

Holly J. Benton

North Carolina State University, 1911 Bldg, Room 348

Email: hjbenton@ncsu.edu

EDUCATION

Current **PhD Student, Sociology, North Carolina State University**

2017 **M.A., Sociology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania**

Concentration: Social Stratification

Thesis Title: “You Learn How to Make Do’: Understanding Food Choices and Feeding Decisions in Low-Income Families”

Committee Chair: Dr. Melissa Swauger

Outstanding Graduate Student Award, 2013-2014

1998 **B.A., American Studies, Dickinson College**

Honors: *Cum laude*, Dean’s List

Dickinson College Humanities Program in England, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, 1996-97

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION/INTEREST

Social Theory

Cultural Sociology

Global Sociology

Social Inequality/Stratification

Social Policy

Sociology of Health/Medicine

Sociology of Food and Food Systems

Environmental Sociology

Marxist Ecology

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Holly Benton, Casey Strange, and Dr. Maxine Thompson. “Racialized Emotions and Resistance Ideologies: White Students’ Perceptions of Microaggressions.”

Holly Benton. “At the Intersections of Normativity: Calibration as a Tool for Social Analysis”

Holly Benton. “Sustaining the Rift: The Material Necessity of Plastics in the Global Food System”

Holly Benton. “(Un)Sustainable Plastic: Ecological Harm, Marine Mismanagement of Common Sinks and the Turn to Bio-based Polymers”

Holly Benton. “Interrogating Class Mobility: Income and Material Hardship Among Individuals with Some College Education.”

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

2019 “Racialized Emotions and Resistance Ideologies: White Students’ Perceptions of Microaggressions.” Paper presentation (as lead author) with Casey Strange and Dr.

- Maxine Thompson, Eastern Sociological Society, Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 14-17, 2019.
- 2018 “Resistance Ideologies: White Students' Perceptions of Microaggressions.” Paper presentation (as lead author) with Casey Strange, Dr. Maxine Thompson, and Virginia Riehl, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, April 4-8, 2018.
- 2018 “‘You Learn How to Make Do’: Understanding Food Choices and Feeding Decisions in Low-Income Families.” Paper presentation, Class and Culture Mini-Conference, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD, February 22-25, 2018.
- 2016 “The Experience of Hunger: Understanding Food Choices and Feeding Decisions in Low-Income Families.” Paper presentation, IUP Graduate Scholars Forum, Indiana, PA, April 6, 2016.
- 2016 “The Experience of Hunger: Understanding Food Choices and Feeding Decisions in Low-Income Families.” Paper presentation, Sociology of Food Mini-Conference, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 17-21, 2016.
- 2016 “This is a Weight(y) Issue: Obesity, Marginalized Bodies and Embodied Confinement.” Paper presentation, Power and the Body Mini-Conference, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 17-21, 2016.
- 2016 “Engaging Students through Service Learning: Hunger Awareness and Seedling Distribution Projects.” Panel presentation with Dr. Melissa Swauger, Associate Professor, Lisa McCann, Master’s Student, and Dr. Kay Snyder, Emeritus Professor, IUP Sociology Department. Panel: Connecting Classroom and Community: Social Justice and Service Learning in the Sociological Curriculum, Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, Boston, MA, March 17-21, 2016.
- 2015 “The Experience of Hunger: Understanding Food Choices and Feeding Decisions in Low-Income Families.” Paper presentation, Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, October 21-25, 2015.
- 2015 “Finding Dominance: Tracing the White Racial Frame in Food Security Research.” Paper presentation with Dr. Melanie Hildebrandt, Associate Professor, IUP Sociology Department, Association for Humanist Sociology Annual Meeting, Portland, OR, October 21-25, 2015.
- 2014 “Implications for Food Security: Understanding Food Choices and Feeding Decisions in Low-Income Families.” Paper presentation, Society for the Study of Social Problems 2014 Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, August 15-17, 2014.
- 2014 “Implications for Food Security: Understanding Food Choices and Feeding Decisions in Low-Income Families.” Paper Presentation, IUP Graduate Scholars Forum, Indiana, PA, April 2, 2014.

