

CURRICULUM VITAE

Mercedes Tarasovich
Department of Sociology
University of Alabama at Birmingham
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EDUCATION

- PhD candidate, Medical Sociology** Summer 2020-present
Proposed Dissertation: *“Perceived Barriers to Suicide Prevention and Postvention”*
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Dr. Cindy Cain (chair), Dr. Elizabeth Baker, Dr. Verna Keith, Dr. Janet Turan, Dr. Robin Lanzi
Expected completion date: Summer 2022
- M.A. Sociology, Concentration in Medical Sociology** Summer 2020
University of Alabama at Birmingham
Thesis: *“Suicidality, Stigma, and Online Help-seeking”*
Dr. Cindy Cain (chair), Dr. Elizabeth Baker, Dr. Janet Turan
- B.A. Sociology, Honors in Sociology, Concentration in Social Psychology** 2017
University of Alabama - Birmingham
Graduated magna cum laude
- B.F.A. in Fine Arts** 1999
Savannah College of Art and Design
Graduated cum laude

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Stigma, mental illness, suicide, help-seeking behaviors, LGBTQ+ identities, intersectionality in mental health care, fsQCA

AWARDS AND HONORS

- UAB Graduate Student Government Travel Grant 2020
UAB Graduate School Dean's Scholarship, Awarded \$500 2018
Todd Parson Memorial Scholarship, Awarded \$5,000 2017
Scholarship for the study and prevention of suicide stigma
- Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society 2017
Alpha Sigma Lambda National Honor Society, Beta Lambda Zeta chapter 2017
Nominee, UAB College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Award 2017
Presidential Honor Roll 2016-2017
Alpha Kappa Delta, International Honor Society in Sociology 2016
UAB Honors Program, Sociology Department 2016
ACA Undergraduate Scholarship for Academic Achievement, Awarded \$15,000 1995

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Under Review, Population Health Metrics

“Developing a Social Determinants of Health Toolkit” with Dr. William Cockerham and Dr. Elizabeth Baker

- Expanding on the shared materials from the Obesity Health Disparities Research Center, showing how to compile and utilize a broad range of resources for multi-disciplinary toolkits, including economic, sociological, and public health sources

WORK EXPERIENCE

Spring 2021

Student Instructor, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Creating, implementing, and grading course curriculum for Qualitative Research Methods (SOC 486)
- Mentoring students as they practice qualitative research methods and plan project proposals

Fall 2020

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Grading and mentoring undergraduate students for Dr. JD Wolfe for Social Stratification (SOC 415)
- Grading and assessing online graduate program classes for Dr. Cullen Clark: Consumer Culture (SOC 729), Applied Sociology (SOC 626), Applied Sociological Theory (SOC 623)

Summer 2020

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Developing a publicly accessible online toolkit for UAB researchers through the Obesity Health Disparities Research Center (OHDRC), within the Minority Health Disparities Research Center (MHRC), under the advisement of Dr. Elizabeth Baker

Spring 2020

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Grading and mentoring undergraduate students for Dr. Elizabeth Baker for Intimate Relations and the Family (SOC 130)

Fall 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Grading and assessing undergraduate sociology courses taught by Dr. Magdalena Szaflarski (SOC 283)

Fall 2019

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Analyzing qualitative interviews using Nvivo, collected from HIV patients by Dr. Magdalena Szaflarski and research team

Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Summer 2018, Spring 2019

Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Grading and assessing undergraduate sociology courses taught by Dr. Christopher Biga (SOC 310), with an emphasis on improving writing skills and sociological literacy of undergraduate students
- Grading and presentation for undergraduate honors courses with Dr. Cindy Cain

Fall 2018

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Developing toolkit overview materials for Obesity Health Disparities Research Center (OHDRC), within the Minority Health Disparities Research Center (MHRC), under the advisement of Dr. Elizabeth Baker

Spring 2017-Winter 2018

Site Coordinator, Crisis Center Birmingham – Rape Response Unit
Women’s Health Study, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

PI: Dr. Sam McLean, *“Influence of PTSD Symptoms on Chronic Pain Development after Sexual Assault”*

- Coordination of research assistant scheduling, documenting participant consent, hiring, handling biological sample storage & shipping, survey administration with sexual assault survivor participants

2016-2017

Tutor, Student-Athlete Support Services, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Tutoring course materials in sociology and psychology for student athletes

2016-2017

Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Alabama at Birmingham

- Assessing and documenting students’ understanding of core concepts in Sociological Literacy class (SOC 310). Compiling and organizing notes based on class syllabus to be used for a future textbook proposal and manuscript

PRESENTATIONS

October 2020

Mid-South Sociological Association, virtual conference

Medical Sociology Panel: Factors Influencing Mental Health Treatment Options

“Suicidality, Stigma, and Online Help-seeking”

August 2019

American Sociological Association, New York, NY

Section on Medical Sociology Refereed Roundtables

“Suicidality, Mental Health Stigma, and Online Support Systems,” with Dr. Elizabeth Baker

April 2019

Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA

Perspectives on Health Care Support and Services Panel

“Suicidality, Mental Health Stigma, and Online Support Systems,” with Dr. Elizabeth Baker

October 2018

Mid-South Sociological Society, Birmingham, AL

Stigma Formation and Pathways in Medical Sociology Panel

“Suicidality, Mental Health Stigma, and Online Support Systems,” with Dr. Elizabeth Baker

INVITED TALKS

October 2019

Medical Sociology, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Round table discussion with undergraduate students about suicidality, Durkheim’s initial suicide research vs. more modern approaches, social factors and influence, differing mental health care approaches and needs, and intersectionality

September 2019

Gender and Health, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL

Presentation about gender and suicidality, differing mental health care approaches and needs, and intersectional approaches to lived mental health experiences and interventions

July 2019

Alabama Comicon, Birmingham, AL

“The Science of Science Fiction” panel, discussing the role of social science and human behaviors in popular science fiction media, with Mitchell Miller, Dr. Jeffery Morris, Dr. Sithira Ratnayaka, and Stephanie Lucas

COMMITTEES, ASSOCIATIONS, AND OFFICES HELD

2019-present

Senator, UAB Graduate Student Government (GSG)

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Attend monthly meeting to assess, review, and communicate the needs of graduate students in the UAB community to students and faculty

2021

GSG Communications and Marketing Committee

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Creating marketing materials, and social media promotion of events and benefits of GSG for UAB graduate students

2019-present

GSG Community Service Committee

University of Alabama at Birmingham

Organizing, participating, and advertising community service projects for UAB graduate students

DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

Summer 2020

Peer reviewer, Sociological Focus journal

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

2021

Volunteer Suicide Prevention Advocate, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Alabama Chapter

REFERENCES

Dr. Cindy Cain

Assistant Professor

Department of Sociology

University of Alabama at Birmingham

(205) 934-0565

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Dr. Chris Biga

Teaching Associate Professor; Director of Undergraduate Studies

Department of Sociology

University of Alabama at Birmingham

(205) 934-8408

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Dr. Patricia Drentea

Associate Professor

Department of Sociology

University of Alabama at Birmingham

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