

# Mellisa Holtzman, PhD

## Professor of Sociology

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Ball State University  
Department of Sociology  
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### EDUCATION

2003	Ph.D.	University of Iowa	Sociology	
1997	M.A.	University of Iowa	Sociology	
1995	B.A.	Eureka College	Sociology	<i>Summa Cum Laude</i>

### EMPLOYMENT

2015-Present Professor of Sociology, Ball State University  
2007-2015 Associate Professor of Sociology, Ball State University  
2002-2007 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Ball State University

### AREAS OF INTEREST

Qualitative Research, Sexual Assault Prevention, Sociology of Family, Sociology of Law

### HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2022 Aida Tomeh Distinguished Service Award, North Central Sociological Association
- Recognizes outstanding service provided to the NCSA
- 2022 Most Influential Campus Mentor, Ball State University
- Honored by Kate Winslow as her most influential campus mentor
- 2021 Freshman Convocation Speaker, Ball State University
- Invited by the Provost to welcome the incoming class of students to Ball State
- 2020 Excellence in Teaching Award (Finalist), Ball State University
- Competitive award based on student nominations, the submission of a course revision proposal, and an online interview
- 2019 President's Faculty Recognition Honoree, Ball State University
- Recognizes the accomplishments of one faculty member from each department across campus
- 2019 Outstanding Teaching Award, Ball State University
- Awarded to one BSU faculty member per year; based on exemplary pedagogy, creativity and innovations in teaching, contributions to the scholarship of teaching and learning, and pedagogical leadership and long-term impact
- 2019 Outstanding Graduate Student Advisor (Finalist), Ball State University
- Competitive award based on student nominations

- 2018 Most Influential Campus Mentor, Ball State University
- Honored by Daphne Scott as her most influential campus mentor
- 2018 Ball State Softball Most Valuable Professor Game, Ball State University
- Honored by Danae King for being an important influence on her college career
- 2017 Professor of the Month Award, Ball State University
- Honored by the women of Alpha Gamma Delta as someone who impacts students' academic success and exhibits dedication, passion, and hard work in the classroom
- 2017 National Residence Hall Honorary Award, Ball State University
- Honored by Lynsey Shockley for inspiring her to pursue a career in law
- 2014 John F. Schnabel Distinguished Contributions to Teaching Award, North Central Sociological Association
- Competitive award that recognizes outstanding classroom teaching, a commitment to SoTL research, and significant contributions to NCSA's teaching mission
  - As the recipient of this award, I gave the 2015 Keynote teaching address at the NCSA annual meetings.
- 2014 Sigma Kappa Month of the Scholar Award, Ball State University
- Honored by Rebecca Jacobs as an outstanding professor
- 2014 Mortar Board Faculty Appreciation Honoree, Ball State University
- Honored by Mindi Humphrey as an outstanding professor and important influence on her college experience
- 2007 Mortar Board Faculty Appreciation Award, Ball State University
- Honored by Kurt McWilliams as his most influential teacher
- 2007 Lawhead Teaching Award in the University Core Curriculum, Ball State University
- Competitive award that recognizes excellence in teaching and scholarship within the University Core Curriculum
- 2005 Excellence in Teaching Award, Ball State University
- Competitive award based on student nominations, the submission of a "dream course" proposal and teaching philosophy, and a three-day online interview
- 2000 Edwin Ford Piper Memorial Scholarship Award Recipient, University of Iowa
- Competitive monetary award given to outstanding female students in Sociology or History at the University of Iowa.
- 1994 National Science Foundation Summer Fellow, University Of Nebraska
- Competitive summer fellowship for undergraduate students interested in pursuing careers and research in Sociology

1991-1995 Presidential Scholarship, Eureka College

#### **DEPARTMENTAL DESIGNATIONS OF EXCELLENCE** (ESTABLISHED IN 2020)

Excellence in Teaching – 2020, 2021, 2022

Excellence in Scholarship – 2020, 2021, 2022

Excellence in Student Collaboration in Scholarship – 2020, 2021, 2022

### **SCHOLARSHIP**

Early in my career, my primary research interests were in family and family law. In recent years, however, I have also developed an interest in applied work that deals directly with sexual assault protection and prevention. This interest is reflected not only in my efforts to help create and oversee a sexual assault protection program called Elemental (see below), but also in my published work. Finally, I have also maintained a consistent interest in the scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL).

#### **REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

- 2021 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Bystander Intervention Training: Does it Increase Perceptions of Blame for Nonintervention?” *Sociological Inquiry* 91:914-939.
- 2020 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Beyond Victim Blaming: Students’ Perceptions of Bystanders Who Fail to Intervene.” *Sociological Focus* 53:254-270.
- 2020 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. “Predicting Successful Self-Protection to Attempted Sexual Assault: Factors, Tactics, and Outcomes.” *Sociological Focus* 53: 89-109.
- 2019 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Lowering the Risk of Sexual Assault: What Campuses Need to Know about Effective Prevention Programming” *Change: The Magazine of Higher Learning* 58:28-33.
- 2019 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. “Developments in Sexual Assault Resistance Education: Combining Risk Reduction and Primary Prevention.” *Journal of Applied Social Science* 13:7-25.
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. “A Cornerstone Course in Sociology: Providing Students with Theory, Methods, and Career Preparation Early in the Major.” *Teaching Sociology* 46: 160-172.
- 2017 Zeininger, Katherine, Mellisa Holtzman, and Rachel Kraus. “The Reciprocal Relationship between Religious Beliefs and Acceptance of One’s Gay or Lesbian Family Members.” *Sociological Spectrum* 37: 282-298.
- This article is also reprinted in:  
Shaw, Susan and Janet Lee. 2019. *Gendered Voices Feminist Visions: Classic and Contemporary Readings*. Oxford, England: Oxford University Press.

