

Alaina Bur
Department of Sociology
Environmental Science and Policy Program
Michigan State University
509 E. Circle Drive, 401A Berkey Hall, East Lansing, MI 48824
buralain@msu.edu

EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Sociology** Anticipated May 2023
Michigan State University
Dual Major in Environmental Science and Policy
Specialization in Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change
- M.A. Sociology** Aug 2018
Michigan State University
- B.A. Sociology** May 2016
Oakland University
Minors: International Relations, African Studies, and French
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Qualitative research methods, water policy, political ecology, gender and power, sustainable development, and African studies

POLICY REPORTS

- Bur, Alaina.** 2022. “An Evaluation of MiChEM Recruitment Materials: Focus Group Feedback.” Prepared for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), Division of Environmental Health, Biomonitoring and PFAS Health Studies Programs.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2022. “Mi Drinking Water and Health Promotion Campaign: Focus Group Feedback.” Prepared for MDHHS, Division of Environmental Health, Care for Mi Drinking Water Program.
- Bur, Alaina,** Sophia Zotos and Joseph A. Hamm. 2021. “[Harmful Algal Blooms Outreach in Michigan: Focus Group Feedback.](#)” Prepared for Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Environmental Health.
- World Vision US. 2020. “[Gender Equality and Social Inclusion: The World Vision Approach and Theory of Change.](#)”
- Bur, Alaina,** Chelsea Weiskerger and Laura Young. 2019. “Climate Change Adaptation Plan for Michigan State University: Preparing for Future River Flood Effects.” Prepared for Michigan State University’s Infrastructure, Planning and Facilities.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2015. “Alternatives to Spurring Collective Resource Management: A Case Study of Boreholes in West Pokot County.” Prepared for Hope Water Project.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2014. “The Impact of Water Insecurity on Health, Productivity, and Subjective Well-being in Rural Kenya.” Prepared for Hope Water Project.

MANUSCRIPTS IN DEVELOPMENT

Bur, Alaina. “Unsettling Women’s Beliefs about Wife-Beating in Kenya.” Under review at *Sociology of Development*.

Carrera, Jennifer S., **Alaina Bur**, and Allison Kelly. “Framing Environmental Racism in the Flint Water Crisis as Cumulative Conditions of Multiple, Synergistic Exceptions.” Under review at *Sociological Inquiry*.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Focus Group Coordinator <i>Division of Environmental Health</i>	May 2021-August 2022 <i>Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services</i>
Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Joe Hamm <i>School of Criminal Justice</i>	May 2020-Aug 2021 <i>Michigan State University</i>
Development Program Research Assistant <i>Tanzania Partnership Program</i>	Feb 2019-Sept 2021 <i>Michigan State University</i>
Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Intern <i>World Vision US</i>	Jun 2019-Aug 2019 <i>Washington, DC</i>
Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Stephen Gasteyer <i>Department of Sociology</i>	Jan 2018-May 2018 <i>Michigan State University</i>
Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Jennifer Carrera <i>Environmental Science and Policy Program</i>	Aug 2016-May 2017 <i>Michigan State University</i>
Monitoring and Evaluation Research Consultant <i>Pokot Outreach Ministry</i>	May 2016-Jun 2016 <i>West Pokot County, Kenya</i>
Monitoring and Evaluation Research Intern <i>Pokot Outreach Ministry</i>	Jun 2014-Aug 2014 <i>West Pokot County, Kenya</i>

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

FLAS Dissertation Writing Fellowship (\$38,000) <i>African Studies Program, Michigan State University</i>	Aug 2022-May 2023
Milestone Award Graduate Office Fellowship (\$475) <i>Department of Sociology, Michigan State University</i>	March 2022
FLAS Dissertation Research Fellowship (\$33,000) <i>African Studies Program, Michigan State University</i>	Aug 2021-May 2022
FLAS Intensive Language Summer Fellowship (\$7,500) <i>African Studies Program, Michigan State University</i>	May 2021
FLAS Academic Year Fellowship (\$33,000) <i>African Studies Program, Michigan State University</i>	Aug 2020-May 2021
Claffey-Meyer International Award (\$2,000) <i>International Studies and Programs, Michigan State University</i>	April 2020

Gender, Justice, and Environmental Change Fellowship: Declined (\$10,000) <i>Center for Gender in a Global Context, Michigan State University</i>	Feb 2020
FLAS Academic Year Fellowship (\$33,000) <i>African Studies Program, Michigan State University</i>	Aug 2019-May 2020
Summer Publishing Fellowship (\$6,500) <i>Department of Sociology, Michigan State University</i>	May 2019-Jun 2019
FLAS Academic Year Fellowship (\$33,000) <i>African Studies Program, Michigan State University</i>	Aug 2018-May 2019
Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$450) <i>Department of Sociology, Michigan State University</i>	May 2019
FLAS Intensive Language Summer Fellowship: Declined (\$7,500) <i>African Studies Program, Michigan State University</i>	May 2018
Sociology Summer Research Fellowship (\$ 3,600) <i>Department of Sociology, Michigan State University</i>	May 2018-Aug 2019
Climate-Food-Energy-Water Nexus Research Fellowship (\$7,000) <i>Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University</i>	May 2018-Aug 2018
Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP): Honorable Mention <i>National Science Foundation</i>	Apr 2018
FLAS Intensive Language Summer Fellowship (\$ 8,500) <i>Yale University and Michigan State University</i>	Jun 2017-Aug 2017
Environmental Science and Policy First Year Fellowship (\$ 19,000) <i>Environmental Science and Policy Program, Michigan State University</i>	Aug 2016-May 2017
Student Research Travel Grant (\$600) <i>University Research Committee, Oakland University</i>	May 2015
Honors Program Travel Award (\$200) <i>ASA Undergraduate Honors Program</i>	May 2015

