

Amy (Manning) Kirk
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EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Ph.D. in Sociology

2005

Louisiana State University

Dissertation title: "Constructing Resilient Marital Relationships: A Panel Study of Marriages Under Pressure."

Committee: Scott L. Feld, Katherine Brown Rosier, James Garand

- Conducted time series qualitative interviews with husbands and wives (separately) who had experienced a husband's job loss

MA in Sociology

1998

Louisiana State University

Thesis title: "Covenant Marriage in Louisiana: Pragmatic Conservatism in the Politics of Social Change."

Committee: Scott L. Feld, Katherine Brown Rosier, and Christina Horne

- Thesis research was a part of larger National Science Foundation grant work (SBR-9807379)

BS in Sociology (double minor in Art History and Speech Communications)

1995

Texas A&M University

- College experience entailed an internship and subsequent paid employment at The Smithsonian Associates (fundraising branch of The Smithsonian Institution) to assist in planning and coordinating Archbishop Desmond Tutu's visit and the National Football League Gala

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Part Time Instructor

Fall 2021/Spring 2022

Department of Sociology, University of Pittsburgh.

- Taught *Classical Sociological Theory* (writing intensive class) and *Introduction to Sociology* (Spring 2022)
- Facilitated four weekly recitations in the *Sociology of Everyday Life* (Fall 2021)
- Integrated graffiti art, concept mapping, Venn diagrams, speed dating, music, Socratic questioning, and Bloom's Taxonomy question stems to create a flipped classroom context
- Graded student's writing assignments and provide summative feedback
- Attended campus workshops relevant to communities of support for minority students

Adjunct Professor (Graduate Faculty member) 2017 – 2021
Department of Sociology, Sam Houston State University

- Online instruction of *Marriage and Family* and *Sociology of Religion* graduate and undergraduate classes
- Integrate visualization, music, poetry, movie clips, doodling, virtual fieldtrips, podcasts, and common reader to help undergraduate students understand Black church and Jewish tradition concepts of diaspora, "home" (Walter Earl Fluker), shape shifting, and "soft" White supremacy
- Interface with instructional design team to develop assignments, feedback, and review games that are consistent with pedagogical goals
- Faculty presentations and faculty workshop facilitation regarding family-style classroom communities

Lecturer (Graduate Faculty member) 2012 –2017
Department of Sociology, Sam Houston State University

- Instrumental in bringing departmental M.A. program fully online
- Collaborated with colleagues to develop effective online teaching strategies
- Served on thesis committees and graded comprehensive exams
- Continued scholarly writing and interdisciplinary research regarding interpersonal commitment in marriage

Adjunct Sociology Instructor 2009-2012
Humanities and Social Sciences Department, Lonestar College

- Taught *Marriage and Family*, *Introduction to Sociology*, and *Social Problems* classes
- Chairman of the book adoption committee for *Marriage and Family* courses
- Developed potential courses related to *Marriage and Family*

Assistant Professor (Graduate Faculty member) 2006-2008
Department of Sociology, Sam Houston State University

- Scholarly research and writing relevant to the social construct of interpersonal commitment
- Coordinated with a campus web designer to reinvent departmental website
- Developed an interest in teaching online and began online teaching certifications

Adjunct Sociology Instructor 2004-2006
Humanities and Social Sciences Department, North Harris Montgomery Community College District (Kingwood College campus)

- Taught multiple *Introduction to Sociology* sections
- Delved into creative ways to give student feedback (metaphors, imaging)
- Constructed assignments that fostered significant learning
- Presented at teaching workshops

- Instructor** **2000-2001**
Department of Sociology, Louisiana State University
- Taught *Social Problems*
 - Made presentations regarding pedagogy at graduate student brown bag sessions

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Research Consultant** **1998-2005**
Survey Communications, Inc., Baton Rouge, Louisiana
- Clients included state tourism agencies, oil and gas companies, state and local organizations
 - Facilitated focus groups
 - Created executive reports based upon survey and focus group data

- Research Assistant** **1996-1998**
Department of Sociology, Louisiana State University
- Co-P.I.'s Scott L. Feld and Katherine Brown Rosier on "Covenant Marriage: Diffusion of a Social Innovation." Funded by the National Science Foundation. SBR-9807379 – designed interview schedules and interviewed or co-interviewed Louisiana state politicians and Christian conservative activists who were instrumental in passing the 1997 & 1998 Louisiana and Arizona Covenant Marriage Acts. Interviewed husbands and wives (separately) who opted for Covenant Marriages in Louisiana.

