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KRISTI MCLEOD

Curriculum Vita

OFFICE ADDRESS

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2019-present	Professor and Chair, Marshall University
2014 – 2019	Associate Professor of Sociology, Marshall University
2010 – 2014	Assistant Professor of Sociology, Marshall University
2009 – 2010	Visiting Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Southern Mississippi

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Sociology, 2009, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi
Dissertation: “*Walking on the Wild Side: An Examination of a Long-Distance Hiking Subculture*”
Preliminary Examination Area: Stratification and Social Inequality
Graduate Certificate: Gender Studies
M.A., Education, 2003, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi
B.A., Psychology, 1998, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mississippi

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS (alphabetically by area)

Culture, Environment, Feminist Theory, Gender, Leisure/Recreation/Sport, Research Methods,
Social Inequality, Social Psychology, Social Theory

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Fondren, Kristi M. 2016. “Walking on the Wild Side: Long-Distance Hiking on the Appalachian Trail.” Rutgers University Press.

Journal Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

McLeod, Kristi. 2024. “Wild” Generosity: The Role of Trail Angels in Shaping Community on America’s Long-Distance Hiking Trails. *AD LIMINA. Research Journal of the Way of St. James and the Pilgrimages*, XV, 169 - 198. <http://dx.doi.org/10.61890/adlimina/15.2024/06>.

Fondren, Kristi M., and Richard Brinkman. 2019. “A Comparison of Hiking Communities on the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails.” *Leisure Sciences*. doi: 10.1080/01490400.2019.1597789.

Fondren, Kristi M., John P. Bartkowski, Xiaohe Xu, and Martin L. Levin. 2018. "Religion and Social Competence among American Teens: Evidence from Add Health." *Religions*, 9, 328, 1-15; doi:10.3390/rel9110328.

Harris, Deborah A., Whitney M. Harris, and Kristi M. Fondren. 2015. "Everybody Eats: Using Hunger Banquets to Teach about Issues of Global Hunger and Inequality." *Teaching Sociology*, OnlineFirst, 1-11.

McNiel, Jamie N., Deborah A. Harris, and Kristi M. Fondren. 2012. "Women and the Wild: Gender Role Socialization in Wilderness Recreation Advertising." *Gender Issues*, 29:39-55.

Xu, Xiaohe, John P. Bartkowski, and Kristi M. Fondren. 2011. "Faith, Family, and Teen Dating: Examining the Effects of Personal and Household Religiosity on Adolescent Romantic Relationships." *Review of Religious Research*, 52(3): 248-265.

Fondren, Kristi M. 2010. "Sport and Stigma: College Football Recruiting and Institutional Identity of Ole Miss." *Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics*, 3:154-175.

Book Chapters in Collection (Peer-reviewed and editor-reviewed)

Fondren, Kristi M., and Emmett Gill. 2013. "The Student-Athlete Experience: Aspirations, Academics, and Athletics." Pp. 87-111 in *Sports in Higher Education: Issues and Controversies*, edited by G. Sailes. Cognella Academic Publishing.

Other Refereed Publications (Invited and Peer-Reviewed)

Fondren, Kristi M., Duane A. Gill, and J. Steven Picou. 2011. "Football, College." Pp. 99-103 in Recreation, Vol. 16, of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, edited by Charles Reagan Wilson. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Fondren, Kristi M., Duane A. Gill, and J. Steven Picou. 2011. "Football, High School." Pp. 103-105 in Recreation, Vol. 16, of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, edited by Charles Reagan Wilson. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Fondren, Kristi M., Duane A. Gill, and J. Steven Picou. 2011. "Football, Professional." Pp. 105-108 in Recreation, Vol. 16, of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, edited by Charles Reagan Wilson. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Fondren, Kristi M., Duane A. Gill, and J. Steven Picou. 2011. "Football, Southern Traditions." Pp. 109-111 in Recreation, Vol. 16, of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, edited by Charles Reagan Wilson. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Fondren, Kristi M. 2011. "The Appalachian Trail." Pp. 253-255 in Recreation, Vol. 16, of *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture*, edited by Charles Reagan Wilson. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press.

Papers Currently under Review/in Progress

McLeod, Kristi. (under review) "Restoring Faith in Humanity: 'Wild' Generosity on America's

Long-Distance Hiking Trails.” Submitted to *Ad Limina* February 2024.

McLeod, Kristi. (in progress) “Trail Magic, Trail Angels, and other Acts of Kindness: ‘Wild’ Generosity on America’s National Scenic Trails.” To be submitted to Rutgers University Press in 2024.

Fondren, Kristi M. and Rachel M. Sparkman (in progress). “ ‘Life Has Never Been the Same’: Re-Entry, Identity, and Post-Hike Experiences of Long-Distance Hikers.” To be submitted to Leisure Sciences.

Research Reports

Fondren, Kristi M. 2013. Non-College Completers: A Preliminary Report on Student Retention. Report for Academic Affairs at Marshall University.

