

KAREN L. CHRISTOPHER

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University of Louisville
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CURRENT POSITION

Acting Chair (Fall 2021) and Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Louisville

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant and Associate Professor of Sociology and Women's & Gender Studies, University of Louisville (Assistant 2002-2006; Associate 2007-2017)

Assistant Professor of Sociology and Teaching Faculty in Women's Studies, University of Pittsburgh (2000-2002)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. (2000)

Sociology, University of Arizona. Tucson, Arizona

Title: "The Effects of Family, Work, and Welfare on Mothers' Poverty in the U.S. and Across Western Nations"; Chairs, Paula England and Richard Arum

M.A. (1996)

Sociology, University of Arizona. Tucson, Arizona

Title: "Explaining The Recent Employment Gap Between Black and White Women"
Chair, Paula England

B.A. (1994)

Sociology and Spanish

Emory University. Atlanta, Georgia

Magna Cum Laude graduate, Phi Beta Kappa, Alpha Kappa Delta

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Recipient, Arts & Sciences Distinguished Full-time Teaching Award, 2020

Recipient, University Distinguished Faculty Award in Full-time Teaching, 2020

Recipient, Internal Research Initiative Grant, Fall 2008 for \$2094 and Fall 2003 for \$3034

Recipient, Arts & Sciences Internal Research Grant, Spring 2007, \$1900

Faculty Favorite Teaching Recognition, 2010-11, 2013-4, 2017, 2018

Recipient, University of Pittsburgh FAS Faculty Type I Research Grant, \$4000, April 2001

Recipient, Pre-doctoral Fellowships from the MacArthur Research Network on the Family and the Economy, \$17,000 each, October 1998-June 1999 and July 1999-June 2000

Recipient, 1999 Social and Behavioral Sciences Graduate Teaching Award

Recipient, 1999 Sociology Department Graduate Teaching Award

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Motherhood; Gender and Work; Gender, Race, and Class; Sociology of Families; Qualitative Methods; Stratification; Masculinities

COURSES TAUGHT

University of Louisville

Qualitative Research Methods (graduate)
Sociology of Families-in person and on-line
Diversity and Inequality
Feminist Research Methods in the Social Sciences (graduate)
Masculinities
Gender and Work-in person and on-line
Gender, Work and Families (graduate)
Motherhood: Myth and Realities (graduate)
Gender, Race, Work, and Welfare (graduate)
Introduction to Women in American Culture
Global Issues and Feminism
Gender and Health Care

University of Pittsburgh

Research Design (graduate)
Sociology of Gender
Social Research Methods

University of Arizona, graduate instructor

Minority Relations in Urban Society
Sociology of Gender
Sociology of Women
Sociology of Sexuality

WORKS PUBLISHED

Forthcoming, 2022. "Working as if One Has Children, Mothering as if One Has a Job," in *Anthology of Late Motherhood*, Demeter Press, edited by Suzette Mitchell and Olga Sanmiguel-Valderrama.

2021 "A Double Bind of Relational Care: Nurses' Narratives of Caregiving at Work and at Home." *Gender Issues* 38(2): June 2021.

2020. "Analyzing Masculinities with Digital Media: A Podcast Assignment." *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology* February 7, 2020.
<http://trails.asanet.org/>
2019. "Rogovin and the Forgotten Women." In *The Social Documentary Photography of Milton Rogovin*. University of Kentucky Press.
- 2018 Cheryl Crane and Karen Christopher. "'Parenting like a White Person': Race and Maternal Support among Marginalized Mothers." *Advances in Gender Research* 25:177-195.
- 2017 Brittany Williams, Karen Christopher, and Jennifer Sinski. "'Who Doesn't Want to be This Hot Mom?' Celebrity Mom Profiles and Mothers' Accounts of Their Postpartum Bodies," *Sexualization, Media, & Society* (7)3, on-line, SAGE Publishers.
- 2017 "Family-friendly Working Conditions," Pp. 31-42 in *Coping with Gender Inequities: Critical Conversations of Women Faculty*, edited by Sherwood Thompson and Pam Perry. Rowman & Littlefield publishers.
- 2016 "Paid Leaves as Buffer Zones: Policy Contexts and Work-life Balance among Canadian Mothers." *Journal of Research on Women & Gender*, (on-line), June.
- 2013 "African American and Latinas' Mothering Scripts: An Intersectional Analysis." *Advances in Gender Research*, Volume 17: 189-210.
- 2012 "Extensive Mothering: Employed Mothers' Constructions of the Good Mother." *Gender & Society*, 26(1):73-96.
- 2012 With Avery Kolers. "Halving it Both Ways: Co-parenting in an Academic Couple," Pp. 298-308 in *Academic Motherhood in a Post-Second Wave Context: Challenges, Strategies and Possibilities*, edited by Andrea O'Reilly and Lynn O'Brien Hallstein. Demeter Press.
- 2009 "Mother as Provider: Student Welfare Recipients' Narratives of Paid and Unpaid work." *Race, Class & Gender* 16(3-4): 185-202.
- 2007 "Reassessing Welfare Reform Data: A Response to Cherry." *Feminist Economics* 13(2):197-202.
- 2006 "The Poverty Line Forty Years Later: Alternative Poverty Measures and Women's Lives". *Race, Class & Gender*, 12(2):33-51. (Printing delayed due to Hurricane Katrina)
- 2005 "Welfare Recipients Attending College: The Interplay of Oppression and Resistance." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*, 32(3):165-185.