2013 “Disability Inclusion & Empowerment” with Dr. Diane Shinberg, Assistant Professor and Lisa Kuzneski, Master’s Student, IUP Sociology Department. PASSHE Summit, Shippensburg University, Shippensburg, PA, November 21-22, 2013.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Sept. 2015 IUP Sociology Department, *Global Service Learning*, Dr. Melanie Hildebrandt, Instructor
Invited lecture, “Food, Food Insecurity, and Food Justice”
Lecture to undergraduate service learning class concerning food environments, food insecurity issues and food justice movements. Special attention to local food insecurity issues in preparation for a service learning project.
- April 2015 IUP Sociology Department, *Principles of Sociology*, Mr. Samuel Frye, Instructor
Invited lecture, “Food Security and Poverty”
Provided background on relationship between food security and poverty highlighting food access problems and resulting health issues related to food insecurity.
- Feb. 2015 Eastern Sociological Society 2015 Annual Meeting, Workshop sponsored by ESS Committed on the Status of Women, “Navigating the Profession”
Workshop Presenter, provided insight and advice to graduate students on how to maximize the graduate experience.
- Sept. 2014 IUP Sociology Department, “What I Wish I Had Known”
Panel Member, discussed graduate school experience within the IUP Sociology Department, provided advice to incoming graduate students.
- April 2014 Hunger Awareness Week, Film Screening: *A Place at the Table*
Sponsored by IUP Sociology Department
Speaker, presented information on the links between food insecurity and obesity providing contextual information for the film screening audience.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Spring 2019 SOC 202 Introduction to Sociology

Fall 2018 SOC 202 Introduction to Sociology

CLARION UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Temporary Part-Time Instructor, Department of Social Sciences

Fall 2014 Sociology of Food (2 sections), Writing Intensive, Upper-level

Fall 2014 Race and Ethnic Relations, Upper-level

INDIANA UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Temporary Part-Time Instructor (November 12, 2013 to December 9, 2013), Department of Philosophy, Lectures only

Fall 2013 Philosophy of Food

OTHER TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall 2013 **Guest Lectures** (October 24, 2013 to November 11, 2013)
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Department of Philosophy
Course: *Philosophy of Food*, Undergraduate Course, Dr. Eric Rubenstein
Lecture Topics: Food and Morality; Ethics of Genetically Modified Food; Social, Political, and Economic Considerations of Genetically Modified Foods; Food Security; Food Safety.

Spring 2013 **Guest Lecture** (April 30, 2013)
Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Department of Sociology
Course: *Disability and Society*, Undergraduate Course, Dr. Diane Shinberg
“Disability and Social Policy: The Built World. The Social Environment.”
Lecture and discussion on social policy, the historical development of disability policy, and merits and limitations of the Americans with Disabilities Act 1990 and the Americans with Disabilities Act as Amended 2008.

HONORS/AWARDS

Gradership, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, NC State University, 2018-2019
3MT Finalist, IUP Graduate Scholars Forum, April 2016
Graduate Student Scholarship, IUP School of Graduate Studies and Research, 2015-2016
Travel Award, Eastern Sociological Society, February 2016
Outstanding Graduate Student Award 2013-2014, IUP Sociology Department, May 2014
Graduate Assistantship, Full-Time, IUP Sociology Department, Spring 2014 and Fall 2013
The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, Inducted April 2014
Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociology Honor Society, Inducted April 2014
Golden Key International Honour Society, Inducted Spring 2014
Global Service Learning, Minas Gerais, Brazil, Winter 2013
Dickinson College Humanities Program in England, 1996-1997

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Extension Assistant, October 2017 to May 2018

College of Agriculture and Life Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

- Conduct focus groups throughout North Carolina to assess recipe card distribution and taste-test model among food pantry clients. Coordinate participant recruitment and facilitate focus groups.

Graduate Research Assistant, January 2017 to June 2018

Center for Family and Community Engagement, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC
Dr. Joan Pennell (PI), funded by North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services

- Active in all aspects of research agenda including reviews of relevant literature, survey development, survey administration, data analysis, and report writing. Additional activities

include IRB construction, focus group facilitation, and analysis of qualitative data. Co-author of final report of qualitative findings.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Spring 2018

Sociology and Anthropology Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

- Teaching assistant to Dr. Anna Manzoni, Quantitative Sociological Analysis. Attended classes and assisted students with coursework as needed. Other duties as assigned.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Fall 2017

Sociology and Anthropology Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

- Teaching assistant to Dr. Michaela DeSoucey, Principles of Sociology. Led weekly discussion sessions and facilitated class activities. Prepared instructional materials for weekly discussion sessions. Other activities included: attending classes, grading assignments, proctoring exams, and tutoring students.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Fall 2016-Spring 2017

Sociology and Anthropology Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

- Teaching assistant to Dr. Maxine Thompson, Human Behavior (Social Psychology). Attended classes; created chapter quizzes; administered examinations; tutored students; graded assignments; facilitated class activities. Participated in research activities including literature reviews, coding (in NVivo11), and grant writing (University Diversity Mini-Grant awarded November 2016).

