

Melissa Gesbeck Howell
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Sociology
Loyola University Chicago

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EDUCATION

- ABD Loyola University Chicago. Sociology. Dissertation: *Negotiating Diabetes: Overlapping Social Worlds of Care*. Committee Chair: Dr. Anne Figert. PhD expected 2015.
- MA Loyola University Chicago. Sociology. 2009.
- BA University of Illinois at Chicago. Sociology and Gender & Women's Studies. 2007.
- AA William Rainey Harper College, Palatine, IL. Liberal Arts. 2005.

PUBLICATIONS

Manuscripts in Submission

Dewey, Jodie and **Melissa M. Gesbeck**. *(Dys)functional Diagnosing: Mental Health Diagnosis, Medicalization, and the Making of Transgender Patients*. R&R with a sociology journal in 2015.

Manuscripts in Preparation

Cornering the Market: The Professionalization of Diabetes Education. To be submitted to a general sociology journal in 2015.

Negotiated Care: Contextualizing Shared Decision Making. To be submitted to a health care focused social science journal in 2015.

Gesbeck, Melissa M. and Anne E. Figert. *Queering Access: Factors of Perceived Health Care Access in Sexual Minority Women*. To be resubmitted for review at a social policy journal in 2015.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2013-2014 Teaching Assistantship. Department of Sociology. Loyola University Chicago.

2012 Advanced Doctoral Fellowship. Loyola University Chicago.

2012 Induction into Alpha Sigma Nu Jesuit Honor Society.

2012 International Association for Research on Service-learning and Community Engagement (IARSLCE) Conference Scholarship Award for presenting research into research-based service learning curriculum development.

2012 Graduate Assistantship. Department of Sociology. Loyola University Chicago.

- 2011 Community and Global Stewards Fellowship for the Family Food Choice Study. Loyola University Chicago.
- 2011 Nominated for Distinguished Graduate Instructor Award. Department of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago.
- 2010 Richard L. Block Prize for Student Research in Urban Sociology/Public Policy for MA thesis, *Women's Health Access Project: Defining Women's Health and Health Care Access in Holistic Terms*. Department of Sociology. Loyola University Chicago.
- 2007-2011 Graduate Assistantship. Department of Sociology. Loyola University Chicago.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY AND PARTICIPATION

Papers Presented

- 2013 *The Negotiated Care Perspective: A Framework for Understanding Chronic Health Conditions and Care as Social Problems*. Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meetings. New York, NY. August 9-11.
- 2012 *Worth At Least 1,000 Words: The Role of Photo-Elicitation Interviewing in Health Research*. Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meetings. St. Petersburg, FL. February 2-5.
- 2012 **Melissa Gesbeck Howell** and Mary Dominiak. *Picturing What We Eat: Photo-elicitation Interviewing as a Tool for Family Health Intervention Development*, Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings. Minneapolis, MN. March 29-April 1.
- 2012 Dominiak, Mary, Christopher Skrable, and **Melissa Gesbeck Howell**. *Institutionalizing Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Community-based Participatory Research Courses: Critical Questions for Institutional Practice*. International Association for Research in Service-learning and Community Engagement (IARSCLE) Conference. Baltimore, MD September 23-25.
- 2011 *The View from 2010: Feminism and Gender in Mainstream Medical Sociology*. Sociology Department Annual Research Symposium. Loyola University Chicago. April 8.
- 2010 *Community Landscape Asset Mapping (CLAM): Creating a Healthier Landscape with GIS Tools* Third Interdisciplinary Research Symposium for Graduate School Students and Alumni. Loyola University Chicago. April 10.
- 2010 *When Insurance Isn't Enough: Perceived Health Care Access in a Sample of Young, Well-Educated U.S. Women*. Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings. Chicago, IL. March 31-April 3.
- 2010 *The Role of Psychosocial Well-Being in Perceived Health Care Access in a Sample of U.S. Women*. Section on Medical Sociology Refereed Roundtables. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. August 14-17.
- 2009 Byrnes, Mary and **Melissa Gesbeck Howell**. *A Visual Study of Older Adults in an Age-Segregated Place: An Intersectionality Approach*. Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meetings. San Francisco, CA. August 7-9.
- 2009 *Religion and Health in an Unconventional Sample of U.S. Women*. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Conference. Denver, CO. October 23-25.

2008 *Public Health and the Suburbanization of Poverty*. First Interdisciplinary Research Symposium for Graduate School Students and Alumni. Loyola University Chicago. April 12.

Invited Panel Presentations

2010 *Sociology and the Debate on Universal Health Care*. Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings. Chicago, IL. March 31-April 3.

Discussant

2015 *Paper Session: Health, Illness, and Prevention*. 17th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference. Loyola University Chicago. March 14.

2011 *Student Forum Paper Session: Education, Labor, Family, and Inequality*. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, NV. August 20-23.

2010 *Regular Session: Sociology of Reproduction*. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. August 14-17.

2009 *Student Forum Roundtable: Sexuality and Embodiment*. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA. August 8-11.

Other Conference Service

2013 Program Committee. Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society. Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meetings. Chicago, IL. March 27-30.

2011 Judge. Fourth Interdisciplinary Research Symposium for Graduate School Students and Alumni. Loyola University Chicago. April 17.

