

# ABBY ARTHUR SMITH

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## EDUCATION

- 2021 – Present **Ph.D. Candidate**, Sociology, University of Michigan  
*Certificate in Science, Technology, and Society*
- 2025 **M.S.**, Epidemiology, University of Michigan
- 2024 **M.A.**, Sociology, University of Michigan
- 2020 **B.A.**, Sociology & Public Health, University of Iowa  
*Certificate in Social Science Analytics*

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

- Topics and Fields:** Body & Embodiment; Health, Illness, & Disability; Law & Governance; Morality; Science & Technology Studies
- Methods:** Qualitative, Comparative, & Historical

## PUBLICATIONS

- Smith, A. A.** (2025). “Not all Bathrooms are Created Equal”: Moral experiences of maneuvering in inaccessible infrastructure with physical disability. *SSM - Qualitative Research in Health*, 7, 100561. doi:10.1016/j.ssmqr.2025.100561

## ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

- Smith, A. A.** Sterilizing the “Social Menace”: U.S. Eugenic Sterilization Professionals’ Evaluations of Morality, Body, and Society, 1922-1974.
- Smith, A. A.** The Symbolic Power of Redress and Reparations: The Case of American Eugenics.
- Seamster, L., Rhym, C., & **Smith, A. A.** Water Governance as Racial Politics: Implications for Health.

## TEACHING

### Teaching Awards

- 2026 **Graduate Fellow**, Sweetland Fellows Seminar  
*University of Michigan Sweetland Writing Center*
- 2024 **Awardee**, Graduate Teaching Certificate  
*University of Michigan Center for Research on Learning and Teaching*

## Courses Taught

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Fall 2026                 | <b>Instructor of Record</b> , Bodies and Selves in Social Context<br>(First-Year Writing Requirement)<br><i>University of Michigan Department of English Language and Literature</i> |
| Winter 2026,<br>Fall 2023 | <b>Graduate Student Instructor</b> , Sociology Research Methods<br>(Upper-Level Writing Requirement)<br><i>University of Michigan Department of Sociology</i>                        |
| Fall 2025                 | <b>Graduate Student Instructor</b> , Introduction to Sociology<br><i>University of Michigan Department of Sociology</i>                                                              |
| Winter 2024               | <b>Graduate Student Instructor</b> , Sociological Theory<br><i>University of Michigan Department of Sociology</i>                                                                    |

## Advising

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Winter 2024 -<br>Fall 2025 | <b>Graduate Student Advisor</b> , “Uncovering Eugenics”<br>Sociology Undergraduate Research Opportunity &<br>Sociology Opportunities for Undergraduate Leaders (11 students)<br><i>University of Michigan Department of Sociology</i> |
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## Guest Lectures

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|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2025 | “Eugenics and the Moral Politics of Whiteness,”<br>History of Race and Sexuality (SOC 495)<br><i>University of Michigan Department of Sociology</i> |
| 2023 | “Coding Qualitative Data,”<br>Sociology Research Methods (SOC 310)<br><i>University of Michigan Department of Sociology</i>                         |
| 2021 | “Symbolic Boundaries,”<br>Applied Research (SOC 3170)<br><i>University of Iowa Department of Sociology</i>                                          |

## RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

|                |                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2019 - Present | <b>Research Assistant</b> , Flint Email Lab<br>(P.I. Louise Seamster)<br><i>University of Iowa Department of Sociology</i>                            |
| 2018 - 2025    | <b>Research Assistant</b> , Sterilization and Social Justice Lab<br>(P.I. Alexandra Minna Stern)<br><i>University of Iowa School of Public Health</i> |
| Summer 2025    | <b>Public Health Archiving Intern</b> , Washtenaw County Health Department<br><i>University of Michigan Ginsberg Center for Community Service</i>     |

Summer 2020      **Summer Fellow**, Othering and Belonging Institute  
*University of California - Berkeley*

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

### Talks

2023      “Carceral Eugenics and Criminalized Deviance in 20th Century Iowa.”  
 American Sociological Association. Philadelphia, PA.

2021      “Racial Politics, Water Governance and Health Outcomes.”  
 American Sociological Association. Virtual.

### Panels

2023      “Eugenics, Incarceration, and Reproductive Justice.”  
 Plenary panel, Reproductive Ethics Conference. Galveston, TX.

## RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

2025      **Awardee**, Graduate Student Research Grant (\$3,000)  
*University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School*

2023      **Research Fellow**, Program in Race, Law, and History (\$3,000)  
*University of Michigan Law School*

2021      **Predoctoral Trainee**, Population Studies Center (\$81,432)  
 National Institute on Aging  
*University of Michigan Institute for Social Research*

## SERVICE

### Workshop Coordination

Fall 2026 -      **Coordinator**, Social Theory Workshop  
 Present      *University of Michigan Department of Sociology*

Winter 2025 -      **Co-Coordinator**, Medicine, Aging, Science and Health Workshop  
 Fall 2025      *University of Michigan Department of Sociology*

### Student Belonging

Fall 2024 -      **Founder and Co-Coordinator**, Sociologists with Disabilities  
 Winter 2026      *University of Michigan Department of Sociology*

Fall 2025 -      **Graduate Program Assistant** for Accessibility and Belonging  
 Winter 2026      *University of Michigan Department of Sociology*

Fall 2025 -      **Co-Chair**, Graduate Student Professionalization Team  
 Winter 2026      *University of Michigan Department of Sociology*