

MEREDITH WHITNAH
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Sociology & Anthropology
Westmont College
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EDUCATION

- 2015 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
Dissertation: “Faith and the Fragility of Justice: Religious Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa.”
Committee: Mary Ellen Konieczny (chair), Robert Fishman, Paul Kollman, Christian Smith, Lyn Spillman.
Comprehensive Exams: Cultural Sociology (with distinction), Social Theory.
- 2010 M.A., Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
Thesis: “American Evangelical Gender Ideology and Intimate Partner Violence.”
- 2007 B.A., Pike Honors Program: Gender Studies, *Summa Cum Laude*, Gordon College.
Honors Research Thesis (Sociology): “The Construction of Masculinity in American Evangelical Christianity.”

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

2015-present Assistant Professor of Sociology, Westmont College

PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 Meredith Whitnah. Book review of *Getting to Church: Exploring Narratives of Gender and Joining* by Sally Gallagher (New York: Oxford University Press, 2017) in *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 57(2):413-414.
- 2013 Christian Smith, Brandon Vaidyanathan, Nancy Tatom Ammerman, Jose Casanova, Hilary Davidson, Elaine Howard Ecklund, John H. Evans, Philip S. Gorski, Mary Ellen Konieczny, Jason A. Springs, Jenny Trinitapoli, and Meredith Whitnah. “Twenty-Three Theses on the Status of Religion in American Sociology: A Mellon Working-Group Reflection.” *Journal for the American Academy of Religion*, 81(4): 903-938.
- 2010 Meredith Whitnah. Book review of *Material Culture and Popular Religion* by Frances King (New York: Routledge, 2009) in *Sociology of Religion*, 72(1):118-9.

In Progress

Monograph

Faith and the Fragility of Justice: Religious Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa.

Articles

“Whiteness and Religion in Anti-Racist Projects in South Africa.”

“The Evangelical Gender Debate and Responses to Domestic Violence: Cultural Production and the Negotiation of Gendered Power.”

“Symbol and Materiality in Cultural Production: The USAFA Cadet Chapel, Monumentality, and Religious Pluralism.” (Originally co-authored with Mary Ellen Konieczny, who passed away in 2018).

RESEARCH SUPPORT, SCHOLARSHIPS, & AWARDS

- 2017 Book Leave Fellowship. Global Religion Research Initiative.
- 2016 Professional Development Grant: Summer Stipend. Westmont College.
- 2015 Professional Development Grant: Writing Group. Westmont College.
- 2014 William V. D’Antonio Outstanding Graduate Student in Religion Award. Center for the study of Religion & Society. University of Notre Dame.
- 2013 Kellogg Institute Dissertation Year Fellowship. University of Notre Dame.
- 2013 Dissertation Semester Fellowship (deferred to summer 2013). Department of Sociology. University of Notre Dame.
- 2012 The Graduate School Zahm Research Fund. University of Notre Dame.
- 2012 Center for the Study of Religion & Society Student Research Fund. University of Notre Dame.
- 2012 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Graduate Student Professional Development Grant. University of Notre Dame.
- 2011 Kellogg Institute Graduate Student Research Grant. University of Notre Dame.

- 2011 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Graduate Student Research Award. University of Notre Dame.
- 2009 Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts Graduate Student Summer Research Stipend Grant (with Mary Ellen Konieczny). University of Notre Dame
- 2009 Center for the Study of Religion and Society Student Research Fund. University of Notre Dame.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Sociology of Race & Ethnicity; Gender & Sex Roles in Cross-Cultural Perspective; Introduction to Sociology; Sociological Theory; Social Problems; Religion & Society; Senior Research Capstone (Westmont College).

Foundations of Social Theory (University of Notre Dame).

Student Mentoring

- 2020-2021 Chair, Major Honors Thesis: Brendan Fong, Sociology & Anthropology Department. (Westmont College). Higher Education as a Mechanism for the Reproduction of Race.
- 2015-present Supervisor, Research Assistants: Kyra Coleman, Sherry Luo, Emma Robins, Bryanna Rivera, Magnolia Smith, Michelle Vera (Westmont College).
- 2016-2017 Chair, Major Honors Thesis: Emma Robins, Sociology & Anthropology Department (Westmont College). “‘#SayHerName’: News Media Erasure of Black Women’s Victimization”
- 2008-2014 Supervisor, Research Assistants: Allison VanderBroek, Sara Middendorf, Shannon Noonan (University of Notre Dame).

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2017 “‘Women, A Power for Change’? The Fragility of a Prophetic Voice against Injustice and Violence” Faculty Address at the “Engaging Violence: An Interdisciplinary Response” Conference of the Balkans Semester of the Study of War and Peace. Zagreb, Croatia.
- 2016 “Anti-Apartheid Religious NGOs’ Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa.” Presenter at “Feminist and Intersectional Approaches to Social Movements” Section on Collective Behavior and Social Movements Paper Session at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA.