- 2015 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "Combining Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Approaches in Sexual Assault Programming." *Journal of American College Health* 63: 513-522
- 2015 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. "Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Programming for College-Level Sexual Assault Prevention: Illustrating the Benefits of a Combined Approach" *eJournal of Public Affairs* 4: 12-38.
- 2015 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Tales from a Classroom Ninja: What Martial Arts Can Teach Us about Transformative Student Experiences." *Sociological Focus* 48: 300-307.
- 2015 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. "Integrating Experiential Learning and Applied Research to Promote Student Learning and Faculty Research." *College Teaching* 63: 112-118.
- 2015 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. "A New Model for Sexual Assault Protection: Creation and Initial Testing of Elemental." *Journal of Applied Social Science* 9: 139-155.
- 2014 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "Processes and Patterns in Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Sexual Assault: A Multimethodological Assessment." *Journal of Interpersonal Violence* 29: 1071-1093.
- 2014 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Judicial Decision Making in Contested Adoptions: The Influence of Children's Best Interests Arguments." *Capital University Law Review* 42: 407-440.
- 2013 Holtzman, Mellisa. "GLBT Parents' Rights during Custody Decision Making: The Influence of Doctrine, Statute, and Societal Factors in the U.S." *Journal of GLBT Family Studies* 9: 364-392.
- 2011 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Nonmarital Unions, Family Definitions, and Custody Decision Making." *Family Relations* 60: 617-632.
- 2011 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Family Definitions and Children's Rights in Custody Decision-Making: The Importance of a Changing Litigant Context." *Family Court Review* 49: 591-609.
- 2011 Wojtkiewicz, Roger and Mellisa Holtzman. "Family Structure and College Graduation: Is the Stepparent Effect More Negative than the Single Parent Effect?" *Sociological Spectrum* 31: 498-521.
- 2010 Randolph, Tracey and Mellisa Holtzman. "The Role of Heritage Camps in Identity Development among Korean Transnational Adoptees: A Relational Dialectics Approach." *Adoption Quarterly* 13: 75-99.
- 2009 Concepcion, David, Mellisa Holtzman, and Paul Ranieri. "Sustaining Student and Faculty Success: A Model for Student Learning and Faculty Development." *International Journal for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* 3: 1-10.

- 2008 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Defining Family: Young Adults' Perceptions of the Parent-Child Bond." *Journal of Family Communication* 8: 167-185.
- 2008 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Demystifying Application-Based Multiple Choice Questions." *College Teaching* 56: 114-120.
- 2007 Menning, Chadwick, Mellisa Holtzman, and Carolyn Kapinus. "Stepfather Involvement and Adolescents' Disposition toward Having Sex." *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* 39: 82-89.
- 2006 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Definitions of the Family as an Impetus for Legal Change in Custody Decision-Making: Suggestions from an Empirical Case Study." *Law and Social Inquiry* 31: 1-37.
- This article also appears in Portuguese translation:  
Holtzman, Mellisa. 2007. "Definições de Família Como um Estímulo Para Mudanças no Domínio Legal no Processo de Decisão Sobre Direito de Guarda: Sugestões de um Estudo de Caso Empírico." *Infância e Juventude* 2: 9-65.
- 2005 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Teaching Sociological Theory through Active Learning: The Irrigation Exercise." *Teaching Sociology* 33: 206-212.
- 2002 Holtzman, Mellisa. "The 'Family Relations' Doctrine: Extending Supreme Court Precedent to Custody Disputes Between Biological and Nonbiological Parents." *Family Relations* 51: 335-343.
- 1999 Holtzman, Mellisa and Jennifer Glass. "Explaining Changes in Mothers' Job Satisfaction Following Childbirth." *Work and Occupations* 26:365-404.
- 1999 Stryker, Robin, Martha Scarpellino, and Mellisa Holtzman. "Political Culture Wars 1990s Style: The Drum-Beat of Quotas in Media Framing of the Civil Rights Act of 1991." *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 17:33-106.

#### **INVITED CHAPTERS**

- Forthcoming Holtzman, Mellisa. "Families" in *New Society*, edited by Robert Brym and Mellisa Holtzman. TopHat Publishing.
- Forthcoming Holtzman, Mellisa and Sergio Cabrera. "The Cornerstone Course and the Sociology Curriculum" in *Handbook of Teaching and Learning in Sociology*, edited by Sergio Cabrera and Stephen Sweet. Elgar Publishing
- 2023 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Posing Questions, Crafting Explanations, and Communicating Results" in *Social Research Methods: Sociology in Action*, edited by Catherine Harnois and Kristin Kenneavy. Sage Publications.

