

REBECCA D. CHRISTENSEN

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EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI August 2016
Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education (CSHPE)
Ph.D. in Higher Education
Concentration in Academic Affairs and Student Development
Dissertation: "Making a Difference": Residential Learning Community Students' Trajectories Toward Promoting Social Justice

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY
Ed.M. in Psychological Counseling May 2006
M.A. in Psychological Counseling February 2006

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA
B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior, Minor in Business Management June 2004
Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude

HONORS & AWARDS

Honored Instructor Award, University of Michigan Housing 2023
K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award, American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U) 2015
Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School 2010-2016
University of California, Berkeley Spot Award 2007 & 2008

TEACHING AREAS & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Community-Engaged Learning; Intergroup Dialogue; Social Justice Education; Identity, Power, and Privilege; Stereotypes and Bias; Race, Gender, and Class Inequality; Social Change

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Sociology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
Director of Engaged Learning and Project Community August 2017-Present
Lecturer III Sep. 2021-Present
Lecturer I August 2017-Sept.2021

Courses Taught:

SOC 325 (Project Community Advanced Practicum) Winter 2019-Present
SOC 225 (Project Community: Sociology in Action) Fall 2017-Present
ALA/SOC 320, PSYCH 310 (Training Processes of Intergroup Dialogue Facilitation) Fall 2017 & Fall 2018

- Teach 50-80 Project Community students each semester during weekly lectures on topics that include entering, engaging with, and exiting communities; social identities, power, and privilege; stereotypes and implicit bias; social inequalities in the community; and micro-, meso- and macro-level social change.
- Supervise two Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs) per term, and discuss implementation of curriculum and teaching strategies during weekly meetings.
- Develop course syllabi, oversee student grades, and manage course Canvas sites.
- Maintain and build partnerships with over 20 community organizations in the Education, Public Health, and Criminal Justice fields throughout Southeastern Michigan.
- Engage in marketing efforts to promote Project Community through developing course Wordpress site, attending campus fairs, and collaborating on producing marketing materials.
- Administer and analyze pre-and post-course surveys to improve Project Community curriculum and assess student outcomes.
- Collect and discuss feedback about community partnerships each semester, and meet with volunteer coordinators on a regular basis to maintain relationships and improve our work together.

The Center for Engaged Academic Learning (CEAL), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI 2014-2015
Engaged Pedagogy Initiative Fellow

- Received personalized training on linking classroom-based instruction with community-based learning, course design, and program assessment.
- Designed a course syllabus that integrated a social justice education curriculum with service-learning opportunities to educate students about intergroup relations and addressing issues related to sexism, racism, classism, and faith-based inequities in the local community.

The Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI September/October 2013-2015
Guest Speaker, EDUC 777 (Masters Administrative Practicum Course)

- Developed and facilitated a two-hour session over the past three years to increase CSHPE Masters students' awareness of their social identity backgrounds and the cycle of socialization.

- Discussed how to build intercultural competence in their roles as future higher education professionals.

The Program on Intergroup Relations (IGR), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Graduate Student Instructor, Practicum in Intergroup Dialogue Facilitation Jan. 2014-April 2014

- Co-taught weekly course that focused on supervising and supporting peer leaders who facilitated dialogues on the racial identity of White students and students of color.
- Conducted one-on-one and group coaching with students, and provided feedback on dialogue curriculum and students' facilitation skills.

Graduate Student Instructor, Training Processes of Intergroup Dialogue Facilitation Sept.-Dec. 2013

- Served as a co-instructor for a course focused on training undergraduate intergroup dialogue facilitators, and increasing their awareness of their social identities, and systems of power, privilege, and oppression.
- Provided one-on-one and group coaching to students, graded assignments, and evaluated students' performance.
- Collaborated with teaching team to organize weekly lesson plans and training retreats.

The Center for Research on Learning and Teaching (CRLT), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Facilitator, Graduate Student Instructor Orientation August 2014-Feb. 2015

- Presented an "Inclusive Teaching" workshop for graduate student instructors in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields to promote more inclusive classrooms for students from diverse backgrounds.
- Facilitated practice teaching sessions for graduate student instructors and undergraduate instructional aides, and provided feedback to participants about their areas of strength and improvement as instructors.

Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Instructor, Multicultural Career Development. Jan. 2009-May 2010

- Created, designed, and implemented a new course at UC Berkeley to help underserved students explore the influence of their cultural backgrounds on their career decisions and achieve their career goals.
- Co-taught course during two semesters and developed weekly lesson plans.
- Developed course syllabus, compiled student grades, and managed class website.