- 2015 “Faith and the Fragility of Justice: Religious Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Africa.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Newport Beach, CA.
- 2014 “Empowering Women: Faith-Based NGOs, Legacies of Apartheid, and the Role of Gender in Development.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2014 “Religion and Intimate Partner Violence among Emerging Adults.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2014 “Religion and Gender in Global Perspective: The Fragility of Justice in South Africa.” Presenter at “Religion in Global Perspective” Section on Sociology of Religion Paper Session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 “From Race to Gender: Faith-Based Organizations and the ‘New’ South Africa.” Presenter and Convener at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Boston, MA.
- 2013 “Combating Legacies of Inequality: Religious Organizations and Gender in South Africa.” Presenter at African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- 2013 “Symbol and Materiality in Cultural Production: The USAFA Cadet Chapel, Monumentality, and Religious Pluralism.” Presenter with Mary Ellen Konieczny at “Theorizing Materiality” General Session of the Theory Section, American Sociological Association, New York City, NY.
- 2012 Dissertation Workshop. Participant, African Studies Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
- 2011 “Evangelical Organizations, Gender, and the Construction of Intimate Partner Violence.” Presenter at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2010 “American Identity, Religion, and the Sacred: The Case of the Construction of the U.S. Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel.” Presenter with Mary Ellen Konieczny at Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- 2010 “American Evangelical Gender Ideology and Intimate Partner Violence.” Presenter at American Sociological Association Annual Meetings, Atlanta, GA.
- 2009 “Saturday Nights and Sunday Mornings: Gender, Religion, and Education in the Hook Up Cultures.” Presenter with Hilary Davidson at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.

- 2009 “Material Culture, American Interests and the Sacred: The Construction of the United States Air Force Academy Cadet Chapel.” Presenter with Mary Ellen Konieczny at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2009 “Gender Issues in Religion.” Convener at Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Denver, CO.
- 2009 “Authority and Anglicanism: A Weberian Perspective on a Contemporary Debate.” Presenter at American Sociological Association Annual Meeting Roundtable, San Francisco, CA.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Professional Service to Westmont College

- 2020-2021 Co-advisor, Ethnic Studies Minor
 Member, Ethnic Studies Advisory Group
 Member, Gender Studies Advisory Group
 Co-advisor, White Students for Racial Justice Intercultural Organization
 Member, Professional Development Committee
 Presenter, “What is Race and Racism?” Interdisciplinary Ethnic Studies Panel
- 2019-2020 Co-advisor, Ethnic Studies Minor
 Member, Ethnic Studies Advisory Group
 Member, Gender Studies Advisory Group
 Co-advisor, White Students for Racial Justice Intercultural Organization
 Presenter, Teach-In on Climate Change
 Member, Planning Committee for “Still Dreaming: Race, Ethnicity, and Liberal Arts Education” Conference on the Liberal Arts, Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts
- 2017-2018 Member, Planning Committee for “Knowledge in Crisis” Conference on the Liberal Arts, Gaede Institute for the Liberal Arts
 Co-Advisor, Racial Equality & Justice Intercultural Organization
 Member, Institutional Review Board Committee
 Organizer and Presenter, Teach-In on Charlottesville
 Faculty Presenter, Intercultural Programs “Connect” Retreat
- 2016-2017 Member, Institutional Review Board Committee
 Presenter, “What Is Gender?” Gender Studies Panel
 Co-Advisor, Racial Equality & Justice Intercultural Organization
 Organizer, Department Chapel
- 2015-2016 Presenter, “The Next Step” Program with Intercultural Programs
 Facilitator, “Exploring Whiteness” Program with Intercultural Programs

Presenter, Teach-In on Syrian Refugee Crisis
Presenter, "Faith and the Fragility of Justice," Gender Studies Lecture Series
Organizer, Department Retreat
Organizer, Department Chapel
Presenter, "Faith and the Fragility of Justice," Department Brown Bag Series

Other Professional Service

- 2009-present Manuscript Reviewer: *American Sociological Review*; *American Journal of Sociology*; *Gender & Society*; *Mobilization*.
- 2013-2014 Graduate Student Representative to the Faculty, Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2012-2013 Mellon Working Group for "Religion Across the Disciplines," Sociology, University of Notre Dame Office of the Provost.
- 2010-2011 Chicago Ethnography Conference Planning Committee (2011 Keynotes: Elijah Anderson and Paul Lichterman), Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2010-2011 Graduate Studies Committee, Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2010-2011 Graduate Student Representative, Faculty Recruitment Committee, Sociology, University of Notre Dame.
- 2010 Committee for Internal Review of Center for the Study of Religion and Society, Sociology, University of Notre Dame.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association
(Member: Sex and Gender, Theory, Culture, Religion Sections)
Association for the Sociology of Religion
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion