

Curriculum Vitae

MARY KATHERINE LASKA

EDUCATION

Ph.D. 2001, Medical Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Title: "Neighborhood Leaders and Their Role in Mediating Community Response to a Chemical Disaster." Committee: William C. Cockerham (Chair), Guenther Lueschen, (Honorary Chair), Kevin M. Fitzpatrick, Sean-Shong Hwang, Andrej Kulczycki, and Stephen M. Becker.

Admitted to Candidacy, 2000. Doctoral areas of concentration: Medical Sociology, Community Studies, and Sociology of Disaster.

M.A. 1999, Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham. Title: "Normative Depression: The Interplay between Self-Identity, HIV, and Mental Health." Committee: Jeffrey M. Clair, William C. Yoels, Ferris Ritchey, Bobby M. Wilson.

B.A. 1994, Sociology/Biology, Cum Laude, University of Alabama in Huntsville.

High School Diploma, 1987, Virgil I. Grissom High School, Huntsville, Alabama.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Full-Time Professor of Sociology for Purdue Global University (formerly Kaplan University): August 2008 - Present.

Responsible for facilitating online classes as well as course development and revision: teach fifteen courses a year in an online learning environment, and revise and create dynamic courses that align with department and university-wide student outcome measures. Serve as course lead for all faculty and lead the mentoring program for new faculty. Serve on various committees as service to the university, including the Social Sciences and Ethics GEL Outcomes Committee, the General Education Conference Steering Committee, and a committee to review late penalty protocols across the University.

Spring 2020: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology at the Jemison College Academy for UAH

Fall 2018 – Present: Instructor at Alabama A&M University for Elementary Statistics, Introduction to Sociology, Social Problems, and Deviant Behavior

Fall 2012 - Present: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology at Calhoun Community College

Spring 2015: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology at the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

Fall 2006 – Fall 2007: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology, Research Methods, and Social Problems at Alabama A&M University. Instructor for graduate sections of Research Methods and Needs Assessment for the Department of Social Work at Alabama A&M University.

Visiting Assistant Professor: August 2005-June 2006, for the University of Alabama in Huntsville. Responsible for teaching Introduction to Sociology, Research Methods, and Medical

Sociology during a one-year appointment.

Spring 2005: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology, Research Methods, and Social Problems at Alabama A&M University. Faculty member for Resiliency and Team Building Retreat for the NCAC Multidisciplinary Team, Summer 2005.

Fall 2004: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology, Research Methods, and Deviant Behavior at Alabama A&M University.

Spring 2004: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology, and Social Problems at Alabama A&M University. Faculty member for Resiliency and Team Building Retreat for the NCAC Multidisciplinary Team, April 2004.

Fall 2003: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology, Research Methods, and Deviant Behavior at Alabama A&M University.

Spring 2003: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology and Social Problems at Alabama A&M University; and for Introduction to Sociology and Marriage and the Family at Calhoun Community College.

Fall 2002: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology and Research Methods at Alabama A&M University, for Introduction to Sociology and Anthropology at Oakwood College, and for Introduction to Sociology at Calhoun Community College.

Spring 2002: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology and Social Problems at Alabama A&M University; and for Introduction to Sociology and Marriage and the Family at Calhoun Community College.

Fall 2001: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology at Alabama A&M University.

Fall 1998: Teaching assistant for the graduate-level data management and statistics course under the supervision of Ferris Ritchey, Ph.D.

Fall 1997: Instructor for Introduction to Sociology at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Coordinator February 2003 - November 2005, for the National Children's Advocacy Center. Responsible for questionnaire design, recruitment of research sites, data collection and analysis, and preparation and presentation of final reports. Also responsible for Evaluation of NCAC and other community projects, including Madison County Drug Court, the Circle Project, and First Responder. Supervisory experience includes the supervision of one research assistant as well as students during educational internships. Duties also include writing grants to secure funding for research projects and collaborating with other departments on agency-level grants.