Department of Clinical & Counseling Psychology, Columbia University, NY

Teaching Assistant, Career Counseling and Development Sept. 2005-May 2006

- Wrote material for exams and assignments related to career theory, assessment, and literature.
- Graded assignments and answered questions for 145 graduate students during two semesters.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of Diversity and Inclusion, University of Detroit Mercy School of Dentistry

Director of Diversity, Intercultural, and Sponsored Programs June 2016-August 2017

- Provide leadership, vision, and guidance for comprehensive diversity and inclusion initiatives for students, staff, faculty, patients, and alumni.
- Created and coordinated diversity & inclusion student advisory board and crisis response team.
- Co-led strategic planning committee focused on improving campus climate and reducing bias incidents.
- Facilitated intercultural competence training through guest lectures for students and professional development workshops for faculty and staff.
- Collaborated with school and departmental deans, administrators, and staff to submit grant applications to federal agencies and private foundations.
- Developed relationships with community leaders and key stakeholders in the Detroit Metro area to identify funding opportunities and execute programming including Wayne State University (WSU), United Way for Southeastern Michigan, and the Michigan Area Health Education Center (AHEC).
- Coordinated K-16 pipeline programs for underrepresented minority and disadvantaged students including the Detroit Mercy Dental Summer Enrichment and Dental Imprint programs, along with the dentistry track for the WSU C² pipeline summer program.

Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Program Associate for Dialogue Conversations Aug. 2014-April 2016

- Supervised Intergroup Relations Council (IRC) peer advisors, facilitated weekly meetings, and coordinated dialogues focused on educating students about diversity, inclusion, and equity issues.
- Coordinated additional programming focused on helping MCSP students develop intercultural competence, such as a Sim City simulation activity for 150 students.
- Trained over 50 student leaders on facilitation techniques during three-hour training sessions.

Intergroup Relations Committee (IRC) Intergroup Dialogue Coordinator August 2013-April 2014

- Coordinated and designed monthly "hot topic" dialogues on topics such as inclusive language on campus, cultural appropriation, socioeconomic inequities, gender and sexuality, and racial microaggressions.
- Provided guidance to student facilitators and Coordinator of Diversity Initiatives, and assisted with planning and running weekly IRC meetings.

Intergroup Relations Intern

August 2012-April 2013

- Created and implemented a new dialogue program for MCSP, and oversaw a committee of first and second year MCSP students focused on promoting intercultural engagement in the MCSP community.
- Planned and facilitated dialogues on how social identities affect politics, gender disparities in community service activities, the stigma of mental health issues, and affirmative action.
- Obtained three grants for a total of \$1,200 from the LSA Raced-Themed Semester/Understanding Race Project and the Undergraduate Education Strategic Initiative to document the MCSP intergroup relations activities and plan larger-scale events (e.g., field trip to the Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit and a race-themed performance by the U-M Educational Theatre Company).

The Program on Intergroup Relations (IGR), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Cluster Facilitator, The National Intergroup Dialogue Institute

June 2014, 2015, 2018, & 2019

- Co-facilitated a cluster group during a three-day training institute on intergroup dialogue techniques for a diverse group of administrators, faculty, and staff members involved in social justice and diversity initiatives.
- Presented examples of IGR curriculum and other pedagogical content that participants could implement on their home campuses to create a more inclusive climate.

CommonGround Workshop Facilitator

January 2012-April 2015

- Co-facilitated social justice education workshops for U-M student organizations and academic departments including Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) Program, Residential College, Center for International Business Education & Research (CIBER) at the Ross School of Business, Urban Planning Master's Program, Circle K, St. Mary's Student Parish, Student Union, and Psychology Peer Advisor Program.

Career Center, University of California, Berkeley, CA

Career Counselor

Aug. 2006-May 2010

- Collaborated with two colleagues to create a Multicultural Initiative to provide customized programs to underrepresented students.
- Co-Coordinator of Peer Advisor Program: Hired, trained, and supervised over 25 peer advisors.
- Conducted career counseling sessions on topics such as self-assessment, career exploration, resume and cover letters, interviewing, and job search techniques with hundreds of students and alumni.
- Developed program evaluations and analyzed quantitative and qualitative survey data.
- Organized and coordinated career events such as "Diversity and Cultural Careers" panel, Networking and Dining Etiquette, Spring Business Mock Interviews, and Internship and Summer Job Fair.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Community Matters, Student Life, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

May 2015-June 2016

Assessment and Evaluation Research Coordinator

- Evaluated student outcomes associated with the Change it Up! and Relationship Remix workshops, which are designed to educate students about how to intervene in situations that negatively affect the campus climate.
- Cleaned, coded, and analyzed pre-test, post-test, and post post-test quantitative survey data via Stata for over 4,000 students, and perform qualitative analyses to highlight key themes in open-ended survey responses.
- Conducted focus groups to assess student needs and experiences with Community Matters programming.
- Wrote results of the analyses, and developed reports for administrators and staff members at U-M.
- Developed evaluation plan, and advised about methods to effectively assess program outcomes.
- Collaborated with staff members across a variety of units at U-M including the Program on Intergroup Relations, SAPAC, UHS, Housing, Spectrum Center, Office of New Student Programs, and Student Life Research and Professional Development.