Bartkowski, John P., Xiaohu Xu, and Kristi M. Fondren. 2008. Choosing the Best—Community-based Abstinence Education: Evaluation Report—Year 1 Program Activities. Report for Mississippi Community Partnerships, Inc.

Fondren, Kristi M. 2007. College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Worklife Survey. Report for the College of Arts and Sciences at Mississippi State University. Starkville, Mississippi.

Fondren, Kristi M. 2007. College of Engineering Faculty Worklife Survey. Report for the College of Engineering at Mississippi State University. Starkville, Mississippi.

Fondren, Kristi M. 2006. Mississippi Commission on the Status of Women. Annual Report for the Governor of the State of Mississippi.

McLeod, Kristi E. 2005. College Football Study Preliminary Report: Recruiting at Mississippi State University.

McLeod, Kristi E. 2004. College Football Study Preliminary Report: Recruiting at The University of Mississippi.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

McLeod, Kristi. 2025. Harvesting Heritage: Community Garden of War. Annual Meetings of the North Central Sociological Association. Lexington, Kentucky.

McLeod, Kristi. 2024. Restoring Faith in Humanity: The Role Trail Angels Play in Building Community. Appalachian Long-Distance Hikers Association 42nd Annual Gathering, Abingdon, Virginia.

McLeod, Kristi. 2024. “Wild” Generosity: An Examination of Trail Angel Culture on America’s National Scenic Trails. Annual Meetings of the North Central Sociological Association. Columbus, Ohio.

McLeod, Kristi. 2023. Restoring Faith in Humanity: “Wild” Generosity on America’s Long-

- Distance Hiking Trails. Annual Meetings for the Institute for Pilgrimage Studies Symposium, William and Mary, Williamsburg, Virginia.
- McLeod, Kristi. 2023. Trail Angels, Trail Magic, and other Acts of Kindness: “Wild” Generosity on America’s National Scenic Trails. Appalachian Long-Distance Hikers Association 41st Annual Gathering, Abingdon, Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2021. Trail Magic or Gig Economy? An Examination of Trail Angel Culture on the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails. Appalachian Long-Distance Hikers Association 39th Annual Gathering, Abingdon, Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2020. Community-Based Learning – A Pedagogical Tool. TRACE Tuesday Event. Marshall University. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2019. Be the Spark: The Value of Community-Based Learning for Communities, Scholars, and Students. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi, and Rachel Sparkman. 2019. Merging Social Identities upon “Re-Entry:” Post-Hike Experiences of Long-Distance Hikers. Annual Meetings of the Rural Sociology Society. Richmond, Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi, and Damien Arthur. 2018. Community-Based Learning: A Pedagogical Tool for Advancing a Growth Mindset. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Niese, Elizabeth, Kristi Fondren, and Jennifer Mak. 2018. Lessons from Mentoring First-Year Students. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi, and Richard Brinkman. 2018. “We Are a Community”: Creating Gemeinschaft in a Gesellschaft World. Annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society. Portland, Oregon.
- Fondren, Kristi, Vanessa Parks, and Danielle Mullins. 2018. “Are You Ready?” Celebrative Social Occasions and the Art of Tailgating in The Grove. Annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Fondren, Kristi, and Richard Brinkman. 2017. Long-Distance Hiking Subculture or Subcultures of Place? An Analysis of Hiking Communities on the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails. Annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society. Columbus, Ohio.
- Fondren, Kristi, Sandra Kemper, Isaac Larison, and Liz Pacioles. 2016. Incorporating Service Learning into the Curriculum for First-Year Students and Beyond. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Sullivan, Donna, Jennifer Sias, Peggy Proudfoot-Harman, C. Damien Arthur, Kristi Fondren,

- Mary Beth Reynolds, Bill Gardner, Barbara Tarter, Jill Underhill. 2016. High-Impact Practices: Linked Classes and the FYS Experience. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Schroeder, Michael, and Kristi Fondren. 2016. Community-Based Student Projects: Where to Look and How to Do It. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Laubach, Marty, Kristi Fondren, Robin Conley, and Meg Stone. 2016. Appalachian Culture and Higher Education: Cultural Traits that Hinder Academic Success. Annual meetings of the Southern Anthropological Society. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2015. Long-Distance Hiking Subculture or Subculture of Place? Appalachian Long-Distance Hikers Association 34th Annual Gathering, Shippensburg, Pennsylvania.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2015. Scholar, Teacher, Citizen: Achieving Wholeness by Incorporating Service Learning into the Curriculum. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi, April Fugett, and Karen McComas 2015. Reflective Practice: Mirroring Existing Programs as HIPs. Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education, San Francisco, California.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2015. Drink Up (Witches)! An Examination of Women and the Craft Beer Drinking Culture. Annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Conley, Robin, Kristi M. Fondren, Marty Laubach, and Donna Sullivan. 2014. Higher Education and Employment in Appalachia: An Interdisciplinary Study. Annual meetings of the Appalachian Studies Association. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2014. It's HIP to be There: Service Learning as a High-Impact Practice. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2014. Teaching Sociology to Non-majors? "May the odds be ever in your favor." Annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Harris, Deborah A., Whitney Harris, and Kristi M. Fondren. 2014. Adapting the Hunger Banquet Exercise for Classroom Size and Sociological Learning. Annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. Mini-conference on the Sociology of Food. Charlotte, North Carolina.
- Fondren, Kristi, and Sherri Smith. 2013. Teaching Ethical and Civic Thinking through Service Learning. iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning. Huntington, West Virginia.
- Fondren, Kristi, and Rachel Sparkman. 2012. Constructing Sacred Place: The Appalachian Trail as Symbolic Environment. Annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society. Chicago, Illinois.

