

stef shuster
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EDUCATION

University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA

- Master's of Arts in Sociology, *In Progress*

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

- Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, 2000-2004
- Minor in Human Development/Family Studies
- Graduated with honors and distinction

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

Successfully completed an honors thesis for the IU Department of Sociology examining the formation and effectiveness of LGBT student resource centers, 2004

- Conducted research using multiple research techniques including surveys, historical comparisons, participant observations, in-depth interviews, and secondary data analysis

Received several grants:

- Research Grant, Executive Counsel of Graduate and Professional Students, 2009
- Travel Grant, Department of Sociology, University of Iowa, 2009
- Research Grant, Indiana University Honors College, 2003

Received several awards:

- Best Presentation, Social Science Division, Jakobsen Conference, 2009
- 3rd Place Paper Competition, Social Science Division, Jakobsen Conference, 2009
- Exemplary Senator for Service to the Community, Graduate Student Senate, 2009
- Graduate and Professional Student Award for dedication and enrichment of the Cultural and Resource Centers, Office of Student Life, University of Iowa, 2009
- Thesis Award, Indiana University Honors College, 2004
- Outstanding Student Award, Department of Sociology, 2003-2004
- Dean's List, Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences, 2000-2004

PRESENTATIONS

CONFERENCES

“Resolving Feminist Dilemmas Within Ethnography: A Case for Photoethnography.” 2009
American Sociological Association Annual Conference, San Francisco. Sex and Gender Roundtable.

“Mobilizing in the Midwest: The Deployment of Strategies in Establishing Queer Student Centers.”
2009 Midwest Sociological Society, Des Moines.

“The Effects of Same-Sex Unions on Mental Well-Being.” 2009 Midwest Sociological Society, Des Moines. Mental Health Roundtable (With Nicole Civettini and Rengin Firat).^{*}
“trans-i-festo” James F. Jakobsen Graduate Student Conference. Iowa City, IA. March, 2009

WORKSHOPS AND INVITED LECTURES

Invited Lecture: “Language and Gender: At The Intersections of Trans-Identities.” Kristen Norwood’s Women’s Studies Gender Roles and Communication course, University of Iowa. May, 2009.

“Cultivating Competency in Cultural Diversity Workshops.” Social Theory Workshop, Department of Sociology, University of Iowa. January, 2009.

“Creating a Culturally Competent Student Health Center for the Trans Population.” Cultural Diversity Workshop for Student Health Services, University of Iowa. January, 2009.

Invited Lecture: “Queer Sexuality and the American Family.” Christine Whelan’s Sociology of the American Family course, University of Iowa. October, 2008

Invited Lecture: “Queer Culture and Sexuality.” Christine Whelan’s Sociology of the American Family course, University of Iowa. October, 2007.

SERVICE COMMITTEES AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Orientation Committee, Department of Sociology, 2009
- Graduate and Professional Students Budgeting & Allocating Committee, Delegate, 2009 -2010
- Social Sciences and Education Division Head for the Graduate Student Senate Jakobsen Conference, Spring 2009
- Minority Affairs Committee, Department of Sociology, 2008-2009
- Graduate Student Senate, Alternate Senator, 2008-Present
- Partnership for Student Government Initiative 2008-2009
- Student Assembly Budgeting & Allocating Committee, Delegate 2008-2009
- Transgender Health Initiative, 2007-Present

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Iowa

Iowa City, IA

Instructor: Social Inequality (034:066)

Spring 2008 – Summer 2009

- Instructed students through a self-guided online course.
- Provided feedback to students for their writing assignments.
- Assisted students in learning sociologically relevant theories and concepts.
- Revised and updated syllabus to include sexuality unit and more current information.

Grader: Sociological Theory (034:009)

Spring 2009

- Provided feedback to students for their writing assignments and exams.

Grader: The American Family (034:061)

Fall 2008

- Provided feedback to students for their writing assignments and exams.

^{*} Minor Role

Teaching Assistant: Gender and Society (034:018)**Spring 2008**

- Organized discussion section syllabus with a co-TA/colleague.
- Facilitated discussions on relevant course material and theories.
- Provided feedback to students for their writing assignments and exams.

Teaching Assistant: The American Family (034:061)**Fall 2007**

- Organized discussion section syllabus.
- Facilitated discussions on relevant course material and theories.
- Provided feedback to students for their writing assignments and exams.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE**Indiana University Center for Survey Research****Bloomington, IN****Research Assistant****September 2005 – August 2007**

- Provided research assistance for professional and academic research staff
- Conducted research in different areas of survey production that involves the transfer of data from the CASES instrument to Excel, Access, SQL, and SPSS
- Worked with project managers to analyze survey data
- Assisted in the daily operations of academic, social science, and public policy research surveys
- Designed, monitored, and analyzed spreadsheets
- Tested survey instruments for grammatical, logical, and programming errors for on-line surveys, phone interviews using CASES software, and paper questionnaires
- Reported on electronic data collection to each project's manager periodically during each study
- Responded to survey participants who had inquiries and problems concerning on-going projects

Freeman, Sullivan, & Company**San Francisco, CA****Data Collector, Interviewer, and Supervisor****October 2004 - August 2005**

- Conducted social science interviews for private clients using various methods:
 - Phone interviews using CATI system
 - Field research
 - Recruitment of respondents
- Built databases in SPSS and Excel software
- Performed research via Internet searches
- Assisted manager with editing final reports for clients
- Trained phone interviewers on CATI software and social science research techniques and ethics

Indiana Daily Student**Bloomington, IN****Staff Photographer****June 2002 - July 2004**

- Covered community and political events
- Edited and prepared photographs for publication

Self-Employed**Iowa City, IA****Photographer****August 2000 - Present**

- Worked on commissioned projects for private clients
- Contributed photographs to local art galleries for exhibitions