.
“The Family Systems of Bisexual Identified People”
(with Dr. Kristin Scherrer and Rachel Schmitz)
- 2014 Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Conference. Omaha, Nebraska.
“Coming Out as Bisexual in the Family” (with Dr. Kristin Scherrer and Rachel Schmitz)
- 2014 American Sociological Association Conference. San Francisco, California.
“Reconciling LGB and Christian Identities in the Rural South”
(with Dr. D’Lane Compton and Brandi Woodell)
- 2013 National Women’s Studies Association Conference. Cincinnati, Ohio.
“Fertility Intentions and Importance of Motherhood among U.S. Lesbians”
(with Nicholas K. Park, Dr. Julia McQuillan, and Dr. Arthur L. Greil)
- 2012 American Sociological Association Section on Sexualities Pre-Conference
Crossing Boundaries, Workshopping Sexualities. Denver, Colorado.

Panelist, “Spaces and Places”

- 2011 Midwest Sociological Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois.
“Lesbians and Motherhood: The Need for Extra Effort or Deciding to Opt-Out”
(with Nicholas K. Park, Dr. Julia McQuillan, and Dr. Arthur L. Greil)
- 2009 National Women’s Studies Association Conference. Atlanta, Georgia.
“Constructions and Disruptions of Heteronormativity in Rural America”
- 2009 American Sociological Association Conference. San Francisco, California.
“Negotiating Sexuality and Class in Rural and Urban Communities”
- 2009 American Sociological Association Conference. San Francisco, California.
“Advice When Children Come Out: The Cultural ‘Tool-Kits’ of Parents”
(with Dr. Karin Martin, David Hutson, and Kristin Scherrer)
- 2009 Society for the Study of Social Problems Conference. San Francisco, California.
“Analyzing Sexuality in a Post-Closet Era: Theoretical Tools from Pragmatism to Queer Theory”
- 2008 American Sociological Association Conference. Boston, Massachusetts.
“Being Gay, Being Rural: The Urban/Rural Binary in an Era of Increased Gay Visibility in the Public Sphere”
- 2008 National Women’s Studies Association Conference. Cincinnati, Ohio.
“Exploring Identity, Intersectionality, and Resistance”
- 2008 How Class Works Conference. Stony Brook, New York.
“‘If We Were Rednecks’: Constructing Class Boundaries in Rural Communities”
- 2008 International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry Conference. Champaign, Illinois.
“Rural, Midwest, and Gay?: The Experiences of GLB people in the Rural Midwest”
- 2007 National Women’s Studies Association Conference. St. Charles, Illinois
“Extending Feminist Theorizing and Analysis for Current and Future Work on Marginalized Sexual Subjectivities.”
- 2006 American Sociological Association Conference. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
“Gay Marriage in a Welcoming World: Understandings of the Legal Right to Marry in a Liberal Religious Congregation”

University Presentations

- 2024 Research Symposium. Metropolitan State University Denver.
“Promising Practices in Social Science Research Methods: Lessons Learned by Students on a Research Team Studying GLBQ+ Intergenerational Family Relationships”
(with Dr. K Scherrer, M Gillis, Ezra Toledo, Alejandra Vasquez Gutierrez)

- 2022 Department of Sociology Colloquium Series. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
“Religious Exemption, LGBTQ Rights, and the Social Construction of Harm and Freedom” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke)
- 2019 Qualitative and Mixed Methods Interest Group. University of Nebraska-Lincoln Social & Behavioral Sciences Research Consortium. (with Dr. Kelsy Burke)
“Designing a Large-Scale Qualitative and Mixed Methods Project”
- 2016 Study of the U.S. Institute Project (SUSI). University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
“LGBTQ Civil Rights in the United States: Progress and Possibilities”
- 2016 Kutak Center for the Teaching and Study of Applied Ethics. University of Nebraska-Lincoln. (with Rachel Schmitz, Brandi Woodell, and Rosalind Kichler)
“Ethics in Research with LGBTQ Populations”
- 2015 Study of the U.S. Institute Project (SUSI). University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
“LGBTQ Civil Rights in the United States: Progress and Possibilities”
- 2012 Department of Sociology Colloquium Series. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
“Midwest or Lesbian? Gender, Rurality, and Sexuality”
- 2011 Department of Sociology Colloquium Series. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
“Preparing for the Teaching Presentation on the Job Market” (with Dr. Helen Moore)
- 2010 Qualitative Research Interest Group. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
“Qualitative Inquiries in Sexuality, Identity, and Law”
- 2010 Department of Sociology. University of Michigan.
“Job Market and Career Advice for Gender and Sexuality Scholars.”
- 2009 Emerging Rural, Nonmetropolitan, & Working-Class Perspectives in LGBTQ Studies Symposium. Department of Women’s Studies. University of Michigan.
“Rejecting Cultural Markers of Queerness: Sexual Identity Constructions of Rural Gays and Lesbians”
- 2008 Faculty-Graduate Student Women’s Studies Colloquium. Department of Women’s Studies. University of Michigan.
“Doing Gender and Sexuality in Sociology” (with Dr. Karin Martin)

