

**Curriculum Vitae  
Elisabeth Sheff**

Georgia State University  
Department of Sociology  
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**Current Position**

Georgia State University

Assistant Professor

**Previous Position**

University of Montana

Visiting Professor

**Education**

University of Colorado

Doctorate, 2005

**Dissertation** Relationship Frontiers: Polyamorous Subcultures in the United States

**Advisor** Patricia Adler

California State University, Sonoma

BA, Cum Laude, 1994

**Specialty Areas:** Gender, Family, Sociological Theory (Classical and Contemporary),  
Sexuality, Deviance, Qualitative Methods

**Publications**

**Peer Reviewed Journals**

2006 Sheff, Elisabeth. "Poly-Hegemonic Masculinities" *Sexualities*, 9(5): 621-642.

2005 Nielsen, Joyce; Robyn Marschke, Elisabeth Sheff, and Patricia Rankin. "Vital Variables, Feminist Consciousness, and Insider/Outsider Status in Interaction Research: Confessions from a Feminist Empiricist Project" *SIGNS: A Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 31(1): 1-28.

2005 Sheff, Elisabeth. "Polyamorous Women, Sexual Subjectivity, and Power" *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, 34(3):251-283.

2006 Reprinted in White, Jacqueline. *TAKING SIDES: Clashing Views in Gender*, Third Edition. New York: McGraw Hill.

1999 Uman, Deborah and Elisabeth Sheff. "Feminist Politics in Action: Organizing the Feminist Symposium" *Feminist Collections: A Quarterly of Women's Studies Resources*, Spring.

### **Edited Volumes and Texts**

2006 Sheff, Elisabeth. "The Reluctant Polyamorist: Auto-ethnographic Research in a Sexualized Setting" in Stompler, M., Baunach, D., Burgess, E., Donnelly, D., and Simonds, W. (Eds.) *Sex Matters: The Sexuality and Society Reader*. Second Edition, Pgs. 111-118. New York: Pearson, Allyn, and Bacon.

2006 Sheff, Elisabeth. "A Short Primer on Polyamory" in *Choices in Relationships* by David Knox and Caroline Schacht. Belmont, California: Wadsworth Publishing Company

### **Reviews**

2003 Sheff, Elisabeth. Review of *Voicing Chicana Feminisms: Young Women Speak Out on Sexuality and Identity* in *Gender and Society*, Vol. 17, No. 6: 958-960.

## **Courses Taught**

### **Lower Division Undergraduate Courses**

Introduction to Sociology

Sociological Theory

Introduction to Gender Studies

Sociology /Women's Studies

The Social Construction of Sexuality

Sociology /Women's Studies

### **Upper Division Undergraduate Courses**

Classical Sociological Theory

Sexuality and Society

Survey Research Methods

Marriage & Family

Sociology / Women's Studies

Advanced Gender Studies

Sociology / Women's Studies

### **Graduate Courses**

Family Diversity

Classical Social Theory

**Additional Teaching Areas:** Communities, Deviance, Applied Sociology, Social Problems

*Teaching portfolio available on request.*

### **Awards**

- 2005 Research Initiation Grant for “Overlapping Sexual Identities” project, Georgia State University, \$10,000
- 2004 Georgia State University Sociology Department Research Support Award, 2004-2005 Academic Year. \$1,000
- 2004 First Place, Graduate Student Paper Competition, Society for the Study of Social Problems, *Family Division*
- 2003 Betsy Moen “Walk the Talk” Award for Feminist Research, Activism, and Teaching, University of Colorado, Feminist Scholars in Sociology
- 2002 First Place, Graduate Student Paper Competition, Society for the Study of Social Problems, *Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division*
- 1999 Beverly Sears Graduate Student Grant Award, University of Colorado, \$630

### **Selected Presentations at Professional Meetings**

- 2006 *Boundaries of Kink Identities Post Internet Revolution*, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August, Montreal, Canada
- 2006 *Polyamorists Queering Nontraditional Families*, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March, New Orleans, LA
- 2005 *Sex-Positive Pedagogy: Establishing a Sex-Positive Departmental Environment and Researching Sexuality at Georgia State University*, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Eastern/Midcontinent Annual Meeting, November, Atlanta, GA
- 2005 *Super Studs and Girlie Men: Spectrums of Polyamorous Masculinities*, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August, Philadelphia, PA
- 2005 *Having Children in Graduate School and Beyond*, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, April, Charlotte, NC
- 2003 *Have Your Jake and Edith, Too: Bisexual Polyamorous Women and Desire*, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August, Atlanta, GA
- 2003 *Queer Theory, Postmodernity, and Polyamorous Identity*, Evaluation and Ethnography Contemporary Research Forum, July, Boulder, CO
- 2003 *Polyamorous Community Lingo: Symbolic Interactionist View of Evolving Language*, Sociology in Progress, March, Boulder, CO
- 2002 *Unruly Women*, American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting, August, Chicago, IL

