

LAURA ELIZABETH SIMON

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EMPLOYMENT

Mercer University, 2017-present

Assistant Professor of Sociology

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Sociology, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, December 2016

Dissertation: “Sex Across the Life Course: An Examination of Social Influences on Adolescent Sexual Attitudes and Associations between Sexual Behavior Patterns and Young Adult Health.”

Doctoral Exams: Family and Physical Health

Advisor: Dr. Bridget Goosby

M.A. Sociology, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, August 2011

Thesis: “Race and Gender Differences and the Role of Sexual Attitudes in Adolescent Sexual Behavior”

Advisor: Dr. Bridget Goosby

B.S. Sociology, Wayne State College, December 2007

Honors Thesis: “Hooking Up or Saving It?: An Examination of Sexual Scripts in *Seventeen Magazine*.”

Advisor: Dr. Monica Snowden

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Medical Sociology
- Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
- Gender and Sexuality
- Social Inequality
- Health Disparities
- Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Simon, Laura E., Laurel E. Genova, Marcia L. O. Kloepper, and Kathryn D. Kloepper. 2020. “Learning Postdisruption: Lessons from Students in a Fully Online Nonmajors Laboratory Course.” *Journal of Chemical Education* 97(9):2430–38. doi: [10.1021/acs.jchemed.0c00778](https://doi.org/10.1021/acs.jchemed.0c00778).

Williams, Deadric T., Laura Simon, and Marissa Cardwell. 2019. “Black Intimacies Matter: The Role of Family Status, Gender, and Cumulative Risk on Relationship Quality Among Black Parents.” *Journal of African American Studies* 23(1):1–17. doi: [10.1007/s12111-019-09420-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s12111-019-09420-2).

BOOK CHAPTERS

Simon, Laura E.; Kloepper, M. L. O.; Genova, L. E.; Kloepper, K. D., “Promoting student learning and engagement: Data-supported strategies from an asynchronous course for nonmajors.” in *Advances in Online Chemistry Education, Symposium Series, American*

Chemical Society/Oxford University Press: Washington D.C., for publication 2021; accepted 07/09/21.

PEER REVIEWED PEDAGOGICAL MATERIALS

Simon, Laura. 2019. "Name that Ethics Violation: A Classroom Activity for Teaching the Importance of Ethical Research." (Accepted at *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*)

Simon, Laura. 2017. "Sociology of Health Care and Health Professions Syllabus." *TRAILS: Teaching Resources and Innovations Library for Sociology*. Washington DC: American Sociological Association.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Simon, Laura. Alexis Stewart. Ehlam Frank. Krupa Patel. "COVID, College, and Well-Being: Navigating College during a Pandemic" (data collected, ongoing analysis and manuscript preparation)

Williams, Deadric T. **Laura Simon.** "Living and Loving in a Racialized Society: Black Family Heterogeneity, Cumulative Risk, and Relationship Quality" (manuscript under development for *Journal of Family Issues*)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- 2021** Invited International Presentation, "Lessons from Disruption: The Power of Interdisciplinary Collaborations for Understanding Student Expectations in Online Courses", co-presenter with Dr. Kathryn Kloepper, 2021 Research Methods in Chemistry Education Research (MICER)
<https://micerportal.wordpress.com/2021/05/17/day-1-lessons-from-disruption-the-power-of-interdisciplinary-collaborations-for-understanding-student-expectations-in-online-courses/>
- 2021** Podcast Interview, Mercer Mondays: How Professors Can Be Allies, Mercer University Office of Diversity and Inclusion
https://open.spotify.com/episode/5ZOHCgiM9zeQ3q7Bs5US3t?si=ih9InOjwQM2cseBYQ13vjA&dl_branch=1
- 2021** Panelist, "Mental Health Matters", Global Health in Action Editorial Board, Mercer University
- 2021** Panelist, "Black History Month: The State of Black America", Zeta Phi Beta, Mercer University
- 2021** Discussion leader, "Book Club Conversations: *Medical Apartheid*", Mercer Social Justice Book Club, Mercer University

