

LAURA HART

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Department of Sociology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 2017
Dissertation: *Adaptable Lives: Agency and Accountability in a Cancer Cluster Town*
Committee: Moon-Kie Jung (chair), Assata Zerai, Lisa Cacho, Norman Denzin
- M.A. Department of Sociology, Humboldt State University, 2010
- B.A. Department of Sociology, Kent State University, 2007

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2023-present Associate Professor of Sociology, Missouri State University
- 2023-2025 Sociology Program Coordinator, Missouri State University
- 2017-2023 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Missouri State University

PUBLICATIONS

Books

- 2023 *Risk and Adaptation in a Cancer Cluster Town*. Rutgers, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

Peer Reviewed Articles

- 2022 Hart, Laura. "Emotion and Othering in a Contaminated Community." *Ethnography*. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/14661381221145812>)
- 2016 "Half the Battle: Social Support among Women with Cancer." *Qualitative Inquiry*. 22(4):253-262.

Conference Proceedings

- 2015 **Atkins, L.** J. Martinez-Moreno, L. Patil, K. Andrews, M. Wu, D. Dutta, B. Hug, and L. Bresler. "Fostering Innovative Skills within the Classroom: A Qualitative Analysis from Interviews with 60 Innovators." 122nd ASEE Annual Conference & Exposition, Seattle, WA. June 14-17.
- 2009 Eschenbach, E., M. Virnoche, L. Grafman, **L. Atkins**, R. Raymond, K. Mills, and F. Stamper. "Improving Early Interest and Confidence in Engineering: Creating Partnerships Between Universities, K-12 Teachers, Their Students, and

Engineers.” Proceedings of the American Society for Engineering Education Annual Conference, Austin, TX, June 14-17.

Community Reports

- 2025 Myles Ramey, Kimia Hadji Reza Tehrani, Anthony Lam, Rishita Nannapaneni, and Laura Hart. “Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Unsheltered Point-in-Time and Crisis Cold Weather Shelter Report.” Report submitted to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO.
- 2024 Anthony Lam and Laura Hart. “Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Unsheltered Point-in-Time Report.” Report submitted to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO.
- 2024 Daniel Price, Laurel Schartner, and Laura Hart. “Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Crisis Cold Weather Shelters Report.” Report submitted to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO.
- 2023 Gabriel Patino-Rodriguez, Emily Snodderly, Jackson Bassford, Jarrett Brattin, and Laura Hart. “Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Unsheltered Point-in-Time Report.” Report submitted to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO.
- 2023 Gabriel Patino-Rodriguez, Emily Snodderly, Jackson Bassford, Jarrett Brattin, and Laura Hart. “Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Crisis Cold Weather Shelters Report.” Report submitted to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO.
- 2020 Templer Rodrigues, Abby, Laura Hart, and Tehya Berger. “Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Unsheltered Point-in-Time Report.” Report submitted to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO. Findings also presented at a press conference coordinated by the CPO on Nov 13, 2020 in Springfield, MO.
- 2019 Hart, Laura and Katherine Wise. “Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness Unsheltered Point-in-Time Report.” Report submitted to the Community Partnership of the Ozarks in Springfield, MO. Findings also presented at a press conference coordinated by the CPO on Nov 1, 2019 in Springfield, MO.
- 2019 Hart, Laura, Katherine Wise, and William Dry. “Final Report: Habitat for Humanity Homeowners Survey.” Submitted to the director of Habitat for Humanity of Springfield, MO.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2026 Sustainability Fellows Program, Missouri State University
- 2024 Summer Faculty Fellowship, \$6,000
- 2021 Missouri State University, Online Course Development Stipend; \$2,400

2019 ASA Fund for the Advancement of the Discipline; \$7,771
2018 Missouri State University, New Hire Dean's Summer Research Stipend; \$6,000

HONORS, AWARDS, AND CERTIFICATES

2023 Master Advisor Certificate
2022 Citizenship & Service Learning Years of Service Award, MSU
2017 SAGE Teaching Innovations & Professional Development Award, Montreal, CA; \$600
2011 Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Sociology, UIUC

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2024 "Deepening Students' Understanding of Sociological Theory through Fine Visual Arts." Mid-South Sociological Association, Nashville, Tennessee, October 16-19. (chaired)
2022 "Embodied Risk and Parenting Children with Cancer." International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, Illinois, May 18-22.
2021 "Individualized Risk Management among Parents of Children with Cancer." Annual Meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society, remote, July 8-9.
2019 "Assessing the Impacts of Becoming a Homeowner on the Formerly Homeless." Paper presented by William Dry and Katherine Wise at the Annual Meeting of the Missouri Sociological Association, Jefferson City, MO, October 5, 2019.
2019 "Emotional Politics and Adaptation to Risk in a Cancer Cluster Town." Missouri State University College of Humanities and Public Affairs Faculty Research Forum, Springfield, MO, November 13, 2018.
2018 "Emotional Politics and Adaptation to Risk in a Cancer Cluster Town." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 11-14.
2016 "'Will-O-the-Wisp' Things': Scientific Uncertainty in Disease Cluster Communities." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA, August 20-23.
2016 "Public Ethnography in a Cancer Cluster Town." International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, Illinois, May 17-20. (chaired)
2014 "Writing Myself into Winesburg, Ohio." International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, Urbana, Illinois, May 21-24.
2013 "Narratives of Coping in a Contaminated Community." Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, NYC, NY, August 10-13.
2012 "Negotiating the Path to Wellness: Narratives of Women with Cancer." Annual Meeting of the Eastern Sociological Association, NYC, NY, February 23-26.

