

Melissa K. Wright

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Education

<i>Doctoral Degree: Sociology</i> Michigan State University , East Lansing, Michigan	2019
<i>Master's Degree: Sociology</i> Michigan State University , East Lansing, Michigan	May 2015
<i>Bachelor of Arts: Sociology/ Minor: Race, Ethnicity, Gender and History</i> <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Michigan State University , East Lansing, Michigan	May 2012
<i>Associates Degree: Human Services/Social Work Transfer</i> <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> Lansing Community College , Lansing, Michigan	May 2005

Highlighted Qualifications

Research Interests: *Sociology of Education:* Diversity, Inclusion, and Retention.
Applied Methods: Program Evaluation, Critical Race Theory, and Gender Methodologies.

Research Background: Race, Gender, Class, Intersectionality, Social Capital, Cultural Capital, Education, Discrimination, Family, Substance Use, and Mental Health.

Teaching Competencies: Race and Ethnicity, Gender, Intersectionality, Introductory Sociology, Social Psychology, Integrated Social Sciences, Sociological Theory, Qualitative Methods, Family, Stratification, and Cultural Anthropology.

Applied Professional Background: community advocacy and service coordination for homeless, survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault, child welfare, individuals with disabilities, as well as academic mentoring and retention.

Teaching Experience

Sociology of Race and Ethnicity 216

May 2016 - July 2016

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

- Assumed full responsibility for executing coursework, planning primary and supplemental materials, course organization, grading, presentation of material, and student engagement in an online format.
- Made extensive use of diverse web based materials that empowered student's learning, critical thinking, and cooperation.
- Structured course materials and supplemental materials in a manner that ensured students of various learning styles were included and fully engaged in the academic process.
- Worked to ensure that course material was ADA compliant.

Integrated Social Sciences 210

October 2015

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

- Taught two class periods over the course of the semester.
 - Presentation Title: Deconstructing Race: Exploring Whiteness from a Critical History Perspective
 - Presentation Title: The Feminization of Poverty and TANF Reform

Sociology 100

August 2013 – December 2013

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

August 2014 - December 2014

- Instructed my own independent recitation section of 72 students (Fall 2013) and 130 students (Fall 2014).
- Created section syllabus, section specific lectures, in class activities related to course material, determined reading assignments, completed grading for section assignments and class participation.

Research and Presentation Experience

Graduate Research Assistant

Dr. Clifford Broman, Ph.D.

August 2011-August 2015

Michigan State University, East Lansing Michigan

Conduct exhaustive reviews of the past decade's literature on topics related to the sociology of family, race and ethnicity, discrimination, mental health, and substance abuse. Draft comprehensive literature reviews, briefs, and executive summaries on selected topics. Edit statistical tables and assist in analyzing data.

Michigan Sociological Association

October 19-20, 2018

Traverse City, Michigan

Presentation Title: Mentorship Matters: The Role of Mentorship in Student Achievement Outcomes

Pacific Sociological Association

March 27-30, 2014

Portland, Oregon

Presentation Title: The Hidden Ideology Behind the Rhetoric of Michigan's 2011 TANF Reforms
-included 13 qualitative interviews with Michigan Legislators who approved the 2011 State of Michigan TANF Reform.

Michigan Sociological Association

October 19, 2013

Saginaw Valley University, Saginaw, Michigan

Presentation Title: Tyranny of Lack of Expectations: The Hidden Ideology Behind the Rhetoric of Michigan's 2011 TANF Reforms.

-included 13 qualitative interviews with Michigan Legislators who approved the 2011 State of Michigan TANF Reform.

- **Guest Presenter** - Sociology 100 (500+ students) October 2013
Michigan State University, East Lansing Michigan. Instructor: Cliff Broman, Ph.D.
Presentation Title: Michigan's Welfare Reform and the Social Reproduction of Poverty

North Central Sociological Association

April 4-7, 2013

Crown Plaza Union Station, Indianapolis, Indiana

Presentation Title: The Politics of Difference: The Controlling Image of the Welfare Queen and Its Consequences for White Womyn

Ronald E. McNair Scholar's Program

January 2011-November 2011

Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan

Mentor: Dr. Clifford Broman, Ph. D., Professor, Department of Sociology

Project Title: Where the Money Matters: School Funding, Neighborhood SES, and the Inequalities in Michigan's Education System

- **Related Presentations:**
 - **Guest Presenter:** (March 2015) ISS 335 *National Diversity and Change*. Michigan State University, East Lansing Michigan. Instructor: Dr. Ralph Pyle, Ph.D.
 - **Guest Presenter:** (November 2011) two sections of (TE 250) *Human Diversity, Power and Opportunity in Social Institutions*. Michigan State University, East Lansing Michigan. Instructor: Valencia Moses, Ph.D. candidate.
 - **Poster Presentation:** (October 2011) *Alliance for Graduate Education and Professoriate and the Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez, Rosa Parks Conference (AGEP/KCP)*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.
 - **Oral & Poster Presentation:** (August 2011) *Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program Research Symposium*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.
 - **Oral Presentation:** (July 2011) *17th Annual University of Buffalo Ronald E. McNair Summer Research Conference*. Buffalo, New York.

Speaking Engagement: (August 2011) Invited to present closing remarks. *Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program*. Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan.

Professional Associations

Michigan Sociological Association	2018- present 2013-2014
North Central Sociological Association	2018- present 2013-2014

Professional Experience

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Child and Family Charities <i>Child Welfare Specialist, Lansing, Michigan</i>	March 2018 - present
Lansing Community College <i>Academic Success Coach, Lansing, Michigan</i>	April 2017 - January 2018
Child and Family Charities <i>Child Welfare Specialist, Lansing, Michigan</i>	May 2016 - April 2017
Department of Sociology <i>Online Summer Instructor - Sociology of Race and Ethnicity</i> Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	May 2016 - July 2016
Department of Sociology/Integrated Social Sciences <i>Graduate Teaching and Research Assistant</i> Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI	August 2011 - May 2016
Student Athlete Support Services, Michigan State University <i>Student Tutor, East Lansing, Michigan</i>	September 2010– December 2011
SIREN Eaton Shelter <i>Case Aide – Homeless and Domestic Violence program, Charlotte, Michigan</i>	January 2008 - July 2010
Capital Area Community Services <i>Expanded Homeless Services Case Manager, Lansing, Michigan</i>	September 2005 – June 2007
