

RACHEL KRAUS

Curriculum Vitae
September 2025

Ball State University
Department of Anthropology and Sociology, BB 312
Muncie, Indiana 47306

Office Phone: (765) 285-0486
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Education

Ph.D. (Sociology), Purdue University, 2005

Dissertation: “God’s (Not So) Quiet Hand: The Political Advocacy of Religious Liberal vs. Conservative Washington Offices”

Graduate Certificates: *Graduate Certificate in Survey Research*
Graduate Teaching Certificate

M.S. (Sociology), Purdue University, 2001

Analytic Project: “News Representations of Male and Female Political Candidates: The Need for a Second Look”

M.P.A. (Public Administration), University of South Carolina, 1999

Thesis: “Factors Influencing Voting Behavior on the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act”

B.A. (Sociology), University of Cincinnati, 1997

Cum Laude with High Honors in Sociology

Academic and Professional Positions

Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, August 2016-present

Executive Officer, Association for the Sociology of Religion, 2016-2024

Graduate Faculty Status, Department of Psychological Sciences, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, May 2017-2021

Interim Director of Women’s and Gender Studies, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, August 2016- December 2016

Associate Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, June 2010-July 2016

Affiliated Faculty, Women’s and Gender Studies Program, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, August 2009-present

Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Sociology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN, August 2005-May 2010

Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing System (CATI) Project Manager, Social Research Institute, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, September 2002-July 2005

Graduate Instructor, Purdue University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, West Lafayette, IN, June 2001-May 2005

Legislative Fellow (Congressional Fellowship awarded by the Women's Research and Education Institute), Office of Congressman Adam B. Schiff, Washington, D.C., January 2002- August 2002

Adjunct Professor, Ivy Tech State College, Lafayette, IN, August 2003-May 2004

Graduate Research Assistant, American Religion Data Archive (ARDA), Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, January 2000-August 2000

State Government Intern, South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services, Columbia, SC, September 1998-May 1999

Graduate Research Assistant, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC, August 1997-May 1998

Areas of Interest

Sociology of religion and spirituality
Social psychology and identity
The body and health

Sociology of gender
Qualitative methodologies and mixed methods

RESEARCH

Refereed Academic Publications

Kraus, Rachel. Forthcoming. "Qualitative Research" in *Principles of Research in Behavioral Science*. 5th ed. Edited by Mary E. Kite and Bernard E. Whitley, Jr. Routledge. New York, NY.

Kraus, Rachel and Scott A. Desmond. 2025. "Exceptional Bodies" and Lived Religion: Religious and Spiritual Experiences Among Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

Desmond, Scott A. and **Rachel Kraus**. 2024. "Religiosity, Future Orientation, and Subjective Well-being among Emerging Adults." *Mental Health, Religion, and Culture* 26(10): 957-968.

Kraus, Rachel. 2022. "Examining religious/spiritual change among women with metastatic breast cancer." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 61:314-330.

Kraus, Rachel. 2020. "Abandoning Belly Dance: Leaving Female-Dominated Serious Leisure." *International Journal for the Sociology of Leisure*. 3:135-152.

Kilgore, Alexcia, **Rachel Kraus**, and Linh Littleford. 2020. "But I'm Not Allowed to Be Mad": How Black Women Cope with Gendered Racial Microaggressions Through Writing. *Translational Issues in Psychological Sciences*.

Kraus, Rachel. 2018. "Qualitative Research and Interviewing" pp. 531-566 in *Principles of Research in Behavioral Science*. 4th ed. Edited by Mary E. Kite and Bernard E. Whitley, Jr. Routledge. New York, NY.

Desmond, Scott A., **Rachel Kraus**, and Brendan J. L. Dugan. 2018. "Let the Heavens Be Glad, and the Earth Rejoice: Religion and Life Satisfaction Among Emerging Adults in the United States." *Mental Health, Religion & Culture* 21:304-318. and the Earth be Glad: Religion and Life Satisfaction."

Zeininger, Katherine, Mellisa Holtzman, and **Rachel Kraus**. 2017. "The Reciprocal Relationship Between Religious Beliefs and Acceptance of One's Gay or Lesbian Family Member." *Sociological Spectrum* 37:282-298.

Kraus, Rachel. 2017. *Gendered Bodies and Leisure: The Practice and Performance of American Belly Dance*. Routledge.