### **NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS**

- 2016 Booth, Joe (with Mellisa Holtzman). “In the Matter of the Adoption of: TY MITCHELL MOYER HODGES, a minor child.” *District Court of Johnson County, Kansas, Probate Court Department*.
- Based on my published research on children’s best interests, adoption, and custody disputes involving biological and nonbiological parents, Joe Booth (attorney-at-law, Kansas) asked me to prepare a Brandeis Brief for a pending adoption case. A Brandeis Brief is a document that is prepared by an expert in the field in order to introduce social science evidence into court proceedings. The brief I prepared was incorporated into Mr. Booth’s brief on the issue and that was subsequently published to the court as a matter of legal record.
- 2009 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Making Ends Meet” in *Sociology through Active Learning, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, edited by Kathleen McKinney and Barbara Heyl. Pine Forge Press.
- 2009 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Song Analysis Project” in *Sociology through Active Learning, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition*, edited by Kathleen McKinney and Barbara Heyl. Pine Forge Press.
- reprint from the 1<sup>st</sup> edition (full citation below)
- 2005 Holtzman, Mellisa. “The Family Definitions Continuum” in *Family Focus*. National Council on Family Relations.
- 2004 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Debates on Family Issues” in *Teaching About Families: A Collection of Essays, Syllabi, Projects, and Assignments*, edited by Ginger Macheski, Kathleen Lowney, Michael Capece, Kate Warner, and Martha Laughlin. American Sociological Association.
- 2001 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Song Analysis Project” in *Sociology through Active Learning*, edited by Kathleen McKinney, Barbara Heyl, and Frank Beck. Pine Forge Press.
- A version of this paper also appears in *Teaching About Families, 4<sup>th</sup> edition*, edited by Ginger Macheski, Kathe Lowney, Carmen Knudson-Martin, and Michael Capece. American Sociological Association.

### **RESEARCH GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

#### External Grants

- 2009 National Science Foundation, Social and Economic Sciences Division, Law and Social Sciences and Sociology Programs (joint funding), “Precipitating Legal Change: Children’s Rights, Family Definitions, and Judicial Decision-Making,” \$81,671 Grant #: 0849681

#### Internal Grants

- 2014 Office of Institutional Effectiveness, Ball State University, “Assessing the Effectiveness of Elemental, A Sexual Assault Protection Program,” (with Chadwick Menning), \$2000
- 2008 General Faculty Research Grant, Ball State University, “Children’s Rights, Family Definitions, and the Maintenance of Attachment Relationships in Custody Decision Making,” \$12,895

- 2004 New Faculty Research Grant, Ball State University, “Definitions of the Family among College Students: Biology, Social Attachment, or Ambivalence,” \$4464

#### Research Fellowships

- 2005 John W. Fisher Faculty Research Fellowship in American Business or Politics, Ball State University, “Theorizing Legal Change,” \$2000
- 2005 Lumina Foundation for Education Fellowship, Ball State University, “The ‘Problem’ of Application Questions: Determining What They Really Mean,” \$3000
- Fellowship to support SoTL research on core curriculum and early major courses

#### Competitive University Research/Travel Awards

- 2015 President’s Travel Fund/CSH Travel Fund, Ball State University, “Combining Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Approaches in Sexual Assault Programming,” \$376
- 2014 President’s Travel Fund/CSH Travel Fund, Ball State University, “Perceptions of the Sociology Major and the Status of the Discipline: Using Experiential Learning and Applied Research to Demonstrate the Relevance of Sociology,” \$517
- 2014 President’s Travel Fund, Ball State University, “A Demonstration of a New Sexual Assault Protection Program: Introducing Elemental,” \$599
- 2013 President’s Travel Fund, “Elemental: Using Sociology to Develop a New Model for Sexual Assault Protection,” \$808

#### **SCHOLARSHIP OF APPLICATION – THE DEVELOPMENT OF ELEMENTAL**

In 2011, I worked alongside my colleague, Chad Menning, to develop a new kind of sexual assault protection program, called Elemental. The program, which is grounded in sociological and social scientific research (including original data collection), combines primary prevention programming on assault, consent, party culture, party safety and so forth with physical and verbal risk reduction training. During the seminar, students learn how to recognize sexual threats early, give and get consent, communicate with partners about sex, and use a variety of self-protection techniques that vary in intensity and level of violence.

Pretest, posttest, and longitudinal data from participants illustrate a strong, positive impact of taking part in Elemental. Students show strong, significant changes in their level of comfort saying no and standing up for themselves, their ability to set boundaries, their capacity to defend themselves in situations involving strangers, acquaintances, and intimate partners, and their understanding of sexual consent as well as alcohol and party dangers. These same measures are associated with a 66% reduction in the risk of assault for at least 6 months post-program. This is noteworthy because research on most existing programs consistently finds that they have only short-term effects on students’ attitudes about assault and rarely impact rates of assault.

#### **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

Urban, Amber and Mellisa Holtzman. “Menstruation, Menstrual Stigma, and Twitter.”

- Revise and resubmit received

Holtzman, Mellisa, Ellen Whitehead, and Ayrilia Welch. “Adjusting Class Policies Amid a Pandemic: How Lessons Learned During COVID-19 Can Help Faculty Prepare for Other Institution-Wide Crises.”

### **MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS**

Holtzman, Mellisa. “The Relationship between Sexual Threat Characteristics and Bystander Intervention Timing, Target, and Approach.” Partial draft complete

Whitehead, Ellen, Ayrilia Welch, and Mellisa Holtzman. “‘It’s Pedagogical and It’s Selfish:’ The Role of Classroom Policies in Student Socialization, Faculty-Student Rapport, and Faculty Legitimacy.” Analysis in progress.