2010 Paper Reviewer, ASA Student Forum Section. American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Atlanta, GA. August 14-17.

2008 Assistant Organizer. Colloquium on Girl Studies. Loyola University Chicago. April 12.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses Taught

Instructor, Department of Sociology, Loyola University Chicago

Social Problems (Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2013, Spring 2014) Lecture.

Poverty and Welfare in America (Spring 2011, Fall 2011) Lecture.

Sociology of Sex and Gender (Fall 2010) Lecture.

Instructor, Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing, Loyola University Chicago

Community-based Research, Advocacy, and Service in Healthcare (CRASH): Childhood Obesity (Fall 2011). Interdisciplinary research-based service-learning seminar.

Guest Lectures (Loyola University Chicago)

- 2014 *Seeing How We Eat: A Study of Food Choices*. The Sociology and Politics of Food. October 29.
- 2014 *Pharmaceuticals and Diabetes Care*. Health, Medicine & Society. October 30.
- 2012 *Thinking About Health and Access to Health Care in Chicago*. Service and Social Justice. February 9.
- 2012 *Diabetes is Our Problem: Diabetes Mellitus As a Social Problem*. Social Problems. October 1.
- 2011 *To Test or Not To Test: The Case of BRCA1/2 Testing*. Science, Technology & Society. November 1.
- 2011 *Welfare Reform and Doing Family*. Families. March 2.
- 2010 *The Social Construction of Environmental Problems*. Environmental Sociology. September 3.
- 2010 *Community Landscape Asset Mapping: Quantitative Field Methods*. Introduction to Health Systems Management. September 16.
- 2010 *The Gender Order as a Social Problem*. Social Problems. November 13.
- 2009 *Women's Health: The Social Dissection of the Female Body*. Sociology of Sex and Gender. November 20.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Studies Conducted

June 2012 –Present Diabetes Care Work Study

This institutional ethnography of diabetes care is centered on frontline diabetes care workers and explores the ways they negotiate amongst themselves and other stakeholders to define diabetes care as it is practiced within the constraints of policy.

May 2011 –May 2012 Family Food Choice Study

I designed and directed this photo-elicitation interview study in partnership with the Marcella Niehoff School of Nursing and the Center for Experiential Learning at Loyola University Chicago and YMCA of Metro Chicago to assist in childhood obesity prevention programming by learning how families make choices about food. This study was funded by a grant from the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC) and staffed by a team of undergraduate students.

Aug. 2008 – Dec. 2010 Women's Health Access Project

This is an Internet survey (N=627) of U.S. women about the ways they think about their health, how they perceive their access to health care, and how they make health care decisions.

Research Assistant Experience

Loyola University Chicago

2007-2009 Graduate Assistant in the Departments of Sociology and Anthropology

- New course development: Anthropology of Tourism in Italy (Kathleen Adams 2007); The Catholic Imagination (Elfriede Wedam 2008)
- Literature review on the social studies of massively multiplayer online role-playing games (MMORPGs) (Talmadge Wright 2008)
- Annotated reading list for Girls Studies Conference (Laura Miller 2008)
- Fact-checking and GIS mapping for a book manuscript on urban congregations (Elfriede Wedam 2008)
- Visual data coding and statistical assistance for a project on age-segregated housing, poverty, and health (Mary Byrnes 2008-2009)

University of Illinois at Chicago

2006-2007 Undergraduate Research Assistant to Elena R. Gutiérrez, Departments of Gender & Women's Studies and Latino & Latin American Studies

- Archival research and manuscript fact-checking for *Fertile Matters: The Politics of Mexican-Origin Women's Reproduction* (University of Texas Press, 2008).
- Conducted a survey of informed consent procedures around female surgical sterilization for the National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Thomas C. Hood Social Action Award Committee, Society for the Study of Social Problems (2014-2015)

Reviewer, Family Relations Journal (2013)

Program Committee Member, Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society (2012-2013)

DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Web Development Committee Chair, Graduate Student Advisory Council (2011)

Graduate Student Peer Mentor, Department of Sociology (2010-2012)

Treasurer, Graduate Student Advisory Council (2010-2011)

Sociology Department Representative, Graduate Student Advisory Council (2009-2010)

Colloquium Planning Committee, Department of Sociology (2007-2008)
Co-chair, Graduate Association of Sociologists (2007-2008)

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Experience

Sept. 2009 – May 2011 Community Landscape Asset Mapping

I developed a series of community landscape asset maps, combining original data with existing geographic, infrastructure, crime, and demographic data from various public sources. The maps and data are available to community organizations and planners for the purposes of grant writing and needs assessment through the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Policy (CUERP) at Loyola University Chicago.

Dec. 2009 – Aug. 2010 Religion in Urban America Program

I used constituent data from religious congregations and other sources (e.g., U.S. Census, American Community Survey) to produce maps as analytical tools and for publication in *Religion and Community in the New Urban America* by Elfriede Wedam and Paul D. Numrich (forthcoming, Oxford University Press).

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Midwest Sociological Society (2007-2015)
American Sociological Association (2008-2015)
Society for the Study of Social Problems (2008-2015)
Sociologists for Women in Society (2012-2015)
American Association of Diabetes Educators (2012-2015)
American Diabetes Association (2012-2015)
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (2014-2015)

REFERENCES

Anne Figert, Professor of Sociology
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