Palmer, Zachary, and **Rachel Kraus**. 2017. "Live in Israel. Live the Dream": Identity, Belonging, and Contemporary American Jewish Migration to Israel." *Sociological Focus* 50(3): 228-243.

Kraus, Rachel, Scott Desmond, and Zachary Palmer. 2015. "Being Thankful: Examining the Relationship between Young Adult Religiosity and Gratitude." *Journal of Religion and Health* 54(4):1331-1344.

Kraus, Rachel. 2014. "Transforming Spirituality in Artistic Leisure: How Spiritual Meaning of Belly Dance Changes Over Time." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*: 53:459-478.

Desmond, Scott A. and **Rachel Kraus**. 2014. "The Effects of Importance of Religion and Church Attendance on Adolescents' Moral Beliefs." *Sociological Focus* 47:11-31.

Kraus, Rachel. 2013. "Becoming a Belly Dancer: Gender, the Life Course, and the Beginnings of a Serious Leisure Career." *Leisure Studies*: 1-16.

Kraus, Rachel. 2013. "I Really Don't Do It for The Spirituality": How Often Do Belly Dancers Infuse Artistic Leisure with Spiritual Meaning?" *Implicit Religion*. 16:301-318

Desmond, Scott and **Rachel Kraus**. 2012. "Liar, Liar: Adolescent Religiosity and Lying to Parents" *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion*: online

Kraus, Rachel. 2012. "Spiritual Origins and Belly Dance: How and When Artistic Leisure Becomes Spiritual." *Journal of Dance and Somatic Practices* 4:59-77.

Desmond, Scott A., Sarah E. Soper, and **Rachel Kraus.** 2011. "Religiosity, Peers, and Delinquency: Does Personal Religiosity Reduce the Effect of Peer Influences on Delinquency?" *Sociological Spectrum* 31: 665–694.

Kapinus, Carolyn A., **Rachel Kraus,** and Daniel R. Flowers. 2010. "Excluding Inclusivity: Protestant Framing of Homosexuality." *Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion* online.

Kraus, Rachel. 2010. "They Danced in the Bible: Identity Integration among Christian Women who Belly Dance." *Sociology of Religion* 71:457-482.

Kraus, Rachel. 2010. "We are not Strippers: How Belly Dancers Manage a (Soft) Stigmatized Serious Leisure Activity." *Symbolic Interaction* 33:435-455.

Kraus, Rachel. 2010. "Restructuring Religion in Our Nation's Capital?: The Political Priorities of Washington Offices." *Sociological Focus* 43:24-40.

Kraus, Rachel. 2009. "Straddling the Sacred and Secular: Creating a Spiritual Experience through Belly Dance." *Sociological Spectrum* 29:598-625.

Kraus, Rachel. 2009. "The Many Faces of Spirituality and Belly Dance: A Conceptual Framework." *Implicit Religion* 12:51-72.

Kraus, Rachel. 2009. "'Thou Shalt Not Take the Name of Thy God in Vain': Religious Washington Offices' Use of God Talk." *Journal of Media and Religion* 8:115-137.

Kraus, Rachel. 2008. "You Must Participate: Violating Research Ethical Principles through Role-Play." *College Teaching* 56:131-136.

Kraus, Rachel. 2007. "Laity, Institution, Theology, or Politics?: Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish Washington Offices' Agenda Setting." *Sociology of Religion* 68:67-82.

Davidson, James D., **Rachel Kraus,** and Scott Morrissey. 2005. "Presidential Appointments and Religious Stratification in the U.S., 1789-2003." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 44:385-495.

Non-refereed Academic Publications

Kraus, Rachel. 2022. "Breast cancer awareness campaigns too often overlook those with metastatic breast cancer – here's how they can do better." *The Conversation*. Here is the article: <https://theconversation.com/breast-cancer-awareness-campaigns-too-often-overlook-those-with-metastatic-breast-cancer-heres-how-they-can-do-better-190877>

Kraus, Rachel. 2021. “Breast cancer awareness campaigns can do a better job supporting women who’ve received a stage 4 diagnosis, instead of focusing only on early detection and ‘beating cancer’.” *The Conversation*. Here is the published article:
<https://theconversation.com/breast-cancer-awareness-campaigns-can-do-a-better-job-supporting-women-whove-received-a-stage-4-diagnosis-instead-of-focusing-only-on-early-detection-and-beating-cancer-168628>

Kraus, Rachel. 2008. “Role-Play.” Pp. 168-175 in *Scaffolding for Student Success in Learning: Best Practices in Using Instructional Strategies*, edited by Bernadette E. Dietz and Lynn H. Ritchey. Washington, DC: American Sociological Association.