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate (online):

- *Marriage and Family in Public Life* (graduate level - online). Proposed and designed course. Course examined cultural, community, legal, economic, and political climates associated with divorce laws, civil rights, the women's liberation movement, sexuality, and the treatment of race and class as they pertain to parenting. Policy shaping, public opinion, and policy implications were implicit and central to reads and discussions.
- *Marriage and Family*
- *Sociology of Religion*
- *Sociology of Education*
- *Gender*
- *Writing for Graduate Students*, online (Sam Houston State University)

Undergraduate:

- *Classical Sociological Theory* (writing intensive)
- *Marriage and the Family*
- *The Sociology of Religion*
- Introduction to *Sociology*
- *Introduction to Ethnic Studies*
- *Social Problems*

STUDENT MENTORING

- Served on graduate thesis committees (2014-2020)
- Helped graduate students find future graduate programs to fit their life goals and wrote letters of recommendation for sociology-related jobs (2014-present)
- Developed "The Makings of a Good Student" learning module to help students understand the importance of significant learning and how to positively cope with the challenges of COVID-19 (2020)
- Took graduate students to the American Association for Behavior and Social Sciences' Conference (Las Vegas, Nevada 2017) where they gave presentations based upon coursework research

AWARDS, RECOGNITIONS AND HONORS

- Identified by Dr. Frank Parker (Vice President of Student Affairs) as "a person who made a difference during development and growth" of undergraduate students Sam Houston State University (2016, 2018, & 2020)
- (Cover feature) Choosing to teach online: why online was right for me. Interview and article written by John Holder; published in *Educators and Innovators* SHSU Online Magazine (2014)
- Texas Counseling Association Research Award (2012) for the paper Religious and spiritual values and moral commitment in marriage: untapped resources in couples counseling? *Counseling and Values*, 55: (2): 228-246.
- Paper of the Year Award (2011) received from the *Counseling and Values* journal for the paper Religious and spiritual values and moral commitment in marriage: untapped resources in couples counseling? *Counseling and Values*, 55: (2): 228-24.

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Stark, M. D., Kirk, A. M. & Bruhn, R. (2012). Generational differences as a determinant of women's perspectives on commitment. *AdultSpan*, 11 (2): 112-122.
- Nelson, J. A., Kirk, A. M., Ane, P & Serres, S. A. (2011). Religious and spiritual values and moral commitment in marriage: untapped resources in couples counseling? *Counseling and Values*, 55: (2): 228-246.
- Kirk, A. M., Eckstein, D. Serres, S. A. & Helms, S. (2007). Twelve commitment considerations for couples. *The Family Journal: Counseling and Therapy for Couples and Families*, 18: (3): 271-276.

Feld, S. L., Rosier, K. B. & Manning, A. (2002). Christian right as a civil right: covenant marriage as a kinder gentler moral conservatism. *Review of Religious Research*, 44: (2), 173-183.

PAPERS PRESENTED AND PROFESSIONAL ENRICHMENT PRESENTATIONS

Kirk, A. M. (2019). *Thinking of the classroom as family: finding the collective and fostering experiential learning for the online context*. Presented at the SHSU Online – Digital Education Summit; Presentation, Huntsville, Texas.

Kirk, A. M. (2019). *Joy in the collective: how to create an online learning experience that feels like home*. Facilitated one-hour workshop at the Texas Council on Family Relations Conference, Austin, Texas.

Kirk, A. M. (2017). *The protestant ethic and spirit of unplugging: protestants and their use of free time*. Presented at the American Association for Behavior and Social Sciences' Conference, Las Vegas, Nevada.

Kirk, A. M. (2016). *When I was ten: the effective use of narrative in online marriage and family instruction*. Presented at the Southern Sociological Society's Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Kirk, A. M. (2015). *Religious experiences and moral commitment in marriage*. Presented at the Association for the Sociology of Religion's Conference in Chicago, Illinois.

