

MELANIE HEATH

Department of Sociology
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Academic Positions

2006-2008 Postdoctoral Fellow
Department of Sociology, Rice University

Education

1999-2006 University of Southern California, Ph.D., Department of Sociology.
Dissertation: *Fighting for Marriage: Gender, Sexuality, and Religion in the Contemporary Marriage Movement*.
Committee: Judith Stacey (chair), Michael A. Messner, Sharon Hays, and Donald Miller

1999-2006 University of Southern California, Graduate Certificate, Gender Studies.

1997-1999 California State University, Sacramento, M.A. Department of Sociology.
Thesis: *Moral Unity in the Promise Keepers Movement*.

1985-1989 University of California, Berkeley B.A. with honors, Department of Philosophy.

Areas of Specialization

Gender and sexuality; social inequality; family; politics; religion; culture; qualitative methods

Books

Under contract *One Marriage Under God: Defense of Marriage Actions in Middle America*. New York University Press

Publications

2005 Heath, Melanie. "Matrimony, American-Style: Losing Sight of Shifts in Kinship and Family." *Feminist Theory* 6:355-65.

2003 Heath, Melanie. "Soft-Boiled Masculinity: Renegotiating Gender and Racial Ideologies in the Promise Keepers Movement." *Gender & Society* 17: 423-44.

Abridged version: 2004. "What Promises Can Men Keep?" Pp. 484- 494 in *Feminist Frontiers*, sixth edition, edited by Laurel Richardson, Verta Taylor and Nancy Whittier. Boston: McGraw-Hill.

2002 Heath, Melanie and Judith Stacey. "Review Essay: Transatlantic Family Travail." *American Journal of Sociology* 108: 658-68.

Under Review and Works in Progress

2007 Heath, Melanie. "Fighting for [One-Man, One-Woman] Marriage: Marriage Promotion, Conservative Gender Norms, and Unruly Outcomes." Under review at *Gender & Society*.

2007 Heath, Melanie. "Promoting Caste in America: Poverty, Gender, and Race in the Marriage Movement."

2007 Heath, Melanie. "Same-Sex Marriage and Resistance: Complicating the Relationship of Agency and Structure."

Reviews

2005 Review of Dawne Moon. *God, Sex, and Politics: Homosexuality and Everyday Theologies* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2004) in *Contemporary Sociology* 34:517-18.

Fellowships and Awards

2005 Fichter Research Award, Association for the Sociology of Religion

2005 Society for the Study of Social Problems Travel Award

2005 Graduate Student Dissertation Research Award, Department of Sociology, USC

2004-2005 LAS Dissertation Fellowship, USC

2004 Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation

2003-2004 Center for Religion and Civic Culture Dissertation Grant, USC

2003-2004 College Graduate Merit Fellowship Award, USC

2003 Distinction, Qualifying Exams: Sex and Gender; Marriage, Religion, and Sexualities

2003 Center for Feminist Research Graduate Student Travel Grant, USC

2003 Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Sociology, USC

2003 Graduate Student Dissertation Research Award, Department of Sociology, USC

2002-2003 College Graduate Merit Fellowship Award, USC

2002 Graduate Student/Faculty Collaboration Award, Department of Sociology, USC

1999-2000 College Graduate Merit Fellowship Award, USC

Invited Presentations

2006 “Contrasting Moral Worlds: Gender, Sexuality, and Race in Two Marriage Movements.” Presented at the Section on Political Sociology Invited Session: *Moral and Family Politics*, American Sociological Association meeting.

2005 “Thinking about Gender and Marriage Promotion.” Department of Sociology, California State University, Northridge, invited by Professor Jane Prather.

Selected Presentations

2007 “Making Marriage Count in Law and Public Policy: Symbolic Boundaries and Gendered Anxieties.” Presented at the Section on Sex and Gender: *Gendered Questions in Law and Public Policy*, American Sociological Association meeting.

2005 “Panic Over Marriage: Sex and Morality in the ‘Bible Belt.’” Presented at the Section on Sociology of Sexualities: *Sex Panics*, American Sociological Association meeting.

2005 “Fighting for Marriage: Gender, Sexuality, and Marriage in the ‘Bible Belt.’” Presented at the Thematic Session: *Why Marriage? Is Marriage Worth Fighting For?* Society for the Study of Social Problems meeting.

2005 “Is Marriage Heterosexual? Embattled Sexual Identities in Oklahoma” Presented at Session titled, “Political and Religious Context of Marriage in the New Century.” Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, Oregon.

2003 “Segregated Tongues or Segregated Faiths?: The Problem of Incorporation for Immigrants in Mainline Congregations.” Presented at the Regular Session of Immigrant Communities, American Sociological Association meeting.