PRESENTATIONS

- Bur, Alaina**, Jenna VanFossen, Jennifer Carrera, Adam Zwickle, James Dearing, and Joseph Hamm. 2020. "Building Trust in the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services." Presented at the National Institute of Environmental Health Science's Superfund Research Program 2020 Annual Meeting, December 14-15, 2020, Virtual.
- Bur, Alaina**. 2019. "Creating Livability Under the Burden of Biopower: Water security through participatory resource management in Kenya." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 10-13, 2019, New York, New York.
- Bur, Alaina**. 2018. "Participatory Resource Management and Hydrosocial Power in a Strained Kenyan Watershed." Presented at the Environmental Science and Policy Program Research Symposium, November 1, 2019, East Lansing, Michigan.

- Carrera, Jennifer S., **Alaina Bur**, Allison Kelly. 2018. "Framing Environmental Racism in the Flint Water Crisis as Cumulative Conditions of Multiple, Synergistic Exceptions." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 11-14, 2018, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2017. "Understanding Women's Empowerment: An Investigation of Wife Beating in Kenya." Presented at the Sociology of Development Conference, October 5-7, 2017, Detroit, Michigan.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2015. "The Impact of Water Insecurity on Health, Productivity, and Subjective Well-being in Rural Kenya." Presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 22-25, 2015, Chicago, Illinois.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2015. "Water Insecurity and Subjective Well-being in Rural Kenya." Presented at the Meeting of the Minds, May 15, 2015, Dearborn, Michigan.
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INVITED TALKS

- Bur, Alaina.** 2022. "Why learn an African language?" Invited talk in IAH 211A: African Area Studies Course, March 26, 2022, East Lansing, Michigan.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2020. "Using Swahili in Sociological Research." Invited talk in IAH 211A: African Area Studies Course, February 11, 2020, East Lansing, Michigan.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2020. "Matumizi ya Kiswahili katika Utafiti wa Kisosiolojia." Invited talk in AFR 101A Beginner's Swahili, Jan 29, 2020, East Lansing, Michigan.
- Bur, Alaina.** 2019. "The Practical and Scholarly Value of Learning Swahili." Invited talk in IAH 211A: African Area Studies Course, April 2, 2019, East Lansing, Michigan.
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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| Graduate Teaching Assistant (Youth and Society)
<i>Department of Sociology, Michigan State University</i> | Aug 2017-Dec 2017 |
| Undergraduate Teaching Assistant (Introduction to Sociology)
<i>Department of Sociology, Oakland University</i> | Jan 2016-Apr 2016 |
| French Language Tutor and Sociology Tutor
<i>Oakland University Tutoring Center</i> | Apr 2015-May 2016 |
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AWARDS AND HONORS

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| Rita Gallin Award for Best Graduate Paper
<i>Center for Gender in a Global Context, Michigan State University</i> | Feb 2022 |
| Meritorious Achievement Commencement Award, Honorable Mention
<i>College of Arts and Science, Oakland University</i> | Apr 2016 |
| Donald I. Warren Memorial Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement
<i>Department of Sociology, Oakland University</i> | May 2015 |
| Student Writing Award
<i>Department of Sociology, Oakland University</i> | May 2015 |

SERVICE

Student Leader of Meza ya Kiswahili – Community of Swahili Learners	Sep 2022-Present
<i>African Studies Program</i>	<i>Michigan State University</i>
ESL Tutor for French and Swahili-Speaking Adult Refugees	Sep 2019-May 2022
<i>Refugee Development Center</i>	<i>Lansing, MI</i>
Research Symposium, Speaking Series, and Awards Committee	Aug 2018-May 2019
<i>Department of Sociology</i>	<i>Michigan State University</i>
Departmental Advisory Committee	Aug 2017-May 2018
<i>Department of Sociology</i>	<i>Michigan State University</i>

LANGUAGES

English	Native
Swahili	Advanced, 6 years of training/experience
French	Advanced, 8 years of training/experience
Pokot	Beginner, basic conversation skills

SOFTWARE PROFICIENCIES

Dedoose Mixed Methods Software
MAXQDA
Mendeley Citations
Microsoft Office Suite
Microsoft Teams
Qualtrics XM
QSR International NVivo
STATA

REFERENCES

Jennifer Carrera, Assistant Professor
Department of Sociology
Environmental Science and Policy Program
Michigan State University
Email: jcarrera@msu.edu

Stephen Gasteyer, Associate Professor
Department of Sociology
Michigan State University
Email: gasteyer@msu.edu

Wynne Wright, Associate Professor
Department of Community Sustainability
Department of Sociology
Michigan State University
Email: wrightwy@anr.msu.edu

Robert Richardson, Chief Economist
U.S. Department of the Interior
Email: rbr@msu.edu