- 2020** Workshop Organizer, “Decolonizing Your Syllabus and Classroom”, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Mercer University.
- 2020** Workshop Organizer, “Creating Inclusive Spaces: Teaching Strategies and Practices to Optimize Student Success” (with Dr. Vicki Luther), Faculty Scholars Program, Mercer University (*reformatted and recorded as podcast due to COVID-19 closure*)
<https://den.mercer.edu/podcast-addresses-importance-of-building-inclusive-classrooms/>
- 2020** Paper accepted to the Southern Sociological Society annual meeting paper session, “The First Year: Transitions, Stress, and Health among Undergraduate College Students.” Jacksonville, FL (*conference canceled*)
- 2020** Guest speaker, “Unconscious Bias in the Workplace”, Delta Sigma Pi, Mercer University
- 2020** Guest speaker, “Health Disparities: Is Inequality Making (Some of) Us Sick?”, Alpha Epsilon Delta, Mercer University.
- 2020** Guest speaker, “Racial Ideologies, Power, and Language”, Chi Omega Sorority, Mercer University.
- 2020** Guest speaker, “Understanding Race as a Social Construct”, Mercer Social Justice Book Club, Mercer University.
- 2020** Panelist, “Cultural Competency Series: Race and Healthcare” (with Dr. Chinekwu Obidoa, Dr. Michele Prettyman, and Dr. Arturo Holmes), Alpha Epsilon Delta, Mercer University.
- 2020** Guest speaker, “Teaching Race and Ethnicity: The Value of Integrating a Class Trip to the Legacy Museum and Memorial”, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Mercer University.
- 2020** Panelist, “Creative Activism: The Role of the Arts in Confronting Economic Injustice” (with Charvis Harrell and Dr. Cameron Kunzelman), Economic in(Justice) in America Series, Mercer University.
- 2019** Panel member, “Police Bias and Racial Violence” (with Tamara Barnard, Dr. Chester Fontenot, Adam Penland, and Nassim Ashford), Department of Anthropology, Mercer University.
- 2019** Roundtable presentation at Teaching and Learning Workshop, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, “Teaching about Diversity from a Position of Privilege.” New York City, NY

- 2019** Paper presentation at the Southern Sociological Society annual meeting, “The First Year: Time Use, Stress, and Health among Undergraduate College Students.” Atlanta, GA
- 2019** Roundtable presentation at the Sociologists for Women in Society annual meeting, “The First Year: Academic Stress and Health among Undergraduate College Students.” Denver, CO
- 2018** Roundtable presentation at the Sociologists for Women in Society annual meeting, “Teaching in a Divisive Political Climate.” Atlanta, GA
- 2016** Paper presentation at Association for the Sociology of Religion annual meeting, “Born-Again Virgins: An Examination of the Effects of Individual and School-Level Religiosity on Rescinding Reported Sexual Activity”. Seattle, WA
- 2016** Sociology Department Colloquium, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, “Active Learning Strategies: Increasing Student Engagement and Participation”. Lincoln, NE
- 2015** Guest Speaker, “Research, Reflections, and Rewards – The Graduate School Journey”, Pi Gamma Mu, Wayne State College. Wayne, NE
- 2014** Paper presentation at Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting “Incarceration and Physical Health”. Omaha, NE
- 2011** Paper presentation at Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, “Adolescents’ Involvement in Sexual Activity and the Influence of Sexual Attitudes”. Las Vegas, NV.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
Mercer University, Macon, GA

Fall 2017-present

- Introductory Sociology
- Sociological Theory
- Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
- Medical Sociology
- Health Disparities
- Sociology of Gender and Sexuality
- Sociology of Religion
- Research in Sociology
- Directed Independent Research in Sociology
- The First-Year Student Experience (UNV 101)
- Drug Epidemics, Social Upheaval, and Community Response (INT 201)
- The Pursuit of Happiness (INT 201)
 - <https://den.mercer.edu/professor-develops-course-centered-around-finding-happiness-and-inner-joy-classroom-spotlight/>

Lecturer, Department of Sociology

Fall 2016-Spring 2017

University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

- Introduction to Sociology
 - Online and In-Classroom
- Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
 - William H. Thompson Scholars

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Fall 2015, Fall 2016

Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE

- Introduction to Sociology
 - Fall 2015 and Fall 2016
- Race Relations and Minority Groups
 - Fall 2016

Graduate Instructor, Department of Sociology

Fall 2013- Summer 2016

University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

- Sociology of Race and Ethnicity
 - Summer 2016, Summer 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2014, Summer 2014 and Spring 2014
- Sociology of Health Care and Health Professionals
 - Fall 2015
- Introduction to Sociology (online)
 - Fall 2013

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Psychology and Sociology

Spring 2016

Wayne State College, Wayne, NE

- *Race and Ethnic Relations* (hybrid)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Sociology

Fall 2009-Spring 2011

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

- Sociology of Marriage and Family
 - Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011