- 2005 "A 'Pauperization of Motherhood'?: Single Motherhood and Women's Poverty over Time" in *Journal of Poverty* 9(3):1-23.
- 2005 "Momentary Pleasures: Encounters and Fleeting Relationships At a Singles Dance." Irene Beattie, Karen Christopher, Dina Okamoto, and Sandra Way. Pp. 46-65 in *Together Alone: Personal Relationships in Public Places*, edited by Calvin Morrill, David Snow, and Cindy White. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- 2004 "Welfare as We Don't Know It: A Review and Feminist Critique of Welfare Reform Research," at *Feminist Economics*, July 10(2):143-171.
- 2002 "The Gender Gap in Poverty in Modern Nations: Single Motherhood, the Market and the State." Karen Christopher, Paula England, Timothy Smeeding, Katherin Ross Phillips (Karen Christopher first author). In *Sociological Perspectives*, 45(3):219-242.
- 2002 "Caregiving, Welfare States, and Mothers' Poverty." Pp. 113-128 in *Child Care and Inequality: Re-thinking Carework for Children and Youth*, editors Francesca Cancian, Demi Kurz, Andrew London, Rebecca Reviere and Mary Tuominen. New York: Routledge.
- 2002 "Single Motherhood, Employment, or Social Assistance: Why are U.S. Women Poorer than Women in Other Affluent Nations?" *Journal of Poverty* 6(2):61-80.
- 2002 "Welfare State Regimes and Mothers' Poverty." *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State and Society*. 9(1):60-86.
- 2002 "Family Friendly Europe." *The American Prospect* 13(7), April 8.
- 2004 Reprinted in *Solutions to Social Problems, Lessons from Other Societies*, 3rd edition. D. Stanley Eitzen and Craig Leedham, pp. 107-111. Boston: Pearson.
- 2001 "Gender Inequality in Poverty in Affluent Nations: The Role of Single Motherhood and the State." Karen Christopher, Paula England, Sara McLanahan, Katherin Ross, and Timothy Smeeding (Karen Christopher first author). Pp. 199-219 in *Child Well-being, Child Poverty, and Child Policy in Modern Nations*, edited by Koen Vleminckx and Timothy Smeeding. Bristol UK: The Policy Press.
- 1999 "How Do Intersections of Race, Ethnicity and Gender Affect Pay Among Young Cohorts of African Americans, European Americans, and Latino/as?" Paula England, Karen Christopher, and Lori Reid. Pp. 139-182 in *Race, Gender and Economic Inequality: African American and Latina Women in the Labor Market*, edited by Irene Browne. NY: Russell Sage.
- 1996 "Explaining the Recent Employment Gap Between Black and White Women." *Sociological Focus* 29(3):263-280.

- 1996 "On the Road to Equity in the Labor Market." Paula England and Karen Christopher. Pp.83-90 in *Arizona Women's Town Hall: The 21st Century Workforce*. 1996. The University of Arizona.

Research Reports:

- 2016 "Job Dissatisfaction among KentuckyOne Nurses." Submitted to KentuckyOne Health, March 2016. Cited in the *Louisville Courier Journal* June 25, 2016.