Community Presentations

- 2021 Kutak Rock Law Firm. Omaha, Nebraska.
“Religion, Sexuality, and Freedom: The Social and Legal Landscape of Religious Liberty and LGBTQ Rights” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke)
- 2020 Lincoln Mayor’s Office. Lincoln, Nebraska.
“Lincoln and Nebraska Public Opinion on LGBTQ Rights” (with Dr. Kelsy Burke and

Lindsey Witt-Swanson, and Dr. Barbara DiBernard)

2016 Adult Education Seminar on Same-Sex Marriage. Westminster Presbyterian Church. Lincoln, Nebraska.

“What Social Science Research Tells Us about Same-Sex Marriage”

2007 Parents, Friends, and Family of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG). Jackson, Michigan.

“Being In Community, Being Rural and Gay.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

Undergraduate:

Sexuality and Power

Introduction to LGBTQ Studies

Families and Society

Sociological Theory

Sociology of Social Change: Sex and Society

Senior Sociology Capstone Seminar

Graduate:

Contemporary Sociological Theory

LGBTQ Families

Publications Seminar

Sexual and Gender Politics Around the Globe

Feminist Theories

Graduate Advising and Mentoring

PhD Dissertation Committees

Chair, Breanne Burton

PhD, Sociology; Specialization, WGS
(current student)

Co-chair, Eliza Thor

PhD, Sociology; Specialization, WGS
“Pots and Pans: Gender Negotiation in Trans Families’ Household Labor”
(graduated in May 2024)

Chair, Rosalind Kichler

PhD, Sociology; Specialization, WGS
“Old, Gay, and Gray: LGBTQ Aging and Identity”
(graduated in May 2023; currently a teaching assistant professor at the University of Washington)

Chair, Marissa Oliver

PhD, Sociology
“Ethnic/Racial Socialization about Race, Racism, and Policing among Black U.S. Families”
(graduated in August 2022; currently a quantitative research associate with Fors Marsh Group)

Chair, Brandi Woodell

PhD, Sociology; Specialization, WGS
“Health in Rural Communities: Variation in Resource Utilization by Sexual Orientation and Gender”
(graduated in 2018; currently a tenure-track assistant professor at Old Dominion University)

Member, Cindy Mays	PhD, Sociology (current student)
Member, Sree Naskar	PhD, Sociology (current student)
Member, Grace Kelly	PhD, Sociology (graduated in 2023)
Member, Trenton Haltom	PhD, Sociology; Specialization, WGS (graduated in 2021)
Member, Mathew Stange	PhD, Sociology (graduated in 2019)
Member, Alexis Swendener	PhD, Sociology (graduated in 2018)
Member, Rachel Schmitz	PhD, Sociology; Specialization, WGS (graduated in 2016)
Member, Alian Kasabian	PhD, Sociology (graduated in 2015)
Member, Bryan Snyder	PhD, Sociology (graduated in 2012)
Member, Nicholas Park	PhD, Sociology (graduated in 2012)