- Fondren, Kristi, and Lindsay Heinemann. 2012. "You Throw Like a Girl": An Examination of Masculinity, Emotion, and Feeling in the Smash-Mouth World of College Football. Annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2011. Hike Your Own Hike? Social Stratification among Long-Distance Hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Fondren, Kristi. 2011. Walking on the Wild Side: An Examination of a Long-Distance Hiking Subculture. Annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society. Boise, Idaho.
- McNiel, Nichole, Deborah Harris, and Kristi M. Fondren. 2011. Women and the Wild: Gender Role Socialization in Wilderness Recreation Advertising. Annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. Jacksonville, Florida.
- Fondren, Kristi M. 2009. Creating a Virtual Community: Engaging Students in the Online Classroom. Annual meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Lafayette, Louisiana.
- Fondren, Kristi M. 2009. The Great Outdoors as Gendered Space: The Role of Dress on the Appalachian Trail. Annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. New Orleans, Louisiana.
- Fondren, Kristi M. 2008. Sport and Stigma: Negative Recruiting and Institutional Identity of Ole Miss. Annual meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Huntsville, Alabama.
- Fondren, Kristi M. 2008. Negative Recruiting: Sport and Stigmatized Identity at Ole Miss. Annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. Boston, Massachusetts.
- Fondren, Kristi M. 2008. The Great Outdoors as Gendered Space: Doing Gender on the Appalachian Trail. Annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society. Manchester, New Hampshire.
- Bartkowski, John P., Xiaohe Xu, and Kristi Fondren. 2006. Denominational Variations in Spiritual Capital among American Youth, 1976-1996. Annual meetings of the Association for the Sociology of Religion. Montreal, Canada.
- Fondren, Kristi M. 2006. Building Community: The Role of Trail Magic on the Appalachian Trail. Annual meetings of the Rural Sociological Society. Louisville, Kentucky.
- McLeod, Kristi E. and Christopher W. Bounds. 2005. The Appalachian Trail: A Cultural Object. Annual meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Atlanta, Georgia.
- Bounds, Christopher W. and Kristi E. McLeod. 2005. The Cultural Meaning of Trail Magic along the Appalachian Trail. Annual meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Atlanta, Georgia.

- McLeod, Kristi E, John P. Bartkowski, Xiaohe Xu, and Martin L. Levin. 2005. Are Religious Teens Nice Kids? Evidence from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health. Annual meetings of the Southern Sociological Society. Charlotte, North Carolina.
- McLeod, Kristi E. 2005. Race and Gender in Collegiate Sports. Annual meetings of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
- McLeod, Kristi E. 2004. Sport and Stigma: Negative Recruiting and Institutional Identity of Ole Miss. Annual meetings of the Mid-South Sociological Association. Biloxi, Mississippi.

INVITED LECTURE SERIES, PUBLIC ADDRESSES, AND RESEARCH FORUMS

- 2024 Invited Speaker, Sociology of Sport, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2023 Invited Speaker, Sociology of Sport, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2023 Invited Speaker, Intro to Outdoor Recreation, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2021 Invited Speaker, SOCI 4301. Texas State University - San Marcos. San Marcos, Texas
- 2019 Panelist, NSPARC's Fourth Annual Data Summit. Mississippi State University. Starkville, Mississippi
- 2018 Invited Speaker, Backpacking 101. Spring Arbor University. Spring Arbor, Michigan
- 2016 Lecture and Book Signing. Mississippi State University. Starkville, Mississippi
- 2016 Lecture Series. West Virginia University. Morgantown, West Virginia
- 2016 Loudoun County Public Library. Fall 4 the Book Author Event. Leesburg, Virginia
- 2016 Mississippi University for Women. Author Event. Columbus, Mississippi
- 2016 Choctaw County Library. Author Event. Ackerman, Mississippi
- 2016 Enoch Pratt Free Library. Author Event: Reading. Baltimore, Maryland
- 2016 Carter Caves State Park. Winter Adventure Weekend. Olive Hill, Kentucky
- 2015 Rotary Club International. Pullman Plaza. Huntington, West Virginia
- 2015 Honors Symposium. East Carolina University. Greenville, North Carolina
- 2012 Dine and Discover Series. Marshall University. Huntington, West Virginia
- 2011 Women's Studies Colloquium Series. Marshall University. Huntington, West Virginia
- 2011 Pat Logan Symposium of Scholars. Marshall University. Huntington, West Virginia
- 2008 Pan-Hellenic Interracial Dating Forum. Mississippi State University. Starkville, Mississippi
- 2008 Sarah Isom Student Gender Conference. University of Mississippi. Oxford, Mississippi
- 2007 Gender Studies Lecture Series. Mississippi State University. Starkville, Mississippi
- 2004 Gender Studies Lecture Series. Mississippi State University. Starkville, Mississippi