GRADUATE STUDENT MENTORSHIP

Major M.A. Advisor for 14 students:

Teela Davis, M.A. Sociology 2003; Natalie Call, M.A. in Sociology 2004; Cara Tuttle Bell, M.A. in WGST Spring 2006; Stacia Kock, M.A. in WGST Spring 2006; Erin Ridelle, M.A. in WGST Spring 2008; Sonita Arnold, M.A. In Soc, Spring 2011; Erin Herbert, M.A. in Sociology, Spring 2011; Kelsie Patton, M.A. in WGST Spring 2012; Jennifer Welch, M.A. in WGST, Spring 2012; Brittany Williams, M.A. in WGST, Spring 2013; Jessy Lyons, M.A. in WGST, Fall 2013; Shritha Vaseduvan, M.A. in WGST, Spring 2014; Assel Kuzembayeva, M.A. in Sociology 2019; Taylor Tolles, M.A. in Sociology expected 2021

Major Ph.D. Advisor for 4 students:

Cheryl Crane, Ph.D. in Sociology, defended 2016; Eric Jordan, co-chair with Dr. Gast, defended 2020; Trey Allen, Sociology, co-chair with Dr. Gast, 2021; Jessica Newton, Sociology, PhD Expected 2022-3

Ph.D. or Comprehensive Exam Committees for 11 students:

Jennifer Jewell, Social Work, (2008), Fran Shupe, Sociology (2012), Bryan Hamilton, Sociology (2013), Katie Adamchik, Sociology, (2016), Heidi Williams, Sociology, (2015-7), Sarah Moffett, Humanities, (2016-2018), Layne Gordon, English, (2017-2019), Jennifer Rudy, Sociology, (2017-), Nancy Steinmetz, Sociology (2018-), Sam Hunter, Sociology (2020-); Thomas Isaac (2021-)

SERVICE

Service to the University:

1. Departmental

Personnel Committee, Sociology, 2003, 2010, 2013, 2018-9 (Chair)
Graduate Committee, Sociology, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2019-2021
Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, Sociology 2019-2020
AKD Faculty Representative, Sociology, 2019-2021
Admissions Committee, WGS, 2010-2017
Personnel Committee, WGS, alternate member, 2003-5, 2009-11, 2014
Chair, 2006-8. 2012, 2013
WGST Advisor, 2006- Spring 2008.
Curriculum Committee, Women's Studies, 2001- 2007; Soc 2017
Maddox Prize, Women's Studies, Spring 2003, 2017
Curriculum Committee, Sociology, 2001-2003; Chair, 2004-05, 2017

2. College of Arts & Sciences

Curriculum Committee, 2018-2019, Chair 2020-21
Chair, Faculty Assembly (decision-making body of 375 Arts & Sciences Faculty),
Fall 2016-Spring 2018
Advisory Board, Commonwealth Center for the Humanities & Society, 2017-2021
Admission and Appeals Committee, 2006, Co-chair 2007-8; 2016-8
A&S Diversity Awards Committee, 2010
Yocom Scholarship Committee, 2005-2016 (every year)
Speaker, Meet the Professor Series, December 2015
Phi Beta Kappa Speakers Committee, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2017, 2019-2020
Faculty Mentor for Research Experiences for Undergraduates, an NSF-
sponsored program, summer 2006

3. University Wide

Faculty Paid Leave Workgroup, 2020-21
Cardinal Core Committee, 2018-2019
Member, Research Integrity Panel for the IRB, 2017-8
Faculty Mentor for Brown Fellows Program, 2011-2015; Reading applications 2019-
2021
Faculty Grievance Committee, 2014, 2016-7
Chair of Family-Friendly Policies Committee under Great Places to Work Program
in Provost's Office. Fall 2009-Spring 2010; member 2011-2014
Member, 21st Century Committee on Engagement, 2013-2014

Speaking engagements: for Commission on the Status of Women, 9/16; On film
Four Little Girls 9/14; On "Gender, Women, Violence, & Poverty" at Conversation
Café series sponsored by First-Year Initiatives and PEACC Center at Cultural
Center, 10/12; On "Women, Work and Poverty" for Feminist Alliance, 10/08; On
"Why I am a Feminist" for the Faculty Research Forum, Commonwealth Center for

the Humanities, 2/06; On “Women and Work” for Diversity Committee of the School of Public Health and Information Sciences, 11/06; On “Gender Privilege” for Gen 101, 9/03; For National Forum for Black Public Administrators, 11/22/02; For Intensive English Program’s Conference on American Culture, 11/8/02

Service to the Profession

Presider for 2019 SSS session, “Critical Examinations of College Teaching”
Discussant for 2010 ESS session, “Construction and Negotiation of Femininities”
Discussant for 2007 ASA session, “Gender and the Welfare State.”
Discussant and Presider for 2003 ASA session, “Welfare Reform”
Discussant and Presider for 2002 ASA session, “Gender, Race and the Welfare State”
Discussant and Presider for 2002 ASA Gender Roundtable Session on “Gender, Adolescence, and Family Issues”

Editorial Reviewer, *Journal of Poverty* (2002-2019).