Outside Reader, Niko Vehabovic	PhD, Psychology (current student)
Outside Reader, Alex Diede	PhD, Psychology (current student)
Outside Reader, Rebecca Valdivia	PhD, Psychology (current student)
Outside Reader, Brenna Lash	PhD, Psychology (current student)
Outside Reader, Olivia Checkalski	PhD, Psychology (current student)
Outside Reader, Jackson Scott	PhD, Communication Studies (current student)
Outside Reader, Allison Cipriano	PhD, Psychology (graduated in 2024)
Outside Reader, Sam Kesselring	PhD, Educational Psychology (graduated in 2024)
Outside Reader, Katie Kassler	PhD, Communication (graduated in 2024)
Outside Reader, Keshia Mcclantoc	PhD, English (graduated in 2024)
Outside Reader, Daniel Schaub	PhD, Political Science (graduated in 2023)
Outside Reader, Ilana Masad	PhD, English (graduated in 2023)
Outside Reader, Allura Ralston	PhD, Psychology (graduated in 2023)
Outside Reader, Zachary Huit	PhD, Psychology (graduated in 2023)
Outside Reader, Katie Meidlinger	PhD, Psychology (graduated in 2022)
Outside Reader, Darcy Wente-Hahn	PhD, Communication Studies (graduated in 2020)
Outside Reader, Katie Henson	PhD, English (graduated in 2019)
Outside Reader, Erin Bertram	PhD, English, Specialization, WGS (graduated in 2018)
Outside Reader, Robert Lipscomb	PhD, English (graduated in 2017)
Outside Reader, Allison Bonander	PhD, Psychology (graduated in 2016)
Outside Reader, Christina Ivey	PhD, Communication Studies (graduated in 2016)
Outside Reader, Nick White	PhD, English (graduated in 2016)

MA Thesis Committees

Advisor, Rosalind Kichler	MA, Sociology (graduated in 2016) "Understanding Transgender Community: Locating Support and Resiliency Using the Minority Stress Model"
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Member, Sethe Zachman	MA, Sociology (graduated in 2024)
Member, Cadyn Williams	MA, Sociology (graduated in 2021)
Member, Eliza Thor	MA, Sociology (completed in 2020)
Member, Jess Morrow	MA, Sociology (graduated in 2018)
Member, Rachel Schmitz	MA, Sociology (graduated in 2013)
Member, Alexis Swendener	MA, Sociology (completed in 2012)
Member, Kari Gentzler	MA, Sociology (graduated in 2011)

Outside Reader, Alex Diede MA, Psychology (graduated in 2024)

Graduate Research Assistant Faculty Sponsor

Maia Behrendt (Spring 2022 and Summer 2022)
Breanne Burton (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)
Mac Dvorak (Fall 2024 and Spring 2025)
M Gillis (Fall 2023-Spring 2025)
Lora McGraw (Spring 202 and Fall 2020)
Cindy Mays (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)
Eli Ornelas (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)
Roz Kichler (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)
Sage Shadoan (Fall 2022 and Spring 2023)
Alejandra Vasquez Gutierrez (Fall 2023-Spring 2025)

Undergraduate Advising and Mentoring

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor

Audrey Holbeck, graduated 2022
Samantha Lunde, graduated 2015
Lindsay Spaulding, graduated 2015
Rachel Sullivan, graduated in 2013
Alyssa Bakulski, graduated 2011

Undergraduate Research Engagement

Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience (UCARE) Faculty Sponsor

Emma Finken, 2017-2018

Undergraduate Sociology Teaching and Research (USTAR) Program Faculty Sponsor

Payton Eltiste (Valkr), Fall 2021
Micah Levine, Spring 2020 and Fall 2020
Jackson Belva, Spring 2019
Ruby Hoffman, Summer 2017

Undergraduate Research Assistant Faculty Sponsor

Payton Eltiste (Valkr), Summer 2022
Kaitlynn Johnson, Spring 2022 and Fall 2022
Lee Paulson, Fall 2020
Julia Slagle, Fall 2013
Ezra Toledo, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025

TEACHING GRANTS

2022 Center for Transformative Teaching Pedagogic Intervention Grant. \$1,000
 Principal Investigator: Dr. Emily Kazyak
 “The Role of Ungrading in Promoting Experiential Learning”

TEACHING AND PEDAGOGY WORKSHOPS ATTENDED

- 2023 Center for Transformative Teaching. University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Workshops Attended: Supporting International Students Through Academic Advising; Supporting International Students in the Classroom
- 2022 Center for Transformative Teaching. University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Workshop Attended: Striving for Equity in Education
- 2020 Summer Institute for Online Teaching. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- 2020 Sociology Colloquium Series. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
Colloquium Attended: Teaching Forum on Teaching During COVID-19
- 2020 Innovation in Pedagogy and Technology Symposium. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
Workshop Attended: Top 10 Authentic Learning Activities
- 2019 Sociology Colloquium Series. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
Colloquium Attended: Teaching Sociological Theory Online
- 2016 Midwest Sociological Society Conference.
Workshops Attended: Igniting Theoretical Imaginations; Online Teaching; Teaching Beyond Lecture: An Introduction to Team Based Learning
- 2016 Sociology Colloquium Series. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
Colloquium Attended: Active Learning Strategies: Increasing Student Engagement and Participation
- 2015 Teaching and Learning Symposium. University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
Workshops Attended: Holistic Course Redesign; Service Learning and Civic Engagement; Assessing and Documenting Student Learning in the Peer Review of Teaching Project
- 2009 Preparing Future Faculty Seminar. University of Michigan.
- 2009 Graduate Teaching Certificate. University of Michigan.
- 2009 Teachers Are Made, Not Born Pre-Conference, American Sociology Association Section on Teaching and Learning
- 2009 Six-Session Training for Multicultural Facilitation in the Classroom. Center for Research on Teaching and Learning. University of Michigan.
- 2007 Teaching Writing in the Disciplines Semester Course. Sweetland Writing Center. University of Michigan.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Service to the Profession

