

S.J. Creek
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Education

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Doctoral Candidate, Sociology (Expected May 2010)

Dissertation Title: *Ex-gay Movement Narratives and the Lived Experiences of Ex-gay Individuals in the United States*

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Master of Arts, Sociology & Graduate Certificate, Women's Studies

(2006) Master of Arts Research Paper Title: *"In the Lord's Army?": Enlistment Vocabularies of Motive and Religiosity in the U.S. Military*

Southern Illinois University Carbondale, Bachelors of Arts, Sociology with minors in Women's Studies & Philosophy (2004)

Dissertation Abstract

This project aims to empirically analyze the complex and interactional processes through which individuals build ex-gay personal identities in relation to ex-gay movement stories of change and associated collective identities. The ex-gay movement in the United States is comprised of over 230 organizations, para-church ministries, Christian therapists and supportive churches. Most of these groups are loosely affiliated through a parent organization, Exodus, International, whose goal is to create a world "free from homosexuality." Stories emerging from this movement tell audiences what it means to change from being gay or lesbian to ex-gay, how to accomplish that change and why such a change is necessary. This multi-method case study draws from 30 in-depth interviews and participant observation, as well as movement listservs, texts, websites and other materials. Analyzing these data, I ask how individual participants appropriate, modify or reject movement narratives of change during the interactional process of constructing personal identities and narratives.

Research and Teaching Interests

Religion, Gender, Social Movements, Sexuality, Collective Identity, Narratives, Queer Theory, the Christian Right

Publications

Sherkat, Darren, Kylan de Vries and Stacia Creek. 2010. "Race, Religion and Opposition to Same-Sex Marriage." *Social Science Quarterly*, 91:1.

Creek, Stacia. 2009. "Promise Keepers" *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* ed. Jodi O'Brien. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, California.

Creek, Stacia. 2009. "Christian Coalition" *Encyclopedia of Gender and Society* ed. Jodi O'Brien. Sage Publications: Thousand Oaks, California.

2004. Calhoun, Thomas, Alex Thio and Stacia Creek. *Testbank for Readings in Deviant Behavior*, 4th ed. Allyn and Bacon: Boston, MA.

Professional Presentations

"Ex-gay Movement Narratives: A Dissertation Proposal"

Religion and Politics Conference, Southern Illinois University Carbondale 2009

“Queering Ex-gays/Ex-gaying Queers: Contested Identities in Exodus-Affiliated Ministries”
Midwest Sociological Society 2009, Des Moines, IA

“Teaching Transgender Topics in the Classroom” co-presented with Reese Kelly and Kim Tauches
Eastern Sociological Society 2008 Annual Meeting, New York City, NY

“Hell Houses in America: Mission, Method and Message” co-presented with Kylan M. de Vries
Midwest Sociological Society 2006 Annual Meeting, Omaha, NE

“‘In the Lord’s Army?’: Religiosity and Enlistment Motivation in the United States Military”
Mid-South Sociological Association 2006 Annual Meeting, Lafayette, LA

“Religious Preference, Attendance Rates and Military Personnel Decisions”
Mid-South Sociological Association 2005 Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA

Current Research

“Producing Damnation: Religious Resources, Market Structures, and Productions of Judgement House.” Co-authored with Tobin Grant, Kylan de Vries, and Darren E. Sherkat; expected journal submission December 2009 to *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

“Scripting ‘Change’: Movement Narratives in the U.S. Ex-Gay Movement.” sole author; expected submission November 2009 to *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

“Evangelical Halloween Alternatives: Mission, Message, Method,” with Kylan de Vries; expected submission January 2010

“Uncharted Waters: Ethics, Methods, and the Internet,” with Geraldine Hendrix-Sloan and Stephen Hagan; expected submission January 2010.

Professional Experience

Graduate Assistant to Dr. Michelle Miller, Director of University Women’s Professional Advancement, Southern Illinois University Carbondale (Fall 2009-Present):

- Contribute to research and application writing for NSF ADVANCE grant to increase women’s participation in the STEM disciplines.