### **INVITED RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS**

- 2021 Holtzman, Mellisa. “The Relationship between Sexual Threat Characteristics and Bystander Intervention Timing, Target, and Approach.” Presented at the Heartland Campus Safety Summit, Overland Park, KS
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2020 Holtzman, Mellisa. “From Criticized to Cutting Edge: Why Self-Defense is Now Recommended for Sexual Assault Prevention.” Presented at DePauw University, Greencastle, IN
- Invited by Sara Ryan, Asst. Dean of Students, served as the keynote speaker
- 2020 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Elemental: A Gender- and Sexuality-Inclusive Program Proven to Reduce the Risk of Sexual Assault.” Presented at the Hope and Justice Community Dinner, Muncie, IN
- Invited by Kerri Pickel and Markie Oliver, served as the keynote speaker
- 2019 Holtzman, Mellisa. “From Criticized to Cutting Edge: Why Self-Defense is Now Recommended for Sexual Assault Prevention.” Presented at the Heartland Campus Safety Summit, Overland Park, KS
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2019 Holtzman, Mellisa. “From Criticized to Cutting Edge: Why Self-Defense is Now Recommended for Sexual Assault Prevention.” Presented at the Midwest Campus Safety Summit, Muncie, IN
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2019 Holtzman, Mellisa. “New Developments in Sexual Assault Prevention: Why Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Matter.” Presented at the Conference on Crimes Against Women, Dallas, TX.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Addressing Sexual Violence in High Schools and Colleges: A Proven Program to Reduce Risk.” Presented at the Big Questions, Big Ideas Community Lecture Series, Muncie, IN.



- Invited by the Philosophy and Religious Studies Department at Ball State University, served as the keynote speaker
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Rethinking Risk Reduction: When to Use It, How to Use it, and Why It is Important.” Presented at the Rocky Mountain Campus Safety Summit, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Beyond Victim-Blaming: Students’ Perceptions of Bystanders Who Fail to Intervene.” Presented at the Rocky Mountain Campus Safety Summit, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. “The Science behind Effective Sexual Assault Prevention Programming on College Campuses: What Practitioners Need to Know.” Presented at Central Wyoming College, Riverton, WY.
- Invited by Coralina Daly, Vice President for Student Affairs of CWU, served as the keynote speaker
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Rethinking Risk Reduction: When to Use It, How to Use it, and Why It is Important.” Presented at Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
- Invited by the Sexual Respect and Harm Reduction committee of Grinnell College for Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM), served as the keynote speaker
- 2017 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Beyond Victim-Blaming: Students’ Perceptions of Bystanders Who Fail to Intervene.” Presented at the Heartland Campus Safety Summit, Overland, KS.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2017 Holtzman, Mellisa. “The Evolution of Sexual Assault Prevention on College Campuses: Why Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Matter.” Presented at the Midwest Campus Safety Summit, Muncie, IN and the Rocky Mountain Campus Safety Summit, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2016 Holtzman, Mellisa. “New Developments in Sexual Assault Prevention Efforts: Why Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Matter.” Presented at the Heartland Campus Safety Summit, Overland, KS.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2016 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. “Developments in Sexual Assault Resistance Education: Combining Risk Reduction and Primary Prevention.” Presented at the American Psychological Association Annual Meetings, Denver, CO.
- Invited by Lindsay Orchowski (Brown University) and Katie Edwards (University of New Hampshire), served as a panel speaker for a symposium entitled “Novel Interventions for Sexual Assault Risk Reduction, Resistance Education and Recovery.”

- 2016 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. “Comprehensive Sexual Violence Prevention Programming in Schools: Why Does It Matter?” Presented at the Action in Education Summer Institute, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI.
- Invited by Alan McEvoy, served as the keynote speaker
- 2016 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. “Combining Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Programming to Increase the Efficacy of Sexual Assault Prevention on College Campuses.” Presented at the Rocky Mountain Campus Safety Summit, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2015 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. “Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Programming for College-Level Sexual Assault Prevention: Illustrating the Benefits of a Combined Approach.” Presented at the Heartland Campus Safety Summit, Overland, KS.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2013 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Judicial Decision Making in Contested Adoptions: The Influence of Children’s Best Interests Arguments.” Presented at the Wells Conference on Adoption Law, Capital University Law School, Columbus, OH
- Invited by the National Center on Adoption Law and Policy, served as a keynote speaker

#### **INVITED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT &/OR CREATIVE ENDEAVOR PRESENTATIONS**

- 2020 Holtzman, Mellisa (with Brittany Kowalski, Christopher Dum, Danielle Lavin-Loucks, Melinda Messineo, David Merolla, Rachel Stein, and Robert Carrothers). “De-Stressing the Application Process: Advice and Feedback Workshop.” Accepted for the North Central Sociological Association meetings in Cleveland, OH
- Invited by Brittany Kowalski to serve as a workshop facilitator
  - Not presented due to Covid-19 conference cancellation
- 2019 Holtzman, Mellisa and Sarah Kendall. “Best Practices in Sexual Assault Prevention Programming: Perspectives from Elemental’s Creators and Participants.” Presented at the Midwest Campus Safety Summit, Muncie, IN.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, served as a break-out session speaker
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Elemental: An Evidence-Based Sexual Assault Protection Program.” Presented at Central Wyoming College, Riverton, WY.
- Invited by Coralina Daly, Vice President for Student Affairs of CWU, conducted a workshop
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Elemental: An Evidence-Based Sexual Assault Protection Program.” Presented at the Midwest Campus Safety Summit, Muncie, IN.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, conducted a workshop
- 2017 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Community Engaged Work, Publishing, and P&T.” Presented during the *Engaging Community Series* at Ball State University.

