Department of Sociology & Gender Studies Program Affiliate Mississippi State University MS State, MS 39762 Office Phone: (662) 325-7584 Email: avleap@soc.msstate.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2021 – Present Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Sociology

Mississippi State University

Applied Sociology Academic Coordinator, 2022 - Present

2016- 2021 Instructor, Gender Studies Program & Department of Sociology

Mississippi State University

EDUCATION

2016 University of Missouri, Sociology, Ph.D.

Dissertation: "Feeding Others' Children: A Comparative Ethnography of

Labor among School Food Service Employees."

Graduate Minor: Women's and Gender Studies

2012 University of Missouri, Sociology, M.A.

Thesis: "Factors that Explain the use of Private versus Public Food Safety

Nets among a Food Pantry Population."

2008 Beloit College, Sociology, B.A.

Honors Thesis: "Thanks, but No Thanks: A Study of Potential Food Stamp

Recipients and Why They Decline the Benefit."

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender and Sexuality
Gender Studies
Racial Minorities
Social Theory
Food Insecurity
Qualitative Methods
Work and Organizations
Social Inequalities
Social Problems

Culture and Identity The Family

COURSES TAUGHT

2021-Present

Assistant Teaching Professor

Mississippi State University, Department of Sociology

• Graduate Seminar in Graduate Theory I (Fall '24)

Designed and taught an advanced seminar on foundational and contemporary sociological theories, emphasizing analytical skills in theory construction and critique. Limited to 6 graduate students for in-depth discussion.

• Race and Ethnic Inequality: Race and Social Science Research Methods (Fall '24)

Developed an innovative online course examining race and ethnicity in sociology, focusing on key theoretical debates and research methods. Students explored contemporary gaps in scholarship, linking theory with societal issues.

Gender and Food (Fall '24)

Created a service-learning course that investigates the intersections of gender, food, and culture, emphasizing community impact. The course reviewed historical and contemporary food systems and inequalities, capped at 25 students.

Graduate Seminar in Social Inequalities: The Sociology of Emotional Labor (Spring '24)

Established a first-of-its-kind seminar on emotional labor, analyzing its sociological implications for workers and jobs. Limited to 8 graduate students for personalized engagement.

Introduction to Applied Sociology (Fall '23, '24)

Launched this online course surveying applied sociology concepts, theories, methodologies, and presentation tools, capped at 25 students.

• Contemporary Social Problems (Fall '23)

Taught undergraduates about social problems from a sociological lens, facilitating understanding of debates and encouraging creative strategies for social action. Capped at 90 students (2 sections).

• Introduction to Sociology (Fall '21 – Fall '24)

Responsible for course design, delivery, student evaluation, and advising in both in-person and online formats. Focused on engaging undergraduates in sociological inquiry, capped at 85 students per section.

• Introduction to Race and Ethnicity (Fall '21-Fall '22)

Offered an intersectional approach to understanding how inequalities affect daily life, engaging students with both historical and contemporary material. Capped at 40 students per section.

• Sociology of Gender and Sexuality (Fall '22)

Developed a course exploring gender and sexuality concepts using feminist theory and research, with students completing three evidence-based essays and leading discussions. Capped at 30 students.

• Social Inequalities (Summer '22; Fall '23; Spring '24)

Engaged twelve undergraduates in discussions and activities on social inequalities from a sociological perspective.

2016-2021

Instructor

Mississippi State University, Gender Studies Program & Department of Sociology

- Introduction to Gender Studies (Spring '18 Present, f2f & online)

 Developed a course on the social construction of gender, examining intersections with race, class, and sexuality. Capped at 45 students.
- Gender and Work (Fall '19)

Taught about the intersection of gender and work, incorporating theoretical and analytical discussions. Capped at 30 students.

- Social Inequalities (Spring '19 & '20 f2f; Winter '20 & Spring '21 online) Covered foundational problems in sociology, requiring discussions, community-based projects, and examinations. Capped at 45 students.
- Gender, Food, and Culture (Spring '19 & '20)
 Conducted a service-learning course exploring gender, food, and culture, emphasizing community partnerships. Capped at 25 students.
- Gender and Sexuality (Fall '18, '20, Summer '20, Fall '20, & Spring '21 online)

Focused on gender and sexuality concepts using feminist theory, requiring three evidence-based essays. Capped at 30 students.