PROFESSIONAL AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2024 Research Consultant, *RMOMS Collaborative Grant*
My role is to provide oversight and assistance to the qualitative researcher, a graduate student, in the implementation and fulfillment of the goals of the WV RMOMS Project by providing a plan for qualitative data collection and analysis that shall enhance the overall evaluation of the RMOMS project. The purpose of the West Virginia RMOMS Collaborative is to improve access to and continuity of maternal and obstetrics care in the rural communities of Braxton, Calhoun, Gilmer, Lewis, Nicholas, Roane, Upshur, and Webster Counties in West Virginia.

- 2021-present *Trail Magic or Gig Economy? Trail Angel Culture on the Appalachian and Pacific Crest Trails*
Independent research project, Marshall University
The overarching goals of this project are to more fully explore the social practice of the giving and receiving of trail magic, to further examine the extent to which place mediates this social practice, and to give voice to trail angels, a group largely ignored in both academic and popular literature. Extensive ethnographic fieldwork will take place at various locations on or near the PCT between April 12, 2021 and approximately August 31, 2021 to observe and record interactions among long-distance hikers and trail angels. In-depth interviews will be conducted with individuals who self-identify as trail angels and will cover topics such as general information about the interviewee's experiences as a trail angel, reasons for assisting long-distance hikers, positive and negative interactions with long-distance hikers, the giving and receiving of trail magic, and the impact that COVID-19 and wildfires have had on the "business" of trail angeling. The interview questionnaire will be modified and an online survey, developed in Qualtrics, will be distributed to the several trail angel Facebook groups.
- 2018-2020 *Technology, Re-Entry, and Post-Hike Experiences*
Collaborative research project, Marshall University and Virginia Commonwealth University
The overarching goal of this study is to explore post-hike feelings and ways people merge a hiker identity with other identities when they return home. More specifically, this project will investigate what many hikers refer to as "re-entry" into society after completing a long-distance hike. This study will also examine the role of technology and how, if at all, technology use has changed the long-distance hiking experience. Research currently in progress.
- 2017-2019 EDGE Mentor and Research Fellow
Mentor for 39 Marshall students as part of HLC Academy Pilot Program on Student Persistence and Completion
- 2015 Research Consultant: Rachel Zurer, *Backpacker Magazine*
Provided assistance on survey construction, specifically questionnaire designed to collect information on female backpackers and hikers for a fall package on women in the wilderness.
- 2015-2018 *Long-Distance Hiking Subculture or Subcultures of Place? A Comparative Analysis of Long-Distance Hiking Communities on the AT and PCT*
Collaborative research project, Marshall University and Wenatchee Valley College
This is a multi-site research study with a colleague from Wenatchee Valley College in Washington who is currently thru-hiking the PCT. I will accompany him for a portion of his hike, as well as assist with interviews during summer 2015. His experience on the PCT, from ethnographic fieldwork to conducting in-depth interviews with hikers, will allow us to examine and observe the long-distance hiking community present here, as well as make comparisons between the hiking community on the AT and the PCT. This comparison of hiking communities will allow us to better determine the extent to which place matters in the development of a long-distance hiking

subculture. Data collection activities will take place on both the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Crest Trail with those who identify themselves as long-distance hikers (i.e., thru-hikers and section hikers).

- 2015-2016 *HIKE: Having an Impact on Kids through the Environment*
Collaborative research project, Marshall University
The overarching goal of HIKE is to implement and evaluate a community program that will encourage under-represented youth to become active in outdoor-related activities and pursuits. Program implementation and data collection activities (i.e., ethnographic fieldwork) will take place, with permission granted, at Fairfield East Community Center in Huntington.
- 2014-2019 *Gendered Aspects of Craft Beer Consumption*
Independent research project, Marshall University
Ethnographic fieldwork and semi-structured in-depth interviews conducted with men and women at a local craft beer establishment, The Summit Beer Station. The overarching goal of this study is to explore and advance knowledge regarding a new cultural niche – the craft beer community. Specifically, this study aims to explore the gendered nature of craft beer consumption. Research currently in progress.
- 2014-2018 *The Relationships among Participation in First-Year Cooperative Learning Communities, High School GPA, and College Success among First-Time Freshmen*
Collaborative research project, Marshall University
I attended the AAC&U Summer Institute at Vanderbilt University in June 2014. Our team from Marshall developed an Action Plan to implement upon our return. The focus of the summer institute was on High Impact Practices as a means to increase student success, particularly for underserved students (e.g., minorities, first generation), though all students who participate in HIPS have demonstrated deeper and more meaningful learning. The ongoing project during 2014-2016 will specifically focus on the benefits and outcomes for students who participate in intellectual learning communities.
- 2013-2016 *Higher Education in Appalachia: An Interdisciplinary Study*
Collaborative research project, Marshall University
This study involves collecting ethnographic, interview, and survey data with anthropology and sociology undergraduates, graduate students and faculty investigating experiences of poverty and higher education in the Appalachian region. Findings will be presented to the administrative offices of Marshall University and higher education boards in West Virginia as well as in academic papers.
- 2013-2014 *College Retention of Students in Appalachia: Marshall University Preliminary Study*
Collaborative research project
As PI, my primary responsibilities were to organize and oversee 19 undergraduate students as they conducted research for the Service Learning component of Social Research I (our research methods course) during the fall 2013 semester. Working on behalf of The Division of Academic Affairs at Marshall University, the students constructed a survey and spent numerous hours conducting semi-structured in-depth interviews with individuals who attended but have not yet completed college. This