Reviewer for *Gender & Society*, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, *Journal of Research on Women and Gender*, *Social Problems*, *Feminist Economics*, *Journal of Women’s History*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *American Sociological Review*, *Hypatia*, *Pittsburgh Undergraduate Review*, National Science Foundation (2003).

Service to the Community

Fed with Faith Serving Meals to the Homeless, regular volunteer, 2017-2021
PTA, duPont Manual High School and Noe Middle School, 2020
Assistant Coach Noe Middle School 6th grade Volleyball, 2019
Assistant Coach Noe Middle School Tennis, 2016-2018
Speaker, Kindred Health Care Women’s History Month, 2017 and 2018
Member of Site-Based Decision-Making Council, Hawthorne Elementary, 2011-13
Speaker on State of Affairs, Local Radio show, on the Shriver Report on Women & Work. 2010.
Volunteer at Hawthorne Elementary, Every1Reads program, 2013.
Advised Women 4 Women’s Strategic Planning Committee, Spring/Summer 2010.
Board member of Women in Transition, an organization comprised of current and former welfare recipients, 2004-2007. Volunteer for WIT, 2008-2010.
Seven speeches to community groups from 2003-2010.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SINCE 2000)

- 2020 Canceled due to Covid-19: Invited Keynote Speaker at the Israeli Sociological Association Family Section's Conference on Motherhood in Haifa, Israel.
- 2019 Southern Sociological Society (Atlanta, GA). "Podcasts Versus Papers: How Different Assignments Influence Students' Mastery of a Sociological Perspective." With Nancy Steinmetz.
- 2018 Southern Sociological Society (New Orleans, LA). "The Double Bind of Relational Care: Work-to-Family Conflict among Nurses."
- 2016 Motherhood Institute for Research and Community Involvement (MIRCI), (Toronto, Canada). "'You are angry at the world': Work-to-family Conflict in the Nursing Profession."
- 2014 Southern Sociological Society (Charlotte, NC). "'The year leave is Amazing: North American mothers' accounts of paid leaves."
- 2013 Southern Sociological Society (Atlanta). Invited. "On the question of having it all: Female professors discuss work-family balance."
- 2011 American Sociological Association. (Las Vegas). "'But I'm in Charge'": Extensive Mothering among Employed Mothers."
- 2010 Eastern Sociological Association. (Boston). "Extensive Motherhood: Employment and Caregiving Narratives among Mothers with Young Children."
- 2009 Pacific Sociological Association. (San Diego). "Shifting policies and heightened inequalities."
- 2008 Rouge Forum. (Louisville, KY). "Mother as provider: Student Welfare Recipients' Narratives of paid and unpaid work."
- 2007 American Sociological Association (New York) "Welfare recipients in the university: Resisting and reflecting dominant discourses on paid and unpaid work."
- 2006 American Sociological Association. "Parenthood in the University: Contradictions among Welfare-Recipient Students"
- 2004 International Association of Feminist Economics Annual Meeting. (Oxford, England) "Welfare as We Don't Know It: A Review and Feminist Critique of Welfare Reform Research."
- 2003 American Sociological Association (Atlanta, GA) "Welfare as We Don't Know It: A Review and Feminist Critique of Welfare Reform Research"
- 2002 American Sociological Association (Chicago, IL). "A 'Pauperization of Motherhood'? U.S. Mothers' Poverty Over Time."
- 2001 (Invited) Women's Studies Lecture Series, University of Louisville (Louisville, KY) "Single Mothers, Welfare and Work: Why are U.S. Mothers Poorer than Their Western Counterparts?"
- 2001 Institute for Women's Policy Research Conference (Washington D.C.) "A 'Pauperization of Motherhood'? Mothers' Poverty in the U.S. Over Time."
- 2000 Carework Conference (Washington D.C.) "Caregiving and Social Policy: Are 'Breadwinner' Welfare States Friendly to Mothers and Single Mothers?"