- Contemporary Social Problems (Fall '16, Spring '17, '18)
 Engaged students in understanding social problems through sociological theories.
 Capped at 80 students.
- Racial Minorities (Fall '16, Spring '17(2 sections), Fall '18)
 Explored inequalities and race relations at multiple levels. Capped at 40 students per section.
- Sociology of Families (Spring '17 (2 sections), '18 (2 sections); Summer '17; Fall '17 (3 sections))

Examined family diversity and the structural factors affecting privilege and oppression. Capped at 80 students per section.

• Introduction to Sociology (Fall '16 (3 sections); Fall '17 (2 sections) Spring '19(Honors Level) & '20 online)

Focused on sociological inquiry and personal reflection. Capped at 85 students.

• Direct Independent Study: Youth, Race, and Crime (Spring '17)
Facilitated a reading-intensive independent study on youth, race, and crime, involving bi-weekly discussions and a final paper.

2016

Instructor

University of Missouri, Women's and Gender Studies Department

• Themes in Gender and Work (Spring '16; online)
Developed and taught an online course on the intersection of gender and work from an interdisciplinary perspective.

2016

Grader

University of Missouri, Department of Sociology and Department of Black Studies

• Social Inequalities (Spring '16, Summer 2016; online)
Graded assignments for over one hundred students in a self-paced course.

2012-16

Instructor

University of Missouri, Department of Sociology & Women's and Gender Studies

• Sociology of Gender (Summer '12,'13,'14, '16; online)
Developed an upper-level online course utilizing popular culture and experiential learning. Capped at 25 students.

2015

Adjunct Instructor

Lincoln University, Department of Social & Behavioral Sciences

• Data Collection Methods (Fall '15; online)

Developed and taught a master's level online methods course.

2015

Course Developer

University of Missouri, Department of Women's & Gender Studies

• Themes in Gender and Work (Summer '15)

Developed an upper-level online course, including syllabus, readings, and lectures.

2012-15

Instructor

University of Missouri, Department of Sociology

- Introduction to Sociology (Honors College) (Spring '15, Fall '15)
 - Engaged students in sociological inquiry. Capped at 25 students.
- Sociology of Gender (Fall'12,'13,'14, Spring'13)

Developed and taught an upper-division course on theories of sex and gender. Capped at 60 students.

• Sociology of Work (Spring '14)

Taught an upper-level course on the history of the economy and its effects on work environments. Capped at 60 students.

2012-13

Tutor

University of Missouri, Learning Center

Conducted weekly tutoring sessions for undergraduate students in Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies.

2010 - 12

Teaching Assistant

University of Missouri, Department of Sociology

Assisted with courses such as Senior Seminar, Social Inequalities, Social Psychology, and Technology and Society.

MENTORING OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENT WORK

Graduate Students

| 2024-Present <i>PhD Committee Member</i> , Lisa Gooden Hu | inley, Department of Sociology, |
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Mississippi State University

2022-Present *PhD Committee Co-Chair*, Kati Hall, Department of Sociology,

Mississippi State University

2021-Present Thesis Committee Member, Mary Lee Hyer, Department of Landscape

Architecture, Mississippi State University

2023-2024 PhD Committee Member, Josi Proulx, James Worth Bagley College of

Engineering, Mississippi State University

| 2022-2023 | Masters Committee Chair, Deadra Ruffin, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University; graduated spring 2023 | |
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| 2018 | Hand-to-Hand Program Mentor, Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Annual Winter Meeting A mentoring program hosted by SWS for faculty to mentor graduate students across the country. | |
| 2015-16 | Committee Member, Brett Mitchell, Master's Comprehensive Exam Committee for the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Lincoln University. | |
| 2015-16 | Committee Member, Michael Childs, Master's Comprehensive Exam Committee for the Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Lincoln University. | |
| Undergraduate Students | | |
| 2023-2024 | Honors Thesis Committee Member, Makayla Smith, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University | |
| 2021-2022 | Honors Thesis Committee Member, Sarah Dulaney, Department of Communication, Mississippi State University | |
| 2018-2020 | Faculty Advisor, The Thirst Project, Mississippi State University | |
| PUBLICATIONS | | |
| Peer Reviewed Journal Articles | | |
| 2020 | Diego Thompson, Kecia R. Johnson, Kenya M. Cistrunk, Ashley Vancil-Leap , Thomas Nyatta, Leslie Hossfeld, Gina Rico Méndez & Claudette Jones. "Assemblage, food justice, and intersectionality in rural Mississippi: the Oktibbeha Food Policy Council." <i>Sociological Spectrum</i> , | |

Representations of School Lunch Ladies." Gender Issues, pp. 1-19.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

2016

Vancil-Leap, Ashley. "The Physical and Emotional Contours of Feeding Labor by School Food Service Employees." In Vasilikie Demos & Marcia Segal (Eds.), *Advances in Gender Research*, Vol. 22. United Kingdom: Emerald Group Publishing, pp. 243-264.