Editorial Boards

- 2021-present Editorial board member, *Journal of Marriage and Family*
2020-present Editorial board member, *Journal of Lesbian Studies*
2019-2021 Editorial board member, *Gender & Society*

Committees and Councils

- 2022 Distinguished Article Award Committee Member, ASA Section on Sex & Gender
2022 Faculty Mentor for “Academic Job Market” session, ASA Section on Sexualities
2021 Faculty Mentor for “Critique Me” Program, Sociologists for Women in Society
2015 Faculty Mentor, Mentorship Program for Graduate Students ASA Section on Sexualities
2014 Member, Distinguished Book Award Committee, ASA Section on Sexualities

Conference Sessions

- 2023 Conference organizer (with Dr. Kath Browne), “Polarising Sexual and Gendered Lives: Divisions, Differences, and LGBTQI+ Equalities”
University College Dublin. Dublin, Ireland.
2017 Presider, Author Meets Critics Session for *Legalizing LGBT Families: How the Law Shapes Parenthood* by Amanda Baumle and D’Lane Compton
American Sociological Association Conference. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
2017 Co-organizer, Race, Class, and Gender Section Roundtables. American Sociology Association. Montreal, Quebec, Canada.
2015 Presider, “Regular Session Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Studies”
American Sociological Association. Chicago, Illinois.
2012 Discussant, “Space, Place, and Sexualities” Dissertation Panel
American Sociological Association Section on Sexualities Pre-Conference
“Crossing Boundaries, Workshopping Sexualities.” Denver, Colorado.
2010 Panel organizer (with Kristin Scherrer), “Sexuality in a Family Context” and
“Teaching Sexuality in Sociology Courses”
Pacific Sociological Association. Oakland, California.

Ad Hoc Manuscript Reviewer

American Journal of Sociology; Annual Review of Law & Social Science; Culture, Health, & Sexuality; Family Process; Gender & Society; Gender, Place, and Culture; Journal of Appalachian Studies; Journal of Bisexuality; Journal of Contemporary Ethnography; Journal of Family Communication; Journal of Family Issues; Journal of Homosexuality; Journal of Lesbian Studies; Journal of Marriage and Family; Journal of Social and Personal Relationships; LGBTQ+ Family: An Interdisciplinary Journal; Men & Masculinities; Population Research and Policy Review; Public Opinion Quarterly; Qualitative Sociology; Rural Sociology; Sex & Sexualities; Sexuality Research and Social Policy; Social Forces; Sociological Perspectives; Social Problems; Sociology of Religion; Sociological Forum; Sociological Quarterly; Socius; Sociological Research for a Dynamic World; Symbolic Interaction

Ad Hoc Grant Proposal Reviewer

National Science Foundation Social and Economic Sciences Division; Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences

Ad Hoc Book Proposal and Book Manuscript Reviewer

MIT Press; Oxford University Press; Routledge

Other Service to the Discipline

External Tenure Reviewer, selected Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies Departments

University Leadership and Service

2023-present Member, UNL Phi Beta Kappa Chapter
2021-present Faculty advisor, Spectrum Learning Community
2020-present Faculty advisor, LGBTQ/Sexuality Studies Minor
2023 Presenter, Preparing Future Faculty, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
"Writing and Getting Grants"
2022 Member of Review Team, LGBTQ+ Resource Center Program Review
2019-2020 Member, Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Gender and Sexual Identities
2018 Presenter, Preparing Future Faculty, University of Nebraska-Lincoln
"How to Get Tenure at an R1"
2013 Reviewer, Layman Foundation and the Arts and Humanities Research
Enhancement Program, Office for Research & Economic Development

College Leadership and Service

2022 Co-Facilitator, College & Arts and Science Graduate Student Writing Retreat
2021 Co-Facilitator, College & Arts and Science Graduate Student Writing Retreat
2019-2021 Member, College of Arts and Sciences Research Advisory Committee
2018 Search Advisory Committee Member, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search