- Invited by the Office of Community Engagement, Ball State University, served on a panel
- 2017 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Elemental: An Evidence-Based Sexual Assault Protection Program.” Presented at the Midwest Campus Safety Summit, Muncie, IN and the Rocky Mountain Campus Safety Summit, Colorado Springs, CO.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, conducted a workshop
- 2017 Holtzman, Mellisa (with Lynn Ritchey, Deb Swanson, Fayaaz Hussain, Rebecca Bordt, and Leslie Wang) “The Dr. Is In: Teaching Wellness Clinic.” North Central Sociological Association Meetings, Indianapolis, IN.
- Invited by Lynn Ritchey, served as a panel member
- 2016 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Elemental: An Evidence-Based Sexual Assault Protection Program.” Presented at the Heartland Campus Safety Summit, Overland, KS.
- Invited by Jana’s Campaign, conducted a workshop
- 2016 McEvoy, Alan, Chadwick Menning, and Mellisa Holtzman. “Helping Students End Sexual Assault and Relationship Violence.” Presented at the Action in Education Summer Institute, Northern Michigan University, Marquette, MI.
- Invited by Alan McEvoy, conducted a 2-day workshop
- 2016 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. “Publishing Your Community Engaged Work.” (with Paul Gestwiki and Jerrell Cassidy). Presented during the *Engaging Community Series* at Ball State University.
- Invited by the Office of Community Engagement, Ball State University, served on a panel
- 2016 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Next Steps in College Sexual Assault Prevention: Comprehensive Programming.” Presented at ConsenTED, Ball State University, Muncie, IN.
- Invited by the Sexual Threats Oppression and Prevention (STOP) Committee, Ball State University, served as a keynote speaker
- 2015 Holtzman, Mellisa. “What If Sexual Assault Self-Protection Could be Nonviolent?” Presented at TEDx Ball State University, Muncie, IN
- TEDx talks focus on “ideas worth spreading” and the theme for this particular event was “What if . . .” Thus, all talks offered a provocative and unique look at familiar topics using a “What if . . .” lens. Video of the presentation can be found at: <http://youtu.be/u-7VAFBGWqc>
- 2015 Holtzman, Mellisa. “Tales from a Classroom Ninja: What Martial Arts Can Teach Us About Transformative Student Experiences.” Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cleveland, OH
- Invited by the North Central Sociological Association, served as the keynote speaker

- 2009 Seyfrit, Carole, James Sherohman, Mellisa Holtzman, Robert Spalter-Roth, and Robert Shelly. "Initiating and Reviving Master's Programs." Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, San Francisco, CA
- Invited by the American Sociological Association, conducted a workshop
- 2009 Seyfrit, Carole, James Sherohman, Mellisa Holtzman, Robert Spalter-Roth, and Robert Shelly. "The Relevance of the Master's Degree for All Graduate Departments." Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, San Francisco, CA
- Invited by the American Sociological Association meetings, served on a panel

#### **PAPERS PRESENTED AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES**

- 2022 Urban, Amber and Mellisa Holtzman. "Menstruation, Menstrual Stigma, and Twitter." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Indianapolis, IN.
- 2022 Whitehead, Ellen, Mellisa Holtzman, and Ayrilia Welch. "Faculty Reflections on Crisis-Driven Changes in Class Policies." Presented at the Provost's Faculty Summit, Ball State University, Muncie, IN.
- 2021 Whitehead, Ellen, Ayrilia Welch, and Mellisa Holtzman. "'It's Pedagogical and It's Selfish: The Role of Classroom Policies in Student Socialization, Faculty-Student Rapport, and Faculty Legitimacy.'" Presented at the North Central Sociological Association virtual meetings.
- 2021 Whitehead, Ellen, Ayrilia Welch, and Mellisa Holtzman. "'I Still Want to be Really Flexible but You Can't Just Throw a Whole Semester Away': Leniency Around Deadlines and Attendance Policies in the Era of COVID-19." Presented at the Midwest Sociological Society virtual meetings.
- 2019 Holtzman Mellisa. "A Workshop on Creating Cornerstone Courses in Sociology." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cincinnati, OH.
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. "New Developments in Sexual Assault Prevention: Why Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Matter." Presented at the Summit on the Prevention of Campus Sexual Assault, University of Michigan Injury Prevention Center, Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. "A Cornerstone Course in Sociology: Providing Students with Theory, Methods, and Career Preparation Early in the Major." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2018 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Beyond Victim-Blaming: Students' Perceptions of Bystanders Who Fail to Intervene." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Pittsburgh, PA.
- 2017 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "What Does Successful Sexual Assault Protection Look Like?: Lessons Learned from Elemental." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Indianapolis, IN.