Vancil-Leap, Ashley. "Resistance and Adherence to the Gendered

DOI: 10.1080/02732173.2020.1801541

Public Scholarship

2020

2019

2018

2017

2014

| 2020 | Vancil-Leap, Ashley. "Teaching Community Engaged Learning at Mississippi State University." Mid-South Sociological Association Newsletter. |
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| 2015 | Vancil-Leap, Ashley. "Partners in School Health: The Case for the School Lunch Lady." American Sociological Association, Work and Organization, Work in Progress. See: http://workinprogress.oowsection.org/2015/03/30/partners-in-school-health-the-case-for-the-school-lunch-lady/ |
| 2013 | Vancil, Ashley, Sandy Rikoon, Matt Foulkes, Colleen Heflin, Joan Hermsen, and Nikki Raedeke. "Regional Profile of Missouri Food Pantry Clients and Households." University of Missouri Institute for Public Policy #04. See: http://foodsecurity.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/04-2013-Regional-Profile-of-Missouri-Food-Pantry-Clients-and-Households.pdf |
| AWARDS, | GRANTS AND HONORS |
| 2022 | Recipient of the Alpha Kappa Delta Outstanding Faculty Award as selected by the Department of Sociology graduate students, Mississippi State University |
| 2020 | Recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Ambassadors for Excellence in Teaching Award, Mississippi State University |
| 2020 | Mississippi State University's 2020 Schiling Special Teaching Project recipient, \$529 |
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The College of Arts & Science Excellence in Teaching Award,

Center for Community-Engaged Learning Fellowship Program,

Center for Community-Engaged Learning Mini-Grants Program,

Research and Training Award, Sociology Department, University of

Honorable Mention for the Oktibbeha Food Policy Council from the

Center for Community Engaged Learning Research Award, Mississippi

Mississippi State University, Nominated

Mississippi State University. \$1,000.

Mississippi State University. \$500.

State University, \$750

Missouri. \$500.

| 2014 | James S. Rollins Slavery Atonement Grant, Black Studies Department, University of Missouri. \$300. |
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| 2013 | Women's & Gender Studies Research Grant, Women's & Gender Studies Department, University of Missouri. \$500. |
| 2012 | Missouri Student Association/Graduate Professional Council Teaching Assistant Choice Award, University of Missouri. |
| 2008 | Midwest Sociological Society Undergraduate Student Paper Competition (2 nd place), Midwest Sociology Society. \$200. |
| ADDITIONA | L TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT |
| 2023-Present | Faculty Fellow, Maroon Academy for Teaching Excellence, Mississippi State University |
| 2020 | Certified, Center for Teaching and Learning's Online Teaching 101 Program, Mississippi State University |
| 2019 | Attendee, Center for Teaching and Learning's "Navigating the Student Honor Code" Session, Mississippi State University |
| 2018 | Faculty Fellow, The Center for Community Engagement, Mississippi State University |
| 2018 | Attendee, Feminist Pedagogy Panel, Gender Studies Program and Center for Teaching and Learning, Mississippi State University |
| 2015-16 | Participant, Preparing Future Faculty Program, University of Missouri |
| RESEARCH | APPOINTMENTS |
| 2016 – 2020 | Researcher, Oktibbeha County Food Policy Council, Mississippi State University. Serving as a member of the interdisciplinary and community project toward creating food policies for the Oktibbeha County of Mississippi. |
| 2016 - 2020 | Researcher, Mississippi Food Insecurity Project, Mississippi State University Serving as a member of the research team, investigating and documenting food insecurity in the state of Mississippi. Current projects include collecting data on food pantry client's participation and access to food. |
| 2017 – 2019 | Researcher, Vardaman Community Project, Mississippi State University. Serving as a member of the qualitative research team in the community of Vardaman, MS. |

