

REBECCA D. CHRISTENSEN

3112 LSA Building, 500 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48109 · 734.647.6723 · beckydc@umich.edu

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI Center for the Study of Higher and Postsecondary Education 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	August 2016
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY Ed.M. in Psychological Counseling M.A. in Psychological Counseling	May 2006 February 2006
University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA B.A. in Psychology and Social Behavior, Minor in Business Management Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude	June 2004

HONORS & AWARDS

K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award, American Association of Colleges & Universities (AAC&U)	2015
Engaged Pedagogy Initiative Fellowship, University of Michigan	2014-2015
Rackham Merit Fellowship, University of Michigan	2010-2016
University of California, Berkeley Spot Award	2007 & 2008

TEACHING AREAS & RESEARCH INTERESTS

Community-Engaged Learning, Intergroup Dialogue, Social 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 <i>Director of Engaged Learning and Project Community</i> <i>Lecturer III</i> <i>Lecturer I</i>	August 2017-Present Sep. 2021-Present August 2017-Sept.2021
<i>Courses Taught:</i> SOC 325 (Project Community Advanced Practicum) SOC 225 (Project Community: Sociology in Action) ALA/SOC 320, PSYCH 310 (Training Processes of Intergroup Dialogue Facilitation)	Winter 2019-Present Fall 2017-Present Fall 2017 & Fall 2018
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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 <i>Engaged Pedagogy Initiative Fellow</i>	September 2014-April 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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 (CSHPE), University of Michigan <i>Guest Speaker, EDUC 777 (Masters Administrative Practicum Course)</i>	September/October 2013-2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ 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

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

Jan. 2009-May 2010

Instructor, Multicultural Career Development

- 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

Sept. 2005-May 2006

Teaching Assistant, Career Counseling and Development

- 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

June 2016-August 2017

Director of Diversity, Intercultural, and Sponsored Programs

- 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 Aug. 2012-April 2016

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** Jan. 2012-June 2019
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.
 - Received facilitation training through a 3-day orientation and monthly CommonGround meetings.

- Career Center, University of California, Berkeley, CA** Aug. 2006-May 2010
Career Counselor
- 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

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- 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 develop reports for administrators and staff members at U-M.
 - Developed evaluation plan, and advised about methods to effectively assess program and workshop 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.

- Center for the Study of Higher & Postsecondary Education, University of Michigan, MI** Sept. 2010-Apr. 2013
Research Assistant
- Coded and analyzed interview transcripts of college students of color who participated in the Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) utilizing NVivo to assess the relationships between their racial identity, career choices, and their involvement in SROP.
 - Cleaned, recoded, and analyzed student academic transcript data using Stata.
 - Conducted, transcribed, and coded interviews with transfer students at the School of Education.

- Department of Clinical & Counseling Psychology, Columbia University, New York, NY** Sept. 2004-May 2006

Research Assistant

- Examined issues related to the ethnic identity and career development of high school students of color
- Analyzed and input data using SPSS and facilitated data collection of over 300 participants.
- Edited manuscripts for publication in scholarly journals such as Journal of Counseling & Development and Career Development Quarterly.

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.

GUEST LECTURES & CAMPUS PRESENTATIONS

- Phi Delta Epsilon Pre-Medical Fraternity, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI** Nov. 2021
Christensen, R., Invited Speaker on Social Determinants of Health and Food Insecurity. Oral Presentation.
- Circle K International, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI** March 2021
Christensen, R., Invited Speaker for Virtual Leadership Meeting. Oral Presentation.
- Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI** Nov. 2020
Christensen, R., Invited Speaker for MLK Jr. Virtual Luncheon. Oral Presentation.
- Michigan Research and Discovery Scholars (MRADS), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI** Sept. 2019
Christensen, R., 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, D., Woods, W., Christensen, R., Champagne, A., Green, D., & Degraffenreed, D.
"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
Aravamudan, N., Christensen, R. & Pickus, B. "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, R., Daoud, K., & Petryk, T. "Impact of Community Matters Programs on First-Year Students." Opening Keynote.
- Community College Interdisciplinary Research Forum (CCIRF) Conference, Ann Arbor, MI** May 2011
Christensen, R. "Multidimensional Environments: The Role of Students' Social Support Systems in Fostering the Community College to Four-Year University Transfer Process." Oral Presentation.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- American Sociological Association (ASA), Los Angeles, CA** August 2022
Christensen, R. "Exploring the Pedagogy of Project Community: Community-Engaged Learning Courses Focused on Sociology in Action." Roundtable Presentation
- American Sociological Association (ASA), Philadelphia, PA** August 2018
Martin, K., & Christensen, R. "Strengthening Sociology Departments by Strengthening

Ties to the Community.” Department Chairs Preconference. Roundtable Presentation.