Graduate Teaching Instructor (Fall 2006-Spring 2009):

Introduction to Sociology

Discussion section leader (Spring 2005). Designed section syllabi and content.

Women & Men in Contemporary Society, (Fall 2006-Spring 2007, Spring 2008-Fall 2008).

A sophomore level sociology of gender course. Independently designed and taught course and assessed student learning.

Sociology of Religion, Fall 2007.

A junior level, writing intensive course focused on sociology of religion. Independently designed and taught course and assessed student learning.

Introduction to Sociology, Spring 2009.

An interactive, multi-media freshmen level course. Independently designed and taught course and assessed student learning.

Graduate Assistant to Dr. Thomas Calhoun (Fall 2004, Fall 2005-Spring 2006):

- Textbook manuscript preparation
- 2005 Mid South Sociological Association Annual Meeting Scheduling and Program Creation
- Mid South Sociology Department Inclusion Survey

Web Experience

- Design and maintain website for UWPA (Fall 2009- Present)
- Constructed online survey for GA UNITED to gauge graduate students' concerns. (Summer 2006)
- Constructed online survey "Mid-South Region Sociology Inclusion Survey" for Dr. Thomas Calhoun (Spring 2006)
- Constructed web page for 126th Air Refueling Wing, Scott AFB, "Unit Religious Diversity," for the unit chaplains' office. (Spring 2006)
- Helped launch survey constructed by Dr Michele Miller *SIUC Faculty Association Survey 2006* (Spring 2006)

Other Undergraduate Course Syllabi Developed:

Global Perspectives on Sexuality (Sociology)

A writing-intensive, junior level course offering a cross-cultural and historical survey of sexualities across the globe.

Honors and Awards

Elizabeth Eames Women's Studies Graduate Scholarship, Southern Illinois University Carbondale, 2009.

Awarded annually to a graduate student with a strong commitment to women's concerns, and who is currently writing a dissertation that promises to significantly contribute to women's issues.

Member, Alpha Kappa Delta, Sociological Honor Society (2003- Present)

Invited Presentations

"An Introduction to the Ex-Gay Movement"

2009. *Introduction to Sexual Diversity Studies* (WMST 491), Instructor: Kylan de Vries. Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"The Ex-Gay Movement Today"

2008 GLBT History Month, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Everything You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask: Understanding GLBTQQIA."

2007, 2008, 2009 GLBT History Month Presentation, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

"Dealing with Domestic Violence in the GLBT Community"

2006 GLBT History Month Presentation, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

Academic Service

Co-organizer, SIUC Social Justice Leadership Institute (2009-Present).

Co- creator, SIUC Queer Mentorship Program (2008-Present).

Trainer, SIUC Safe Zone (2008- Present).

Committee member, Women's Studies Executive Committee (2007-Present)

Graduate Advisor, Saluki Rainbow Network (2007- 2009)

Vice Chair, GLBT Resource Center Advisory Board (2007-2008)
Committee member, Sociology Instructional Resources Committee (2007-2008)
Committee member, SIUC GLBT History Month Planning Committee (2006-Present)
Mentor, Sociology Graduate Peer Mentor Program (2006-Present)
Committee member, Sociology Graduate Grievance Committee (2004-2007)
Volunteer, SIUC English-in-Action Program (2004)

Clubs and Associations

American Sociological Association (2009-2010)
Graduate Assistants United (2006- Present)
Midwest Sociological Society (2004, 2006-7, 2009-Present)
Eastern Sociological Society (2007-2008)
Mid-South Sociological Association (2005-6)
SIUC Graduate Sociology Club (2004- Present)
 Vice President (2004-5)
 President (2006-7)

References

Dr. Jennifer Dunn,
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Southern Illinois University Carbondale
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Dr. Robert Benford
Department of Sociology
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
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Dr. Darren Sherkat
Department of Sociology
Southern Illinois University Carbondale
sherkat@siu.edu