Kirk, A. M. (2015). *Giving and getting feedback in the online classroom: is it really better to give than to receive?* Presented at SHSU Online Digital Education Summit, Huntsville, Texas.

Kirk, A. M. (2014). *For the love of the game: embracing and enjoying the online instruction of family studies*. Presented at the Texas Council on Family Relation's Conference, Plano, Texas.

Kirk, A. M. (2009). *The tripartite nature of paper writing*. Presented at the Adjunct Teaching Certification Program, Lonestar College, Kingwood College campus.

Kirk, A. M. (2009). *Distance learning grows up*. Presented to the Sociology Faculty, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas.

Kirk, A. M. (2007). *Moral commitment as a measure of success among covenant marriage couples*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Marriage and Family Section Roundtable, New York, New York.

- Kirk, A. M. (2007). *Measuring commitment among couples under duress*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- Kirk, A. M. (2006). *Effectively teaching online*. Presented at the Brown Bag Series Sam Houston State University Sociology Department, Huntsville, Texas.
- Weil, F. D., Blanchard, T., & Manning, A. (2001). *Social capital in context: sociability and trust in different regional and community settings*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Anaheim, California.
- Feld, S. L., Horne, C., Manning, A & Rosier, K. B. (1998) *Covenant marriage: Louisiana's family experiment*. Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Sociological Society Atlanta, Georgia.
- Rosier, K. B., Manning, A. & Feld, S. L. Feld. (1998). *The (d)evolution of American divorce: the political origins of Louisiana's covenant marriage*. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association, Political Sociology Section Roundtable, Social Policies and Their Origins and Outcomes, San Francisco, California.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Attended Chronicle of Higher Education Professional Development Zoom Sessions 2021

Completed SHSU Online Faculty – *Communities of Practice* Course 2019

Created and organized “*Connecting Through Books*” column in which both graduate and undergraduate students write about pleasure reads with sociological connections; column published in departmental newsletter and social media. 2019-2020

SHSU – CHSS’s Online Teaching Committee Member 2016-2017

Attended “Making the Most of the Online Environment” - Professional Development Series, LoneStar College, (Montgomery College campus) 2010

Attended Service Learning and Course web-page development workshops, North Harris Montgomery Community College District (Kingwood, Texas) 2009

Book Selection Committee for *Introduction to Sociology*, Sam Houston State University 2007

Academic Challenge Judge: Sam Houston State University 2006-2007

Member of Sam Houston's Committee for University Advancement; studied students' selection of Sam Houston State University 2006

Member: Search Committee to find an Associate-level Graduate Advisor, Department of Sociology, Sam Houston State University 2006

Co-Advisor: Baton Rouge Area Foundation (2001) Forum 35 on Social Capital; coordinated Robert Putnam's Baton Rouge Lecture in which he discussed *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of the American Community*

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERING

Board Member Friends of the Library, Sewickley, Pennsylvania 2021

Baked desserts for Meals on Main (community food distribution group formed to combat food insecurity due to COVID-19), Sewickley, Pennsylvania. 2020

Children's Worship Volunteer and Vacation Bible School Volunteer – North Hills Church of Christ (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania) 2019-2020

Latin America Children's Fund – Volunteer at Sewickley Farmer's Market to sell greeting cards made by Latin American children in need (Sewickley, Pennsylvania) 2019-2020

Texas Council on Family Relations – Student Mentor 2019; Poster Presentation Judge (Austin, Texas) 2019

Grant Writing Chairman, Willow Creek Elementary PTA (Kingwood, Texas) 2016-2018

Annual Fund Campaign Chairman, Riverwood Middle School (Kingwood, Texas) 2016-2017

Vacation Bible School Educational Coordinator (Lake Houston Church of Christ; Atascocita, Texas) 2015-2017

Arts in Education Chairman, Willow Creek Elementary PTA (Kingwood, Texas) 2013-2016

REFERENCES

- Mary Zeniou – former graduate student; zeniou.ma@gmail.com
- Adam McRoberts – former graduate student; adammcroberts27@gmail.com
- Benjamin McKey – former graduate student and thesis student; benjaminmckey561@gmail.com