Kraus, Rachel. 2007. Book review, *The Catholic Church in State Politics: Negotiating Prophetic Demands & Political Realities*, by David Yamane, *Sociology of Religion*, 68:117-118.

Kraus, Rachel. 2004. Book review, *Faith-Based Initiatives and the Bush Administration: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly*, by Jo Renee Formicola, Mary C. Segers, and Paul Weber. *Sociology of Religion* 65: 307-308.

Works in Progress

Mascio, Leilani Naomi and **Rachel Kraus**. “‘You’re Not Leaving a Religion, You’re Leaving a Culture.’ How Mormon Women Exit the Church.”

Rachel Kraus and Mellisa Holtzman. “I’m (Not) a Survivor?: Identity Construction among Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer.

Presentations at Professional Conferences

- Kraus, Rachel. 2024. “Meaning Making: To What extent do Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer View their Diagnosis as a ‘Blessing in Disguise’?” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2024 “You Really Question Everything: How Life Priorities Change with a Metastatic Breast Cancer Diagnosis” presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Columbus, OH.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2023. “Making the ordinary extraordinary: Religious and Spiritual Practice in the everyday lives of women with metastatic breast cancer” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Salt Lake City, UT.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2023. I’m (Not) a Survivor: Identity Construction among Women with Metastatic Breast Cancer presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Grand Rapids, MI.

- Kraus, Rachel. 2022. Living and practicing Religion with Metastatic Breast Cancer presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Indianapolis, IN.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2018. “Leaving Leisure: Existing the Belly Dancer Role” presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Pittsburgh, PA.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2015. “The Double-Edged Sword of the Belly Dancing Body” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction in Chicago, IL.
- Desmond, Scott A., Rachel Kraus, and Brendan J. L. Dugan. 2015. “Let the Heavens Rejoice and the Earth be Glad: Religion and Life Satisfaction” presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Kraus, Rachel, Scott A. Desmond, and Zachary Palmer. 2013. “Being Thankful: Examining the Relationship between Young Adult Religiosity and Gratitude” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in New York, New York.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2012. “Transforming Spirituality: How Spiritual Experiences with Belly Dance Change over Time” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion in Phoenix, Arizona.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2012. “‘I Don’t Really Do It for the Spirituality’: The Peripheral Role of Spirituality in Artistic Leisure” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion in Denver, Colorado.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2011. “Becoming a Belly Dancer: Gender, Life Course, and the Attraction of Spiritual Leisure” presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Las Vegas, Nevada.
- Desmond, Scott and Rachel Kraus. 2010. “Liar, Liar: Adolescent Religiosity and Lying to Parents” presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, Maryland.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2009. “Holistic Spirituality, Gender, and the Rise of a Belly Dance Subculture” presented at the annual meeting of Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, California.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2009. “Stage Naming Practices among Belly Dancers in the United States” presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Dearborn, Michigan.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2008. “They Danced in the Bible: Religious Role Conflict among Belly Dancers.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Boston, Massachusetts.

- Kraus, Rachel. 2008. "We are not Strippers: Managing Public Misconception of Belly Dance." Presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2007. "Creating a Spiritual Experience through Belly Dance." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Tampa, Florida.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2007. "Embracing the Goddess?: The Religious Institutional Involvement and Spirituality of Belly Dancers." Presented at the joint annual meeting of the Midwest Sociological Society and the North Central Sociological Society, Chicago, Illinois.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2006. "Snake Arms, Shimmies, and Hip Circles: Seeking a Feminine-Centered Spirituality through Belly Dance." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Portland, Oregon.
- Desmond, Scott A. and Rachel Kraus. 2006. "God Matters, Ritual Doesn't?: The Effects of Importance of Religion and Church Attendance on Moral Beliefs." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, Quebec.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2006. "Fighting a Culture War?: The Political Priorities of Washington Offices." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, Quebec.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2006. "You Must Participate: Using Role-Play to Teach Research Ethics." Presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2005. "Constituency, Institution, Theology, or Politics? What Matters to Washington Offices." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2004. "'Thou Shalt Not Take the Name of Thy God in Vain': National Religious Advocacy Groups' Use of God Talk." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, California.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2004. "Should the Jewish Community be Viewed as 'Monolithic?': A Comparative Analysis of Reform and Orthodox Washington D.C. Offices." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, San Francisco, California.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2004. "Capitol Hill Religious Advocacy Groups: Priorities, Procedures, and Problems." Presented at the Symposium on Religion and Politics, Grand Rapids, Michigan.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2003. "Western Faith Traditions on Capitol Hill: Social Origins of Washington Offices." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, Virginia.