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| 2011–13 | Research Assistant, Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security, University of Missouri Served as research assistant to an interdisciplinary research team for projects investigating food (in)security at food pantries in Mid-Missouri, including collecting data for the Missouri Hunger Atlas and the "Coping with Hunger in 2013" publication: http://foodsecurity.missouri.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Coping-with-Hunger_Dec-2013.pdf. |
| 2012-13 | Research Assistant, Department of Law, University of Missouri Provided assistance with coding and data analysis, as well as other tasks for a project on sexual harassment of female renters by landlords. Reviewed relevant literature and developed data collection procedures for an academic study. |
| 2012 | Research Assistant, Truman School of Public Affairs, University of Missouri Aided with entering, coding and data analysis, as well as other tasks for a project on food pantry directors in mid-Missouri. Revised and edited academic writing for publication. Gathered relevant source materials and created annotated bibliographies. |
| 2011 | Research Assistant, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri Reviewed relevant literature and developed data collection procedures for an academic study. Revised and edited academic writing for publication. Gathered relevant source materials and created annotated bibliographies. |
| PROFESSIO | ONAL MEETING PARTICIPATION |
| 2024 | Organizer and Discussant, Teaching in Applied Sociology Programs and Projects Panel and Teaching Applied Sociology Courses, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA. |
| 2022 | Presenter and Discussant, "Teaching Social Inequalities through Community Engagement," Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting in Birmingham, AL. |
| 2021 | Presenter and Discussant, "Teaching Community Engaged Courses," Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Online due to COVID-19 pandemic |
| 2020 | Accepted as Presenter and Discussant, "Teaching Community Engaged Courses," Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Jacksonville, FL – meeting canceled due to COVID-19 |
| 2019 | Volunteer & Participant, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. |

| 2019 | Volunteer & Participant, Sociologists for Women in Society – South (SWS-S) Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA. |
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| 2018 | Volunteer, Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) Annual Winter Meeting, Atlanta, GA |
| 2016 | Research Presenter, "The Physical and Emotional Contours of Feeding Labor by School Food Service Employees." Gender and Work Paper Session. American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA. |
| 2015 | Research Presenter, "Gendered Representations of Lunch Ladies: A Comparative Discourse Analysis." Gender and Work Roundtable. American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL. |
| 2015 | Research Presenter, "The Invisibility of Feeding Labor: The Case of the School Lunch Lady." Invisible Labor Paper Session. Midwest Sociological Society, Kansas City, MO. |
| 2015 | Research Presenter, "The Invisibility of Feeding Labor: The Case of the School Lunch Lady." Gender Paper Session. Chicago Ethnography Conference, Evanston, IL. |
| 2014 | Research Presenter, "The Gendered Representations of 'Lunch Ladies': From Miss Beazly, to Adam Sandler, to Buffy the Vampire Slayer and Beyond." Gender and Work Paper Session. Midwest Sociological Society, Omaha, NE. |
| 2013 | Research Co-Presenter, "A Food Systems Approach to Addressing Obesity Among Food Pantry Clients in Missouri." Society for Nutrition Education and Behavior Conference, Portland, OR. |
| 2012 | Research Presenter, "Factors that Explain the Use of Private Versus Public Food Safety Nets among a Food Pantry Population." Food Insecurity Paper Session. Midwest Sociological Society, Minneapolis, MN. |
| 2011 | Co-Presenter, "Harvesting Hope for Food Justice in Missouri." Missouri Association for Social Welfare annual meeting, Osage Beach, MO. |
| 2011 | Research Presenter, "Eligibility Isn't Enough: What it takes to be a Member of the Food Stamp Program." Hunger Roundtable. Midwest Sociological Society, St. Louis, MO. |
| 2008 | Research Presenter, "Thanks, but No Thanks: Potential Food Stamp Recipients and Why They Decline the Benefits." American Sociological |

Association, Boston, MA.

| 2008 | Research Presenter, "Thanks, but No Thanks: Potential Food Stamp |
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| | Recipients and Why They Decline the Benefits." Midwest Sociological |
| | Society, St. Louis, MO. |

INVITED LECTURES AND PANELS

| 2023 | Invited panelist, Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion, Mississippi State University |
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| 2019 - 2022 | Invited Lecturer, Safe Zone Advisory Board's Gender 101 Training Session, Mississippi State University |
| 2020 | Invited Facilitator, "Be You at MSU" program on queer and trans resiliency, Safe Zone Advisory Board, Mississippi State University |
| 2020 | Invited Lecturer, Alpha Kappa Delta Brown Bag Lecture Series, "Creating a Community Engaged Course", Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University |
| 2019 | Invited Lecturer, College of Arts & Science GRE Student Preparation Workshop, Mississippi State University |
| 2016 | <i>Invited Discussant</i> , Gender Studies Program Film Festival, Mississippi State University. |
| 2016 | Invited Panelist, "Stigma Associated with Hunger." Sponsored by Universities Fighting World Hunger (UFWH), University of Missouri. |
| 2013 | Invited Moderator, "Hidden Hunger at Mizzou: Food Insecurity at Mizzou." Sponsored by Women's Center, Tiger Food Pantry, and Environmental Leadership Office, University of Missouri. |