- American College Personnel Association (ACPA), Columbus, OH** March 2017
Madden, K., Christensen, R. & Haque, F. “Diversity, Inclusion, and Professional Identity for Higher Education, Medical, and Dental Students.” Oral Presentation.
- American Educational Research Association (AERA), Washington, DC** April 2016
Christensen, R. “Healing the World”: Exploring the Influence of a Residential Learning Community on First-Year Students’ Social Justice Attitudes and Behaviors.” Oral Presentation
- American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Washington DC** January 2015
Christensen, R., and other K. Patricia Cross Award Recipients. “Faculty of the Future: Voices from the Next Generation.” Panel Presentation.
- American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Chicago, IL** March 2014
Schoem, D., Williams, M., Weed, J., & Christensen, R. “Students Talk about Developing a Social Justice Identity: Michigan Community Scholars Program.” Oral Presentation.
- American Educational Research Association (AERA), San Francisco, CA** April 2013
Christensen, R. “Advocates and Guides: The Influence of Community College Advisors on Student Success.” Roundtable Presentation.
- The Student Experience in the Research University (SERU) Symposium, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA** May 2008
Christensen, R. & Chen, J. “Influence of Socioeconomic Status, Social & Academic Engagement, and Parental Pressure on University of California Student Mental Health.” Oral Presentation.
- American Counseling Association Annual Conference, Honolulu, HI** March 2008
Sharma, M., & Christensen, R. “Career Counseling Issues and Interventions for Asian/Pacific Islander Pre-Med and Business College Students.” Oral Presentation.
- American Psychological Association Convention (APA), New Orleans, LA** August 2006
Christensen, R. “Career Self-Efficacy and Perceptions of Barriers in Students of Color.” Poster Presentation

MENTORING & ADVISING EXPERIENCE

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- Honors Thesis Advisor, Honors Program in Sociology, University of Michigan**
Lauren Bartholomew, Sociology BA Student, Criminal Justice, Law, and Social Change April 2021-2022
Asha Lewis, Sociology BA Student, Criminal Justice, Law, and Social Change April 2021-2022
Isabelle Szczepanski, Sociology BA Student, Criminal Justice, Law, and Social Change April 2019-2020
- Faculty Mentor, CRLT Graduate Teacher Certificate Program, University of Michigan**
Jasmine Rivera, Sociology PhD Student October 2021-Present
Gabrielle Peterson, Sociology PhD Student April 2019-Present
Rachel Levy, Master of Social Work Student Feb.-Dec 2021
- Research Advisor, Sociology Opportunities for Undergraduate Students (SOUL), University of Michigan**
Mariah Benford, Sociology and Social Work BA Student Sept. 2019-April 2020
Cassidy Guros, Sociology and Women’s Studies BA Student Sept.-Dec. 2018

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

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- Advisory Board Member, Michigan Community Scholars Program (MCSP) March 2019- Present
Member, Council for Community Engagement (CCE), University of Michigan Sept 2018-Present
Member, Section for Teaching and Learning, American Sociological Association August 2018-Present
Member, LSA Anti-Racism Faculty Development Planning Committee March 2021-Jan. 2022
Member, U-M Network for Impact through Community and Civic Engagement (NICCE) Sept 2019-Apr. 2020
Faculty Participant, Road Scholars Program, U-M Government Relations May 2019
Member, Opportunity Hub Council, University of Michigan September 2018-April 2019
Reviewer, *Educational Policy* 2017-2018
Career and College (C²) Pipeline Steering Committee, Wayne State University August 2016- August 2017
Student Advisory Board Member, Dean of Students, University of Michigan Sept. 2014-April 2015
Student Advisory Board Member, Vice President of Student Affairs, U-M Sept. 2012-Apr. 2014
Steering Committee, Community College Interdisciplinary Research Forum Sept. 2011-April 2013
Cluster Facilitator, LeaderShape, University of Michigan August 2011
Member, Cal Assessment Network April 2009-May 2010