project allowed us to provide The Division of Academic Affairs, our community partner, with information regarding student retention and recruitment in the Appalachian region. This research provided them with an opportunity to engage in a project that promoted critical thinking, civic engagement, and disciplinary expertise while also meeting the real needs of our University community.

- 2011-2018 *College Football Recruiting and Institutional Identity: Marshall University Preliminary Study*
Individual research project, Marshall University
Semi-structured interviews with highly recruited intercollegiate football players designed to explore intersection between institutional identity and negative recruiting practices. Interviews currently being conducted at Marshall University.
- 2007-2008 *Community Partnership for a Better Scott County*
Assistant Evaluator, Mississippi State University
Responsibilities included conducting data coding and entry, managing project databases, serving as evaluation team liaison (support and troubleshooting) to sites, assisting in the provision of evaluation-related training to project staff, assisting in data collection from select sites as needed, assisting the Lead Evaluators, Drs. John P. Bartkowski and Xiaohe Xu, in composition of reports, and conducting periodic site visits.
- 2007 Interview Transcription: Bob Otondo, Ph.D., Mississippi State University
Responsibilities included transcribing interviews, specifically focus group and phone interviews, for the College of Business and Industry at Mississippi State University.
- 2005-2008 *The Appalachian Trail: In Search of Ithaka*
Individual research project, Mississippi State University
Conducted, transcribed, and analyzed 46 semi-structured interviews designed to explore the hiking subculture (e.g., meanings, practices) that develops on the Appalachian Trail through the lens of long-distance hikers. Interviews conducted during the summer of 2005 and 2007 with funding by the National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center, the Gender Studies Program, the College of Arts and Sciences, and the Department of Sociology at Mississippi State University.
- Summer 2005 Research Assistant: Xiaohe Xu, Ph.D.
Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University
Responsibilities included working with and preparing reports, data entry using SPSS, and assisting in the analysis of data. All are preparations for a much larger project. Other responsibilities included on-going interview transcription on an as-needed basis.
- 2004-2005 *College Football Recruiting and Institutional Identity*
Independent research project, Mississippi State University
Conducted, transcribed, and analyzed 22 semi-structured interviews with highly recruited intercollegiate football players designed to explore negative recruiting practices. Interviews conducted at the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State University in the spring of 2004 and 2005.

- 2004-2005 Research Assistant: Domenico Parisi, Ph.D. and Steven M. Grice, Ph.D.
National Strategic Planning and Analysis Research Center, Mississippi State
University
Responsibilities included managing and supervising survey callers conducting
customer and employer satisfaction surveys regarding the WIN Job Centers for the
Mississippi Development Authority. Additional responsibilities included data entry
utilizing SPSS and assisting on other research projects as needed.

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- 2023 John Marshall Scholars Award, Marshall University
2022 Fall Sabbatical, Marshall University
2022 Summer Research Grant, Marshall University
2021 Summer Research Grant, Marshall University
2019 Summer Research Grant, Marshall University
2018 EDGE Mentor and Research Fellow
2017 EDGE Mentor and Research Fellow
2016 Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt Award for Excellence in Recreation and
Park Research, National Recreation and Park Association
2015 Summer Research Grant, Marshall University
2015 Quinlan Travel Grant, Marshall University
2014 MU-Advance Path Forward Travel Award, Marshall University
2013 MU-Advance Path Forward Travel Award, Marshall University
2013 Summer Research Grant, Marshall University
2011 MU-Advance Fellowship, Marshall University
Awarded competitive \$20,000 fellowship for female faculty working towards tenure in the
STEM disciplines
2011 Quinlan Travel Grant, Marshall University
2011 Summer Research Grant, Marshall University
2010 MU-Advance Fellowship, Marshall University
Awarded \$10,000 for new female faculty in the STEM disciplines
2010 MU-Advance Mini-Grant, Marshall University
2005 Outstanding Doctoral Student, Mississippi State University
Awarded by sociology graduate faculty in recognition of excellence in research and
scholarship
2005 Women's Club Scholarship for Female Graduate Students, Mississippi State University