- 2016 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "Precursors and Processes of Attempted Sexual Assault: A Multimethodological Approach." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Chicago, IL.
- 2015 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "Combining Primary Prevention and Risk Reduction Approaches in Sexual Assault Programming." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cleveland, OH.
- 2015 Baird, Denise, Mellisa Holtzman, and Melinda Messineo. "How NOT to Reinvent the Wheel: Curriculum Design 101." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cleveland, OH.
- 2014 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. "Perceptions of the Major and the Status of the Discipline: Using Applied Research and Experiential Learning to Address Two Areas of Concern for Sociology." Presented at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology meetings, Pittsburg, PA.
- 2014 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. "Applying Sociology to Develop a New Model for Sexual Assault Protection: Creation and Initial Testing of Elemental." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cincinnati, OH
- 2014 Holtzman, Mellisa and Chadwick Menning. "A Demonstration of a New Sexual Assault Protection Program: Introducing Elemental." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cincinnati, OH
- 2013 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "Elemental: Using Sociology to Develop a New Model for Sexual Assault Protection." Presented at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology meetings, Portland, OR
- 2013 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "Elemental Sexual Assault Protection: A Demonstration." Presented at the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology meetings, Portland, OR
- 2013 Wolf, Hayley, Chadwick Menning, and Mellisa Holtzman. "Elemental: Self Defense Proven Effective through Social Science." Presented at the Butler Undergraduate Research Conference, Indianapolis, IN
- 2012 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "Processes and Patterns in GLBTQ Sexual Assault: A Multimethodological Assessment." Presented at Queertopia 5.0, Chicago, IL
- 2012 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. "Addressing Sexual Assault Self-Protection Needs in the GLBTQ Population: The Development of Elemental." Presented at Queertopia 5.0, Chicago, IL
- 2011 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Nonmarital Unions, Family Definitions, and Custody Decision-Making." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cleveland, OH

- 2010 Holtzman, Mellisa and Anne Eisenberg. "Teaching Theory at the Graduate and Undergraduate Level." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Chicago, IL
- 2010 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Putting Together Effective Promotion and Tenure Materials." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Chicago, IL.
- 2008 Randolph, Tracey and Mellisa Holtzman. "Negotiating Racial and Ethnic Differences in Transnational Adoption: A Relational Dialectics Perspective." Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, Boston, MA
- 2008 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Children's Rights, Definitions of the Family, and Custody Decision Making." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cincinnati, OH
- 2007 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Children's Rights and the Maintenance of Attachment Relationships in Custody Decision Making." Presented at the National Council on Family Relations meetings, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2007 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Dramaturgy, Impression Management, and an Embarrassing Moment." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Chicago, IL
- 2006 Holtzman, Mellisa. "The 'Problem' of Application Questions: Determining What They Really Mean." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association Meetings, Indianapolis, IN
- 2006 Wojtkiewicz, Roger and Mellisa Holtzman. "The Negative Effect of Living in a Stepparent Family on College Graduation: Searching for an Explanation." Presented at the Population Association of America meetings, Los Angeles, CA
- 2005 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Family Talk: What Language Suggests About Cultural Definitions of the Family." Presented at the National Council on Family Relations meetings, Phoenix, AZ
- 2005 Menning, Chadwick, Mellisa Holtzman, and Carolyn Kapinus. "Stepfather Involvement and Adolescents' Disposition toward Having Sex." Presented at the National Council on Family Relations meetings, Phoenix, AZ
- 2005 Holtzman, Mellisa "Biological versus Social Definitions of the Family: Conflict, Coexistence, or Ambivalence?" Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, Philadelphia, PA
- 2004 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Definitions of the Family as an Impetus for Legal Change in Custody Decision-Making: Suggestions from an Empirical Case Study." Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, San Francisco, CA

- 2004 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Teaching Sociological Theory through Active Learning: The Irrigation Exercise." Presented at the North Central Sociological Association meetings, Cleveland, OH
- 2003 Holtzman, Mellisa. "Custody Disputes between Biological and Nonbiological Parents in the State of Iowa: Is Law Autonomous, Nonautonomous, or Semi-Autonomous?" Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, Atlanta, GA
- 2001 Holtzman, Mellisa. "The 'Family Relations' Doctrine: Extending Supreme Court Precedent to Custody Disputes Between Biological and Nonbiological Parents." Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, Anaheim, CA
- 1999 Holtzman, Mellisa and Ashley Finley. "Divorcing Parents and Child Custody: Testing an Alternative to the Best Interests Standard." Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, Chicago, IL
- 1999 Holtzman, Mellisa. "A Feminist Rethinking: Childless Families and the Stigmas They Face." Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, Chicago, IL
- 1998 Finley, Ashley and Mellisa Holtzman. "Child Custody and the Primary Caretaker Rule: Do Mothers Have an Advantage?" Presented at the Midwest Sociological Association meetings, Kansas City, MO
- 1997 Holtzman, Mellisa and Jennifer L. Glass. "Experiencing Motherhood and Work: Changes in Women's Job Satisfaction Postpartum." Presented at the American Sociological Association meetings, Toronto, Canada

## ***TEACHING***

### **COURSES**

	<u><i>Undergraduate</i></u>	<u><i>Graduate</i></u>
Principles of Sociology	Sociological Theory	Social Theory
The Family	Sociological Thinking	Seminars in: Family, Law, Grant
The Sociology of Law	Seminar in Self-Defense	Writing, & SV Prevention

### **DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULAR AND COURSE MATERIALS FOR ELEMENTAL**

As a result of developing, testing, and refining Elemental (described above), Chad Menning and I partnered with a courseware company to develop and produce a number of related educational products:

- 2014 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. *Elemental: Teaching Certification*. Muncie, IN: Vizi Courseware.
- Online certification materials for individuals who want to become certified instructors of Elemental. The nine modules address research on sexual assault, gender socialization, party safety, and sexual consent, as well as provide instruction on each of the threats and defenses that are addressed in Elemental.