Graduate Research Associate February 2001 – April 2001, for Professor Andrej Kulczycki, Department of International Health, School of Public Health. Responsible for introductory descriptive statistics for a study on maternal and child health in Yemen. This study strove to predict healthy pregnancy outcomes for women across all regions of Yemen. Duties included combining three large datasets and creating multiple predictor variables through statistical modeling using SAS software.

Graduate Research Associate December 2000 – January 2001, Project Manager for UAB Department of Sociology's Institute for Social Research study on the health and welfare of the aged, under the supervision of Professor Guenther Lueschen. Duties included questionnaire design, creation of random-digit dial samples, programming questionnaires into Sawtooth computer assisted telephone interview program (CATI software), training staff, supervision of interviewers, data cleaning and analysis, and writing reports of project status and findings.

Graduate Research Associate January 1999 – January 2001. Project Manager for UAB Department of Sociology's Institute for Social Research study on the Anniston Army Depot, under the supervision of Professor Guenther Lueschen. Collaborated with Argonne National Laboratory, Chicago Illinois, in design, implementation, and analysis of this disaster preparedness survey using SPSS. Duties included questionnaire design, creation of random-digit dial samples, programming questionnaires into Sawtooth computer assisted telephone interview program (CATI software), training staff, supervision of interviews, data cleaning and analysis, and writing reports of project status and findings. GIS analysis was also performed on this data using Arcview software. Additional duties included grant management, such as ordering supplies, payroll, calculating costs per interview, and balancing the ISR accounts with Argonne National Laboratory.

Graduate Research Associate January 1999 – May 1999, under the supervision of Professor Guenther Lueschen. Duties included data cleaning and statistical analysis of a multi-state health survey focusing on breast and prostate cancer.

Graduate Research Associate April 1998 – August 1998, under the supervision of Professor Bronwen Lichtenstein. Duties included transcribing tapes of focus-group meetings for persons with HIV. These included teen and prison populations and the results were used to study racial differences in the experience of HIV.

Graduate Research Associate January 1998 – May 1998, under the supervision of Professor Guenther Lueschen. Duties included data cleaning and statistical analysis of a multi-state health survey focusing on vaccine usage.

Graduate Research Associate 1996 – August 1997. Project Manager for a study investigating social support for persons infected with HIV, under the supervision of Professor Jeffrey M. Clair. March Duties included developing sections of the survey instrument, interviewing persons in their homes, data analysis, and data management

PAPERS IN PRESS AND UNDER REVIEW

“Chronic Sorrow in the HIV Positive Patient: Issues of Race, Gender, and Social Support.”
Bronwen Lichtenstein, Ph.D., Mary K. Laska, Ph.D., and Jeffrey M. Clair, Ph.D. *AIDS Patient Care and Sexually Transmitted Diseases* 16(1):27-38.

Regular Research Department update in the NAFA News Quarterly, March 2003 – 2005

“The Circle Project: A School-Based Prevention and Intervention Program” NCAC Research and Policy Brief

PRESENTATIONS

Stevvenson, C., Beach, B. Laska, M.K. (2020). Leading the Way: Fostering Student Engagement through Constructivism. Presented at the 2020 Kaplan University TIP Conference. Virtual.

Diversity Panel Session. (2019). When Does Your Story Become Their Story?: Developing Identity as Parent and Child When There Are Special Needs. Presented at the 2019 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Laska M.K., Beach, B. (2019). Extended Non-Permanent Disability and Adolescent Female Self Image: The Long Road Back. Presented at the 2019 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M.K., Racster, J. (2019). Supporting Transgender Students in the Online Classroom. Presented at the 2019 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M.K., Erickson, P. (2017) Failing with Style. Presented at the 2017 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M.K. (2017). The Effects of Extended Non-Permanent Disability on Adolescent Female Self-image. Presented at the 2017 Southern Humanities Council.

Laska, M.K., Beach, B. (2016). The Effects of the Civil Rights Act on the Built Environment: A Tale of Two Southern Cities. Presented at the 2016 Southern Humanities Council.