RECOGNITION AND MEDIA COVERAGE

- Research on trail angels and trail magic consulted for article titled "*Can the 'Magic' and 'Angels' That
Make Long Trails Mystical for Hikers Also Conjure Solutions to Environmental Challenges?*"
September 2, 2024; see *Inside Climate News* article,
<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/02092024/miles-to-go-pct-part-4/>
Feature interview provided for podcast *Mighty Blue on the Appalachian Trail*, episode #344, hosted by
Steve Adams aka Mighty Blue, October 20, 2022; see
<https://www.hikingradionetwork.com/show/mighty-blue-on-the-appalachian-trail-the-ultimate-mid-life-c/episode-344-kristi-mcleod-fondren-hqtie/>
Book review of "Walking on the Wild Side" by Dain TePoel, June 12, 2016; see

- <https://ussporthistory.com/2016/06/12/review-of-walking-on-the-wild-side/>
- Feature interview provided for *Baltimore Sun* podcast on hiking community on the Appalachian Trail, March 22, 2016; see <http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/maryland/dan-rodricks-blog/bal-roughly-speaking-appalachian-trail-story.html>
- Feature interview provided for Armstrong cable regional broadcast, *Chapters*, on “Walking on the Wild Side,” February 2016.
- Book review and research on the hiking community on the Appalachian Trail featured in *Herald-Dispatch* article, “Marshall Sociology Professor Publishes Book on Appalachian Trail,” January 22, 2016; see http://www.herald-dispatch.com/features_entertainment/marshall-sociology-professor-publishes-book-on-appalachian-trail/article_176bb2b8-1918-5aa0-9078-ffd386b34726.html
- Book review of “Walking on the Wild Side” by Leigh McAdam, November 20, 2015; see <http://www.hikebikettravel.com/37233/book-review-walking-on-the-wild-side-by-kristi-fondren/>
- Research on “Women and the Wild” consulted for fall package on women and backpacking, *Backpacker* magazine, October 2015.
- Research on the hiking community on the Appalachian Trail featured in *Boston Globe* article, “Inside the Mind of an Appalachian Trail Hiker,” September 9, 2015; see <https://www.bostonglobe.com/magazine/2015/09/09/inside-mind-appalachian-trail-hiker/HZQS53jPKcj6wirW2LI0LM/story.html>
- Course service learning project on global stratification featured in *Herald-Dispatch* article, “MU Students Explore Poverty, Hunger Issues,” April 16, 2015; see http://www.herald-dispatch.com/news/mu-students-explore-poverty-hunger-issues/article_bd7bd81e-0c4b-5f89-a6fc-e401723a4605.html
- Feature interview provided for *WCHS Eyewitness News* regional broadcast, “Marshall Sociology Class Conducts Project on Social Class and Hunger,” April 15, 2015; see <http://wchstv.com/news/local/marshall-sociology-class-conducts-project-on-social-class-and-hunger>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Marshall University

Introductory Sociology (undergraduate, writing intensive, service learning)
 Success Strategies (undergraduate, writing intensive, student-athletes)
 Individual and Society (intermediate undergraduate, writing intensive, service learning)
 Social Stratification (intermediate undergraduate, writing intensive, service learning)
 Social Research I (intermediate undergraduate, writing intensive, service learning)
 Women in Sports (graduate/advanced undergraduate, writing intensive)
 Sociology of Sex and Gender (graduate/advanced undergraduate, writing intensive)
 Sociology of Sports (graduate/advanced undergraduate, writing intensive)
 Senior Seminars I and II (advanced undergraduate capstone, writing intensive)
 Environmental Sociology (graduate/advanced undergraduate, writing intensive, service learning)
 Hobbits of Appalachia (graduate/advanced undergraduate, writing intensive)
 Sociology of Appalachia (graduate, independent study)
 Field Experience in Applied Sociology (graduate/advanced undergraduate, independent study)
 Behavioral Science I (advanced graduate)
 Feminist Social Theory (advanced graduate)
 Qualitative Methods and Analysis (advanced graduate)

Christopher Newport University

Pilgrimage on the Appalachian Trail (advanced undergraduate); adjunct instructor and co-teacher for two-week field experience class on the Appalachian Trail

University of Southern Mississippi

Sociology of Sport (advanced undergraduate)

Understanding Society (undergraduate)

Mississippi State University*Traditional Format*

College Study Skills (undergraduate)

Contemporary Women (advanced undergraduate)

Introduction to Gender Studies (undergraduate)

Marriage and Family (undergraduate)

Sociology of Sport (advanced undergraduate)

Online Instruction

Contemporary Women

Sociology of Sport

Guest Lecturer

Environment and Society (graduate/advanced undergraduate)

Qualitative Analysis (graduate seminar)

Sociology of Religion (graduate/advanced undergraduate)

Research Methods (advanced undergraduate)