- Davidson, James D., Rachel Kraus, and Scott Morrissey. 2003. "Presidents, Political Appointments and Religious Stratification in America, 1789-2003." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Norfolk, Virginia.
- Davidson, James D. and Rachel Kraus. 2003. "The Role Political Appointment Plays in the Persistence of Religious Stratification: The Religious Affiliation of Presidents and Supreme Court Justices." Presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2001. "News Representations of Male and Female Political Candidates: The Need for a Second Look." Presented at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Louisville, Kentucky.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2000. "News Representations of Male and Female Candidates in a 1984, 1993, and 1994 Campaign: A Research Agenda." Presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Humanist Sociology, Covington, Kentucky.
- Kraus, Rachel. 2000. "Public Attitudes toward Religious Groups in Politics." Presented at the Annual Meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Kraus, Rachel. 1998. "Religion and Abortion: The Role of Jewish Interest Groups in Supreme Court Cases." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, Georgia.

Other Professional Meeting Activities

- Organizer and Convener. 2023. Studying Spirituality at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, PA.
- Organizer and Convener. 2018. Author-Meets-Critics discussion of *Paranormal America* 2nd ed. by Christopher D. Bader et al. at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, PA.
- Panelist. 2018. "Online Teaching" at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, PA.
- Panelist. 2017. "Teaching Sociology of Religion" at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, QC.
- Panelist. 2017. "Surviving Graduate School and Navigating the Job Market" at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Montreal, QC.
- Session co-organizer and panelist. 2016. "Teaching Sociology of Religion and Spirituality" at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Seattle, WA.

- Session co-organizer and panelist. 2015. “Teaching Sociology of Religion and Spirituality” at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Newport Beach, CA.
- Panelist. 2015. Session titled “Voices of Experience: Teaching Research Methods and Statistics” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cleveland, Ohio.
- Session organizer and convener. 2014. Session titled “Grant Writing” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Session organizer and convener. 2014. Session titled “Choosing and Applying to Graduate School” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Session organizer and convener. 2014. Session titled “Publishing Journal Articles” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Panelist. 2014. Session titled “Teaching Gender and Sexuality” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Session organizer and convener. 2013. Session titled “Choosing a Graduate Program” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Session organizer and convener. 2012. Session titled “Choosing a Graduate Program” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
- Session organizer and convener. 2007. Session titled “Writing Grant Proposals” at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York, New York.
- Session organizer and convener. 2007. Session titled “Publishing Journal Articles and Books” at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, New York, New York.
- Session organizer and convener. 2006. Two sessions titled “The Social Significance of Religion” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Session convener. 2005. Session titled “Religion, Crime, and Incarceration” at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Rochester, New York.
- Session member. 2005. Session titled “Author Meets Critics: David Yamane’s *The Catholic Church in State Politics: Negotiating Prophetic Demands and Political Realities*” at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

- Session convener. 2005. Session titled “Post-Election Reflections” at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Session convener. 2005. Session titled “Author Meets Critics: Arthur E. Farnsley II, N.J. Demerath III, Etan Diamond, Mary L. Mapes, and Elfriede Wedam’s *Sacred Circles, Public Squares: The Multicentering of American Religion*” at the annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Session co-leader (with Keith A. Roberts). 2004. Session titled “Teaching Workshop: Teaching Sociology of Religion” at the annual meeting of the North Central Sociological Association, Cleveland, Ohio.

Other Research Activities

2021. I was interviewed by a former student for an article in Mashable. Here's the published article: <https://mashable.com/article/wear-less-makeup-youtube-tutorials/>

Research Grants and Awards

Kraus, Rachel. 2019. The Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary (Louisville Institute). \$29,867.00.

Kraus, Rachel. 2019. Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, \$4,893

Kraus, Rachel. 2013. Ball State University. President’s Travel Fund, \$397.