Sociology Department Leadership and Service**Department Committees**

2023-present Graduate Chair
2022-2024 Member, Executive Committee
2019-2023 Member, Graduate Committee
2017-2019 Member, Executive Committee
2015-2017 Member, Resource and Planning Committee
2010-2015 Member, Undergraduate Committee

Comprehensive Exam Area Committees

Family, Social Inequality, Sex & Gender, Sociological Theory

Other Department Service

2023-2024 Faculty mentor for Dr. Amelia Li
2022-2023 Faculty mentor for Dr. Aaron Peek Mease
2020-2022 Faculty mentor for Dr. Robin Gauthier
2022 Award nomination letter for Dr. Robin Gauthier

2022	Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Health Disparities
2022	Peer Review of Teaching letter for Dr. Lisa Kort-Butler
2022	Peer Review of Teaching letter for Dr. Robin Gauthier
2021	Award nomination letter for Dr. Kelsy Burke
2016-2018	Faculty mentor for Dr. Kelsy Burke
2016-2018	Co-organizer, Social Inequality Faculty-Graduate Student Working Group
2015	Member, Search Committee for Assistant Professor in Sexualities

Women's and Gender Studies Program Leadership and Service

Program Committees

2024-present	Chair, Awards & Scholarship Committee
2018-present	Member, Curriculum & Assessment Committee
2017-present	Member, Promotion & Tenure Committee
2010-present	Member, Advisory Board Committee

Other Program Service

2023	Co-organizer, Engaging Human Rights to Organize for Reproductive Justice, WGS Annual Lecture
2022	WGS Promotion and Tenure Letter for Dr. Katy Holland
2017-2022	Faculty Mentor for Dr. Katy Holland
2010-present	Moderator, No Limits Conferences
2021	Peer Review of Teaching letter for Dr. Katy Holland
2020	Co-organizer, Say Their Names: Centering Black Women Activists in the Struggle for Justice Colloquium Series
2019	Peer Review of Teaching letter for Dr. Rose Holz
2017	Organizer, Trans Identities and Families Colloquium Series
2015	Organizer, Teaching and Social Justice Colloquium Series
2013	Organizer, LGBTQ Perspectives on Health and Well-Being Colloquium Series
2011	Member, Search Committee for New Director

SELECTED MEDIA COVERAGE

Public Opinion on LGBTQ Rights

[Americans' Support for Transgender Rights Has Declined. Here's Why.](#) The Washington Post

[Survey Study Examines Nebraskans' Views on Transgender Rights.](#) UNL Today

[SCOTUS LGBTQ Ruling Not End All.](#) Nebraska Public Radio

[Nebraskans Who Support and Oppose Religious Freedom Laws Actually Share Many of the Same Values.](#) Salon

[Majority of Nebraskans Support LGBT Non-Discrimination Workplace Laws.](#) Nebraska Public Radio

[Nebraskans Skeptical About Religious Freedom Laws.](#) Nebraska Public Radio

[Statewide Survey Shows Nebraska Breaking Red State Stereotype on Social Issues](#). Nebraska Public Radio

Rural LGBTQ Lives

[Is She a Lesbian or Just From the Midwest?](#) Autostraddle

[Why Lesbians and Gay Men Don't Live in the Same Areas](#). Pacific Standard Magazine

[Prairie Home Companions](#). Pacific Standard Magazine

[Gender and Acceptance of Lesbian Women and Gay Men in Small Town, USA](#). *Gender & Society* Blog

LGBTQ Families

[Motherhood Complex for Lesbians, Bi Women](#). Washington Blade

[Study: Income Affects Legal Info Available to Same-Sex Families](#). UNL Today

Media Representations of Sexuality

[Why Are There No gay Disney Characters?](#) Salon

[Merida From *Brave* Isn't a Lesbian, But She Could Be](#). Jezebel

[Hot Button: Disney's 'Hetero' Bias](#). The Washington Times

[Researchers: Disney Movies "Elevate" Heterosexuality](#). Jezebel

[Disney Needs to Start Waving Around a Rainbow Flag](#). Mic.

[The Dumbest Stereotypes That Almost Stopped Bisexual People From Coming Out](#). Mic.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association (ASA)

ASA Sections: Culture; Race, Gender, and Class; Sex and Gender; Sexualities; Sociology of Law; Theory

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS)

National Women's Studies Association (NWSA)