

Sheila M. Katz

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

Ph. D. Sociology, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 2008 (expected)

Dissertation Proposal Defense, June 2005

Passed Special Area Exams on gender, poverty, and work, January 2003

M.A. Sociology, Vanderbilt University, 2001

Passed Master's Comprehensive Exams in January 2000

Concentration on effects of gender, class, and race on education

B.A. Sociology with Women's Studies certificate, University of Georgia, 1998

Senior Thesis: "Acquaintance Rape on a Southern Campus"

Study Abroad: Two semesters at Richmond College, London, England, 1997

DISSERTATION

Title: *Women Pursuing Higher Education after "Ending Welfare As We Know It:" Mothers' Narratives about Poverty, Education, and the Welfare System*

Abstract: Sweeping changes in 1996 to the national welfare system prioritized "work first" policies and decreased educational opportunities for mothers in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program. The purpose of my dissertation is to understand why some mothers on welfare choose to pursue education as a route out of poverty, despite the fact that the opportunity for higher education decreased greatly under TANF. I conducted qualitative interviews and focus groups with 64 single mothers on welfare who are enrolled in, or have recently completed, higher educational programs in the San Francisco Bay area, as well as a subset of this group who are involved with a specialized welfare and education advocacy organization. This research explores why single mothers on TANF pursue higher educational programs as their welfare-to-work activity, their narratives about their experiences in higher education and the welfare system, and how being involved in a grassroots advocacy organization affects women's narratives.

Committee: Karen Campbell (Chair), Laura Carpenter, Daniel Cornfield, and Brooke Ackerly

PRIMARY AREAS OF INTEREST

Gender/Class/Race, Poverty, Public Policy, Sociology of Education, Feminist Theory, Urban Sociology, Qualitative and Participatory Methodologies

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Sonoma State University, Department of Sociology

- *Drugs and Society*, Fall 2007

Lecturer, Vanderbilt University, Department of Sociology and Women's Studies Program

- *Women and Men in American Society*, Fall 2002, Spring 2003, Summer I and II 2003

Teaching Assistant, Vanderbilt University, Department of Sociology

- *Gender in American Society*, Spring 2002
- *Contemporary Social Problems*, Spring 2002
- *Sociological Research Methods*, Fall 2001
- *Gender, Sexuality, and the Body*, Spring 2000
- *Women and the Law*, Fall 1999
- *Human Behavior in Organizations*, Spring 1999
- *Social Movements*, Fall 1998
- *Introduction to Sociology*, Fall 1998

Teaching Assistant, Vanderbilt University, Women's Studies Program

- *Images of Women*, Fall 2001

JOURNAL ARTICLES (UNDER REVIEW)

Katz, Sheila. 2007. "Survival Narratives of CalWORKs Mothers in Higher Education." *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare* forthcoming special issue on the "Beyond the Numbers: How the Lived Experiences of Women Challenges the 'Success' of Welfare Reform" edited by Luisa Deprez and Mary Gatta.

JOURNAL ARTICLES (IN PREPARATION)

Katz, Sheila and Jessica Taft. "Finishing Our Dissertations Together: Creating Women's Dissertation Empowerment Groups." Manuscript in preparation for submittal to NWSA Journal in late 2007.

Katz, Sheila. "Drug Histories and Applying for Welfare: Women's Narratives about Perceived Caseworkers' Assumptions." Manuscript in preparation for journal submittal early 2008.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Spatz, Diana and Sheila Katz. 2005. *Family Violence Is Not an Option: The Failure of CalWORKs to Serve Battered Women with Children*. Research Report. Low-Income Families' Empowerment through Education: Oakland, CA.

Spatz, Diana and Sheila Katz. 2005. "Family Violence Is Not an Option: The Failure of CalWORKs to Serve Battered Women with Children." Policy Brief. Low-Income Families' Empowerment Through Education: Oakland, CA.

Spatz, Diana and Sheila Katz. 2004. "Domestic Violence and TANF: Research Brief." Low-Income Families' Empowerment Through Education: Oakland, CA.

Katz, Sheila, Jennifer Howard, and Ronnie Steinberg. 2003. *Tennessee Women's Scholarship Directory*. Women's Social Policy and Research Center, Vanderbilt University: Nashville, TN.

RECENT GRANTS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant; 2007	\$7500
American Sociological Association Student Forum Travel Award; 2007	\$225
Society for the Study of Social Problems Lee Student Support Fund; 2007	\$150
Vanderbilt Sociology Department Research Grant; 2007	\$300
Vanderbilt Political Science Department: Summer Methodological Training; 2006	\$2500
Vanderbilt Graduate School Dissertation Enhancement Grant; 2006	\$2000
Vanderbilt Graduate School Travel Grants; 2000-2007	\$500
Middle Tennessee Community Foundation Grant; 2003	\$1500
Vanderbilt Community Giving Campaign Grant; 2003	\$500

RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Qualitative Data Analysis Consultant, University of California Berkeley, School of Public Health
June 2007-August 2007

- Conducted qualitative data analysis (using Atlas.ti) on the Benefits of Diversity Project funded by the California Endowment. Analysis included coding and analyzing 60 interviews and focus groups about the benefits of diversity to medical and public health schools across California.

Research Coordinator, Low-Income Families' Empowerment through Education (LIFETIME)
October 2003-December 2006

- Coordinated statewide research team for "Family Violence Is *Not* an Option" research report (June 2005) and "Education Works" research report (expected release late 2007).
- Worked with media and other community-based organizations to disseminate research on CalWORKs, domestic violence, marriage promotion policies, and TANF reauthorization.
- Created a database of research articles on welfare, higher education, domestic violence, welfare time limits, and welfare sanctions.
- Worked with Executive Director to research and write language that informed California Senate Bill 1639, signed into law by Gov. Schwarzenegger.
- Worked with Executive and Associate Directors to raise \$1.5 million in foundation grants over three years. Also tracked and reported on funding and developed individual donors.
- Coordinated national network of grassroots welfare rights groups by facilitating weekly conference calls and planning a national gathering.
- Participated in California Department of Social Services Stakeholders' Working Group conference calls about CalWORKs implementation of the 2006 reauthorization of TANF.

Research Associate, Vanderbilt University Women's Social Policy and Research Center
March 2002-October 2003

- Lead author and researcher for *Tennessee Women's Scholarship Directory* (August 2003), a resource book of scholarships and financial aid options for higher education available to women in Tennessee.
- Designed web site to support *Tennessee Women's Scholarship Directory*, launched 10/03.
- Worked with team of 3 other researchers to write grants, and conduct other fundraising to provide independent funding for the scholarship directory and the research center.
- Representative at community and state initiatives such as Tennessee Self-Sufficiency Project.

Research Assistant, Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy, Immigrant Community Assessment
April 2003-August 2003

- Performed qualitative data analysis of focus group transcripts using AQUAD.
- Wrote employment and safety sections of report to Metro Nashville City Government.

Research Assistant, Vanderbilt University Women's Studies Program
January-May 1999

- Assisted with research for *Schools and Society: A Reader in Education*
- Archival research for Higher Education Governance project.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Katz, Sheila. "Envisioning Another World: Welfare Mothers' Voices on Poverty Policy and TANF Reauthorization." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting: New York City, August 2007.

Katz, Sheila. "Surviving the Welfare System: CalWORKs Mothers' Narratives about Education, Poverty, and Survival." Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting: New York City, August 2007.

Katz, Sheila. "Pursuing Higher Education after 'Ending Welfare As We Know It: Women's Narratives about Poverty and Education.'" National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference: Oakland, CA, June 2006.

Katz, Sheila and Anita Rees. "Education Works! The Challenges Mothers on Welfare Face in Completing School." National Women's Studies Association Annual Conference: Oakland, CA, June 2006.

Katz, Sheila. "Buying In: Participatory Action Research for Social Justice by CalWORKs Mothers and Supporters." Second International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry: University of Illinois, Urbana, IL, May 2006.

Spatz, Diana, Sheila Katz, and Leilani Luia. "Family Violence Is Not an Option: the Failure of CalWORKs to Serve Battered Women with Children." Institute for Women's Policy Research: Washington, D.C., June 2005.

Katz, Sheila. "Large Group Participatory Action Research on 'Family Violence Is Not an Option': the Failure of CalWORKs to Serve Battered Women with Children." First International Congress on Qualitative Inquiry: University of Illinois, Urbana, May 2005.

Kee, Lindsay, Sheila Katz, and Jennifer Howard. "Women's Social Policy and Research Center: A Model for Academic Activism." Southeastern Women's Studies Association Annual Meeting: Blacksburg, VA, 2003.

Katz, Sheila. "Home School State Regulations and the Actual Practice of Parents." Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting: New Orleans, LA, 2000.

INVITED WORKSHOPS

Katz, Sheila. "What We Need to Succeed: Low-Income Student Mothers' Narratives about Resources, Programs, Welfare, and Public Policy." Ohio Student Parent Support Symposium: Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, June 2007.

Spatz, Diana and Sheila Katz. "Economic Context of Domestic Violence: Poverty and Welfare Policies Fail to Protect Battered Women with Children." Collaboration between Fatherhood and Domestic Violence Programs in Communities of Color Institute: San Antonio, TX, October 2005.

POLICY BRIEFINGS

Spatz, Diana and Sheila Katz. "Marriage Promotion, Domestic Violence, and the Family Violence Option: Implications for the Reauthorization of TANF." Rayburn House Office Building, Capitol Hill: Washington, D.C., September 2005.

Spatz, Diana and Sheila Katz. "HR 240 and Domestic Violence: How Marriage Promotion Undermines Domestic Violence Prevention." Cannon House Office Building, Capitol Hill: Washington, D.C., June 2005.

PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Founder, East Bay Women's Dissertation Support Group; 2004-present

Californians for Family Economic Self-Sufficiency; 2004-present

California Working Poor Task Force; 2004-2007

Vanderbilt University Sociology Department Speakers Committee; 2002-2003

Living Wage Campaign at Vanderbilt; 2001-2003

Tennessee Family Self-Sufficiency Project; 2002

Vanderbilt University Sociology Department Graduate Program Committee; 2001-2002

Vanderbilt University Sociology Graduate Student Association Secretary; 1999-2000

Girl Scouts of Cumberland Valley; 1998-2000

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association

Sociologists for Women in Society

National Women's Studies Association

Society for the Study of Social Problems

Pacific Sociological Association

Institute for Women's Policy Research

REFERENCES

Dr. Karen Campbell, Associate Professor (Dissertation Chair)

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