2001 “Addressing Immigrant Responses to Sept. 11 in Los Angeles.” Presented at the Regular Session of Immigration and Religion, Social Scientific Study of Religion meeting.

2001 “‘Not Here’: Policing Whiteness in Media Representations of School Shootings.” Presented at the Regular Session on Race and Ethnicity, American Sociological Association meeting.

2000 “Hegemonic and Marginalized Masculinities in the Promise Keepers.” Co-presented with Michael A. Messner at the Regular Session on Social Movements, American Sociological Association meeting.

2000 “Rethinking the Sociological ‘Canon’: an Examination of Difference in the Epistemological Perspectives of Gilman and Durkheim.” Presented at the Regular Session on Social Theory, American Sociological Association meeting.

Research and Professional Experience

- 2005-2006 One of 12 selected for *The Professoriate: Preparing for the Future* at USC, a year-long interdisciplinary professional class to prepare doctoral students for academic careers. The instruction included face-to-face discussions, online activities, and mentoring from Faculty Fellows.
- 2000-2003 Research Assistant for Professor Judith Stacey, Department of Sociology, USC. Conducted ethnographic research and coded interviews using Atlas.ti. Did literature review on gay family forms project.
- 2000-2002 Research Assistant, Center for Religion and Civic Culture, USC, Immigrant Studies Project
Conducted ethnographic research on religious immigrant communities and coded interviews/field notes using Atlas.ti. Compiled a working bibliography of immigration studies, and wrote historical reports on immigrant groups.
- 1998-1999 Research Analyst, Contracted by the University Consortium, an interdisciplinary group of faculty from California State University, Sacramento
Quantitative evaluation of 30 after-school programs for at-risk elementary school students.
- 1998-1999 Research Assistant, Center for Delinquency and Crime Policy Studies, California State University, Sacramento
Assisted in ongoing evaluation of a statewide program for first-time offenders and at-risk youth. Aided in creation of online survey instrument.
- 1998-1999 Research Assistant, Professor Amy Liu, California State University, Sacramento
Created survey instrument, did implementation and analysis for college students.

Teaching Experience

Instructor: *The Global Politics of Family and Sexuality*, Rice University.

Instructor: *Sociology of Gender*, Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma.

Teaching Assistant: *Social Issues in Gender*, Gender Studies, University of Southern California, Professor Walter Williams.

Teaching Assistant: *Changing Family Forms*, Department of Sociology, University of Southern California, Professor Judith Stacey.

Teaching Assistant: *Introduction to Sociology*, California State University, Sacramento, Professor Tom Kando.

Teaching Assistant: *Crime and Delinquency* (Upper Division), California State University, Sacramento, Professor Tom Kando.

Teaching Assistant: *Research Methods*, California State University, Sacramento,
Professor Amy Liu.

Guest Lecturer: “Social Movement Lessons of the Promise Keepers.” *Social Movements
and Change*, Department of Sociology, USC, Professor Amy Binder.

Professional Service and Affiliations

Manuscript Reviewer:

American Sociological Review

Gender & Society

Signs

Conferences/Colloquia

2007 Session organizer, presider, and discussant. Regular Session of the Family Division:
Religion and Families, Society for the Study of Social Problems, New York, Aug. 10-12.

2005 Session organizer, *Political and Religious Context of Marriage in the New Century*.
Pacific Sociological Association, Portland, Oregon, April 7-10.

Graduate Representative:

Faculty Hiring Committee, 2001 Department of Sociology, USC

Steering Committee:

“Transitioning Identities: Gender, Family, and Religion in U.S. Immigration” held at the
University of Southern California on March 23, 2001.

President, AKD Sociological Honor Society, 2000-2001:

One of the key organizers of brown bag series that sought to create an interdisciplinary
dialogue by inviting guest professors to the Sociology Department, USC.

Member:

American Sociological Association

Sociologists for Women in Society

Society Study of Social Problems

Association for the Sociology of Religion

References

Dr. Judith Stacey (Committee Chair)
Professor, Department of Sociology
Professor, Center for the Study of Gender and Sexuality
New York University
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NY, NY 10003
(212) 992-9568
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Dr. Michael A. Messner (Committee Member)
Professor, Department of Sociology
University of Southern California
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Dr. Sharon Hays (Committee Member)
Professor, Department of Sociology
Barbara Streisand Chair of Gender Studies
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Dr. Donald Miller (Committee Member)
Leonard K. Firestone Professor of Religion
Professor of Religion and Sociology
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Dr. Elizabeth Long
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