

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

Embodiment; Morality; Science & Technology Studies; Comparative, Historical, & 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>

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS

Smith, A. A. Embodying “Social Menace”: U.S. Eugenic Sterilization Professionals’ Evaluations of Morality, Body, and Society, 1922-1974. *Dissertation project*.

Smith, A. A. “The State Is Not a Poet”: How Social Movements to Redress U.S. Eugenics Negotiated Morality, Objectivity, and Expertise.

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

TEACHING

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

Fall 2026
(Anticipated) **Instructor of Record**, Writing From the Body:
Positionality, Voice, and Power
(First-Year Writing Requirement)
University of Michigan Department of English Language and Literature

- 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

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

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

2024 - **Founder & Co-Coordinator**, Sociologists with Disabilities
Present *University of Michigan Department of Sociology*

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
Spring 2026 *University of Michigan Department of Sociology*

Fall 2025 - **Co-Coordinator**, Medicine, Aging, Science and Health Workshop
Fall 2026 *University of Michigan Department of Sociology*