Kraus, Rachel. 2011. Association for the Sociology of Religion, \$2,000.

Kapinus, Carolyn and Rachel Kraus. 2008. Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Grants-in Aid, \$1,000.

Kraus, Rachel. 2007. New Faculty Research Grant, Ball State University, \$4,608.

Kraus, Rachel. 2007. John W. Fisher Faculty Research Fellowship, Ball State University, \$3,000.

Kraus, Rachel. 2004. Purdue Research Foundation Summer Research Grant, Purdue University, \$1,960/summer

Kraus, Rachel. Finalist. 2004. Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, \$17,500.

Kraus, Rachel. 2003. Purdue Research Foundation Summer Research Grant, Purdue University, \$1,960/summer.

Kraus, Rachel. 2003. Walter Hirsch Dissertation Research Award, Purdue University, \$500.

Kraus, Rachel. 2003. Graduate Student Government Travel Grant, Purdue University, \$200.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

At Ball State University (Muncie, IN):

- Qualitative Methods Independent Study 2016 (1 student)
- Sociology of Religion Independent Study 2013 (2 students)
- Social Problems 2005-2010 (11 sections of 100-125 students)
- Undergraduate Research Methods 2005-2021 (12 sections of 28 students)
- Sociology of Religions 2007- 2020 (6 sections of 20-40 students)
- Sociological Inquiry (Graduate Research Methods) 2009-2015 (8 sections of 5-15 students)
- Graduate Qualitative Methods 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025 (3 sections of 10 students)
- Society and the Individual 2012-2019 (6 sections of 20-100 students)
- Sociology of Gender 2009-present (ongoing online course and 6 on campus sections of 78-175 students in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2021)
- Spirituality, Self, and Society 2010-2025 (ongoing online course)
- Graduate Seminar (5 weeks on lived religion and spirituality) 2015, 2016, 2017 (3 sections of 11 students)

At Purdue University (West Lafayette, IN):

- Religion in America 2001-2005 (9 sections of 40-60 students each)
- Social Problems 2003 (2 sections of 40 students each)

At Ivy Tech State College (Lafayette, IN):

- Introduction to Sociology 2004 (1 section, 15 students), 2003 (1 section, 15 students)

Teaching Recognition and Awards

- Ball State Ruth Peter's chapter of the National Residence Hall Honorary Recognition, 2018
- Committee for the Education of Teaching Assistants Award, Purdue University, 2005
- Graduate Student Award for Outstanding Teaching, Purdue University, 2004

Immersive Learning Project Consultant

Gender consultant for *Women in American Film Sound* project at the Virginia Ball Center, Fall 2017. I led two 5-hour seminars on gender in society, the media, and work. Vanessa Ament, Edmund F. and Virginia B. Ball Endowed Chair in Telecommunications was the VBC Fellow supervising the project.

Advising

Thesis Chair

Esther Nsiah, February 2023 – completed November 2024
Leilani Pierce, August 2018-completed May 2020
Morgan Self, February 2017-completed May 2018
Jordan Reinoehl, December 2015 – completed July 2017
Zachary Palmer, October 2012-completed May 2014
Cheri Ellefson, April 2011- completed summer 2012
Morgan Roddy, December 2010- completed summer 2012
Jessica Metcalf, January 2010- completed May 2011

Thesis Committee Member (all students are in Sociology except where noted)

Lizbeth Vazquez, August 2025-present
Eli Wibbens, May 2025-present
Kristin Newvine, August 2020-May 2025
Folakemi Olagunju, February 2023 – May 2025
Yolanda Arciniega, completed June 2023
Taryn Wield, January 2021-May 2023
Dana Northam, completed May 2023
Terence Lightning completed May 2021
Rachael Finchum, November 2018 - 2020
Brandon Million, September 2018 – 2020
Amber Urban, November 2018-2020
Peter Moskalew, November 2018 – 2020
Chelse Locke, Anthropology, January 2017-present
Alexcia M. Kilgore (Co-Chair), Psychological Science, March 2017-completed May 2018
Saša E. Vann (Sport & Exercise Psychology), September 2017-completed June 2018
Jossyah Nagawbo Budreau, February 2017- completed May 2018
Wes Heath, January 2015-completed summer 2016
Katie Zeininger, April 2013-completed summer 2014
Shawn Teague, March 2012-completed summer 2013
Naomi Sloan, March 2011-completed May 2012
Daniel R. Flowers, March 2007- completed May 2008
Steven J. Hawks, March 2006- completed April 2007