Laska, M.K., Beach, B. (2015). Improving Student Results Using Assignment Aid Documents. Presented at the 2015 Kaplan University KU Village Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M.K., Beach, B., Lorie, A., Rafalovich, A, Emerson, M.C. (2015). Mentoring in the New Millennium: Strategies for Improved Classroom Experiences and Outcomes. Presented at the 2015 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Rafalovich, A., Laska, M.K., Stiles, K. (2015). Social Science GELs: History, Importance and Scoring. Presented at the 2015 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Villareal, L., Braslow, M., Mullins, D., Laska, M.K., Rosenberry, L. (2015). What Can the Faculty Dashboard Do for You? Presented at the 2015 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Emerson, M.C., Beach, B., Laska, M.K., Lorie, A. (2014). Mentoring in the New Millennium: Diversity, Technology and Empowering Faculty to Serve Today's Post-Secondary Student. Presented at the 2014 Midsouth Sociological Society Annual Conference, Mobile, AL.

Laska, M.K. (2014) Stimulating Student Success through Assignment Aid Documents. Presented at the 2014 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M.K., Beach, B. (2013) Sociology at Warp Speed: Teaching Condensed Courses in Sociology. Presented at the 2013 Midsouth Sociological Society Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA.

Laska, M.K., Emerson, M.C. (2013). Plagiarism-Resistant Discussion Boards: A Model for Prompting Academic Outcomes with Casual Discourse. Presented at the 2013 Kaplan University KU Village Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M.K., Scarpena, K., Beach, B. (2013) Student-Professor Interactions: Strategies for Helping High-Risk Students. Presented at the 2013 Kaplan University General Education

Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M, Thompson, S. (2012). Supporting Kaplan Students with Special Needs Children: Resources and Recommendations. Presented at the 2013 Kaplan University KU Village Conference. Virtual.

Emerson, M.C., Laska, M.K., Ingram, K. (2012). Plagiarism-Resistant Discussion Boards: A Model for Promoting Academic Outcomes with Casual Discourse. Presented at the 2012 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M.K. (2012) Understanding Autism through Sociology. Presented at the 2012 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M.K. (2010) Disability and the Online Classroom. Presented at the 2009 Kaplan University General Education Conference. Virtual.

Laska, M. K. (2009). The Virtual Office: Connecting Students Together across Classes and Disciplines. Presented at E-Learn 2009--World Conference on E-Learning in Corporate, Government, Healthcare, and Higher Education, Vancouver, Canada.

Shadoin, A.L., Laska, M.K., Evans, M. (2005). The Circle Project: An Ecologically-Based Violence Prevention Effort through Full-Service Schools. Presented at the 9th International Family Violence Research Conference. Portsmouth, NH.

Shadoin, A.L., Magnuson, S.N., Laska, M.K., Overman, L. (2005). Child Sexual Abuse Investigations: Perceptions and Experiences of Non-Offending Caregivers. Presented at the 15th National Conference on Child Abuse & Neglect. Boston, MA.

Laska, M.K., Shadoin, A.L., Magnuson, S.N. (2005). Perceptions of Social Support by the Non Offending Caregiver. Presented at the 21st National Symposium on Child Abuse, Huntsville, AL.

Shadoin, A.L., Magnuson, S.N., Laska, M.K., Wagoner, J. (2005). Caregivers and Child Abuse Investigations: What are their Issues? Presented at the 21st National Symposium on Child Abuse, Huntsville, AL.

Laska, M., Carnes, C., & Shadoin, A. (2005). Forensically Sensitive Therapy: A preliminary study. Presented at the San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment.

Laska, M.K., Evans, M., Shadoin, A.L, Magnuson, S.N. (2004). First Responder: The Impact of a Community Based Domestic Violence Intervention. Presented at the American Public Health Association 132nd Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Shadoin, A.L., Laska, M.K., Carnes, C., Wagoner, J., Magnuson, S.N. (2004). Perceptions of Social Support by the Non-Offending Caregiver. Presented at the American Public Health Association 132nd Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.

Evans, M., Laska, M.K., Shadoin, A.L. (2004). First Responder: The Impact of a Community Based Domestic Violence Intervention. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Society of Criminology, Nashville, TN.

Shadoin, A.L., Laska, M.K., Evans, M. (2004). It Takes a Village: Preventing Child Abuse through Promoting Social Capital. Presented at the Victimization of Youth International Research Conference, Portsmouth, NH.