HONORS AND AWARDS

2020-2021 Excellence in First-Year Student Advising Award, winner, Mercer University's Academic and Advising Services

2020-2021 Faculty of the Year, nominee, Mercer University's Student Government Association

2019-2020 Faculty of the Year, nominee, Mercer University's Student Government Association

2019-2020 Mercer University's Provost Office Seed Grant (\$2,000)

- 2019-2020** Mercer University QEP Faculty Scholar
- 2019** Mercer University QEP Summer Service-Research Fellow (\$5,000)
- 2018-2019** Excellence in First-Year Student Advising Award, nominee, Mercer University's Academic and Advising Services
- 2018-2019** Mercer University's Provost Office Seed Grant (\$2,000)
- 2018** Sociology of Health Care and Health Professions syllabus from *TRAILS* featured on the main page of the American Sociological Association's website as a featured teaching resource.
- 2016** SAGE Teaching Innovations and Professional Development Award (\$600), SAGE Publications and American Sociological Association Section Teaching and Learning
- 2016** Cheryl Applegate Teaching Award (\$500), University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2016** Sociology Department Travel Award (\$250), University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2015** J.J. & Eleanor S. Ogle Dissertation Fellowship (\$8,000), University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2015** Sociology Department Teaching Award (\$250), University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2014** Sociology Department Travel Award (\$500), University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2012** Summer Travel Award (\$500), University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2011** J.J. and Eleanor Ogle Summer Fellowship (\$1,000), University of Nebraska Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2010** J.J. and Eleanor Ogle Summer Fellowship (\$1,000), University of Nebraska Lincoln, Department of Sociology
- 2008** Second place in the Midwest Sociologists for Women in Society 2008 Undergraduate Student Research Paper Competition.

MENTORING EXPERIENCE

Undergraduate Research Advisor, Department of Sociology

Fall 2018-present

Mercer University, Macon, GA

- One-to-one mentoring. Undergraduate research and project development
- *Directed Independent Research in Sociology (SOC 495)*
 - 2019 – Elisabeth Colquitt, “Obstructing Quality Care: Barriers Faced by Nurses When Becoming SANE Certified”, Paper accepted to poster session at the 2020 annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Jacksonville, FL
 - Paper Awards: Runner-up - Valerie B. Edmonds Student Research Award
 - 2019 – Sydney Campbell and Emily Mixon, “Union Formation Amongst College Undergraduate and Graduate Students: A Study of Attitudes and Behaviors”, Paper accepted to poster session at the 2020 annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Jacksonville, FL
 - 2018 - Emily Poole, “Progress or Pretense? A Look at Race Relations on a College Campus”, Paper presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Atlanta, GA.
 - 2018 - Madeline Bobo, “Big Boys Don’t Cry: Examining the Suppression of Emotions in Male College Students”, Paper presented in a poster session at the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society. Atlanta, GA.

Mercer Firsts Mentor, Office for Student Success

Fall 2018-present

Mercer University, Macon, GA

- One-to-one mentoring of first generation students to provide additional support in the transition to college

Academic Advisor, Department of Sociology

Fall 2017-present

- Advise students on academic, career, and personal issues
- Identify pathways to complete degree requirements
- Explain college and university policies and procedures

Undergraduate Research Mentor, Department of Sociology

Fall 2015

University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

- One-to-one mentoring for *Undergraduate Research Experience*
- Student: Anna Poudel
- Research findings presented in the Undergraduate poster session at the 2016 Midwest Sociological Society Annual Meeting

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Sociology

Fall 2011-Spring 2013

University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Lincoln, NE

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 2021** Workshop, Mercer Mobile Summer Institute on Scientific Teaching: Where Theory Meets Practice, Mercer University.
- 2021** Workshop, “Taking Aim: Teaching Purpose and Audience.” CLAS Writing Committee, Mercer University
- 2021** Reading Group, “The Missing Course.” CLAS Faculty Development Committee, Mercer University
- 2019-2020** Faculty Scholars Program, Quality Enhancement Plan, Mercer University
- 2019- 2020** Faculty Research and Writing Colloquium, Center for Teaching & Learning, Mercer University
- 2019** Reading Group, “How to Write a Lot: A Guide to Productive Scholarly Writing.” Center for Teaching & Learning, Mercer University
- 2019** Reading Group, “Teaching at its Best.” Faculty Development Committee, Mercer University
- 2019** Conference, “Advancing Teaching and Learning.” Lilly Conferences, Traverse City, MI
- 2019** Workshop, “Identifying Our Ithaka.” INT Committee, Mercer University
- 2019** Fellow, Summer Service-Research Program. Quality Enhancement Plan, Mercer University.
- 2018-2019** Faculty Research and Writing Colloquium, College of Liberal Arts Writing Program, Mercer University
- 2018** Workshop, “E-portfolio Information Session.” E-portfolio Working Group, Mercer University
- 2018** Workshop, “Summer Service-Research Workshop.” Quality Enhancement Plan, Mercer University
- 2018** Workshop, “Second Year Review Workshop.” Faculty Development Committee, Mercer University
- 2018** Workshop, “QEP: The Workshop.” Quality Enhancement Plan, Mercer University
- 2018** Workshop, “Explore/Express Syllabus Workshop.” Quality Enhancement Plan, Mercer University