Doctoral Committee Member

- Leilani Mascio, Doctor of Education, Sociology Cognate Representative, September 2023-present
- Yu-Yao Rachel Chiu, Doctor of Arts with a major in Music, Cello Performance, June 2025-present
- Eric Lee Lakanen, Doctor of Music candidate with a focus on cello performance, January 2017-present

- Ishbah Cox, Doctor of Music candidate with a focus on wind conducting with a secondary in euphonium pedagogy, September 2015-present
- Lorna Timmerman, Doctor of Education with a focus on Adult, Higher, and Community Education, Sociology Cognate Representative, January 2010-completed May 2014
*winner of the 2014 Ball State University Alumni Association Distinguished Dissertation Award

Teaching Mentor

Leilani Pearce, Spring 2020

Brooke Bonnell, Spring 2019

Independent Study Supervisor

Audrey Loomis, Honors Thesis, Fall 2018 – Spring 2019

Sarah Wheat, Fall 2016

Naomi Sloan, completed Spring 2012

Morgan Roddy, completed Summer 2011

Internship Supervisor

Lindsey Eid, completed Fall 2006

Ashley Baker, completed Fall 2006

Undergraduate Honors Supervisor

Lauren Tvaroha, January 2017-May 2017

Invited Talks/Class Workshops

- “Writing Literature Reviews,” Workshop for Ball State University, Bracken Library, Fall semesters of 2011-present.
- “Examining the Unheard Voices of People with Metastatic Breast Cancer.” Ball State University’s Women’s Week Women and Gender Studies Affiliate Research Panel. March 18, 2019.
- “(How) Can Spirituality Exist Outside of Religion?” Public discussion part of the BSU Philosophy Department’s Big Questions Big Ideas series. November 9, 2017, Kennedy Library, Muncie, IN.
- “Understanding the Wage Gap,” Invited presentation for Ball State University’s Women in Business group, February 2015.
- “Transforming Spirituality in Artistic Leisure: How Spiritual Meaning of Belly Dance Changes Over Time,” Invited presentation for the Northwestern University Ethnography Workshop, March 2014.

- “Gender and the Belly Dancing Body,” Guest lecture at Butler University, Course titled “Dance, Gender, and the Body,” February 2014.
- “Move Your Belly: The Rewards and Challenges of Participating in a Belly Dance Subculture.” Presentation at Ball State University, Women’s Week, 2010.
- “Qualitative Interviewing.” Workshop for Ball State University, Department of Sociology, Capstone course, 2010.
- “Conducting Qualitative Research.” Workshop for Ball State University, Department of Sociology, Sociological Inquiry course, 2008.
- “Religion and the Media.” Presented at Kaleidoscope, Diversity Conference, Ball State University, 2006.

SERVICE

Department of Sociology, Ball State University

2025-present 2017-2018	Chair Member	Library Liaison Search Committee
2015-present, 2007-2009	Co-advisor	Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society
2010-present, 2006-2007	Member	Promotion and Tenure Committee
2022-2023, 2018-2019, 2016-2017, 2014-2015 2010-2014 2011-present	Chair Director Member	Promotion and Tenure Committee Graduate Committee
2015-2016, 2011-2012	Chair	Salary Committee
2018-2019, 2014-2015, 2010-2011	Member	Salary Committee
2008-2010	Sociology Major Advisor	Undergraduate Committee
2005-2010	Member	Undergraduate Committee
2008	Assistant Director	Undergraduate Committee
2005-2007	Coordinator, Sole Member	Colloquium Committee
2006-2007	Member	Core Curriculum Committee

2006-2007	Coordinator, Sole Member	Sociology Computer Lab
2005-2006	Member	Social Activities Committee

College of Sciences and Humanities, Ball State University

2015-2023	Member	Promotion and Tenure Committee
2014-2017	Chair	Promotion and Tenure Appeals Committee
Fall 2017	Member	Dept. of Criminal Justice and Criminology Promotion and Tenure Committee