- 2013 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. *Elemental: A Sexual Assault Protection Seminar*. Muncie, IN: Vizi Courseware
- Integrated video and instructional materials for use when teaching Elemental.
- 2013 Menning, Chadwick and Mellisa Holtzman. *Elemental: Student Review*. Muncie, IN: Vizi Courseware.
- Integrated video and instructional materials provided to students so they can review and practice after the seminar ends.

#### **DEVELOPMENT OF CURRICULAR AND COURSE MATERIALS -- OTHER**

Forthcoming *New Society*, edited by Robert Brym and Mellisa Holtzman. TopHat Publishing.

2022-Present *Making the Invisible Visible: Applying Sociology to Our World*, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition. Kindle Direct Publishing (edited with Brooke-Renee Bonnell and Ellen Whitehead).

2007-2020 *Sociology in Action*, 9<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> Editions. Plymouth, MI: Hayden-McNeil Publishing Company (variously with Melinda Messineo, Carolyn Kapinus, Lisa Pellerin, and Richard Petts)

2014-Present Messineo, Melinda, Mellisa Holtzman, and Chadwick Menning. *Introduction to Sociology: An Engaging Approach*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition. Muncie, IN: Vizi Courseware.

2009 Holtzman, Mellisa. Test questions to accompany MyHelpingKit for *Exploring Child Welfare: A Practice Perspective*, 5<sup>th</sup> ed. by Cynthia Crosson-Tower. Boston, MA: Allyn and Bacon.

2005 *Sociology 100: Principles of Sociology*, 8<sup>th</sup> Edition. Dubuque, IA: Kendall/Hunt Publishing Company (with Melinda Messineo and Carolyn Kapinus).

#### **M.A. AND PH.D. COMMITTEES (COMPLETED OR IN PROGRESS)**

8 Undergraduate senior honors theses (chair)

35 M.A. thesis committees

- 10 as chair for Sociology M.A. students
- 23 as member for Sociology M.A. students
- 2 as member for M.A. students outside of Sociology

10 Ph.D. committees, all outside of Sociology

#### **TEACHING GRANTS – FUNDED**

##### *Internal*

2011 College of Science and Humanities and Department of Sociology, “Elemental, A Sexual Assault Protection Program,” (with Chadwick Menning), \$850

2009 AAIR Summer Assessment Grant, “Assessment Plan in Sociology,” (with Jun Xu and Chadwick Menning), \$2250



- 2008 AAIR Summer Assessment Grant, “Assessing Objectives and Learning Outcomes in Tier 1 Courses for UCC-21,” (with Carolyn Kapinus and Chadwick Menning), \$1500
- 2005 AAIR Summer Assessment Grant, “Sociology Graduate Education Learning Objectives,” (with Carolyn Kapinus), \$2000
- 2004 Lilly II, “Department of Sociology Retention Initiatives Continued,” (with Chadwick Menning and Melinda Messineo), \$1575
- 2003 Lilly II, “Department of Sociology Retention Initiatives 2004-2005,” (with Melinda Messineo), \$3050
- 2003 Lilly II, “Department of Sociology Retention Initiatives Curriculum Development Workshop Spring 2004,” (with Melinda Messineo), \$3150

## ***SERVICE***

### **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE – COMMITTEES**

#### *Core Curriculum Committee*

Chair 2006-2007  
Member 2007-2009

#### *Graduate Committee*

Chair 2018-Present; 2007-2010  
Interim Chair 2012 (fall semester)  
Assist. Chair 2006-2007  
Member 2010-2018; 2003-2006

#### *Promotion and Tenure Committee*

Chair 2015-2016; 2010-2011  
Member 2017-Present; 2012-2014; 2004-2009

#### *Recruitment Committee*

Member 2018-2019; 2007-2008; 2004-2006

#### *Salary Committee*

Chair 2021-2022; 2018-2019; 2010-2011; 2007-2008  
Member 2012-2014; 2004-2006

#### *Undergraduate Committee*

Member 2002-2003

### **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE – ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES**

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Sociology 2018-Present;  
2007-2010

- Responsible for all curricular matters for the graduate program, advising all students, handling all recruitment

and marketing, and processing all applications to the program.