Macomb Community College, Warren, MI

March 2015-December 2015

Independent Consultant

- Collaborated with Macomb staff to develop questions for obtaining qualitative data from focus group participants about their needs as adult learners, and experiences on campus.
- Co-facilitated four focus groups with a total of 35 participants.
- Analyze outcomes of focus groups, and provide Macomb staff with report of key themes in data.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Friends in Deed Circles Program, Ypsilanti, MI

May 2022-Present

Steering Committee Member, Jobs and Education (JET) Team

- Plan career exploration programming and serve as a JET link for Leaders, who are individuals living in poverty that are in 18-month Circles Program to achieve their personal and career-related goals.
- Collaborate with Eastern Michigan University Career Center, Friends in Deed volunteers and staff, and local non-profits to provide job search resources and postsecondary education opportunities for the Circle Program Leaders..

Shelter Association of Washtenaw County/Delonis Center, Ann Arbor, MI

Sept. 2019-March 2020

Resume Tutor

- Provide support with resume and cover letter writing, job applications, housing searches, email assistance, and other residents' needs in the Delonis Center computer lab on a weekly basis
- Engage and work with individuals that have experienced homelessness, housing and food insecurity, incarceration, substance abuse and addiction, and other physical and mental health challenges.

Oakland Youth Aspire (formerly What Now America), Oakland, CA

July 2008-May 2010

Program Director/Founding Board Member

- Developed academic and social enrichment activities for K-12 youth at a Saturday drop-in program.
- Created surveys and conducted needs assessments of participants and the West Oakland community.
- Coordinated weekly programs, organized volunteer participation, and interacted with participants.
- Participated in monthly board meetings and made recommendations for program improvements.

PUBLICATIONS

Christensen, Rebecca D. 2023. "Sociology in Action: The Experiential Pedagogy of Project Community." *Sociological Focus*, 57:1, 57-61.

Bahr, Peter R., Jillian L. Gross, Kelly E. Slay and **Rebecca D. Christensen**. 2015. "First in Line: Student Registration Priority in Community Colleges." *Educational Policy*, 29(2):342-374.

CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS

Prison Birth Project University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI April 2023
Christensen, Rebecca D. Invited Speaker for Teach-In. "Project Community, the Criminal Legal System, and Restorative Justice" Oral Presentation.

Phi Delta Epsilon Pre-Medical Fraternity, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Nov. 2021
Christensen, Rebecca D. Invited Speaker for Pre-Health Diversity Series. "Social Determinants of Health and Food Insecurity." Oral Presentation.

Circle K International, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI March 2021
Christensen, Rebecca D. Invited Speaker for Virtual Leadership Meeting. Oral Presentation.

Rackham Engaged Pedagogy Initiative (EPI), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Dec. 2020 & 2021
Christensen, Rebecca D. Invited Speaker, EPI Speed Mentoring Session. Oral Presentation.

Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Nov. 2020
Christensen, Rebecca D. Invited Speaker for MLK Jr. Virtual Luncheon. Oral Presentation.

Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars (MRADS), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Sept. 2019
Christensen, Rebecca D. Invited Speaker for MRADS Dinner Discussion. Oral Presentation.

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts (LSA) Amplify Dialogue Series, Ann Arbor, MI May 2019
 Schoem, David, Wendy Woods, **Rebecca D. Christensen**, Amanda Champagne, Dan Green, and Devon Degraffenreed, "Building a Dialogic Community: Thinking Beyond Dialogue Workshops, Classes, Discussions and Technique" Oral Presentation.

Institute for Social Change, Rackham Program on Public Scholarship, Ann Arbor, MI May 2018
 Neeraja Aravamudan, **Rebecca D. Christensen**, and Rebecca Pickus. "Tools for Public Scholarship: Do's and Don'ts of Community Engagement: The Challenges of Quality Collaboration." Invited Panelist.

University of Michigan Student Life Research Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI May 2016
Christensen, Rebecca D., Katrina Daoud, and Taryn Petryk "Impact of Community Matters Programs on First-Year Students." Opening Keynote.

Community College Interdisciplinary Research Forum (CCIRF) Conference, Ann Arbor, MI May 2011
Christensen, Rebecca D. "Multidimensional Environments: The Role of Students' Social Support Systems in Fostering the Community College to Four-Year University Transfer Process." Oral Presentation.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

North Central Sociological Association (NCSA), Columbus, OH March 2024
 Kordsmeier, Gregory, Tamika Odum, **Rebecca D. Christensen**, Colleen Wynn, Elizabeth Ziff, and Farrah Cambrice. "Pedagogy for the Future: Sociology, Innovation, and the Classroom." Oral Presentation.

