

ABBY ARTHUR SMITH

500 S. State St.
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

(515) 499-4474
levitys@umich.edu

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

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Fertility & Reproduction; Morality; Embodiment; Science & Technology Studies; Legal History; Comparative & Historical Methods; Qualitative Methods

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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmqr.2025.100561>

DISSERTATION (IN PROGRESS)

Smith, A. A. Sterilizing “Bad Blood”: Embodied Morality and Reproductive Governance in U.S. Eugenics and Its Aftermath.

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Smith, A. A. “Sterilized for the Good of the State”: Moral Evaluations in American Eugenics, 1922-1972. (*Dissertation chapter.*)

Smith, A. A. “Mutilating the Human Body is Drastic in the Extreme”: 20th Century Legal Critiques of American Eugenics. (*Dissertation chapter.*)

Smith, A. A. “Bearing the Scars of History”: Social Movements to Redress American Eugenics, 2000-2023. (*Dissertation chapter.*)

Smith, A. A. “Basically Eugenics”: Moral Boundaries in the Pronatalist Moral Imaginary. (*Dissertation chapter.*)

Seamster, L., Rhym, C., & **Smith, A. A.** Water Governance as Racial Politics: Implications for Health.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Awards, Fellowships, and Certifications

- 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

- Winter 2026,
Fall 2023 **Graduate Student Instructor**, Sociology Research Methods
(Upper-Level Writing Requirement)
University of Michigan Department of Sociology
- Fall 2025 **Graduate Student Instructor**, Introduction to Sociology
University of Michigan Department of Sociology
- Winter 2024 **Graduate Student Instructor**, Sociological Theory
University of Michigan Department of Sociology

Advising

- Winter 2024 -
Fall 2025 **Graduate Student Advisor**, “Uncovering Eugenics”
Sociology Undergraduate Research Opportunity &
Sociology Opportunities for Undergraduate Leaders (11 students)
University of Michigan Department of Sociology

Guest Lectures

- 2025 “Eugenics and the Moral Politics of Whiteness,”
History of Race and Sexuality
University of Michigan Department of Sociology
- 2023 “Coding Qualitative Data,” Sociology Research Methods
University of Michigan Department of Sociology
- 2021 “Symbolic Boundaries,” Applied Research
University of Iowa Department of Sociology

RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

- 2019 - Present **Research Assistant**, Flint Email Lab
(P.I. Louise Seamster)
University of Iowa Department of Sociology

- 2018 - 2025 **Research Assistant**, Sterilization and Social Justice Lab
(P.I. Alexandra Minna Stern)
University of Iowa School of Public Health
- Summer 2025 **Public Health Archiving Intern**, Washtenaw County Health Department
University of Michigan Ginsberg Center for Community Service
- Summer 2020 **Summer Fellow**, Othering and Belonging Institute
University of California - Berkeley

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (SELECT)

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 AND AWARDS (SELECT)

- 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

- Fall 2025 - **Graduate Program Assistant** for Accessibility and Belonging
Summer 2026 *University of Michigan, Department of Sociology*
- Fall 2025 - **Co-Chair**, Graduate Student Professionalization Team
Winter 2026 *University of Michigan, Department of Sociology*
- 2024 - Present **Founder & Coordinator**, Sociologists with Disabilities
University of Michigan, Department of Sociology
- Fall 2025 - **Co-Coordinator**, Medicine, Aging, Science and Health Workshop
Winter 2026 *University of Michigan, Department of Sociology*