

ABBY ARTHUR SMITH

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Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- 2021 – **Ph.D. Candidate**, Sociology, University of Michigan
- Dissertation:** “Diagnosis: Moral Degeneracy”: Technologies of Classification in Three State Eugenic Sterilization Programs, 1920s–1970s. (In progress).
- Dissertation Committee:** Dr. Roi Livne (chair), Dr. Rachel K. Best, Dr. Jonah Stuart Brundage, Dr. Anna Kirkland, Dr. Paige L. Sweet
- Graduate Certificate in Science, Technology, and Society
- 2025 **M.S.**, Epidemiology, University of Michigan
- 2024 **M.A.**, Sociology, University of Michigan
- 2020 **B.A.** (Honors), Sociology and Public Health, University of Iowa

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 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.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

- Seamster, L., Rhym, C., & **Smith, A. A.** Water Governance as Racial Politics: Implications for Health. (Under review at *Urban Affairs Review*).
- Smith, A. A.** Moral Capital in Social Movements for State Recognition of American Eugenics. (Planned submission to *Social Problems* in 2027).
- Smith, A. A.** Some Approaches to a Materialist Sociology of Morality: From Totems to Actor-Network Theory. (Planned submission to *Sociological Theory* in 2027).
- Smith, A. A.** “Diagnosis: Moral Degeneracy”: Technologies of Classification in Three State Eugenic Sterilization Programs, 1920s–1970s. (Dissertation project).

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

Instructor of Record:

Fall 2026 **ENG 125: Writing the Body in Social Context**
(First-Year Writing Requirement)
University of Michigan Department of English Language and Literature

Graduate Student Instructor:

Winter 2026, **SOC 310: Sociology Research Methods**
Fall 2023 (Upper-Level Writing Requirement)
University of Michigan Department of Sociology

Fall 2025 **SOC 100: Introduction to Sociology**
University of Michigan Department of Sociology

Winter 2024 **SOC 305: Sociological Theory**
University of Michigan Department of Sociology

Undergraduate Advising

Winter 2024 - **Graduate Student Advisor**, “Uncovering Eugenics”
Present Sociology Undergraduate Research Opportunity &
Sociology Opportunities for Undergraduate Leaders (11 students)
University of Michigan Department of Sociology

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2027 “Decency, Obscenity, and the Social Menace: Legal Interpretation and Gendered Regulation in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century North America.”
Panel, Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Gender, and Sexualities. Minneapolis, MN.

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

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

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

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS (SELECT)

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

2023 **Awardee**, Candidate Graduate Student Research Grant (\$3,000)
University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School

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

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Academic **Coordinator**, Social Theory (Fall 2026 – Present),
Workshops: **Co-Coordinator**, Medicine, Aging, Science and Health (Winter 2025 – Fall 2025)
Student **Program Assistant** in Accessibility and Belonging (Fall 2025 – Winter 2025),
Belonging: **Co-Chair** of Graduate Student Professionalization (Fall 2025 – Winter 2026)

POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Summer 2025	Public Health Archiving Intern, Washtenaw County Health Department University of Michigan Ginsberg Center for Community Service - Collated materials related to WCHD’s historical initiatives, producing a 20-page summary of the Department’s activities from 1943 to 2020 designed to evaluate historical successes and shortcomings.
2019 – 2024	Graduate Researcher, Flint Email Lab University of Iowa Department of Sociology - Assisted in creating and managing a research partnership with the Flint Democracy Defense League, collaboratively developing a report on water injustice in Flint. - Delivered a lecture on best practices in community-engaged participatory research to a team of undergraduate, graduate, and faculty researchers, developing grant language around CBPR and its critiques.
2018 – 2022	Graduate Researcher, Sterilization and Social Justice Lab University of Iowa Department of Epidemiology & University of Michigan Department of American Culture - In partnership with a research lab of dozens of undergraduate and graduate researchers, engaged in careful data analysis of hundreds of sterilization survivors’ demographic information and life histories. - Conducted archival research in two state archives. - Attended regular meetings on the history of eugenics and its contemporary legacies with a team of interdisciplinary scholars.
2019 - 2021	MPowerment Peer Coordinator, Johnson County Public Health - Performed biweekly HIV testing at LGBTQ+ community events, connecting hundreds of students and community members with University and Health Department resources. - Designed and implemented a dating app outreach program during the COVID-19 lockdown to facilitate education about sexual health, mental health, and addiction. - Aided a team in designing, organizing, and facilitating a needs assessment panel at the Eastern Iowa Health and Wellness Conference.