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Department, College & University Service

| 2024-Pesent | Committee Member, Exit Examination Committee, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University |
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| 2023-Present | Committee Member, Preliminary Examination Committee on Social Inequalities, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University |
| 2023-Present | Committee Member, Department Advisory Council to Department Head, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University |

| 2021-Present | Mentor, The College of Arts and Science Mentoring Program, Mississippi State University |
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| 2020-Present | Chair, Sociology Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University |
| 2020-Present | Committee Member, The College of Arts and Science's Curriculum Committee, Mississippi State University |
| 2019-2022 | Committee Member, Sociology Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University |
| 2017-2022 | Advisory Board Member, Safe Zone, Gender Studies Program Representative, Mississippi State University |
| 2020-2022 | Chair, Race in the Curriculum Committee, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University |
| 2020-2021 | Committee Member, The College of Arts and Science's Clinical Assistant Professor Development Committee, Mississippi State University |
| 2018-2020 | Gender Studies Representative, The College of Arts & Science Faculty Senate, Mississippi State University |
| 2018 & 2023 | Undergraduate Textbook Committee Member, Department of Sociology, Mississippi State University |
| 2011-16 | Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Sociology, University of Missouri. |
| 2010-16 | Member, Sociology Graduate Student Group, University of Missouri. |
| 2013 | Graduate Representative, Department of Sociology Faculty Council, University of Missouri. |
| 2012 | Graduate Representative, Department of Sociology Tenure Committee, University of Missouri. |
| 2012 | Co-Coordinator, "Food Insecurity: Assessing Disparities, Consequences, and Policies" Research & Working Symposium, University of Missouri. |
| 2011-13 | Tutor, Academic Learning Center, University of Missouri. |
| 2011 | Vice-President, Sociology Graduate Student Group, University of Missouri. |

Discipline

| 2024-Present | Council Member, Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Section, American Sociological Association |
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| 2020-2023 | Vice-President, Sociologists for Women in Society – South (SWS-S) |
| 2016-2023 | Journal Reviewer, Gender Issues, Springer, US. |
| 2020-2021 | Journal Reviewer, Journal of Economic Studies, Emerald Books, US. |
| 2018-2020 | Journal Reviewer, Evaluation and Program Planning, an International Journal, Elsevier, US. |
| 2018-2020 | Newsletter Editor, Executive Committee Member for Sociologists for Women in Society-South (SWS-S) |
| 2015 | Session Presider, "Section on Organizations, Occupations and Work Roundtable: Female-Dominated Occupations Table." American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL. |
| 2015 | Session Chair, "Sociology of Work and Emotions." Midwest Sociological Society, Kansas City, MO. |
| 2015 | Session Co-Chair, "Responding to the Challenges of Inequalities in Agriculture and Food Security." Midwest Sociological Society, Kansas City, MO. |
| 2014 | Session Co-Chair, "Hunger, Food Insecurity, and Inequality." Midwest Sociological Society, Omaha, NE. |
| 2013 | Reviewer, Reviewed two chapters in a gender textbook. Routledge. |

Professional Memberships

| 2016-Present | Southern Sociological Society (SSS) |
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| 2008-Present | American Sociological Association (ASA) |
| | Section on Sex and Gender |
| | Section on Work and Labor |
| | Coalition for Food and Agriculture Sociologists |
| 2017-Present | Sociologists for Women in Society-South (SWS-South) |
| | Vice-President, 2020 - 2023 |
| | Newsletter Editor, 2018-2020 |
| 2008-Present | Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) |
| 2017-2018 | Sociologists for Women in Society - MSU Chapter (SWS-MSU) |

2008-2017 Midwest Sociological Society (MSS

| IN THE MEDIA | |
|--------------|--|
| 2023 | "OIDI hosts panel discussion at MSU celebrating Women's History Month." WCBI, March 20, 203 Online access here |
| 2020 | "Gender, Food and Culture," Engaged: The Center for Community- Engaged Learning at Mississippi State University publication, 2019-2020. Online access here |
| 2020 | "Community Engaged Learning," Forum: The Mid-South Sociological Association Newsletter, Spring/Summer 2020. Online access here |
| 2020 | SO/GS 4990: Gender, Food and Culture" featured on the Center for Community Engagement, Mississippi State University, Instagram account. |
| 2013 | "Students describe struggle with hunger," <i>Columbia Daily Tribune</i> , March 15 th . |
| 2013 | "'Hidden Hunger' panel hopes to inspire perspective shift," <i>The Maneater</i> , March 15 th . Online access <u>here</u> |
| 2013 | "Hidden Hunger at Mizzou," <i>Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security</i> . Online access <u>here</u> |