Ball State University

2018-present	Member and Secretary (in various years)	Faculty Council
2015-2018	Member and Secretary	University Senate
2008-Present	Co-founder and Faculty Advisor	BSU Belly Dance Club
2018- 2024	Faculty Advisor	BSU Chapter of Active Minds, a NPO supporting mental health for students
2014-2018 2008-2012	Chair, Secretary, Member in various years	Events Programming and Scheduling Committee
2005-2019	Member	Center for Middletown Studies Advisory Board

Service to the Discipline of Sociology

2016-2024	Executive Officer	Association for the Sociology of Religion
2015-2019	Secretary	North Central Sociological Association
2015-2016	Chair	Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Distinguished Book Award Committee
2014-2015	Member	Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Distinguished Book Award Committee
2013-14	Vice President	North Central Sociological Association
2013-14	Member	Student Travel Awards Committee, Society for the Scientific

Study of Religion

2012-13	Vice President-Elect	North Central Sociological Association
2011-12	Chair	Robert J. McNamara Student Paper Award, Association for the Sociology of Religion
2007	Program Chair	Annual meeting of the Association for the Sociology of Religion

Service Related Grants

2017-present. \$16,500 for each of eight years from the Association for the Sociology of Religion to serve as its Executive Officer. This grant (acknowledged by the Sponsored Projects Administration office at BSU as a grant) pays for a stipend and one course buyout per year.

Kraus, Rachel. 2011. Graduate School Grant for Recruitment. \$250.00.

Reviewer for Scholarly Journals

Editorial Board Member (review one to two articles per year per journal):

Sociology of Religion, 2012-2024

Dance, Movement, and Spiritualities, 2011-present

Ad hoc Reviewer (review one article per year per journal):

Sport in Society, 2015

Women, Politics, and Policy, 2014

Leisure Studies, 2014

Leisure Sciences, 2014, 2015

Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion, 2005, 2006, 2012, 2015, 2025

Symbolic Interaction, 2012

Journal of Leisure Research, 2011, 2012

Politics and Religion, 2009

Gender and Society, 2008, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017

Sociology of Religion, 2006, 2007

Sociological Quarterly, 2006, 2009

Interdisciplinary Journal of Research on Religion, 2005, 2015

Sociological Focus, 2025

Book Chapter Reviewer

Reviewed “Bodies” in *Gender: Ideas, Interactions, Institutions* by Lisa Wade and Myra Marx Ferree for a 2nd edition, 2019.

Professional Memberships

Association for the Sociology of Religion

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

North Central Sociological Association
Phi Beta Kappa, an honorary society of college students and graduates
Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society

Service to the Community

- Interview with Katie McDonald on portrayals of men and women in the media for a class project. November 12, 2018.
- Interview with Emily Helmer on stereotypes of LGBTQ+ for a class. November 9, 2018.
- Ball Bearings Interview with Kylie Kaiser on Sexual Education. October 12, 2017.
- I was interviewed for a Ball Bearings article (Ball State University magazine and one of the top collegiate magazines in the country) on women in STEM fields during the fall 2014 semester.
- I was interviewed for an article titled “Cultivating gratitude: Being thankful with some help from religious friends” by David Briggs. It was published on September 9, 2014 on the American Religion Data Archive website (thearda.com) as part of the Ahead of the Trend news column. Mr. Briggs also published an article referring to the same interview titled “Attitudes of Gratitude: Religious Friends Cultivate Thankfulness” in *Huffington Post* on September 10, 2014.
- I was interviewed for an article titled “East meets West in Spokane, zills and hip sways welcome” by Annie Szotkowski, *The Gonzaga Bulletin*, October 24, 2012.
- I wrote an article for the Nov./Dec. 2007 edition of the Indiana State Association of Middle-Eastern Teachers and Dancers, Inc. (ISAMETD) newsletter about my research examining belly dancers titled “Research on Middle Eastern Dance Update.” pp. 6.
- I was interviewed for several news articles written about belly dance
 - Ransford, Marc. 2008. “Belly Dancing Heightens the Sense of Spirituality for Women.” *Ball State University Media Relations*. March 31.
 - Junk, Amanda. 2008. Belly Dancing Moves Students into Healthy Lifestyles, New Forms of Creative Expression. *Ball State University Daily News*. November 9.
 - Briggs, David. 2007. “Belly Dancing: A Vehicle for Spiritual Exploration.” *USA Today*. December 21. (Mr. Briggs wrote an article for the *Religion News Service*, which is the religion version of the *Associated Press*. This article was picked up by several local papers.)