- 2010 “The Humboldt Community Breast Health Project: Social Support among Women with Cancer.” Annual Meeting of the Illinois Sociological Association, Normal, IL. October 29.
- 2010 “Social Factors with Relation to Suicide in California,” with Sheila Pierre. Annual Meeting of the Pacific Sociological Association, Oakland, CA, April 8-11.

RESEARCH

- 2021 *Isabel’s House Crisis Nursery*
Worked with students to conduct an annotated review of literature on marginalization, domestic violence, parental stress, and adverse childhood experiences, among other topics to inform policy creation and support staff education at Isabel’s House.
- 2019 *Legal Services of Southwest Missouri*
Designed a survey to assist the Board of Directors at the Legal Services of Southwest Missouri (LSSM) in determining the civil cases that should be handled based on the legal needs of the low-income population.
- 2019 *Center for Community Engagement*
Assisted with the design of a survey to gather information about students' perception of and experience with food insecurity.
- 2018-2019 *Isabel’s House Crisis Nursery*
Developed three surveys to be administered to clients, volunteers, and board members and community partners to assess the perceived strengths and development objectives of Isabel's House, its staff, and services.
- 2015-2017 *Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, UIUC, Advisor: Maryalice Wu*
Assisted with the design of survey instruments, data analysis, and report writing for the Graduate College and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. Research topics related to campus climate, diversity and inclusion, career and professional development, and student experiences with online courses.
- 2013-2017 *Coursera Records, PI: James Witte*
Analyzed qualitative open-end survey answers from students worldwide in an effort to improve the design of Coursera courses and understand the significance of Coursera offerings as an educational phenomenon.
- 2013-2015 *Educate to Innovate, PI: Debasish Dutta*
Led the qualitative analysis of 60 interviews conducted with American innovators. These interviews were followed by a workshop which was held on October 22-23 at the NAE Washington, DC. Results from this research are documented in a publication by the National Academy of Engineering (<http://www.nap.edu/catalog/21698/educate-to-innovate-factors-that-influence-innovation-based-on-input>).

- 2011-2015 *Research Consultant, UIUC, Advisor: Maryalice Wu*
 Consulted students and faculty in statistical and qualitative programs and methods; assisted with the development of survey instruments.
- 2011 *Menstruation and the Cycle of Poverty, Uganda Project, RPI: Maryalice Wu*
 Designed and programmed surveys which examined the effects of sanitary care on girls' educational attainment and explored links between menarche and vulnerability to education, safety, economic risks, and reproductive health.
- 2010 *Office of Diversity and Inclusion, HSU. Advisor: Rahda Webley*
 Transcribed focus group interviews.
- 2009 *Tobacco Curriculum Evaluation, Humboldt County's Department of Health and Human Services. Advisor: Judith Little*
 Assessed the effectiveness of a tobacco curriculum implemented in local schools using SPSS.
- 2009 *Engineering Curriculum Evaluation, HSU. Advisor: Beth Eschenbach*
 Assessed the effectiveness of a program initiated to encourage minority interest in pursuing college after graduating that was implemented at the only public school located on a Native American reservation in California. Created an SPSS database and facilitated focus groups.

MEDIA COVERAGE & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- 2025 Faculty research featured, *Mind's Eye Magazine*
- 2024 Quoted expert, *Newsday in New York*, article on environmental contamination caused by the former Grumman/U.S. Navy manufacturing facility in Bethpage, N.Y.
- 2023 Radio interview discussing the book *Risk and Adaptation in a Cancer Cluster Town*, *KSMU Ozarks Public Radio*
- 2019 Press conference presenting research on the status of homelessness in Springfield, MO

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Missouri State University

- Introduction to Sociological Theory (seated, blended & online)
- Social Problems in the Community (seated, blended & online)
- Medical Sociology (seated & online; Honors section)
- Global Health and Social Justice (online)
- Internships in Applied Sociology/Sociological Research

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

- Introduction to Sociological Theory, teaching assistant (summer 2011)

Introduction to Sociology, teaching assistant (fall/spring 2010)
Workshops for the Center for Innovation in Teaching & Learning (2011-2017):
Demographic Health Survey Data
SPSS: Intro and Inferential Statistics
Survey Research Methods: Questionnaire Writing & SurveyGizmo
Qualitative Analysis using ATLAS.ti
ICPSR: Health, Economic, Social & Political Data for Secondary Analysis
Introduction to the Roper Center for Public Opinion Research
Data Analysis and Process Documentation
Introduction to Data Cleaning

SERVICE

Service to the University

Writing Center Advisory Council, 2026-present
CUPA Review Team, Missouri State University, 2023-present
Reviewer for Missouri State University's *LOGOS: A Journal for Undergraduate Research*
Restructuring Data Analysis Team, Missouri State University, 2023
Distance Education Committee, Missouri State University, 2021-present
Faculty Committee for the Medical Humanities Certificate Program, 2019-present

Service to the Department

Scholarship Committee, 2026-present
Sociology Club Advisor, 2024-present
Hiring Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 2021-2022
Hiring Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 2020-2021
Recruitment and Retention Committee, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 2017-2025
Alpha Kappa Delta Advisor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, 2017-2023

Service to the Discipline

Chair of Sociological Theory: Fine Arts, Objects, and Social Breakdown session, Theory Mini-Conference, Mid-South Sociological Association, 2024
Manuscript reviewer for *Sociological Perspectives*
Chair of Ethnographic Development session, International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, 2016
Managing Editor, *Humboldt Journal of Social Relations*, HSU, 2009

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Sociological Association
Association for Humanist Sociology
Sociologists for Women in Society