- 2018** Reading Group, “Teaching in the Liberal Arts.” Faculty Development Committee, Mercer University
- 2018** Teaching Workshop, “Rank and Tenure Workshop for Junior Faculty.” Rank and Tenure Committee, Mercer University
- 2018** Workshop, “Intersectionality in the Classroom.” Sociologists for Women in Society Winter Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- 2016** Teaching and Learning Pre-Conference Workshop “The Relevant Syllabus: Integrating Current Events into Our Classes”, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA
- 2015** Teaching and Learning Pre-Conference Workshop “Active Learning Strategies for Classes Large and Small”, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL
- 2014** Preparing Future Faculty Program, University of Nebraska- Lincoln
Mentor: Dr. Ann Meier, University of Minnesota
- 2014** Teaching and Learning Pre-Conference Workshop, “Civility in the Classroom”, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting. San Francisco, CA
- 2014** Summer Institute for Online Teaching, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Office of Online and Distance Education
- 2014** Symposium, Innovation in Pedagogy and Technology, University Information Technology and University of Nebraska Online Worldwide
- 2014** Online and Blended Symposium, “Blending Mode: Increasing Engagement in Online, Blended, and Face-to-Face Classes”, University of Nebraska - Lincoln Office of Online and Distance Education
- 2010** Grant Writing Seminar, “Write Winning Grants”. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, The Office of Research and Development.
- 2009** Teaching Assistant Workshop, University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Office of Graduate Studies

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2021-present** Faculty Advisory Board Member, Alpha Epsilon Delta - Georgia Epsilon chapter, Mercer University
- 2021-present** Faculty Sponsor, Be the Match Mercer (est. 2021)
- 2020-present** Member, Mercer University Diversity and Inclusion Committee

- 2018 -present** Interviewer, Mercer University Admissions, Presidential Scholars and Heritage Scholars
- 2017-present** Faculty Sponsor, Mercer University's Sociology and Criminal Justice Club (est. 2017)
- 2018-2021** Member, Mercer University Women's and Gender Studies Executive Committee
- 2018-2020** Faculty Representative, Mercer University Admissions, Saturday Preview Events
- 2018-2020** Member, Mercer University General Education Committee
- 2020** Guest Judge, Living the Dream MLK Day Celebration, Mercer University Minority Mentor Program and Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- 2019** Guest presenter, "Identifying Our Ithaka", Mercer University's INT Committee
- 2018** Brainstorm Meeting for Strategic Plan Imperative 2, Mercer University's Strategic Planning Committee
- 2018** Guest Judge, Mercer University's Department of Theatre, Stagecraft Tech Olympics
- 2017** Guest Judge, Mercer University Homecoming Lip Sync Competition, QuadWorks
- 2015-2016** Graduate Student representative, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Sociology Undergraduate Committee
- 2014-2015** President, Nebraska Association of Sociology Graduate Students
- 2009-2017** Nebraska Association of Sociology Graduate Students - Teaching Committee
- 2009-2017** Nebraska Association of Sociology Graduate Students - Research Working Group

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2019-present** Member, Membership Committee, Sociologists for Women in Society
- 2019-2020** Member, Membership Committee, Teaching and Learning Section, American Sociological Association
- 2019-2020** Member, Sociologists for Women in Society Feminist Mentor Awards Committee
- 2018-2019** Member, American Sociological Association's Section of Teaching and Learning Pre-conference Workshop Planning Committee

2012-2015 Family Division Newsletter Editor, Society for the Study of Social Problems

2012 Organizer and Presider, “Children, Families, and Health” paper session at the 2012 Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meetings. Denver, CO.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

Southern Sociological Society

Sociologists for Women in Society

American Sociological Association