Other Courses Prepared to Teach:

Cultural Sociology, Sociological Theory

TEACHING GRANTS AND AWARDS

2026 ACRI Teaching Fellow, Appalachian Regional Commission

2025 ACRI Teaching Fellow, Appalachian Regional Commission

2024 ACRI Teaching Fellow, Appalachian Regional Commission

2024 INCO Faculty Development Grant, Marshall University

2014 INCO Faculty Development Grant, Marshall University

2011 INCO Faculty Development Grant, Marshall University

2008 Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Mississippi State University

Awarded by sociology graduate faculty in recognition of excellence in teaching

FACULTY DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

2026 AI Cabinet Retreat

2024 Quality Matters/H.O.M.E. Certification

2024 Innovation Strategist Microcredential

2023 Department Chair Leadership Academy

2023 Design for Delight: Innovation Explorer Microcredential

2020 TRACE Tuesday Conference

2020 Fall WAC Workshop

2017 COLA Leadership Workshop

2015 Critical Friends Group New Coaches Training

2013 Research Boot Camp

- 2012 Fall WAC Retreat
- 2011 Spring Service Learning Workshop
- 2010 iPED Teaching and Learning Conference
- 2010 Critical Thinking Workshop
- 2010 New Faculty Orientation

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

2013-2017 Director, Service Learning Program, Marshall University

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Local, Regional, National, and International

- 2025 Member, *Sociological Focus* Editorial Board
- 2024 At-Large Board Member, Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association
- 2023 Session Facilitator, Workshop on Student Engagement and Retention, Mountwest Community and Technical College, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2022 External Reviewer, Annual Evaluation Process, Idaho State University, Pocatello, Idaho
- 2016 Facilitator, Workshop Session, Civic Engagement and Service Learning, Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education, Louisville, Kentucky
- 2016 Proposal Reviewer, Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education
- 2016 Peer Mentor, Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honorary
- 2016 Session Facilitator, Civic Engagement and Service Learning: Reinvesting in the Local for the Common Good. Southern Anthropological Society Annual Meeting. Huntington, West Virginia
- 2015 Session Facilitator, Civic Engagement and Service Learning, Professional and Organizational Development (POD) Network in Higher Education, San Francisco, California
- 2015 Moderator, Paper Session, Women's Studies Biennial Conference, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2014 Presider, Paper Session, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Charlotte, North Carolina
- 2013 Presider, Paper Session, Stand for Women Conference hosted by Women's Studies Program, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2013 Panel Member, Challenges in Teaching Writing Intensive Classes, iPED Annual Conference on Teaching and Learning, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2012 Presider, Paper Session, Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois
- 2012 Presider, Panel Session, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Louisiana
- 2012 Moderator, Panel Session, COLA Undergraduate Research & Creativity Conference, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2011 Judge, Poster Competition, Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boise, Idaho
- 2011 Presider, Stand for Women Conference hosted by Women's Studies Program, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
- 2007 Program Chair, Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association
- 2004 Conference Assistant, Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Sacramento, California

Journal, Book Manuscript, and Textbook Reviewer

2025	<i>Poetics</i>
2023	<i>Lexington Books</i>
2022	<i>Transfers</i>
2021-present	<i>Leisure Studies</i>
2020	<i>Education Sciences</i>
2019-present	<i>Sociological Focus</i>
2019	<i>Journal of Park and Recreation Administration</i>
2018	<i>McGraw Hill</i>
2018-present	<i>Religions</i>
2018	<i>West Virginia University Press</i>
2015-present	<i>Rowman & Littlefield</i>
2015	<i>Pearson</i>
2014-present	<i>Leisure Sciences</i>
2014	<i>Sociological Forum</i>
2013	<i>Sage Publications</i>
2011	<i>Review of Religious Research</i>
2010	<i>Environmental Management</i>

Grant Reviewer

2021	National Science Foundation
2015	National Science Foundation

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Marshall University

Administrative and Committee Work

University Level

2020	FIG Organizer, Day Trips and Overnights Freshmen Interest Group
2020	Workshop Facilitator, Writing Across the Curriculum, Fall Workshop
2020-present	Member, Community-Based Learning Advisory Board
2020-present	Member, Sustainability Committee
2019-present	Member, Council of Chairs
2018-2020	Member, Student Affairs Strategic Engagement Task Force
2018	Workshop Facilitator, Community-Based Learning Program, Faculty Training
2017	Workshop Facilitator, Writing Across the Curriculum, Fall Retreat
2016-present	Faculty Member, Student-Athlete Appeals Committee
2016-2018	Faculty Senate
2016-2019	Chair, Marshall University Athletics Committee
2015-2016	Member, Employer Relations Committee
2014-2016	Team Member, AAC&U Summer HIPS Institute held at Vanderbilt University
2014-2016	Reviewer, Hedrick Faculty Teaching Fellow
2014-present	Member, Writing Across the Curriculum Committee
2013-2016	Recording Secretary, Marshall University Athletics Committee
2013-2017	Chair, Service Learning Curriculum Committee
2013-2015	Chair, Community Engagement Committee