Shadoin, A.L., Laska, M.K., Evans, M. (2004). Perceptions of Social Support by the Non Offending Caregiver. Presented at the 16th Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Society, Chicago, IL.

Shadoin, A.L., Magnuson, S.N., Laska, M.K., Wagoner, J., Carnes, C. (2004). Caregivers' Perceptions of the Investigative Process. Presented at the 16th Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Society, Chicago, IL.

Shadoin, A.L., Laska, M.K., Evans, M., Carnes, C. (2004). It Takes a Village: Preventing Child Abuse through Promoting Social Capital. Presented at the 16th Annual Meeting of the American Psychological Society, Chicago, IL.

Shadoin, A.L., Laska, M.K. (2004). The NCAC's Family Advocate Project: Data Collection Training. Workshop presentation at the 20th National Symposium on Child Abuse, Huntsville, AL.

Wagoner, J., Magnuson, S., Shadoin, A.L., Laska, M.K. (2004). The National CAC Evaluation: Service Delivery Perceptions and Experiences. Workshop presentation at the 20th National Symposium on Child Abuse, Huntsville, AL.

Laska, M.K., Evans, M.A. (2004). First Responder: The Impact of a Community Based Domestic Violence Intervention. Presented at the Academy of Criminal Justice (ACJS) Annual Conference. Las Vegas, NV.

Laska, M.K. (2004). The Circle Project: Creating Social Capital for Students and Families. Presented at the 17th Annual Research Conference: A System of Care for Children's Mental Health, Tampa, FL.

Laska, M.K. (2004). Exploring Depression and Anxiety among Non-Offending Caregivers of Sexually Abused Children. Presented at the 18th Annual San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment. San Diego, CA.

Shadoin, A.L., Laska, M.K., & Carnes, C.N. (2003). Family Advocates: Supporting children through their non-offending caregivers. Accepted for presentation at the 8th International Conference on Family Violence, San Diego, CA.

Laska, M.K., Shadoin, A.L., & Carnes, C.N. (2003). Family Advocacy: Supporting children through their caregivers. Presented at the IXth ISPCAN European Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Warsaw, Poland.

Magnuson, S.N., Laska, M.K., & Shadoin, A.L. (2003). Decisions to prosecute: Case characteristics from the National Children's Advocacy Center. Presented at the NCA Leadership Conference, Washington, DC.

Shadoin, A. L., Laska, M.K., & Cholevik, S. (2003). The Family Advocates Research Project. Presented at the 19th National Symposium on Child Abuse, Huntsville, AL.

Lichtenstein, B. and Laska, M.K. (2001). Chronic Sorrow in the HIV Positive: Issues of Race, Motherhood, and Discredited Identity. Presentation at the 2001 American Sociological Association Annual Meeting.

Laska, M.K. (2001). Guest lecturer as part of a collaborative Social Problems class: May 2, 2001: Mental Illness and Its Effect on Social Problems; May 30, 2001: How the Education System Affects Social Problems.

Laska, M.K. (2000). The Neighborhood Leaders and their Disaster Preparedness Role in the Larger Community. Presented at a conference summarizing the preliminary results of the Anniston Army Depot study. Fort McClellon, Alabama. May 2000.

Laska, M.K. and Mitchell, C.U. (1999). The Army Depot at Anniston Project: Policy Imposed Implications on Sociological Research. Paper Presentation. Annual Meeting of the Mid-South Sociological Association, Jackson, Mississippi. November, 1999.

MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Midsouth Sociology Association (2013-)
American Sociological Association (2004-2007)
Policy and Advocacy Committee of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (2004-2006)

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS ATTENDED:

- Distance Learning Certification I and II, Calhoun Community College, March 2013 •
- Forensic Interview Training, NCAC, January 12-16 2004
- Forensic Evaluation Training, NCAC, February 23-25, 2004
- Basic Clinical Week, NCAC, April 26-30, 2004
- Drug Court Technical Assistance Trainings (Adult and Juvenile Drug Court) ○
 - August 2003, Philadelphia, PA
 - May 2004, Washington, DC