Interim Director of Graduate Studies (Fall semester)	2012
Co-advisor for Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD)	2014-2019; 2002-2007

#### **COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND HUMANITIES SERVICE -- COMMITTEES**

College of Science and Humanities Dean's Faculty Advisory Council	2018-2021; 2011-2013
College of Science and Humanities Graduate Program Taskforce	2018-2019
College Curriculum Committee	2017-2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review departmental curriculum proposal before forwarding them to UEC or GEC</li> </ul>	
Promotion and Tenure, College of Science and Humanities	2015-2016;
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member of the Criterion Subcommittee</li> <li>Chair of the Social Sciences Domain Subcommittee</li> </ul>	2010-2011
College of Science and Humanities P&T Taskforce on Digital Portfolios	2015-2016
College of Science and Humanities Salary Appeal Committee	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee hears allegations of procedural violations and/or unfair treatment in the salary and merit process</li> </ul>	
College of Science and Humanities Tenure Appeal Committee	2013
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee hears allegations of procedural violations and/or unfair treatment in the promotion and tenure process</li> </ul>	

#### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE -- COMMITTEES**

Complaint/Grievance Appeals Board member for the Office of University Compliance	2014-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board hears allegations of <i>discrimination</i> in the promotion and tenure process</li> </ul>	
President's Travel Fund Committee	2012-2015
Strategic Planning Taskforce	2011-2012
SafeAssign Taskforce	2009
Undergraduate Education Committee	2007-2009

#### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE -- PROGRAMS**

Faculty Advisor for Camp Kesem, Ball State Chapter	2018-Present
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Facilitator for SoTL Studio Series for the Division of Strategic Learning	2018-2019
Co-facilitator (with Melinda Messineo) for SoTL workshop for the Office of Educational Excellence	2012-2014
Faculty Fellow in the Sponsored Programs Office, Ball State University	2011
Co-facilitator (with Yasemin Tunc) for SafeAssign workshops for the Office of Teaching and Learning and Unified Technology Support	2009-2011
Member of the UCC-21 Social Science Advisory Group	2008-2009
Facilitator for UCC-21 Proposal Writing workshops for the Office of Teaching and Learning	2008
Facilitator for Promotion and Tenure Portfolio workshops for the Office of Educational Excellence	2006-2013

#### **SERVICE GRANTS – FUNDED**

##### *Internal*

2022	Assessment and Accreditation Grant for sociology, “Reimagining Sociology’s Graduate Program Assessments” \$500
2018	Graduate Enrollment Management (GEM) Grant for sociology, \$3343
2009	Graduate School Travel/Recruiting Grant for Sociology, \$400
2008	Graduate School Recruitment Grant, “Sociology Recruitment Initiatives,” \$390
2007	Graduate School Recruitment Grant, “Sociology Recruitment Initiatives,” (with Jun Xu), \$350
2006	Graduate School Recruitment Grant, “Sociology Recruitment Initiatives,” (with Carolyn Kapinus), \$400
2006	AAIR Summer Assessment Grant, “Sociology Scholarship Workshop,” (with Chadwick Menning), \$2000

#### **SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE/COMMUNITY**

Board of Directors for Jana’s Campaign, a non-profit organization in Hays, KS focused on preventing gender based violence	2019-Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elected President of the board in September 2021</li> <li>• Elected Vice President of the board in September 2020</li> <li>• Elected Secretary of the board in November 2019</li> <li>• Appointed as a member of the board in January 2019</li> </ul>	
Editorial Board, <i>Sociological Focus</i>	2019-Present

Midwest Campus Safety Summit Planning & Program Committee 2015-2019

- Work with Jana's Campaign, a non-profit organization dedicated to ending gender-based violence, to coordinate and offer the Midwest Campus Safety Summit at Ball State. Inaugural summit was April 5-6, 2017.

Professional Organization Memberships

American Sociological Association  
 North Central Sociological Association  
 Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology  
 National Council on Family Relations

Offices Held in Professional Organizations

North Central Sociological Association 2008-Present

- 2019-Present, Undergraduate Student Paper Conference Coordinator (appointed)
- 2015-Present; 2009-2011, Program Committee Member (appointed)
- 2018-2019, Vice-President (elected)
  - Responsible for overseeing all aspects of program construction for the annual conference
- 2017-2018, Vice-President Elect (elected)
  - Responsible for organizing research sessions for the annual conference
- 2015-2017, Teaching Section Chair (appointed)
- 2010-2012, Membership Committee Chair (elected)
- 2008-2010, At-Large Council Member (elected)

American Sociological Association

- 2008-2010, Member of the Taskforce on the Master's Degree in Sociology (appointed)

External Tenure and Promotion Reviewer

2022 External reviewer for a candidate's promotion to full professor

2021 External reviewer for a candidate's promotion to full professor

2018 External reviewer for a candidate's promotion to full professor  
 External reviewer for candidate's promotion to associate professor and tenure

2017 External reviewer for a candidate's promotion to associate professor and tenure

2016 External reviewer for a candidate's promotion to full professor

Journal Reviewer for:

American Journal of Orthopsychiatry  
 Children and Youth Services Review  
 Criminal Justice Review  
 Electronic Journal of Sociology  
 Family Relations  
 Journal of Applied Social Science

Journal of Family Communication  
Journal of Family Issues  
Journal of Family Studies  
Journal of GLBT Family Studies  
Journal of Human Trafficking  
Journal of Interpersonal Violence  
Qualitative Sociology  
Research in Social Stratification and Mobility  
Social Problems  
Sociological Focus  
Sociological Inquiry  
Teaching Sociology  
The Sociological Quarterly  
Violence and Victims  
Violence Against Women

Scholarly Book Reviewer for:

Lynne Rienner Publishers  
Routledge, Taylor and Francis Publishers

Grant Reviewer for:

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention  
Division)  
National Science Foundation

Conference Reviewer for:

North Central Sociological Association (NCSA)  
National Sexual Assault Conference (NSAC)

Textbook Reviewer for:

Pearson  
McGraw Hill  
Pine Forge Press  
Sage Publications  
Wadsworth/Thomson Publishing