2013-2014	Moderator, Technology Jigsaw Session, New Faculty Orientation
2013-2014	Faculty Senate
2013	Workshop Facilitator, Writing Across the Curriculum, Fall Retreat
2011-2012	Peer Mentor for New Faculty
2011-2019	Member, Marshall University Athletics Committee
2011	Reviewer, MUAdvance Faculty Development Initiative

College Level

2025-2026	Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee for Communication Studies
2023-2024	Member, COLA Strategic Planning Committee
2022-present	Member, COLA Undergraduate Research Conference Committee
2021-2024	Member, COLA Promotion and Tenure Committee
2020-2021	Member, Section Reduction Task Force
2018-2024	Selection Committee, Wallace E. Knight Excellence in Writing Award
2018-2020	COLA Faculty Ambassador
2016-2018	Secretary, COLA Research Committee
2014-2018	Member, COLA Research Committee
2013-2014	Chair, Women's Studies Graduate Curriculum Committee
2011-2012	Member, COLA Undergraduate Research Conference Committee
2010-present	Member, Women's Studies Advisory Board
2010-2018	Member, Women's Studies Conference Committee

Department Level

2024	Chair, Search Committee for Administrative Assistant
2024	Chair, Search Committee for Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Sociology
2023	Co-Chair, Search Committee for Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Sociology
2022	Co-Chair, Search Committee for Administrative Assistant
2019-present	Chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology
2018-2019	Director, Graduate Program
2018	Chair, Search Committee, Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Sociology
2018	Organizer, Writing/Research Boot Camp for Graduate Students
2017-2018	Chair, Promotion and Tenure Committee
2016-present	Member, Promotion and Tenure Committee
2014	Member, Search Committee for Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Sociology
2013	Organizer, Thesis Boot Camp for Graduate Students
2012-present	Member, Student Awards Committee
2011-present	Faculty Advisor, Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honorary
2011-2014	Faculty Advisor, The SOCiety (Sociology Club)
2011	Member, Search Committee, Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Anthropology
2011	Co-Chair, Search Committee, One-Year Instructors in Anthropology and Sociology
2010-present	Member, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee
2010-present	Member, Graduate Curriculum Committee

COMMUNITY SERVICE

2025	Lighted Walking and Fitness Path, War, West Virginia
2025	Post Flood Spring Garden Clean-Up, War, West Virginia
2024	Community Garden Project in War, West Virginia
2024	Panelist, HERD in Town, College of Liberal Arts Community Event, Huntington

2023 Discussant, Women's Literary Book Club, Jackson, Ohio
 2022-present Instructor Assistant, R.A.D. Self-Defense Community Trainings
 2022-present Board Member, Secretary, Branches
 2017 Discussant/Facilitator, Huntington Second Saturday Book Club
 2015-present Founder and Planning Committee Member, HIKE (Having an Impact on Kids through the Environment)

STUDENT ADVISING (GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE)

Graduate MA Thesis Committees

Chair, Masters Thesis and Project Reports: Heather Sprouse, Maria Orsini, Chris Lucas, Danielle Mullins, Claire Joswick, Alanna Morgan, Russell Fraley, Amber Stone, Sophia Cassidy, Donald Gray, Sam Holiskey

Committee Member, Masters Theses and Project Reports: Ryan Becka, Jeff McKay, Lindsay Heinemann, Nikki Overmiller, Autumn O'Toole, Caitlin Greaf, Caitlyn Reedy Britel, Michael Groves, Allison Stamper, Jared Thomas, Ryan Thomas, Tanner Mullins, Maggie Stanley, Brian Gibbs, Christina Adkins Curry

Undergraduate BA Capstone Projects

Mentor, Undergraduate Research: John Bruhin, Daniel Hudson, Samantha Adkins, Tineil Chapman, Taylor Winton, Brandon Sparrow, Katelin Denkins, Rachele Burgess, Makayla Wells, Liza Hauldren, Davis Dale, Bri Shelton, Annie Wiseman. Sophia Cassidy, Mattie Shuler, Baleigh Epperly, Abi Taylor, Paris Fairfax, Emily O'Neal, Kate Bostic, Grace Weekley, Jesseka Bush, Matt Adkins, Ivy Scoville, Cassidy Shively, Lanae Watland, Chloe Perdue, Cristal Angulo, Thomas Lee, Kenzie Staten, Adeline Smith, Summer Boling, Jackson Ross, Savannah Rice

Research Consultant, AP Capstone Project, Jenna Watson (high school student from Henderson County Public Schools, Hendersonville, North Carolina)

Undergraduate Advisor (Students Currently Enrolled)

Abigail Beegle, Mia Francis, Phoebe George, Patrick Napier

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS (Current and Previous)

Alpha Kappa Delta
 American Sociological Association
 North American Society for the Sociology of Sport
 North Central Sociological Association
 Rural Sociological Society
 Southern Sociological Society

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Available upon request