Difficult Dialogues National Resource Center (DDNRC), San Jose, CA June 2023

Christensen, Rebecca D. “Avoiding Saviorism and Cultivating Humility: Dialogic Approaches in Community-Engaged Learning.” Oral Presentation	
American Sociological Association (ASA), Los Angeles, CA Christensen, Rebecca D. “Exploring the Pedagogy of Project Community: Community-Engaged Learning Courses Focused on Sociology in Action.” Roundtable Presentation	August 2022
American Sociological Association (ASA), Philadelphia, PA Martin, Karin, and Rebecca D. Christensen. “Strengthening Sociology Departments by Strengthening Ties to the Community.” Department Chairs Preconference. Roundtable Presentation.	August 2018
American College Personnel Association (ACPA), Columbus, OH Madden, Katherine, Rebecca D. Christensen, and Fatema Haque. “Diversity, Inclusion, and Professional Identity for Higher Education, Medical, and Dental Students.” Oral Presentation.	March 2017
American Educational Research Association (AERA), Washington, DC Christensen, Rebecca D. “Healing the World”: Exploring the Influence of a Residential Learning Community on First-Year Students’ Social Justice Attitudes and Behaviors.” Oral Presentation	April 2016
American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Washington DC Christensen, Rebecca D., and other K. Patricia Cross Award Recipients. “Faculty of the Future: Voices from the Next Generation.” Panel Presentation.	January 2015
American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Chicago, IL Schoem, David, Maya Williams, Jessica Weed, and Rebecca D. Christensen. “Students Talk about Developing a Social Justice Identity: Michigan Community Scholars Program.” Oral Presentation.	March 2014
American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Francisco, CA Christensen, Rebecca D. “Advocates and Guides: The Influence of Community College Advisors on Student Success.” Roundtable Presentation.	April 2013
The Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) Symposium, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA Christensen, Rebecca D., and Joseph Chen. “Influence of Socioeconomic Status, Social & Academic Engagement, and Parental Pressure on University of California Student Mental Health.” Oral Presentation.	May 2008
American Counseling Association Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI Sharma, Manisha & Rebecca D. Christensen, “Career Counseling Issues and Interventions for Asian/Pacific Islander Pre-Med and Business College Students.” Oral Presentation.	March 2008
American Psychological Association Convention (APA), New Orleans, LA Christensen, Rebecca D. “Career Self-Efficacy and Perceptions of Barriers in Students of Color.” Poster Presentation	August 2006
MENTORING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE	
Honors Thesis Advisor, Honors Program in Sociology, University of Michigan Lauren Bartholomew, Sociology BA student, Law, Justice and Social Change (LJSC) minor Asha Lewis, Sociology BA student, Law, Justice and Social Change (LJSC) minor Isabelle Szczepanski, Sociology BA Student, Law, Justice and Social Change (LJSC) minor	April 2021-2022 April 2021-2022 April 2019-2020
Faculty Mentor, CRLT Graduate Teacher Certificate Program, University of Michigan Jasmine Rivera, Sociology PhD Student Gabrielle Peterson, Sociology PhD Student Rachel Levy, Master of Social Work (MSW) Student	Oct. 2021-April 2022 April 2019-2022 Feb.-Dec 2021
Research Advisor, Sociology Opportunities for Undergraduate Students (SOUL), University of Michigan Mariah Benford, Sociology and Social Work BA Student Cassidy Guros, Sociology and Women’s Studies BA Student	Sept. 2019-April 2020 Sept.-Dec. 2018
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	
Teaching Preconference Workshop, NCSA Teaching Preconference Workshop, ASA Community of Practice, Community Engaged Learning and Teaching, Campus Compact Penn Equity Institute for Doctoral Students Certificate, University of Pennsylvania Multicultural Classroom Facilitation Certificate, IGR & CRLT, University of Michigan	March 2024 August 2018 & 2022 July-Sept. 2020 August 2015 Oct-Nov. 2013
SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS	
Member, Applied, Clinical, and Public Sociology Committee, NCSA	March 2024-Present

Advisory Board Member, U-M Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP)	March 2019-Present
Member, U-M Council for Community Engagement (CCE)	Sept. 2018-Present
Member, Section for Teaching and Learning, ASA	August 2018-Present
Coach, U-M Alumni MPact DEI Certificate Program	Sept.-Nov. 2021
Member, U-M Network for Impact through Community and Civic Engagement (NICCE)	Sept. 2019-April 2020
Member, U-M Opportunity Hub Council	Sept. 2018-April 2019
Reviewer, <i>Educational Policy</i>	Nov. 2017-March 2018