- 2002 *Implications of Online Community for Polyamorous Practitioners*, American Sociological Association, August, Chicago, IL
- 2002 *The Changing Family in the United States*, Symposium on Current Issues at the United Methodist Church, May, Boulder, CO
- 2001 *Ethical Sluts: Polyamorous Women and Feminist Sexual Agency*, Society for the Study of Social Problems, Annual Meeting, August, Anaheim, CA
- 2001 *Postmodern Polyamorous Families*, American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting, August, Anaheim, CA
- 1999 *Bisexual Identity*, Interdisciplinary Feminist Symposium, Annual Meeting, January, Boulder, CO
- 1999 *Growing Up Gay*, Simulation learning exercise, Diversity Forum, January, Boulder, CO
- 1998 *In Defense of Same Sex Marriage*, Interdisciplinary Feminist Symposium, Annual Meeting, February, Boulder, CO

### **Invited Lectures**

- *The History of Childbirth and Re-emergence of Homebirth in the United States* presented to Marriage and Family and Gender courses
- *Deconstructing the Binary: Bisexual Identity* presented to Gender and Sexuality courses
- *Eating Disorders, Compulsive Exercise, and Acceptance: Evolution of Body Image* presented to Gender and Sexuality courses
- *Polyamorous Families* presented to Marriage and Family, Sexuality, and Deviance courses
- *The Trajectory of Feminist Theory* Presented to Theory, Gender, and Philosophy courses

### **Selected Research Experience**

- (2006) Families of Polyamorists. Longitudinal ethnographic and internet study of people who identify as polyamorous and are parents. This study examines polyamorous families' relational structures, stability or continuity, parenting practices, perceived impact on children, division of household and parental labor, and interactions with extended and/or biollegal families.
- (2005 – 2006) Are you Kinky? This pilot study originally attempted to test an Internet questionnaire related to people who identify as kinky. The pilot study indicated that the questionnaire was an inappropriate tool for such a complex subject and the second portion of the study focused on refining an interview template. This study is temporarily halted while I wait to receive notification from a granting agency regarding receipt of a grant to fund the research.
- (June 2003 – December 2003) Bureau of Science Initiatives and Ethnography and Evaluation Research. Interviewed alumni of science program at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Created code book and coded open-ended responses to undergraduate and advisor surveys.

- (December 2002 – December 2003) National Science Foundation Advance Grant and University of Colorado, Boulder. Assisted the Leadership Education Advancement and Promotion (LEAP) project by collecting data on pay equity, writing and distributing climate survey, annotating bibliographies, and writing reports on our findings.
- (June 1997 – December 1998) National Renewable Energy Laboratory and University of Colorado, Boulder. Assisted a pilot study in which I interviewed utility customers regarding grid-tied rooftop photovoltaic systems, designed the code-book, and coded the interviews. We then created and distributed a questionnaire, and I managed the resulting data.
- (1996 - 2005) Dissertation of Polyamorous Subcultures in the United States. Seven years of participant observation, in-depth interviews, documentary analysis, and data analysis for my dissertation research.

### **University Service**

2006-2007	Teaching Committee, Sociology Department, Georgia State University
2005-2007	Sociopath Committee, Sociology Department, Georgia State University
2005-2006	Diversity Committee, Sociology Department, Georgia State University
2002-2003	Advisory Board Member, Leadership Education for Advancement and Promotion, University of Colorado
1999-2002	Advisory Board Member, Women's Resource Center, University of Colorado
1999-2000	Organizer, Department of Sociology Diversity Committee, University of Colorado
1999-2000	President, Interdisciplinary Feminist Symposium Committee, University of Colorado
1997-1999	Organizer, Interdisciplinary Feminist Symposium, University of Colorado
1992-1995	Board Member, Women's Resource Center, California State University, Sonoma
1993-1994	President, Sonoma Earth Action, California State University, Sonoma

### **Professional Service**

2007	Panel Organizer, <i>Sociology of the (Sexed and Gendered) Body</i> . Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March, Atlanta, GA
2006	Committee Member, Student Paper Competition for the Sexual Behavior, Politics, and Communities Division, Society for the Study of Social Problems
2006	HAND mentor program coordinator, Sociologists for Women in Society
2006	Membership committee regional coordinator, Sociologists for Women in Society
2006	External Reviewer, <i>Journal of Sex Roles</i>
2006	External Reviewer, Temple University Press
2006	External Reviewer, <i>Signs</i> Journal

- 2006 Discussant and Presider, *Risky Professions: Politics of being “Sexed” in Academia*, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August, Montreal, Canada
- 2006 Panel Organizer, *Queer and Beyond: Families in the New Millennium*, Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting, March, New Orleans, LA
- 2005 Panel Organizer, *Creating a Sex-Positive Academic and Research Environment at Georgia State University*, Society for the Scientific Study of Sexuality Annual Meeting, October, Atlanta, GA
- 2005 External Reviewer, Roxbury Publishing.
- 2005 Panel Discussant and Presider, *Exploring Sexualities*, Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting, August, Philadelphia, PA
- 2004 Panel Organizer, *Alternative/Non-Normative Families*, Pacific Sociological Association Annual Meeting, April 2005, Portland, OR
- 2002 Discussant and Presider, *New Directions in Sociology Roundtable*, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August, Chicago, IL
- 2001–2003 External Reviewer, Harper and Row

### **Affiliations**

- 1996-2006 American Sociological Association
- 2001-2006 Society for Women in Sociology
- 2001-2006 Society for the Study of Social Problems
- 1996-2003 Feminist Scholars in Sociology