Freelance Editorial and Transcription Services, February 2015 to August 2016

- Paid and unpaid work providing bibliographic editing, copy editing, and data transcription services.

Graduate Assistant, Fall Semester 2013 to Spring Semester 2014

Department of Sociology, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA

- Graduate Assistant to Dr. Melissa Swauger and Dr. Dana Hysock Witham. Attended classes; administered examinations; tutored students; graded small assignments; facilitated class activities. Served as coordinator for service learning project. Conducted literature reviews on special topics.

Disability Claims Adjudicator, September 2002 to August 2013

Disability Determination Service, Department of Labor and Industry, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Greensburg, PA 15605

- Processed and adjudicated claims for Social Security disability benefits according to federal regulations and policy. Analyzed objective and subjective medical findings according to federal agency policy in determining an individual's level of impairment. Contacted claimants and medical providers by phone to solicit additional information needed for claims processing.

Income Maintenance Caseworker, August 1999 to March 2001

Philadelphia County Assistance Office, Department of Public Welfare, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 19132

- Reviewed, verified and processed applications for need-based benefits according to state regulations and policy. Conducted interviews with clients. Verified application information. Processed benefit eligibility and denials electronically.

UNIVERSITY AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Fall 2018/ **Member**, Graduate Student Advisory Board
 Spring 2019 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Carolina State University
 Serve as liaison between cohort members and departmental leadership. Attend monthly meetings and bring issues forward regarding graduate student concerns.
- Spring 2018 **Coordinator**, Sociology Graduate Student Association Annual Research Symposium and Recruitment Event
 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Carolina State University
 Solicited volunteers for poster presentations at the symposium. Coordinated volunteers for research symposium and other recruitment-related activities.
- Fall 2017/ **Vice-President**, Sociology Graduate Student Association
 Spring 2018 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Carolina State University
 Coordinated social events for Sociology program graduate student body; attended association meetings monthly.
- Fall 2017/ **Member**, Graduate Student Advisory Board
 Spring 2018 Department of Sociology and Anthropology, North Carolina State University
- Spring 2017/ **Project Coordinator**, University Diversity Mini-Grant, *Encountering*
 Summer 2017 *Microaggressions: Everyday Life at NCSU*
 Handled operations related to the production and video recording of an interactive theatrical presentation of students' accounts of microaggressions on NCSU campus in April 2017. Coordinated the production of professional video recordings from the prepared script of students' accounts of microaggressions. (film production provided through DELTA): secured filming locations, coordinated actors and filming schedules, auditioned actors and assisted with rehearsals.
- Fall 2016/ **Committee Member**, Departmental Outreach and Leadership Committee,
 Spring 2017 NCSU Graduate Student Association
 Planned and organized a professional development event, a Career Path Panel, as part of a Spring Speaker series.
- Fall 2016/ **Sociology Graduate Student Representative**, NCSU Graduate Student
 Spring 2017 Association
- May 2015 **Seedling Project of Indiana County**, assisted in on-site seedling distribution to residents of Indiana County.
- Spring 2014 **Service Learning Project Coordinator**, with Dr. Melissa Swauger

Sociology of Family, Undergraduate Course, IUP Sociology Department
Seedling Project: Coordinated and directed students involved in this project that sought to distribute seeds, seedlings, and gardening materials to low-income households in Indiana, PA. Coordinated with partnering agencies; developed advertising and other materials to facilitate project; solicited donations of materials; facilitated distribution of materials.

Hunger Awareness Week: Assisted in preparation and facilitation of events including a food drive, film screening, and poverty simulation.

Spring 2014 **Member, President's Commission on the Status of Women**, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Indiana, PA.

2012 **Tax Preparer**, Money in Your Pocket Coalition, United Way and Just Harvest, Pittsburgh, PA.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Sociological Association, 2013, 2015-2016

Society for the Study of Social Problems, 2014

Eastern Sociological Society, 2015-2019

Association for Humanist Sociology, 2015

Southern Sociological Society, 2018